



MEDIA RELEASE

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CURLING: Basel, Switzerland to host World Men's Curling Championship 2016

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BASEL, Switzerland - The World Curling Federation (WCF) announced today that the World Men's Curling Championship in 2016 will be hosted by the city of Basel in Switzerland.

The championship will take place between 2-10 April in the St Jakobshalle which has a capacity for 9,000 spectators.

This will be the third major international curling event hosted by the city, following the World Men's Curling Championship in 2012 and the 2006 Le Gruyère European Curling Championships.

"We are delighted to be returning to Switzerland and the city of Basel for the World Men's Curling Championship in 2016," said WCF President Kate Caithness. She continued: "Basel has proven time and time again that it can put on a first class curling event and we look forward to seeing them showcase our sport to the world once again in 2016."

Bruno Schallberger, President of the local organising committee for the event, is also excited about the event returning to Basel. He said: "I am very proud to welcome the world curling family for the third time to Basel and to Switzerland. We will work very hard to make the World Men's Curling Championship in 2016 an unforgettable event for the competitors as well as for the spectators and we look forward to seeing you all in Basel in two years time."

Significant interest was generated by the World Men's Curling Championship in Basel in 2012. Over 30,000 people attended the event held at the St Jakobshalle over the nine days of competition. To add to that, TV coverage from the event was viewed by a global cumulative audience of 25 million people in the markets chosen for analysis by the WCF (Canada, Europe & China).

Switzerland will automatically qualify as hosts for the World Men's Curling Championship in 2016, while the winners and runners up from the Pacific-Asia Curling Championship, the top two teams from the Americas Zone and the seven top placed teams from the European Curling Championship in 2015 will also qualify to play in Basel.



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All teams that qualify for this championship will also be eligible to compete in the WCF's Olympic Qualification Event in 2017. That event gives all competing teams the opportunity to qualify for the last two places in both the men's and women's curling competitions at the Pyeongchang 2018 Olympic Winter Games.

This announcement was made as the first day of the World Junior Curling Championships 2014 got underway in the Swiss town of Flims. You can keep up to date with everything that is going on at this event here: <http://wjcc2014.curlingevents.com>

The World Men's Curling Championship in 2014 will be hosted in Beijing, China between 29 March and 6 April. You can follow all the action from this event here: <http://wmcc2014.curlingevents.com>

Further details about all other WCF events can be found here: www.worldcurling.org

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Notes to Editors

About the World Curling Federation www.worldcurling.org

The World Curling Federation (WCF) is the international sport federation governing the Olympic winter sport of curling and the Paralympic winter sport of wheelchair curling. The WCF is one of seven International Sports Federations currently part of the Winter Olympic programme. It represents 53 Member Associations and is generally acknowledged to direct one of the fastest-growing international winter sports.

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