

# World Cup Spectator Information

## **Intersport FIBT Bobsleigh and Skeleton World Cup Whistler Presented by VISA**

February 5–7, 2009

The Whistler Sliding Centre

The Whistler Sliding Centre will host its inaugural bobsleigh and skeleton World Cup in February 2009, just one year from the Opening Ceremonies of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The event is hosted by Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton in conjunction with the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (FIBT) the international sport governing body for bobsleigh and skeleton.

### **Sport Background — Bobsleigh**

The idea of racing sleds down a steep and twisting track dates back about 150 years, to the mid-19th century, when British tourists began tobogganing on the snowbound roads of the Alps.

Today's bobsleigh is built to be fast and aerodynamic, with a rounded fibreglass nose and four highly polished steel runners. To start, the athletes sprint and push the sled as fast as they can for approximately 50 metres, then jump into the bobsled for a seated descent down the track. The driver steers down the track, while, at the end of the run, the brakeman stops the sled by applying brakes.

### **Sport Background — Skeleton**

Skeleton got its name from the sled used — originally metal, now fiberglass and metal — as it resembles a human skeleton. To start, the athlete grasps the handles on either side of the sled, runs as fast as possible for approximately 50 metres, then dives head first onto the sled. Sliders lie on their stomachs and steer by shifting their bodies very slightly.

## **Viessmann Luge World Cup**

February 20-21, 2009

The Whistler Sliding Centre

One year before the Opening Ceremonies to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games, The Whistler Sliding Centre will welcome the world and challenge world records with the Viessmann Luge World Cup. The event is hosted by the Canadian Luge Association in conjunction with the International Luge Federation (FIL), the international sport governing body for luge and the BC Luge Association, the provincial sport development organization.

The event is the final stop on the nine-race World Cup tour and is recognized by the International Luge Federation (FIL) the international sport governing body for luge.

### **Sport Background - Luge**

In luge (the French word for sled), racers begin by sitting on open fibreglass sleds. Pulling on fixed handles in the ice, they burst out of the start. After this explosive start, they use spiked gloves on the ice surface for extra acceleration before lying down on their backs, feet stretched out in front of them, heads back in an effort to be as aerodynamic as possible. Luge athletes steer using their legs and shoulders, and brake by sitting up, putting their feet down and pulling up on the sled runners. Luge is the only sliding sport to be timed to 1/1000th of a second – quicker than you can blink!

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## More Information:

**Tickets** Cost: \$5.00/person/day — general admission  
Purchase your tickets at [whistlerslidingworldcup.com](http://whistlerslidingworldcup.com).  
Tickets that were purchased in advance online will be available for pick-up at the Visitor Information Centre next to the Village bus and taxi loop.  
Day-of event tickets can be purchased at the Whistler Blackcomb ticket kiosk at the base of the Excalibur Gondola.

**Food and Beverage** Hot and cold food & beverage services are available track side inside the spectator stadium

**Directions** Directions to Whistler are available at [whistler.com](http://whistler.com).

**Access/Parking**

- Excalibur Gondola to Base II then follow signs through Lot 7 to access the venue
- WAVE Bus #77 to staff housing then follow signs to access the venue
- Accessible parking: The Whistler Sliding Centre offers limited accessible parking on-site.

**Bobsleigh and Skeleton**  
**Thursday February 5, 2009**  
3:00 pm - Women's Skeleton  
7:00 pm - Men's Skeleton

**Friday February 6, 2009**  
1:00 pm - Women's Bobsleigh  
5:00 pm - 2-Man Bobsleigh

**Schedule\*** **Saturday February 7, 2009**  
4:00 pm - 4-Man Bobsleigh

**Luge**  
**Friday February 20, 2009**  
1:00 pm - Women  
4:30 pm - Doubles

**Saturday February 21, 2009**  
5:00 pm – Men

*\*Subject to change. Visit the event website for up to date schedule.*

**Award Ceremonies** Award ceremonies will take place at the venue at the end of each competition day. If there are two competitions in a day, awards will occur at the end of the second competition.

**Special Notes** Please be reminded that the following are Restricted Items and Actions:

- Flash photography
- Smoking
- Thunder sticks
- Megaphones, compressed air or gas horns
- Animals of any kind (except service animals)

# World Cup Spectator Information

To ensure the safety of athletes and spectators, do not throw anything into the track, do not stand on the railings or lean against the railings around the track and do not retrieve objects dropped into the track. In case of an emergency please contact event staff.

Please be aware that there will be no stroller storage available at the venue. Child carriers are recommended

Lost & Found items can be located at the Track Lodge Guest Services

**Getting Involved** Volunteer opportunities are available at [sporteventvolunteer.com](http://sporteventvolunteer.com)

More information on the World Cups: [whistlerslidingworldcup.com](http://whistlerslidingworldcup.com)

The Track Club: [bcsliding.com](http://bcsliding.com)

The Whistler Sliding Centre: [whistlerslidingcentre.com](http://whistlerslidingcentre.com)

Information on visiting Whistler including accommodations, restaurants, maps and more: [whistler.com](http://whistler.com)

Whistler public transit: [transitbc.com/regions/whi/](http://transitbc.com/regions/whi/)

**More Information** Resort Municipality of Whistler — host mountain resort for the 2010 Winter Games: [whistler.ca](http://whistler.ca)

Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton: [bobsleigh.ca](http://bobsleigh.ca)

Canadian Luge Association: [luge.ca](http://luge.ca)

British Columbia Luge Association: [bcluge.com](http://bcluge.com)

International Bobsleigh and Tobogganing Federation: [bobsleigh.com](http://bobsleigh.com)

International Luge Federation: [fil-luge.org](http://fil-luge.org)