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Winter sailing World Championship WISSA 2017 is now complete

WISSA 2017 World Championship is now finished in Togliatti City in Russia. During 6 days 45 sets of medals have been awarded for classes: winter windsurf (course and slalom), wings (course), snowkiting (skis and boards) and kite freestyle. 186 athletes from 11 countries have competed during the event. International jury was headed by Luigi Bertoni from Italy.

Weather conditions have been challenging. For the first two days racers and their kites and sails were tested by storm, up to 15 m/s wind, for the rest of the week extremely warm temperatures resulted in snow melting. Skis were digging into soft mixture of snow with water and shoes were full of ice cold water. However, full series of races was achieved.

Main discipline for kites was course race – total of 15 starts completed. Best three among ski kites were: Dmitriy Nikulichev (Petrozavodsk, Russia), Andrey Balyakin (St. Petersburg, Russia) and Felix Kersten (Germany). Among snowboarders best were: Denish Garaschenko (Ekaterinburg, Russia), Gennadiy Shelyganov (Kolomna, Russia) and Igor Domatovich (Kolomna, Russia). Last racing day was for Marathon race, ca. 70 kms in length. There best ski kites were Felix Kersten (Germany), Pavel Kolabin (Novosibirsk, Russia) and Arkadiy Panyukov (Tula, Russia). In kite snowboard winner was Gennadiy Shelyganov (Kolomna, Russia), Nikita Sokolov (St. Petersburg, Russia) and Denis Garashenko (Ekaterinburg, Russia).

Windsurf class competed in three disciplines – course race, marathon and STS (short track slalom). In course race Russian Alexandr Trofimenko (Monchegorsk),

Evgeniy Mitrofanov (Monchegorsk) and Vadim Volotskoy (Archangelsk) were able to keep the first three positions throughout 9 starts for the race.

At the marathon monoski rider Valentin Dobryshevskiy (Murmansk, Russia) won with Grigoriy Kokus (Novosibirsk, Russia) being second and Evgeniy Mitrofanov (Monchegorsk, Russia) third.

For the first time STS race was held in this location, there the winners were Feodor Gurvits (Finland), Boris Ljubtsenko (Estonia) and Meelis Rang (Estonia).

In Freestyle competition medalists were clear already after first two days of the competition. World's best snowboard freestyler is Russian Artem Garashenko (Ekaterinburg) Ruslan Sirazhetdinov (Ekaterinburg, Russia) being second with Denis Usov (Moscow) just few points behind. Best ski freestylers were Anton Cherkashin (Moscow), Ivan Povodyrev (Surgut, Russia) and Kirill Markov (Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia). Among the ladies best were Russian Anna Kamenovskaya (Kostroma), Tatyana Sisoyeva (Tseljabinsk) and Tamara Suslova (Novosibirsk).

During the venue also new World's Record in number of racers starting in single snow kite start was set – on 25th February total of 254 professional and hobby-kites started simultaneously.

Successful completion of World Championship provides Togliatti with unlimited perspectives for organisation of similar events.

At the moment Togliatti is Russian capital of sailing sports and thanks to our athletes, we were able to get winter sailing world championship here." said chairman of organising committee, vice governor and minister of economical development and trade in Samara Region, Aleksandr Kobenko. *"It has been quite some challenge and we were not even realising full scale of this event until today. Now we do – it is a world class event, and a very attractive one! We hope that winter sailing will become a part of olympic program and Togliatti will get global opportunity!"*

Festival "Zhigulev Sea" was a bright final point of WISSA 2017. During two days more than 7.000 spectators attended this celebration of winter winds.

Special thanks belong to sponsors of the event. Title sponsor LADA, Russian car manufacturer has started sales of its latest model LADA VESTA in three EU states and hopes to reach significant share on European market. Baltika 0 is leading non-alcoholic beer manufacturer in Russia. "Kuybyshev Azot", Gazprom transgaz Samara", "Aktiv Kapital Bank", transport company "Veha", construction companies "Matreshka" and "Lada-Dom" were active supporters of Russia's largest winter activity festival.

















