MEDIA GUIDE

UCI 2018 BMX WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BAKU AZERBAIJAN

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David Lappartient

UCI President

Dear members of the media

I am delighted that the 2018 UCI BMX World Championships are being held in Baku, Azerbaijan. It seems like only yesterday that we were in Baku for the highly successful inaugural European Games in 2015. I'm sure that the fantastic welcome and atmosphere of those Games will be repeated from June 5 to 9 when first the Challenge classes then the world's Elite gather to compete for the coveted UCI BMX World Champions' rainbow jerseys.

BMX was a major part of the 2015 Games and the BMX Velopark will again be the focus of much media and spectator attention. The track design has changed since the European Games. After a reconnaissance trip, the Dutch BMX star Twan Van Gendt described the track as "technically very challenging and interesting" – a description that certainly augers well for the UCI BMX World Championships.

Organising a major event such as the UCI BMX World Championships is a huge undertaking and our sincere thanks go to the members of the Local Organising Committee who have worked tirelessly to ensure a successful event, along with the Baku city authorities, and the Azerbaijan Cycling Federation. Much credit is also due to the event sponsors, volunteers and helpers for their vital contributions to hosting the UCI BMX World Championships.

When the first riders line up on the start ramp on 5 June everything will be in place for five days of fantastic racing. I would like to extend my very best wishes to all riders competing for the highest accolade of UCI BMX World Champion at this pinnacle event of the BMX season.

Sahib Alakbarov

1st Vice President of Azerbaijan Cycling Federation

Member of UEC Management Board

Dear media representatives!

I would like to welcome everyone in our country on behalf of Azerbaijan Cycling Federation.

Azerbaijan, who boasts great traditions in cycling, is at the eve of a brand new stage – The BMX Racing World Championships, which is an Olympic sport, is not only the indicator of the great trust for us, but also of the fact that our country is capable of organizing great sports events at a high level. Azerbaijan has successfully organized Baku-2015 1st European Games, 2016 World Chess Olympiad, Baku-2017 4th Islamic Solidary Games, FIFA-2012 U-17 Women's World Championships, UEFA-2016 European U-17 Men's championships, as well as international wrestling, boxing and gymnastics championships. And the corresponding international sports organizations gave us great feedback about the organization of these events.

Besides the BMX World Championships, we will also host the Judo World Championships in Baku this September, the final match of UEFA European League in 2019, as well as 4 football matches within Euro-2020. All of these events show that Azerbaijan has made a name in world sports.

Our country has taken all possible measures to organize the World Championships at the highest level possible and a special dedicated Organizing Committee has been founded upon a decree by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev.

I hope that you will forever remember the days you spend in Baku and you will leave our country with the best of impressions.

CONTACT DETAILS OF OC & UCI COMMUNICATIONS & BROADCAST/EVENT STAFF

Both the UCI and Baku 2018 media staff are more than happy to help you with any requests.

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COMPETITION PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 1 JUNE

14:00 - 19:15 Accreditation centre open for staff / officials and organizing committee

SATURDAY 2 JUNE

08:15 - 17:15 Accreditation center open
10:00 - 11:00 Team Managers meeting UCI BMX World Challenge and Masters
11:00 - 12:00 Guided tour around the venue for team managers
13:00 - 17:00 Registration office open for UCI BMX World Challenge and Masters
16:00 - 17:00 BMX challenge venue open for riders and spectators to view the track

SUNDAY 3 JUNE

08:45 – 18:15 Accreditation centre open
TBD TBD Challenge Practice. Detailed schedule provided after registration closes.

MONDAY 4 JUNE

08:45 – 18:15 Accreditation centre open
TBD TBD Challenge Practice. Detailed schedule provided after registration closes.

TUESDAY 5 JUNE

08:45 – 18:15 Accreditation centre open
TBD TBD UCI BMX World Challenge: UCI BMX World Challenge - All Cruiser Categories
Following Medal Award Ceremony

Detailed time schedule for Challenge & Championships Training Practice will be communicated to media at a later stage

WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE

08:45 – 18:15 Accreditation centre open
TBD TBD UCI BMX World Challenge: Schedule and categories racing on this day to be decided after registration closes
Following Medal Award Ceremony

THURSDAY 7 JUNE

08:45 – 18:15 Accreditation centre open
TBD TBD UCI BMX World Challenge: Schedule and categories racing on this day to be decided after registration closes
09:00 - 09:45 Team Managers' Meeting - Championships
10:30 - 12:30 Riders' Confirmation UCI BMX World Championships
TBD TBD Training - Championships Categories

FRIDAY 8 JUNE

08:45 – 18:15 Accreditation centre open
10:00 12:00 UCI BMX Convention
TBD TBD Training - Championships Categories
20:40 - 23:00 UCI BMX World Championships - Motos

SATURDAY 9 JUNE

08:45 – 18:15 Accreditation centre open
TBD TBD Training - Championships Categories
20:30 - 20:35 Flag hand over to 2019 UCI BMX World Championships 2019 - Heusden-Zolder (BEL)
20:40 - 23:00 UCI BMX World Championships Race 1/8 1/4, 1/2 and finals MJ, WJ, WE, ME
23:00 - 23:30 Medal Award Ceremony UCI BMX World Championships

MEDIA EVENTS PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 7 JUNE

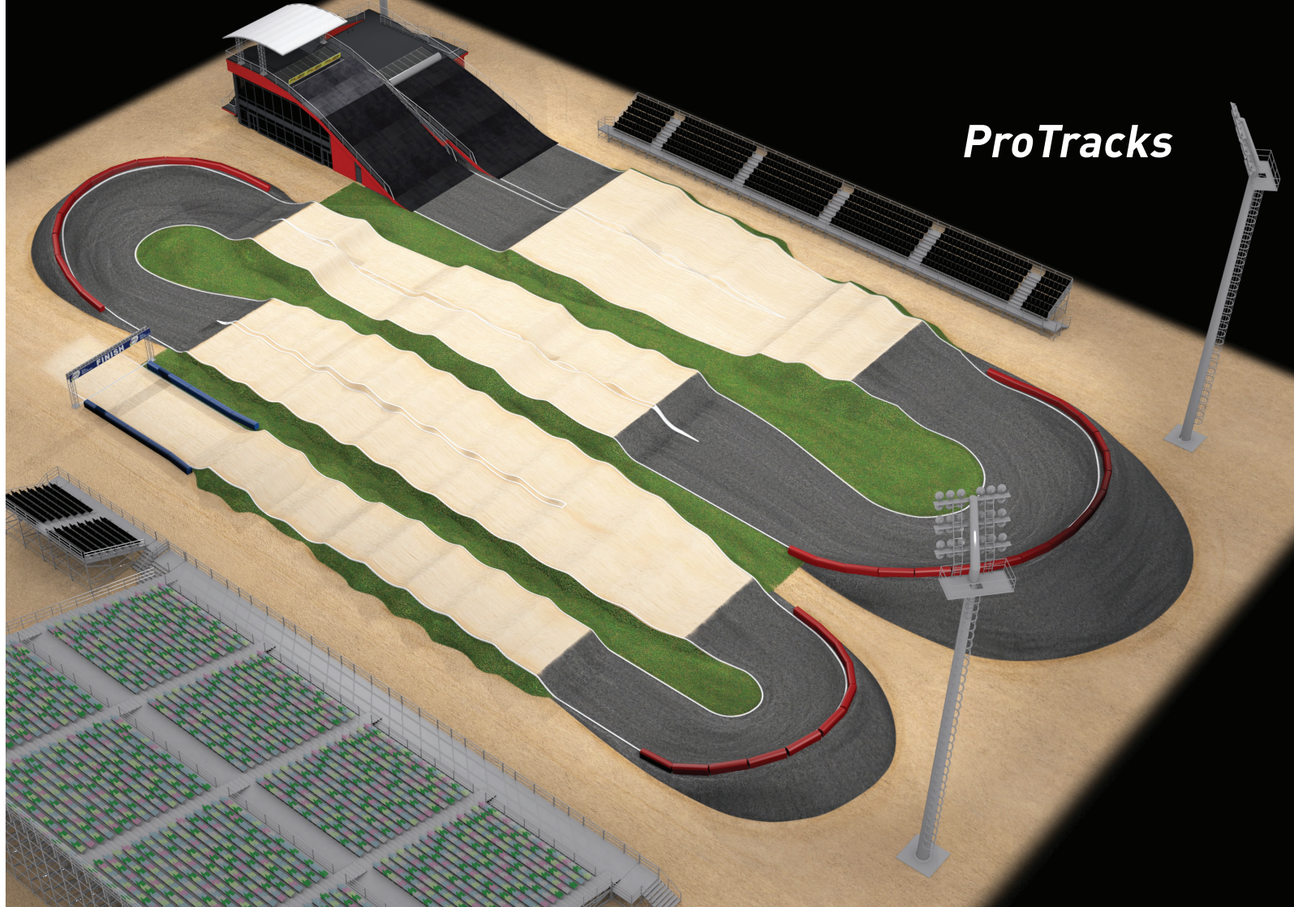
CITY TOUR WITH SEA VOYAGE	**19:00 – 21:00**	OLD CITY/ CASPIAN SEA

FRIDAY 8 JUNE

PHOTOGRAPHERS' BRIEFING	**15:00 – 15:30**	MEDIA CENTRE

SATURDAY 9 JUNE

FLAG HANDOVER TO 2019 UCI BMX WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - HEUSDEN-ZOLDER (BEL)	**20:30 – 20:35**	BMX TRACK



HISTORY OF CYCLING IN AZERBAIJAN

The history of cycling in Azerbaijan goes back to 1930, when the bicycle was first introduced here as one of the means of transportation. The first bikes were brought to Azerbaijan from Russia.

It was initially popular among the school-children and students. Schools and universities often held cycling competitions. Azerbaijan hosted its largest bike tournaments in the 1940s. That is the time, when bicyclists had the chance to compete in various sports competitions in Azerbaijan. The country had followed the European example, by holding the contests every four years.

Sabzali Museyibov and Huseyn Zargarli are the first athlete cyclists in Azerbaijan. They later continued their sports career as coaches. The races usually differed in a speed range of 30-35 kph. Local and foreign specialists, such as Huseyn Zargarli, Sabzali Museyibov, Sergei Romanov were invited to coach Azerbaijani bicyclists. Huseyn Zargarli participated in world tournaments and was the national referee of USSR.

Towards late 20th century, Azerbaijani women also started to participate actively in cycling races along men. Baku national team comprised of both men and women bicyclists, won local sports contests and represented Azerbaijan at All-Union and trans-Caucasian races.

Since 1950, cycling in Azerbaijan went through a development boom. Azerbaijani bicyclists started to participate in USSR and World competitions. Azerbaijani bicyclists Alkhas Talibov, Aladdin Shabanov, Vladimir Semergey, Aleksandr Averin and others successfully participated in various bike tournaments. Alkhas Talibov, Aladdin Shabanov won medals and diplomas at these tournaments.

Aladdin Shabanov has raced for Azerbaijan in over 50 countries, World and European competitions. As the country developing cycling, our athletes also gained an opportunity to compete at the Olympics. In 1980, the national leader Heydar Aliyev issued a decree to build a 333-meter long cycling track in Baku. The venue hosted a number of All-Union tournaments. The delegation of Azerbaijani bicyclists took part in the conference in Moscow in 1985 and came home with diplomas.

Azerbaijan has hosted numerous cycling competitions since the early 90s. Azerbaijani cyclists continued to compete in Baku and Azerbaijan championships, riding 40 kph. In 1991, as part of the series of events to celebrate the 850th jubilee of the outstanding Azerbaijani poet Nizami Ganjavi, a 4000-km bike race was held between Saint Petersburg and Ganja. The race brought together participants from 26 cities.

As Azerbaijan regained independence, developing sports has become one of the state priorities. The Azerbaijan National Olympic Committee was founded in 1992. Azerbaijan joined the Olympic Games for the first time as an independent state in 1996.

In 1997, elected as the Chairman of the National Olympic Committee, President Ilham Aliyev paved an entirely new direction for the Olympic Movement in the country. The construction of the modern Sports Complex was completed and the Azerbaijan Cycling Federation was founded later in the same year.

New bikes manufactured in France and Italy were brought to Azerbaijan. The bike park of the Azerbaijan Cycling Federation has been completely renovated. All of these measures have allowed Azerbaijan to host higher-level cycling competitions in the country.

The first road bicycle competition in Azerbaijan was held in 2012 and was dedicated to the national leader Heydar Aliyev (Heydar Aliyev Anniversary). It was a competition among bicyclists up to 23 years old. It has been held as the "Tour d'Azerbaidjan" since 2013 and is a commemoration of our national leader. The Union Cycliste Internationale categorized the event held in 2013 as 2.2 and the tour has been upgraded to 2.1 since 2014.

Azerbaijan was first introduced to BMX during the Baku-2015 1st European Games. The UCI witnessed the high-level organization of the cycling competitions, similarly to other sports, in the country and has entrusted the 2018 World Championships to Azerbaijan Cycling Federation. As the head of state Ilham Aliyev personally tasked the organization of the competition, the federation in Azerbaijan has been working hard to organize the event.

Although a BMX park corresponding to the most contemporary requirements had already been built in Baku in 2015, the UCI changed the requirements for rules and sizes of the park in 2016. Thus the Baku park was rebuilt, the length and width of the track, the number of obstacles and the height of the turns have been increased.

After the reconstruction, the BMX Track, which will host the upcoming championships, was also home to the UCI Baku Test Event in October 2017. The Union Cycliste Internationale gave a positive feedback and confirmed the Baku Park as the host venue of the 2018 UCI BMX World Championships.

HISTORY OF BMX RACING

The origins of Bicycle Motocross (BMX) can be traced back to Netherlands around the 1950s, but it was really in America shortly after this that the sport would boom – through BMX racing.

In addition to racing, BMX drivers also popularized the sport of freestyle BMX driving, preforming tricks, and creating elaborate stylized routines that are today enjoyed as the televised sport that headlines many Extreme Sporting events. The person who first popularized the sport of BMX Freestyle is Bob Haro, founder of the Mountain and BMX bicycle manufacturer company Haro Bikes.

Dirt tracks sprung up in Southern California throughout the 70s, bicycles started being made especially for BMX racing, the BMX National Bicycle League was formed in 1974 and the American Bicycle Association (ABA) became the national body for BMX racing in 1977.

The International BMX federation was founded in 1981, meaning the first BMX racing World Championships could take place in 1982, and by the time BMX became a part of the UCI – Union Cycliste Internationale, the governing body for all sport cycling, BMX racing was securely established.

The sports stayed strong enough to maintain a presence, and boomed when it was awarded Olympic status in 2003 – the same year as the first organised BMX supercross event – going on to become a full Olympic sport at the Beijing summer Olympics in 2008.

MEDIA CENTRE

Accreditation Centre Days/Hours (Times to be confirmed):

Friday 01st June (LOC only)
14:00 - 19:15

Saturday 02nd June
08:15 - 17:15
Sunday 03rd June
08:45 - 18:15
Monday 04th June
08:45 - 18:15

Tuesday 05th June
08:45 - 18:15
Wednesday 06th June
08:45 - 18:15
Thursday 07th June
08:45 - 18:15

Friday 08th June
08:45 - 18:15
Saturday 09th June
08:45 - 18:15

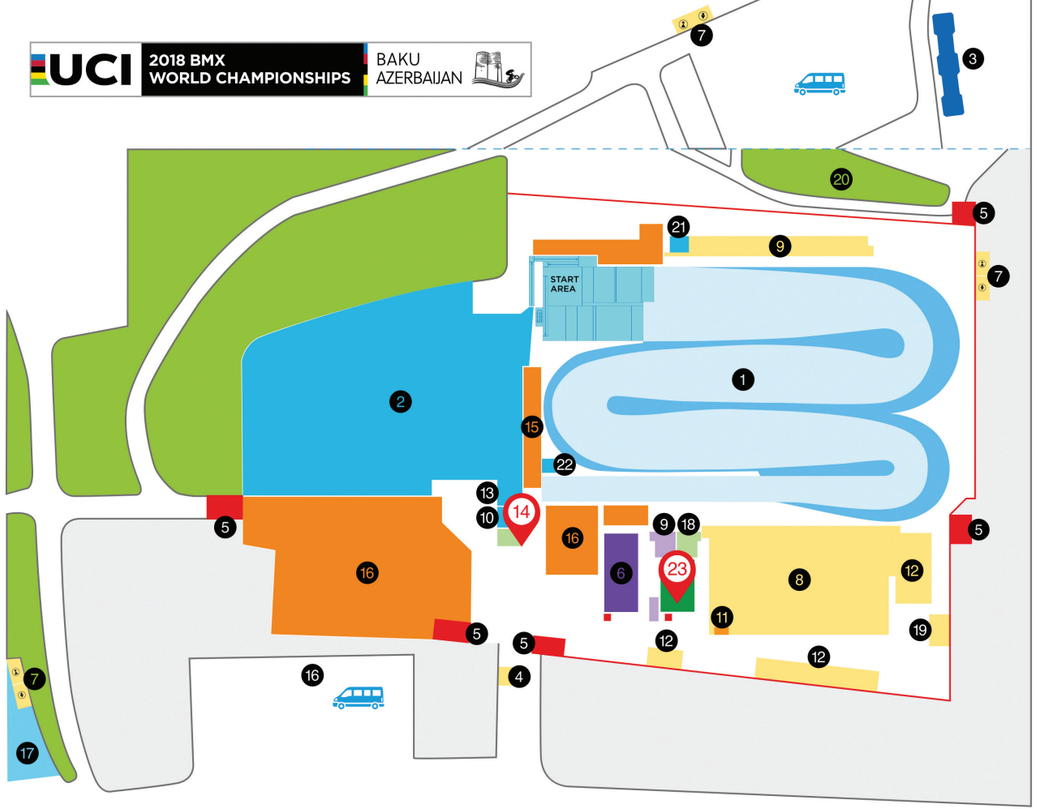
Velopark
(BMX Track – Finish Line Area)
Salyan Highway
10, Dostlug Park
AZ 1023
Baku Sabail District
Azerbaijan

Saturday June 2nd at 11 A.M. through Saturday June 9th
The Media Centre shall open one hour before the daily program starts and stay open until a minimum of one hour after awards ceremonies.

50 work stations with Ethernet, WiFi and Electrical outlets will be provided.
25 Lockers and Locks will be available.
Photographer's Bibs will be distributed in the Media Centre (deposits required)

Press Conference Room:
VIP/Hospitality Centre

MIXED ZONE #13 | **MEDIA ZONE #14** | **MEDIA CENTRE #23**



MAP OF VENUE

1. BMX Track
2. Rider Zone
3. Accreditation Center
4. Tickiting
5. Enter/Exit Security Control
6. VIP-Hospitality
7. Toilets
8. Spectator Grandstands
9. VIP Grandstands
10. Awards Podium
11. Announcer Position
12. Expo/Food
13. Mixed Zone
14. **Media Zone**
15. Operating Area
16. Shuttle Bus Loading Area
17. Raiders and Accredited Cars Parking
18. Media Grandstands
19. Smoking Area
20. Picnic Zone
21. Team Managers Grandstands
22. Team Managers Stand
23. **Media Centre**

BROADCAST MEDIA

BROADCAST MEDIA

All access to the venue for audiovisual broadcast media (TVs, websites, video blogs, radios etc.) will be organised per the different tiers of partnership (Host Broadcaster, Rights holders, Non-Rights holders).

TV BIB DISTRIBUTION:

Thursday, June 7th 10:00 - 11:00
(Accreditation Centre)

Friday, June 8th 09:00 - 10:00
(Media Centre)

BIBS TO BE RETURNED:

To provide crews with the best possible service and the required venue access, bibs must be collected at the abovementioned times at the TV compound.

Without TV bib, access to the event and especially to the mixed zone for interviews will be denied.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON:
Suzanne Lenz
TV Production & Broadcast Services Coordinator
+41 79 927 3672
susanne.lenz@uci.ch

BIBS

Broadcaster bibs come in three colours:

Host Broadcaster

Rights Holder

Non-Rights Holder

For the broadcaster bibs, the UCI charges a deposit of EUR 50 or equivalent. Broadcaster bibs must be picked-up at the TV production office truck in the TV Compound. Broadcaster bibs will be handed out and can be returned during the following times.

ACCESS TO MEDIA AREA IN THE TV COMPOUND CENTRE

UCI broadcast media partners, TV crews and camera operators can access the Media Area in the TV Compound for the edit and the upload of videos. However, for organisational reasons, we kindly request that they do not to occupy the area space when not needed.

GENERAL ACCESS AND RESTRICTIONS

The Host Broadcaster's team, wearing grey bibs, will be allowed to access all areas to ensure a firstclass television signal at European Broadcasting Union's standard.

The Host Broadcaster's team is therefore the only audiovisual media allowed to access the finish line during the event. All other media will be recognisable with other bibs and will have access to the Mixed Zone as described above.

Close to the pit area, only wireless RF cameras from Rights holders can film in the team manager's area but not in the pit area itself.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

PHOTOGRAPHERS BRIEFING

A photographers' briefing is planned on Friday 8, 15.00-15.30 in the Media Center's press conference room. Bibs will be distributed against a deposit of 50 EUR or equivalent or a professional press/photographer card.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON:
Laura Folchi
Wings Media Centre Coordinator
l.folchi@wingsmedia.it

BIBS

Photographer bibs come in two colours:

All Access Area

All Access Area
Except Infield Track

Bibs are required to be worn by photographers. The bibs are numbered, strictly personal and cannot be replaced in case of loss. They are separated into different colour categories per the group they represent.

Photographers and broadcasters must wear both their bib and accreditation. Photographers can collect their bibs at the Media Centre.

FILMING

The rights for continuous filming of the event are restricted to the authorized parties. Filming for broadcast (including all publication on digital platforms and social media) may only take place by written permission of UCI. Please refer to the broadcast contact details.

OC/UCI - ACCOMMODATION

UCI Official Hotel:
Intourist Hotel Baku Autograph Collection
51, Mikayil Huseynov Avenue,
Baku 1003, Azerbaijan

Shuttle Service is available from Official Host Hotels (Intourist, Boulevard, Panorama, Homebridge, Pullman, Green City)

UCI - RACE OFFICIALS (COMMISSAIRES' PANEL)

DONOVAN MICHAEL	PCP	USA
GOODMAN EUAN	ASSISTANT OF THE PCP	GBR
DECONCLOIS CHRISTINE	MEMBER	FRA
MA GEORDIE	MEMBER	CAN
LARSEN KJELL-IVAR	MEMBER	NOR
MCCANN NORM	SECRETARY	NZL
ALFRED LAJAWA BEATRICE	MEMBER	MAS

CHAN KWOK-KI	MEDICAL DELEGATE	CHN
BAHR RICK	MEDICAL LOGISTICS MANAGER	USA
LAPRAZ YVAN	TECHNICAL DELEGATE	SUI

NASLUND ULF	DOPING CONTROL OFFICER	SWE
AVALIC NEVENA	DOPING CONTROL OFFICER	SRB

FOLLOW THE 2018 UCI BMX WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (DIGITAL, SOCIAL MEDIA)

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

The official website for the 2018 UCI BMX World Championships is:
www.bakubmx2018.com

UCI

The official page of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) for BMX is:
https://www.facebook.com/UCIBMXSupercross/
https://twitter.com/UCI_BMX_SX
https://www.instagram.com/ucibmxsx/
snapchat/UCI_cycling

SOCIAL MEDIA

You can also follow us on:

- https://www.facebook.com/bakubmx2018
- https://www.instagram.com/bakubmx2018
- https://twitter.com/bakubmx2018

The official event hashtag is: **#bakubmx2018**

WE WELCOME YOU IN BAKU

CAUCASIAN LEOPARD

OFFICIAL MASCOT OF THE 2018 UCI BMX WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS

JUNIOR WOMEN – BETHANY SHRIEVER – GBR
JUNIOR MEN – CÉDRIC BUTTI – SUI
ELITE WOMEN – ALISE WILLOUGHBY – USA
ELITE MEN – CORBEN SHARRAH – USA