

2018 FISU World University Sport Climbing Championship

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Press release

Sport climbing for the first time at the Olympic Games in Tokyo, a climbing championship in Slovakia in a few days

The best climbers are coming to Bratislava

BRATISLAVA, June 7, 2018 – The Slovak metropolis will welcome the world’s best climbers. The World University Sport Climbing Championship will take place in Bratislava, on the biggest climbing wall of the country, from June 20 to June 23.

Around 150 competitors and their coaches from 26 countries will compete in the capital city of Slovakia to win the title of the world’s best university climber. Among the competitors there are three Slovaks – Robert Luby, Andrej Capko, and Jakub Jiří Svub. The World University Sport Climbing Championship was assigned to Bratislava on December 24, 2015. The Christmas joy changed to long preparations, the organisers have started to work on the event in 2016. Approximately a month before the championship in Bratislava, almost everything is ready. *„The preparations of the sites and the technical security are finishing. We are working on the last details – an interesting opening ceremony and medals that are made in Kremnica,“* said the organisation committee president of the championship, Peter Hamaj.

Sport climbing at the Olympic Games

The World University Sport Climbing Championship is happening only for the second time. Sport climbing is one of the five new sports of the Olympic Games in Tokyo 2020. *„Sport climbing will appear at the Olympics for the very first time. We are happy we can show this sport also in Slovakia before the Olympics take place. The championship will be unique. This extreme sport is not very traditional, yet it attracts more and more attention among its fans,“* said Július Dubovský, the Slovak University Sports Association president.

The championship will take place in K2 in Bratislava

The main site of the climbing championship will be the climbing wall K2 in Bratislava, which is the only wall in Slovakia suitable for climbing on time. *„This wall fulfils the criteria of two factors – the difficulty and speed. Each wall needs to fulfil the same parameters – the slope and length. There are rules also for the position of the holds which shape is specific for this kind of climbing,“* said the organisation committee president Peter Hamaj. A big overhang dominates the wall in Bratislava and is though even for experienced climbers. It is surrounded by perpendicular and slightly overhanging sections. The area of the wall is 2000m² with the maximum height of 15.5m. *„The hall with the climbing wall is located on Stará Ivanská cesta. The entrance will be free of charge for everyone,“* says Peter Hamaj.

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Competitions under the sky

Some competitions will take place also on the square in front of the Eurovea shopping centre. And that is where the opening ceremony of the World University Sport Climbing Championship will take place on June 19 at 7pm. „*The main part will be the parade of participating countries. There will be also a culture programme,*“ added Hamaj. An accompanying event called Olympic Day is also attractive for the fans and will take place at the square in front of Eurovea shopping centre on June 22. There will be various competitions for children, attractions, introduction of Olympic sports, and autograph session of some athletes.

The main organiser of the event is the Slovak University Sports Association, in collaboration with JAMES, Slovak Olympic Committee, K2 hall, and the Eurovea shopping centre. The event is supported by the Ministry of Education, Science Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.