



Press Release

PIPA Snow Polo World Cup Tour 2017

SNOW POLO ACTION AT BAD GASTEIN

Vienna / Bad Gastein, February 8th, 2017: From February 16th to 19th, the whole polo world will be looking at Bad Gastein, Austria where the PIPA Snow Polo World Cup Tour 2017 will be decided. International top polo players will fight for the title in the Snow Polo Arena at the Reitclub Gastein / Bad Bruck. All the teams still have chances to win the title. With free entrance on all three gamedays, Bad Gastein will become a cauldron this year!

The preparations are running on high speed, as players from Argentina, Germany, England, France, Italy and Austria are going to duel for the Snow Polo World Cup 2017 next week. The tournament series on snow, organized by the Polo World Federation PIPA, is one of the global snow polo highlights, attracting thousands of spectators every year. And the starting position for this year's final event in Bad Gastein could not be more exciting: the Swiss lead the overall classification with 6 points in front of the Hungarians with 5, the Germans with 4 and the Austrians with 3 points. All teams still have chances for the title, even outsiders England could still decide the tour in Bad Gastein and bring the victory to the United Kingdom.

"I am expecting fast and, above all, technically brilliant games, because with Darroux and Polledo there will be two very strong technicians playing. Richard Newmann is an extremely clever and fast-paced player for the British. I am looking forward to his battle with the polo legend Carlos Velasquez from Argentina!", stated tournament director and PIPA president Dr. Uwe Seebacher. Seebacher himself will not compete for the national team as he will accompany the grand finale as referee and commentator together with Jan-Erik Franck, who is coming from Wisla and St Moritz from the tournaments.

Polo and Party

The world cup will be opened on Thursday evening with the "Housewarming" party at the Partnerhotel Elisabethpark. The supporting program on all three gamedays starts with DJs at 1 p.m. at the Snowpolo Arena in the riding club Gastein / Bad Bruck, the games start at 2 p.m. And 3 p.m.. Friday night, PIPA invites for the World Cup Night at Prälatur, on Saturday the players meet for the "Crazy Ribs Party" at Hexenhäusl. The tournament will be concluded with the award ceremony right after the final games on

Saturday.

“We see snow polo as a combination of winter sports with an innovative event that is especially new to our guests. As a tourist lighthouse project, the world cup helps us gain even more visibility and it makes Bad Gastein more famous! I am particularly pleased that we have been able to win the facility of the Bad Gastein / Bad Bruck riding club as an event location and we can actively communicate our competence in this area as well ", says Doris Höhenwarter, managing director of the spa and tourism association Bad Gastein.

Bad Gastein

Also known as the „Monte Carlo of the Alps“, Austrian winter sports top-destination Bad Gastein has a long tradition in hosting extraordinary events and tournaments. With its beautiful old houses in the style of the „Belle Epoque“, the town offers a wide program for the thousands of tourists that are visiting Bad Gastein each year for skiing, golf, mountain biking, relaxing or cultural highlights like the famous jazz concerts.

The Tournament

Teams of 2 players each will compete in the league system. All the teams compete against each other. The nationality of the team captain determines the flag under which the team plays. The minimum size for a snow polo field is 30 x 60m. If the field is significantly larger, games can also be played in Grand Slam mode (3 vs. 3). The World Cup Arena in Bad Gastein measures 30 x 90 meters this year. The horses enjoy top priority and special protection during all tournaments.

The Tour

The PIPA Snow Polo World Cup Tour has been the largest tour in the global Snow Polo for five years. As a rule, the tour includes three to five tournaments in renowned winter sports resorts. In 2017, three events were canceled by the tour, as the necessary minimum requirements and safety standards were not met by the sponsoring venues regarding preparation and horse management.

"Safety and quality are paramount, and before we are holding an event in non-ideal conditions, we're going to shorten the tour to take absolutely no risk," stated Augusto Faria Correa de Ormazabel, PIPA Sports director, who had to cancel events at renowned FIS winter world cup-destinations this year.

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