

## Winter Games NZ 2019 Confirmed Athletes

*This document will be updated regularly as more athletes officially confirm attendance*

### FIS Snowboard World Cup Big Air – 24 & 25 August

#### Women

- **Zoi Sadowski-Synnott** NZL - 2019 Snowboard World Championships Slopestyle Gold Medal, 2018 Olympic Winter Games Big Air Bronze Medal.
- **Jamie Anderson** USA – 2019 X Games Aspen Big Air Bronze Medal, 2019 Snowboard World Championships Slopestyle Bronze Medal, 2018 Olympic Winter Games Big Air Silver Medal, 2018 Olympic Winter Games Slopestyle Gold medal.
- **Reira Iwabuchi** JPN – 2018 Winter Games NZ Big Air World Cup Gold Medal, 2018 Secret Garden (CHN) Slopestyle World Cup Silver Medal, 2018 Modena Skipass (ITA) Big Air World Cup Gold Medal.
- **Miyabi Onitsuka** JPN – 2019 Kreischberg (AUT) Slopestyle World Cup Gold Medal, 2018 Winter Games NZ Big Air World Cup Silver Medal, 2018 Beijing (CHN) Big Air World Cup Silver Medal.

#### Men

- **Chris Corning** USA - 2019 Snowboard World Championships Slopestyle Gold Medal, 2018 Winter Games NZ Big Air World Cup Gold Medal, 2018 Olympic Winter Games Big Air 4<sup>th</sup> place, 2018 X Games Norway Big Air Bronze Medal.
- **Redmond 'Red' Gerard** USA – 2018 Olympic Winter Games Slopestyle Gold Medallist.
- **Sebastien 'Seb Toots' Toutant** CAN - 2018 Olympic Winter Games Big Air Gold Medal, 2019 X Games Aspen Big Air and Slopestyle 4<sup>th</sup> place.
- **Carlos Garcia Knight** NZL - 2018 Winter Olympian finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Slopestyle, Bronze medal 2017 Winter Games NZ Slopestyle World Cup, 4<sup>th</sup> place Slopestyle Burton Open 2016.

## FIS Freeski World Cup Halfpipe – 6 & 7 September

### Women

- **Kelly Sildaru** EST – 2019 Freeski World Championships Halfpipe Gold Medal, 2018 Winter Games NZ Slopestyle and Halfpipe gold medallist, FIS Junior World Ski Championship Slopestyle and Big Air gold medallist and seven times X Games medallist – all by the age of 17 years old. This young woman is absolutely one to watch.
- **Cassie Sharpe** CAN – 2019 FIS Halfpipe World Cup Overall Winner, 2019 X Games Halfpipe Gold Medallist, 2018 Olympic Winter Games Gold Medallist, 2017 Winter Games NZ Gold Medallist.
- **Kexin Zhang** CHN – 2019 FIS Halfpipe World Cup Overall 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

### Men

- **Miguel Porteous** NZL – Local Wanaka Athlete, 2017 X Games Aspen Halfpipe Silver Medallist, 2018 Copper Mountain Grand Prix Silver Medallist, 2018 Winter Olympian.
- **Noah Bowman** CAN – 2 x Winter Olympian (Sochi 2014 and PyeongChang 2018), 2019 Freeski World Championships Halfpipe Bronze medallist, 6 x World Cup Podiums, 2 x X Games medals.
- **Simon D’Artois** CAN – 2018 Winter Olympian, 5 x World Cup Podiums, 2015 X Games Super Pipe Gold Medallist.
- **Aaron Blunck** USA – 2 x Winter Olympian, 9 x World Cup Podiums, 2 x Freeski World Championships Gold Medallist, 2017 X games Super pipe Gold medallist.

## Alpine Ski Racing

### Women

- **Alice Robinson** NZL – Local Queenstown Athlete, 17 years old, 2019 Andorra World Cup Giant Slalom Silver Medallist (NZ’s first Alpine World Cup medal in 17 years), 2019 FIS Junior World Championships Giant Slalom Gold Medallist, 2018 Winter Olympian.
- **Piera Hudson** NZL – 2019, career best performance, skiing from start bib 59 to finish 26th in the Slalom World Cup at the Killington Cup in Vermont, USA. She is the first

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NZ athlete to achieve a top 30 result and score World Cup Slalom points in 15 years.  
3 x Gold medallist at the Far East Cup series in Taiwoo, China.

### Curling (Mixed Doubles)

- **Joe Polo and Tabitha Peterson** USA – Joe and Tabitha are both accomplished athletes in their own rights; they both attended the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang. Joe won Olympic Gold in PyeongChang and Olympic Bronze in Torino (2006). Tabitha won Bronze at the World Mixed Doubles in 2016.

### Cross Country

#### Women

- **Jessie Diggins** USA - Jessie Diggins took first place at the 2018 Winter Games NZ in both the Classic Mass Start and the Individual Freestyle Interval. Jessie won a gold medal in the Team Sprint at the Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang 2018.

### Freeride Ski

#### Women

- **Jess Hotter** NZL – Jess is a freeride athlete originally from Ohakune. She is the 2018 winner and 2017 silver medallist at The North Face Frontier 4\*. This year she won her place on the 2020 Freeride World Tour by winning the Freeride World Qualifiers during the 2019 season.

#### Men

- **Craig Murray** NZL – Craig is currently ranked 7<sup>th</sup> on the Freeride World Tour. Craig made his way through the ranks of the New Zealand Junior Freeride Tour, the Freeride World Junior Tour and the Freeride World Qualifier Tour (FWQ), qualifying to compete on the 2018 Freeride World Tour (FWT) where he claimed two podium finishes; 2nd place FWT Final Verbier 2018 & 2nd place FWT Vallnord-Arcalis, Andorra.
- **Blake Marshall** NZL – Blake is a freeride athlete from Queenstown. He is the 2018 North Face Frontier 4\* winner. This year he won his place on the 2020 Freeride World Tour by winning the Freeride World Qualifiers during the 2019 season.

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- **Hank Bilous** NZL – Hank is a freeride athlete from Wanaka. Hank competed on the 2019 Freeride World Tour and won The North Face Frontier 4\* in 2017. This year his younger brother Finn (2018 New Zealand Olympic Winter Games team member) has been invited to The North Face Frontier 4\* as a Wild Card entry.

## Freeride Snowboard

### Women

- **Maria Kuzma** NZL – Maria competed in the 2019 Freeride World Tour finishing 5<sup>th</sup> over all. She won The North Face Frontier 4\* in 2017.

### Men

- **Cody Bramwell** SWE – Cody won The North Face Frontier 4\* in 2018. He won the 2019 Freeride World Qualifiers earning himself a spot on the 2020 Freeride World Tour.
- **Finn Duffy** NZL – Finn won the 2018 Europe Oceania Junior Freeride Tour and then went on to place 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Freeride World Qualifier Nendaz 4\* in the 2019 season.
- **Ronan Thompson** NZL – Ronan won the 2018 Europe Oceania Junior Freeride Tour and went on to achieve 4 Freeride Junior Tour podiums in the 2019 Season.