

SKIPASS

TOURISM AND WINTER SPORTS

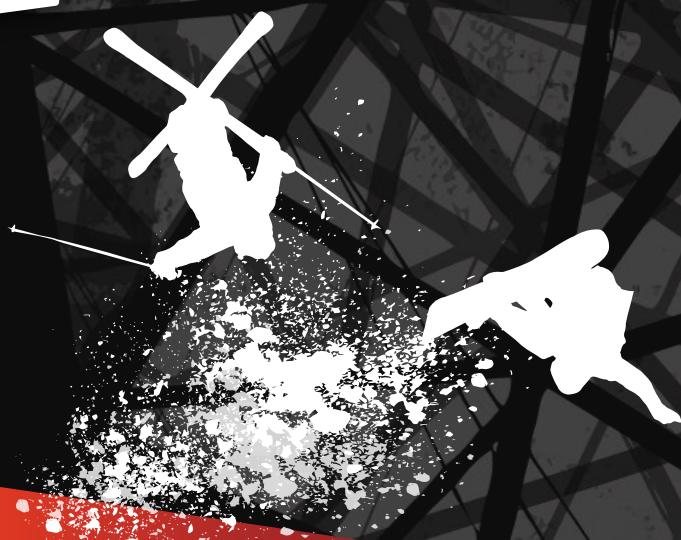


WORLD CUP
FREESKI + SNOWBOARD

1ST - 4TH

NOVEMBER

MODENA - ITALY



MEDIA GUIDE

FIS SNOWBOARD AND FREESKI BIG AIR WORLD CUP 2018 MODENA

ORGANISATION



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FREESKI

Modena (ITA) - The 2018/19 FIS Freeski World Cup season kicks back into gear this weekend with the first Northern Hemisphere event of the year, with the Modena Skipass big air World Cup set to take to the skies of the Italian metropolis this Friday evening.

Friday's Modena competition coincides with the Italian metropolis's Skipass winter sport and tourism festival, and expectations are high for the Modena's inaugural turn hosting a World Cup competition. Modena Skipass has pulled out all the stops with the competition venue, putting together a man-made structure of steel and snow that will stand 46m tall and 130m long when all is said and done and it's ready for competition, making it the largest such ramp to be built in Italy and amongst the biggest ever constructed for World Cup competition.

An impressive list of athletes have already confirmed for what is to be the first northern hemisphere World Cup competition of the 2018/19 season, with a slew of Olympic and world championships medalists and Freeski crystal globe winners set to be on hand to hit the massive Modena jump.

Leading the way on the ladies' side of things are likely to be names like Olympic slopestyle champion and 2016/17 slopestyle World Cup crystal globe winner Sarah Hoefflin (SUI), 2016/17 big air World Cup crystal globe winner Emma Dahlstrom (SWE), 16-year-old phenom Kelly Sildaru (EST), and Italy's own Silvia Bertagna, winner of the 2017/18 big air crystal globe.

However, all of the above listed skiers will be in tough against Canada's Elena Gaskell, as the 17-year-old athlete looked extremely strong in taking the first win of the 2018/19 season at the Cardrona (NZL) big air World Cup back in September.

The big names keep coming over on the men's side of things, where a tough Norwegian team will be lead by PyeongChang 2018 slopestyle gold medalist Oystein Braaten and 2017/18 big air crystal globe winner Christian Nummedal, the US will field 2x slopestyle Olympic medalist Nick Goepper and 2016/17 slopestyle crystal globe winner and Sierra Nevada 2017 world champion Mcrae Williams, and the strong Swedish team will pin their hopes on the likes of 2013/14 slopestyle crystal globe winner Jesper Tjader and 2016/17 big air crystal globe winner Henrik Harlaut.

As with the ladies competition, though, the athletes above will be facing off against some skiers who already threw down in top-level competition back at the Cardrona World Cup, with Cardrona winner and Andri Ragettli (SUI), second-place finisher Evan McEachran (CAN), and third-place finisher Finn Bilous (NZL) all looking to be in top form already back in September.

With so many top athletes on hand in Modena, the biggest jump ramp ever built in Italy awaiting the skiers and looking to be in perfect shape for competition, 100,000CHF in prize money up for grabs, and the atmosphere of the Skipass festival's 25th anniversary surrounding the competition, all the pieces are in place for an exciting opening to the 2018/19 FIS World Cup season in the northern hemisphere.

Modena Skipass data page (all documents will be available here, start lists, results etc): <https://www.fis-ski.com/DB/general/event-details.html?sectorcode=FS&eventid=43388>

Live-scoring: <https://www.fis-ski.com/DB/freestyle-freeski/live.html>

Athletes: <https://www.fis-ski.com/DB/freestyle-freeski/biographies.html> - just need to search through surname - and you get all results, number of podiums, more detailed stats, something really good for media.

Organizzazione:



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SNOWBOARD

Modena (ITA) - The 2018/19 FIS Snowboard World Cup season kicks back into gear this weekend with the first Northern Hemisphere event of the year, with the Modena Skipass FIS big air World Cup set to take to the skies of the Italian metropolis this Saturday evening.

Saturday's Modena competition coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Italian metropolis's Skipass winter sport and tourism festival, and expectations are high for the Modena's inaugural turn hosting a World Cup competition. Modena Skipass has pulled out all the stops with the competition venue, putting together a man-made structure of steel and snow that will stand 46m tall and 130m long when all is said and done and it's ready for competition, making it the largest such ramp to be built in Italy and amongst the biggest ever constructed for World Cup competition.

With a confirmed entry list that already boasts riders like PyeongChang 2018 big air gold medalist and two-time big air World Cup crystal globe winner Anna Gasser (AUT), two-time slopestyle Olympic medalist and Sierra Nevada 2017 big air world championship silver medalist Enni Rukajarvi (FIN), and four-time X Games gold medalist Silje Norendal (NOR) on the ladies' side, as well as PyeongChang 2018 Olympic slopestyle gold medalist Red Gerard (USA), Sochi 2014 slopestyle silver medalist and Sierra Nevada 2017 big air world champion Staale Sandbech (NOR), and three-time world champion Roope Tonteri (FIN) on the men's side, the Modena competition is shaping up to be an explosive start to the winter season in the northern hemisphere.

However, the athletes listed above are going to have their work cut out for them come competition time in Modena, as they will be going up against a list of athletes who were on hand and looking to already be in mid-season form back in September at the 2018/19 season-opening World Cup in Cardrona (NZL)

The Cardrona men's competition saw a seemingly endless stream of double and triple-cork variations going down on the massive big air jump, with riders like Japan's Takeru Otsuka and Yutaro Miyazawa, Norway's Mons Røisland, the USA's Kyle Mack, and others all wowing the crowd and judges.

However, it was a show-stopping quad-cork backside 1800 from Chris Corning of the USA that - combined with a flat-spin 1440 on his second jump - gave him a staggering two-jump score of 190.8 for the first World Cup win of the young season, serving notice that the 19-year-old could be extremely tough to beat in 2018/19.

The ladies' of the Cardrona competition also put on an impressive show, with the incredibly strong Japanese team taking the top two spots via standout performances from the teenage tandem of Reira Iwabuchi and Miyabi Onitsuka - both of whom stomped massive 720s both ways to finish first and second, respectively. Both Iwabuchi and Onitsuka will also be on hand in Modena and are favourites to have repeat podium performances there.

With so many top athletes on hand in Modena, the biggest jump ramp ever built in Italy awaiting the riders and looking to be in perfect shape for competition, 100,000CHF in prize money up for grabs, and the atmosphere of the Skipass festival's 25th anniversary surrounding the competition, all the pieces are in place for an exciting opening to the 2018/19 FIS World Cup season in the northern hemisphere.

QUICK LINKS:

Data page: <https://www.fis-ski.com/DB/general/event-details.html?sectorcode=SB&eventid=43387>

Live-scoring: <https://www.fis-ski.com/DB/snowboard/live.html>

Athletes: <https://www.fis-ski.com/DB/snowboard/biographies.html>

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