

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION
Blochstrasse 2
3653 Oberhofen/Thunersee, Switzerland
Tel +41 33 244 61 61

Oberhofen, 15.01.2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Jenny Wiedeke
FIS Communication Manager
Mobile: + 41 79 449 53 99
E-Mail: wiedeke@fiski.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIS MEDIA INFO

FIS Freestyle Ski and Snowboarding World Championship starts today

The 2015 FIS Freestyle Ski and Snowboarding World Championships got underway today, 15th January in Kreischberg (AUT). FIS President Gian Franco Kasper will officially open the event during the Opening Ceremony which begins at 17:30 CET in the finish area of Kreischberg.

It will be a historic event of epic proportions as it is the first time that Freestyle Skiing and Snowboarding have staged a joint World Championship.

[Official FIS World Championship Website](#)
[Official Kreischberg 2015 website](#)

“This is sure to be an exciting 10 days of skiing and snowboarding action. Very few nations and venues could take on hosting such a huge event for the first time, but with the proven know-how of the Austrian Ski Association and their specialist Organiser in Kreischberg, I am sure that everything is prepared for a top-rate championship in the true spirit of Freestyle Skiing and Snowboard,” said Kasper.

All in all, more than 700 athletes – 330 Freestyle Skiing and 413 Snowboarders representing more than 35 nations have entered to participate in the historic joint World Championships. In total there will be 24 medal events including:

Freestyle Skiing:

Aerials (M/L)
Moguls (M/L)
Dual Moguls (M/L)
Slopestyle (M/L)
Halfpipe (M/L)
Ski Cross (M/L)

Snowboarding:

Parallel Slalom (M/L)
Parallel Giant Slalom (M/L)
Big Air (M/L)
Slopestyle (M/L)
Halfpipe (M/L)
Snowboard Cross (M/L)

It will be a [packed schedule](#) with multiple medal events taking place on several days. The resorts of Kreischberg and nearby Lachtal will both host events. With Kreischberg hosting Aerials, Big Air, Moguls, Dual Moguls, Slopestyle, Halfpipe, and Ski and Snowboard Cross, Lachtal will organise both Snowboard Parallel races.

The first time Freestyle Skiing and Snowboarding were carried out in the same venue for a major event was at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver. At the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, the tradition continued and now it has expanded to the World Championships.

There is joint use by both disciplines of the halfpipe, slopestyle and cross courses, which is very much in the spirit of the recently-adopted Olympic Agenda 2020 decisions. Additionally several of the courses will be used for multiple events during the World Championship. For example, the aerials site will be converted for the slopestyle competitions then used again for big air. Meanwhile, the slopestyle and cross courses will also overlap, having different starts but sharing the same finish zone much like they did in Sochi.

The competitions will begin with the men's and ladies' aerials taking place directly after the Opening Ceremony at 18:00. Snowboard Cross will be held the following day, while halfpipe will take centre stage over the weekend.

In addition to the competition action, the Organisers have created several side events, known as the [Snow Circus](#) to keep spectators and fans entertained after the competitions are finished.

The host broadcast operation is being carried out by ORF with all races produced in HDTV. Besides the live and delayed international feed there will also be tailor-made programming such as highlights footage and interviews.

InFront the international media rights holder, indicated that these World Championships will be broadcasted 22 countries and on Eurosport. Up to 14 commentary positions have been booked by broadcasters to provide up-to-the-minute detail of the action. Over 150 media representatives across television, print and online media will be present on site in Kreischberg.

Furthermore, live online programming will be available free-of-charge for all races on the FIS [Freestyle](#) and [Snowboard](#) YouTube channels, for countries where no exclusive media rights agreements are in place.

As a first for the FIS disciplines, daily video tweets will be also distributed from the [FIS Freestyle](#) Skiing and FIS [Snowboard](#) Twitter accounts to target the widest possible public of existing and potential followers.

* * *

About FIS

FIS, founded in 1924, is the governing body for international skiing and snowboarding. Recognised by the International Olympic Committee, FIS manages the Olympic disciplines of Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined, Freestyle Skiing and Snowboarding and sets the international competition rules. Through its 122 nations, more than 7'000 FIS ski and snowboard competitions are staged annually. Specific initiatives are undertaken by FIS to promote snow activities, notably for the young.

Coming Up on 19th January: World Snow Day 2015 #wsd2015

* * *

