

Press release

Freestyle skiing star Virginie Faivre appointed President of the Lausanne 2020 Organising Committee

Lausanne, 4 January, 2019 - The Executive Committee of Lausanne 2020, the 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games, announces that Virginie Faivre, the multiple freestyle skiing world champion, has been appointed President of the Organising Committee. She will take up her duties on 7 January 2019 and will be available to meet the members of the media on 9 January at the Lausanne 2020 "1 year to go" press conference to be held in Lausanne.

Born in Lausanne, Virginie Faivre has a long career as an elite freestyle skier behind her. Three times FIS (International Ski Federation) world champion in half-pipe (2009, 2013 and 2015) and three times crystal globe winner in the discipline (2008, 2009, 2013), she brings to the Organising Committee her experience of major international winter sports competitions.

"It is a great honour, of course, but above all a great joy for me to participate in the organisation of this great event, which is very dear to me," says Virginie Faivre. "I was part of it from the beginning in 2013. Our victory at the IOC Session in Kuala Lumpur in 2015 was one of the highlights of my career. I feel a similar emotion today."

The new President will take over the reins of the Organising Committee on 7 January 2019 and will succeed to Patrick Baumann, who died suddenly last October in Buenos Aires (ARG) while attending the 3rd Summer Youth Olympic Games.

"Together with Patrick, I helped lay the foundations of the project during the bid phase. Over the past four years, alongside the Organizing Committee led by Ian Logan, he has done extraordinary work. I look forward to working in this continuity with the team, bringing my own sensitivity, athletic experience and knowledge of winter sports," says Virginie Faivre. "In my role at the Swiss Sport Foundation (*note: Swiss "Sporthilfe"*), I follow closely the challenges of youth sport development in the country. Much remains to be done, and Lausanne 2020 can be a real catalyst in this field," she adds. "Beyond competition, the aim of the Youth Olympic Games is also to pass on skills to the new generation. These Games must create vocations and a spirit of entrepreneurship amongst the youth. All this motivates me particularly."

Philippe Leuba, State Councilor for Economy, Innovation and Sport and Vice-President of the Executive Committee of Lausanne 2020, said: "Virginie Faivre was quite an obvious choice for us. First, she's been part of the project from its beginning. But she also embodies a certain spirit of the "new" winter sports that is very compatible with the concept of Youth Olympic Games. Lausanne 2020 is a unique opportunity to showcase the strengths and skills of our canton in terms of sport, education and innovation. Virginie Faivre is a perfect symbol of this."

Lausanne 2020
Place des médailles
Rue du Port-Franc 22
1003 Lausanne
Suisse / Switzerland
Tél. +41 58 715 20 20
www.lausanne2020.sport

Grégoire Junod, Mayor of Lausanne and Vice-President of the Executive Committee of Lausanne 2020, added: "It is obviously a great pleasure for us to see a young athlete, who is also a native of Lausanne become President of this wonderful project. The Youth Olympic Games aim to spread the healthy and positive values of sport to young people both here and abroad. Virginie Faivre will perfectly promote these unique assets from the heart of the Olympic Capital across the country and around the world over the next twelve months. We look forward to continuing our work alongside her and under her new leadership. »

Ian Logan, CEO of the Organising Committee said: "This appointment is great news. Virginie Faivre is part of the Lausanne 2020 DNA. She will further intensify the relations we have with sport and youth in the country, which are at the heart of the project. We are all looking forward to starting working with her. »

The Lausanne 2020 Youth Olympic Games will take place from 9 to 22 January 2020 with 1,880 athletes (15-18 years old) from more than 80 countries. The competitions will take place in the cantons of Vaud (Lausanne, Leysin, Les Diablerets, Villars), Valais (Champéry), Grisons (St-Moritz) and neighbouring France (Prémanon-Les Tuffes).

Fact sheet - Virginie Faivre

See next page

Presentation of the mascot and "1 year to go" celebrations – 8-9 January, 2019

On Tuesday 8 January, the official Lausanne 2020 mascot will be presented at the occasion of the Lausanne Hockey Club (LHC) - HC Davos match at the Malley 2.0 ice rink (19:45). The next day, Wednesday 9 January, Lausanne 2020 invites the people of Lausanne to celebrate the "1 year to go" mark to the opening of the 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games on 9 January, 2020 (from 4pm, Place des Médailles, Quartier du Flon, Lausanne).

Press conference - 9 January 2019

Virginie Faivre will be available to meet the members of the media on Wednesday 9 January 2019 at a press conference at the occasion the "1 year to go" celebrations.

Place: "Rhino Féroce" restaurant, Quartier du Flon, Lausanne

Time: 3pm

Registration: until 7 January at press@lausanne2020.com

Media contact :

Lausanne 2020, Media Relations
press@lausanne2020.com

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Virginie Faivre

Nationalities : Swiss and French

Born in Lausanne on 6 September 1982 in Lausanne, Switzerland

Professional athlete career (Freestyle skiing, 2002-2016)

- Triple FIS world champion in half-pipe skiing (2009, 2013, 2015)
- Triple winner of the FIS World Cup overall ranking in half-pipe skiing (2008, 2009, 2013)
- Swiss Olympic Team member at the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games (4th place)
- Twelve podiums in the FIS World Cup, five time European champion
- Member of the Swiss National Freestyle Ski Team for more than ten years
- Brand ambassador for sports/extra-sports equipment manufacturers: Völkl, Oakley, O'Neill, etc.
- Co-organizer and host of an international women's freestyle event - The "Nine Queens".

Other professional activities

- President of the Lausanne 2020 Organising Committee, 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games (since 2019)
- Head of Suisse Romande for the Swiss Aide Sportive Foundation
- Swiss Television Freestyle Ski Consultant (since 2018)
- Member of the Board of the Fond du Sport Vaudois Foundation (since 2018)
- Honorary member of the Swiss Ski Federation - SwissSki (since 2017)
- Member of the Swiss Olympic Athletes' Commission "SOAC" (since 2016)
- Member of the Lausanne 2020 Athletes' Commission (since 2014)
- Ambassador/sponsor of various foundations: Summit Foundation, Race for Water, Gorilla, Friends of Cookie
- Head of the "Culture and Education" programme for the Lausanne 2020 bid committee (2013 to 2015)