

Press Release, 7 November 2018

FIS Freeski World Cup Stubai 2018: Elite Riders Confirmed!

Lots of top stars kick off the slopestyle season at Stubai Glacier, Austria • High-level action at snow park DC Stubai Zoo from 22 to 24 November 2018

Three Olympic champions, the reigning overall World Cup winner and numerous other top stars: at the FIS Freeski World Cup 2018 on the Stubai Glacier, the best freeskiers in the world will fight for victory in the first Slopestyle World Cup of the season from 22 to 24 November.

After the successful premiere in 2017, the FIS Freeski World Cup Stubai will be held for the second time. The DC Stubai Zoo will be the meeting point of the international freeski elite. In the perfectly shaped snow park, the first slopestyle World Cup points of the season and 50,000 CHF in prize money are up for grabs. After the closing of the registration period, the organizers around the Austrian Ski Federation (ÖSV) and the Stubai Glacier are satisfied: the top stars of the scene will enter the competition! As of now, 116 starters from 22 nations have registered.

In the men's field, **Øystein Bråten (NOR)** is eager to defend his title from last year's FIS Freeski World Cup Stubai. The 2018 Olympic champion will meet his predecessor from the 2014 Olympics, **Joss Christensen** from the USA. **Andri Ragettli (SUI)**, the overall Slopestyle World Cup winner of the 2017/18 season, will also be at the start. They will compete with the runner-up and the third of the FIS Freeski World Cup Stubai 2017, **Evan McEachran (CAN)** and **Colby Stevenson (USA)**. In addition, there are X Games winners such as **James Woods (GBR)**, **Fabian Bösch (SUI)** and **Henrik Harlaut (SWE)** as well as the latter's strong compatriots **Jesper Tjäder (SWE)** and **Oscar Wester (SWE)**. The local heroes of the Austrian Ski Federation around **Sam Baumgartner (AUT)** and **Lukas Müllauer (AUT)** as well as the German team around **Flo Preuss (GER)** and **Vincent Veile (GER)** also hope to bag a good result.

"I'm expecting great action from my home World Cup in Stubai, showing freestyle skiing at its best and motivating many young people to enter the sport," said **Sam Baumgartner**, who aims to qualify for the finals as in the previous year: "I want to get my run through from top to bottom without any mistakes. That should be enough to qualify for the finals. In the finals, it will be all or nothing anyway."

In the women's starter field, the entire slopestyle podium of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games have entered: Sarah Höfflin (SUI), Mathilde Gremaud (SUI) and Isabel Atkin (GBR). In addition, the Olympic bronze medal winner 2014, Kim Lamarre (CAN), the current Slopestyle Junior World Champion Kelly Sildaru (EST) and the X Games winner 2018, Maggie Voisin (USA), will join in. Austrian hope Laura Wallner and German skier Kea Kühnel also hope for top results. "Freeski World Cup Stubai will make for a positive start of the World Cup season for the second time in a row," Kea Kühnel said.

Many of the World Cup participants are currently training at the Stubai Prime Park Sessions at the Stubai Glacier. Kea Kühnel emphasized: "Stubai Zoo has become a hotspot for the international freeski elite in recent years and enables us to train for top performance". At the training camp for snowboard and freeski pros, the world elite work on the perfect run for the World Cup season under ideal conditions until 18 November and again after the World Cup from 27 November to 6 December 2018.

For further information please visit www.stubaifreeskiworldcup.com

stubaiworldcup.com

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FIS FREESKI WORLD CUP STUBAI 2018:

Tuesday, 20/11	Training
Wednesday, 21/11	Official Training
Thursday, 22/11	Qualification Ladies
Friday, 23/11	Qualification Men
Saturday, 24/11	Finals Women & Men, Ö3 Disco in Neustift

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Fact Box: FIS Freeski World Cup Stubai 2018

Name:	FIS Freeski World Cup Stubai
Format:	Ski Slopestyle (Olympic discipline since 2014)
Location:	Snowpark Stubai Zoo, Stubai Glacier, Tyrol, Austria
Athletes:	Circa 120 of the world's best Freeskiers from more than 20 nations
Prize-purse:	50,000 CHF (25,000 CHF Women/25,000 CHF Men)
Date:	Tuesday, 20 th November (Training), to Saturday, 24 th November 2018 (Finals)

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Fact Box: Snowpark Stubai Zoo

Snow park DC Stubai Zoo at Stubai Glacier has become one of the strongholds of the global freeskiing scene thanks to its southern exposure at 3,000 metres above sea level, with a fantastic mountain backdrop and lines shaped daily. The four lines of the snow park offer something for all disciplines and skill levels, whether you're a beginner, amateur or pro. DC Stubai Zoo is the place to be for snowboard and freeski pros from all over the world, especially in autumn and spring, when the shapers build the XXL set-up with the Easy, Jib, Medium and Pro Lines.

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