We thank our partners who have loyally supported us over the years, not only financially but occasionally also with sound advice.

Österreichischer Eisschnelllauf Verband / ASSA Austria Speed Skating Association

Dr. Hans Spohn President
Werner Jäger Vice President
Dear guests and sports fans,

2017 marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of the ISU. Founding member Austria returns to the stage as a host for international speed skating events, as well as proudly presenting its modernised and updated speed skating complex, completed last year after significant investment, and with its newly constructed 400 m track which also boasts a modern online surface. Plenty of reasons for the Österreichischer Eisschnelllauf Verband – ASSA Austria Speed Skating Association – to publish this information leaflet on the occasion of the ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships Innsbruck 2017.

Let’s start with a brief look back: 1962, 1963, people working on Saturdays until 1.00 p.m., there were two weeks holiday a year. Even so, every weekend and during their holidays, dedicated adherents of the sport made their way to Innsbruck from all across Austria, leaving their families behind to focus on a single goal – preparing for the 1964 Winter Olympic Games. Whether supervising construction of the sports venues and the Olympic Village, or optimising the organisational and logistical workflows, they were determined that Innsbruck would be indelibly marked in the Olympic calendar as an unforgettable venue for the Winter Olympic Games.

The manner in which the city of Innsbruck and the province of Tyrol have looked after their sporting venues ever since pays homage to these men.

Innsbruck has always been a venue for important sporting competitions, particularly following construction of the Olympic competition sites, and has provided the world with magical and unforgettable moments of sporting history, both in victory and defeat.

Games. Franz Klammer won, establishing him as the greatest icon of Austrian sport to this day.

2005 Winter Universiade in Innsbruck: Austria in 1st place in the country rankings.

2012 The 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck sees 1,022 athletes from 69 countries taking part in a total of 63 competitions, and with excellent performances right from the start.

These, and many other major, memorable and, to some extent, identity-forming moments are the result of the commitment to sport shown by Innsbruck and Tyrol. For this our heartfelt thanks.

And so it should continue into the future. Speed skating, not only in Innsbruck but throughout Austria. The consistent development work being done in Innsbruck, with support from Carinthia, has resulted in a young and powerful team for ASSA Austria Speed Skating Association, some of whom are already enjoying considerable international success. The Junior World Championships currently being held in the country are also lending fresh impetus to the short trackers. And every year thousands of skating fans, especially from the Netherlands, make their way to the Weissensee in Carinthia where they compete in their long distance championships.

As the venue for the ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships Innsbruck 2017, ASSA Austria Speed Skating Association is demonstrating its credentials as hosts for further major ISU events, aspiring to be chosen to host the JWCS and European championships on the newly modernised Olympic ice rink in Innsbruck.

In publishing this leaflet ASSA Austria Speed Skating Association is one of the first to congratulate the ISU on its anniversary, and warmly wishes the organisation at least another 125 successful years at the pinnacle of skating.

And last but not least: I wish all athletes, trainers and officials at the World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships Innsbruck 2017 a memorable, sporting, successful, and above all accident-free world championships.

May the best win, and subsequently look back on their victory as an important milestone in their skating careers. And to all those who won’t walk away with medals, ASSA Austria Speed Skating Association thanks you for taking part and greatly values your contribution to the sport.

My thanks go to all the partners, sponsors, ISU officials, employees, volunteers, visitors, the city of Innsbruck, the province of Tyrol, the Olympiaworld Innsbruck, and the Bundesministerium für Sport...I’m certain I’ll have omitted a few. You have all made an essential contribution to ensuring that the ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships Innsbruck 2017 will be a success.

Hans Spohn
President of ASSA Austria Speed Skating Association
top athletes from over 40 countries will be racing for the prized titles in the individual and relay competitions. It is exactly five years ago that young athletes aged between 14 to 18 demonstrated their talents at the Youth Olympic Games in Tyrol, and today, as then, I am impressed by the power, performance and desire to win that these youngsters display.

I wish all competitors, their trainers, and the team of organisers the very best and every success for the World Championships, and trust that fans from around the world will enjoy this sporting spectacle here in the province of the Tyrol.

Deputy State Governor Josef Geisler
Regional Minister for Sport

Dear athletes and short track fans,

It is a particular pleasure for me as General Secretary of the Austrian Olympic Committee that the Innsbruck Olympiaworld will be the site of the 2017 ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships from 26 to 29 January, bringing this young, dynamic and, above all, extremely appealing sport - a permanent fixture in the Olympic schedule since the 1992 Winter Olympic Games in Albertville - to this Austrian centre of excellence.

Five years after the first Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck, which saw Austrian athlete Melanie Brantner winning a bronze in the short track mixed relay, the venue is again providing junior athletes aged 14 to 18 with ideal competition conditions. The city of Innsbruck and the organisers will be offering the stars of tomorrow, their trainers, supervisors, and spectators a unique speed skating experience. We hope the Austrian juniors of today will be the Olympic winners of tomorrow and the years to come.

Yours,

Dr. Peter Mennel
General Secretary of the Austrian Olympic Committee

Dear sports fans,

2017 is a year of major sporting events in Tyrol, and we are delighted that our province will be hosting the ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships from 27 to 29 January. The world’s junior speed skating elite will be competing in the heart of the Alps, with Olympiaworld in Innsbruck offering the ideal setting for exciting competitions. Here 210
The IX Olympic Winter Games hosted in Innsbruck in 1964 registered 1,073,000 spectators, hugely surpassing the numbers attending all previous Winter Games. The speed skating competitions alone attracted 69,500 spectators. 140 Olympia hostesses helped visitors from abroad wherever assistance with the language and local knowledge was required. The latest in electronics were used at the sporting venues, such as an IBM computer installed in the official’s booth next to the finishing line for the speed skating competitions.
Skiing dominates the reporting in Austria’s media. Klammer wins gold on the Patscherkofl. Double victory on the Bergisel. And the Germans celebrate ‘Gold-Rosi’ Mittermaier. However, the most successful athlete at the Games is Russian speed skater Tatiana Averina who wins 2 gold and 2 bronze medals. Norway’s Sten Stensen takes Olympic gold over 5,000 m, coming in second behind Dutchman Piet Kleine in the 10,000 m.

WORLD JUNIOR SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017
The 2005 Winter Universiade took place in Innsbruck and Seefeld with Austria topping the medal table with 10 gold, 8 silver and 4 bronze medals.
The 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games were the first of their type. The premiere was a huge success: 1,021 athletes between the ages of 14 and 18 from 70 countries took part in the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games which were held in Innsbruck, Seefeld and Kühtai, and ran from 13 to 22 January 2012. A total of 63 medals were won over the nine days of competition. Team Austria, with its 81 athletes, was the largest delegation, followed by the USA (69), Russia (58) and Germany (55).
The Special Olympics World Winter Games Austria 2017 will take place in Styria (Graz, Schladming, Ramsau) from 14 to 25 March 2017.

The participating athletes have already demonstrated admirable performances, enthusiasm and euphoria at the Pre-Games 2016.

Fotocredit: Wolfram Scherbichler
Modernised Olympic Ice Rink

First competition on the new ice rink – Regiocup 2016
Austria’s national speed skating team is:
- Young
- Excellently trained by Hannes Wolf (speed skating), Jurek Rokita (junior speed skating) and Ivan Pandov (short track)
- Lead by our ‘senior’ members Armin Hager (22), Linus Heidegger (21), and the exceptional athlete Vanessa Herzog (21), our skaters are notching up impressive results, also amongst the juniors.

We believe the following count as much as sporting success:
- Team spirit
- A love of skating
- Friendship across borders with skating fans around the world
- The excellent training and opportunities to compete in Austria which we are delighted to share with our friends all over the world in the form of joint training and competitions.

We wish all ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championships Innsbruck 2017 participants the very best of luck!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armin HAGER</td>
<td>USC Innsbruck</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Volders, Tirol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linus HEIDEGGER</td>
<td>USC Innsbruck</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>Vanessa HERZOG</td>
<td>USC Innsbruck</td>
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<td>Philemon RAINER</td>
<td>Eisschnelllaufclub Villach</td>
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<td>Friesach, Kärnten</td>
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<td>Dominic ANDERMANN</td>
<td>ASKÖ Eisring Süd</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Wien</td>
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<td>Matthias WOLFGANG</td>
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<td>Melanie BRANTNER</td>
<td>ASKÖ Weiz</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Weiz, Steiermark</td>
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<td>Viola FEICHTNER</td>
<td>USC Innsbruck</td>
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<td>Oberperfuss, Tirol</td>
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<td>Stefan HAAN</td>
<td>Eislauverein Wörthersee</td>
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<td>Mathias HAUER</td>
<td>USC Innsbruck</td>
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<td>Viktoria SCHINNERL</td>
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<td>Götzens, Tirol</td>
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<td>Nicolas ANDERMANN</td>
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<td>Gabriel ODOR</td>
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<td>Grinzens, Tirol</td>
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<td>Heinrich LUITZ</td>
<td>ASKÖ Eisring Süd</td>
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The best of the upcoming generation of short track athletes meet each year at the Danubia Cup, last held in Austria, in Graz, in 2014 and 2015. This year the clash of schedules with the Junior Short Track World Championships prevented ASSA Austria Speed Skating Association from hosting the event. However, we look forward to meeting again, perhaps in the coming 2017/2018 season.
Shorttrack in Austria today
The Austrian national team places great importance in sport, team spirit, friendship, tolerance and openness, and shared experiences. Sufficient grounds for a group detour to Venice, and to visit our training partner Francesca during a break in training in Italy.
Speed Skating in Austria today
Speed Skating in Austria today
Weissensee:
The alternative Dutch Elfstedentocht is the world’s largest ice sports spectacle with 3,000 skaters competing in speed skating marathons over 50, 100 and 200 km on Weissensee in Carinthia.
Held each year in late January since 1989.
During the event ASSA Austria Speed Skating Association determines and officially recognises the national and international women and men’s champions over the traditional marathon distance and over 200 km.

This is also Part of Speed Skating in Austria
Ice skating on Carinthia’s frozen lakes is one of Austria’s traditional winter sporting pleasures. Due to its situation and shallow depth, the Weissensee can be guaranteed to freeze over, and offers a stunning natural panorama. It has long since been discovered by our Dutch skating fans, and is a fixed part of their winter holiday plans.
One of the underlying principles that can be observed in both is the immanent strive for more and better results. Both artists and sportsmen try to improve constantly to achieve targets they set for themselves. Besides this inner struggle every artist and sportsman has to fight every day, we should also consider the “expressive” function of arts and sports. Art is often said to treat the “deep human themes” (without specifying what they are), our desires, dreams, concerns and fears – sport in contrast seems to lack this dispute. But why shouldn’t we express an emotion similarly through a red spot on a canvas and a faultless axel jump? Top-performances in sports can tell stories, expose latent wishes, criticise and improve, express feelings and most importantly fulfil desires just like an artwork can. However, there is one feature that inseparably ties arts and sports together: beauty.

Without their aesthetics and beauty, sports and arts would never play such an important role in our daily lives – think of the even touchdown of the skids, the extreme cornering and the mere movement of the bodies in Short Track. The pleasure we experience watching a fair and thrilling competition is the same pleasure we feel when listening to music, reading a novel and looking at a painting – sports and art trigger feelings of joy within us, the spectators and admirers. Arts and sports are by far not the same but they are on the same “mission”: the performers get a chance to express themselves and push themselves to unsuspected heights and at the same time the admirers perceive these heights as memorable and extraordinary experiences. Arts and sports represent distractions from the day-to-day life and are – frankly speaking – fascinating, touching and beautiful.
Sports and Culture Exhibition

Motion studies

The term ‘motion studies’ is equally at home in both worlds: video-based motion analysis has long since become an integral part of today’s sports training, and figurative artists also require this knowledge in order to ‘correctly’ depict human motions. And just as athletes regularly train their bodies, so artists continually work on their graphic skills. Both athletes and artists train individually as well as in groups. Team members encourage one another, and yet in the end everyone competes alone.

The motion studies exhibition on show in the vestibule on the north-west side of the Olympic ice rink during the ISU World Junior Short Track Speed Skating Championship Innsbruck 2017 presents six artists who often cooperate. They regularly meet to study the motions of a model, capturing these in drawings or paintings on paper. Their focus lies on precision and speed, developing and honing their own particular artistic styles.

All the artists live and work in Vienna, although they exhibit regularly throughout Austria and abroad. Many of their works are held by private and public collections where they constitute part of our cultural heritage.

Opening of the exhibition: 26 January 2017, 8.00 p.m. Vestibule on the north-west side of the Olympic rink
All entries, hotel reservation and media accreditation requests, as well as other inquiries should be addressed to:

Österreichischer Eisschnelllauf Verband
Prinz Eugenstraße 12, A-1040 Wien
Hermann Filipic
Phone: +43 (0) 660 61 62 268
E-mail: office@shorttrackaustria.at

Peter Maurer
Phone: +43 (0) 664 91 51 230
E-mail: media@shorttrackaustria.at

Web site
All information concerning the competition will be available at the following event website:

http://www.shorttrackaustria.at

FB: Austrian Ice Racers
https://www.facebook.com/Austrian-Ice-Racers-1506171922966039/

Live results will be available at the following website:
http://shorttrack.sportresult.com/

* The programme is subject to change depending on the final entry of Skaters.
There has been a bridge over the river Inn – which gives the city its name – since 1180. The city first began to flourish in the Middle Ages, thanks to its geographical location on ancient trading routes and its mineral resources in Hall (salt) and Schwaz (silver). Emperor Maximilian I (1459-1519) made his mark on the city with landmark structures including the famous Goldenes Dachl (Golden Roof) and Schwarze Mander, the bronze figures on Maximilian’s cenotaph in the Hofkirche (Court Church). The magnificent houses in the old city with their arcades and decorative facades are evidence of its citizens’ wealth. Numerous churches are testament to Innsbruck’s tradition of religiosity, and Lucas Cranach the Elder’s (1472-1553) painting Maria Hilf (Mary of Succour) in the cathedral was the best known Marian image in the Alpine region; highly valued and frequently copied, versions adorn the facades of many houses in the old city.
But Innsbruck looks forward as well as back. Numerous contemporary and outstanding buildings have recently been erected, including the university’s social and economic sciences faculty, the new main railway station, the Bergisel ski jump, and the Museum Tirol Panorama.

The ISU social programme offers two guided tours with an art historian:

- **Walk through the city of Innsbruck to see the Goldenes Dachl, cathedral, Hofkirche and old city.**
  - Wednesday, 25 January 2017, 9.30 a.m.

- **Museum Tirol Panorama: Andreas Hofer and the Napoleonic Wars:**
  - panorama painting, view from Bergisel.
  - Wednesday, 25 January 2017, 2.00 p.m.

  **Meeting point:** bar/lobby at the Hotel Grauer Bär.

  We would also be delighted to take you on a guided tour at a date of your choosing, where available. Please contact Sabine Furrkranz, +43 676 911 1484.

Maria Theresa extended the Imperial Palace to its current size, lending the city an imperial visage. The *Triumphpforte* (triumphal gateway), the palace gardens and the Anna pillar are further impressive architectural works dating from this period.

Tyrol is unthinkable without Andreas Hofer, folk hero and leader of the Tyrolean Rebellion against the Napoleonic invasion. His tomb is in the *Hofkirche*, and scenes from the famous Battle of Bergisel are captured in a giant panoramic painting, executed in 1895 and almost 1000 m² in size, which is now housed in the Museum Tirol Panorama.

It is due to Innsbruck’s lofty alpine location that makes sport an integral part of the city’s identity. The surrounding sporting venues are within easy reach of the city, especially those erected for the Winter Olympic Games: the 9th in 1964, and the 12th in 1976.