Press release

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**The best international riders at the SBX World Cup in Baqueira Beret**

**On 1-2 March, the ski resort located in Val d’Aran and Valls d’Àneu will host the third stage of this season’s FIS Snowboard Cross (SBX) World Cup.**

**The event will include the participation of Martin Nörl, current leader of the Men’s SBX World Cup standings; Pierre Vaultier, gold-medal winner in the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games; the leader of the Women’s standings Lindsey Jacobellis and Michela Moioli, also a gold-medal winner in South Korea.**

**In regard to local representation, the event will include the presence of Royal Spanish Winter Sports Federation (RFEDI) riders Regino Hernández, bronze-medallist in PyeongChang; and Lucas Eguibar, silver medallist in the 2017 World Championships in Sierra Nevada.**

After the success of the previous edition in 2016, Baqueira Beret will once again host the FIS Snowboard Cross World Cup on 1-2 March, 2019, a competition which will take place in the Blanhiblar area in Beret, in the boardercross course.

This spectacular snowboarding event will see the riders start each leg in groups of four on a course which includes dubbies and banks. This sport allows some physical contact between the riders during the descent, making their technique, speed and strategy key elements of their performance. The event includes different qualifying legs in groups of four riders, with the two fastest ones in each qualifying for the next round.

The course where the SBX World Cup in Baqueira Beret will take place is 1 kilometre in length and has a slope of 115 metres. In total, there will be 40 riders in the women’s event and 70 in the men’s, of which 16 and 32 respectively will qualify for the final rounds on Saturday 2 March.

Baqueira Beret will host this International Ski Federation (FIS) event in the best possible conditions, with over 2 metres of snow expected at the resort and excellent weather forecast for the weekend.

**Martin Nörl, top of the Men’s standings**

On the weekend of 1-2 March, the focus will be on German rider **Martin Nörl**, 25, the current leader of the Men’s FIS SBX World Cup standings with 1,650 points, after having finished in first and third place in Cervinia (Italy) and 26th in Feldberg (Germany), a further example of this sport’s unpredictability. Nörl has participated in 41 World Cup events and been on the podium twice, one of which on the top step. Last year, he participated in his first Winter Olympic Games, in PyeongChang, where he finished 8th.

In the World Cup standings, Italian riders **Emanuel** **Perathoner** (1,278.20 points) and **Omar Visintin** (1,135 points) occupy second and third place respectively.

Other riders to keep an eye on are **Alex Pullin** (Australia), someone who knows what it’s like to win in the Pyrenees after having finished first in this same event in 2016 and in the 2011 World Championships in La Molina; and **Pierre Vaultier** (France), a double gold-medal winner in Sochi 2014 and PyeongChang 2018 currently not having his best season, but who will arrive in Val d’Aran wanting to put the record straight and move up from the 36th spot he currently occupies on the SBX leader board. He will have extra motivation to bounce back after also having missed the World Championships in Park City due to suffering an injury the day before the event.

**The legendary Lindsey Jacobellis, leader of the Women’s standings**

American rider **Lindsey Jacobellis**, 33, currently sits at the top of the Women’s FIS SBX World Cup leader board with 2,800 points. A veteran of 76 World Cup events, Jacobellis has made the podium in 42 of them, 25 of which as the winner. This season, she came first in Feldberg and second in Cervinia, having also finished in first place in the Park City World Championships in early February. Her OIympic career has seen her participate in four Winter Games, the highlight of which a silver medal in Turin 2006, also finishing 5th in Vancouver 2010, 7th in Sochi 2014 and just missing out on the podium with 4th place in PyeongChang 2018.

Behind Jacobellis in the SBX World Cup standings is Czech rider **Eva Samková**, 25, with 2,400 points, followed by the Italian **Michela Moioli** with 1,600 points. Moioli, 23, has participated in the last two Winter Olympic Games, winning gold in PyeongChang in 2018.

**Local riders**

The FIS SBX World Cup in Baqueira Beret will also have local riders taking part in it: **Regino Hernández** and **Lucas Eguibar**, two members of the Royal Spanish Winter Sports Federation (RFEDI). They both come into the event in good shape and with a chance of finishing in the top positions, perhaps even on the podium. In fact, they both participated in the 2016 edition at this very same ski resort, with Eguibar winning bronze and Hernández finishing fifth.

**Eguibar**, 25, rides for the Promosport club (Basque Winter Sports Federation-NKEF) and currently occupies 16th place in the World Cup standings with 640 points. His best results this season were 4th place in the World Championships in Park City and 7th in the World Cup event in Feldberg. He has participated in 46 World Cup events and made the podium on 10 occasions, including two victories. He also won an Olympic Diploma in Sochi 2014 after finishing 7th and participated in PyeongChang 2018, where he finished 33rd.

In 2015, he won the SBX World Cup Crystal Globe in La Molina and a bronze medal in 2016 at Baqueira Beret. He also boasts two silver medals from the World Championships in Sierra Nevada 2017, one in snowboard cross and the other in snowboard team cross alongside fellow Spaniard Regino Hernández. Before Sierra Nevada, he participated in the World Championships in La Molina 2011, Stoneham 2013 and Kreischberg 2015.

Andalusian rider **Regino Hernández**, 27, is a member of the EOE Sierra Nevada club and the current icon of Spanish snowboarding after his bronze medal in PyeongChang 2018. He currently lies in 38th place in the World Cup standings.

He has already participated in 51 World Cup events as well as in two other Winter Olympic Games: Vancouver 2010 (31st) and Sochi 2014 (21st). Hernández also finished in first place alongside Lucas Eguiibar in the snowboard team cross World Cup in Montafon 2016. His career highlights include a World Cup bronze medal in La Molina 2014 and having participated in five World Championships: Gangwon 2009, La Molina 2011, Stoneham 2013, Kreischberg 2015, where he finished 9th; and Sierra Nevada 2017, where he won a silver medal in snowboard team cross alongside Eguibar. In this same category in the 2017-2018 season, also with Eguibar, he finished on the podium on various occasions, winning the silver medal in the 2018 SBX World Cup.

**Sponsorship from Movistar and Seguros Catalana Occidente**

Movistar will be one of the event's main sponsors, once again showing their full support and commitment to winter sports. They are also an official sponsor of the Royal Spanish Winter Sports Federation (RFEDI) and their snowboard and freeski teams, as well as of the Spanish SBX-SX Cup, which will take place in the resorts of Baqueira Beret, Formigal and Sierra Nevada.

Another of the main sponsors of the SBX World Cup is the insurance company Seguros Catalana Occidente, part of the Catalana Occidente Group, which is in the top six most important entities in the Spanish insurance sector and second in the field of credit insurance on a global scale.

**Institutional support**

The event has the support of sporting entities such as the Catalan Sports Council (CCE) and the Royal Spanish Winter Sports Federation (RFEDI), as well as the collaboration of local institutions, including the General Council of Aran, Naut Aran Council and the Provincial Council of Lleida, all of whom have pledged their full support towards it. Last but not least, local clubs and the Volentaris d'Aran volunteer association will also play an important role in the event's organisation.

**More press information**:

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