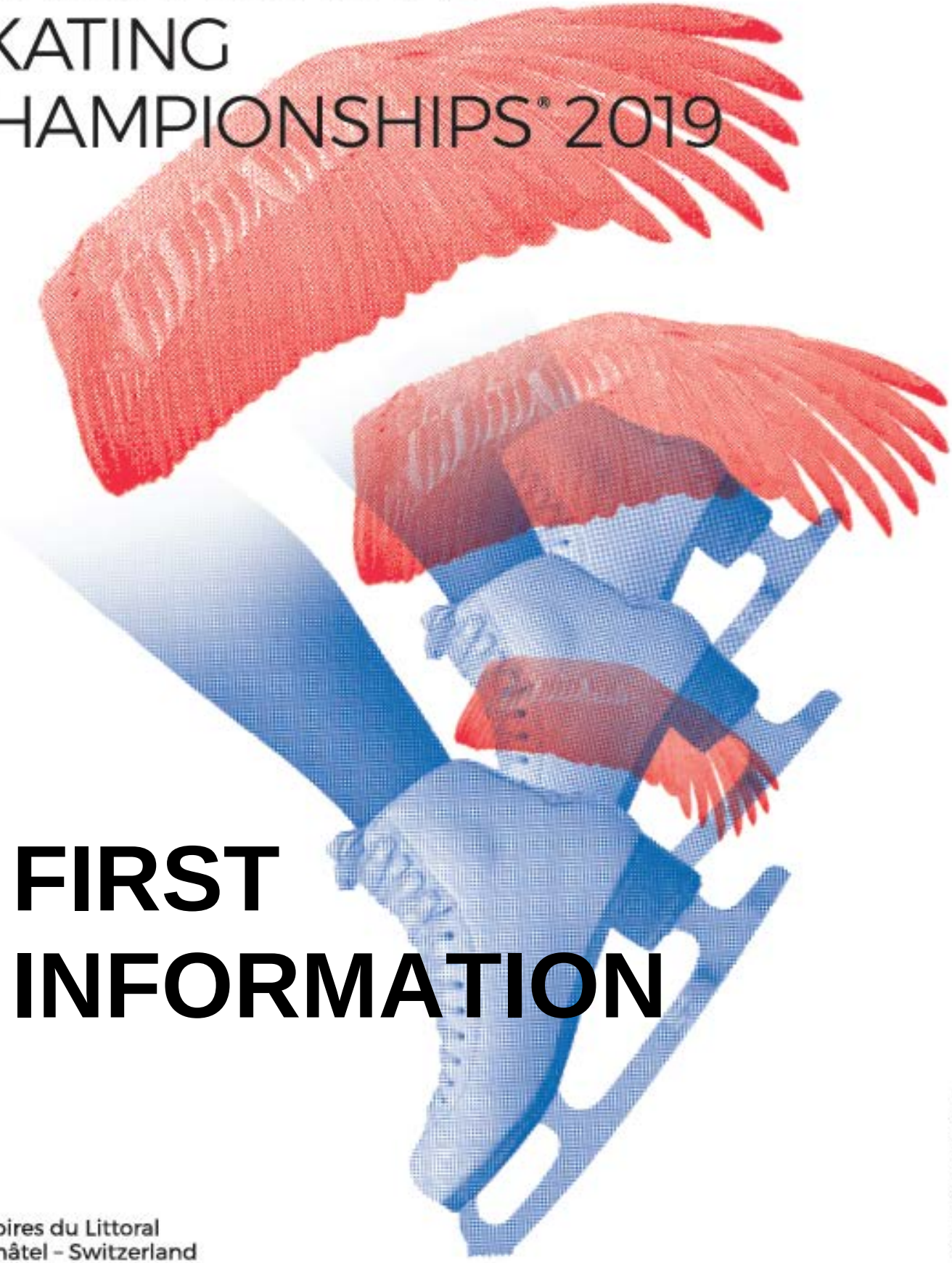
ISU WORLD JUNIOR SYNCHRONIZED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS® 2019



FIRST INFORMATION

Patinoires du Littoral
Neuchâtel – Switzerland

15–16 MARCH 2019

SWISS ICE SKATING

www.WJSSC2019.com

1. Welcome to Neuchâtel and Switzerland

Madame, Monsieur, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships® 2019 in Neuchâtel.

Located in the North-West of Switzerland, the region of Neuchâtel is one of the six French-speaking cantons of the country. It is characterized by varied landscapes: the massive mountains of the Jura on its North board and the large Lake of Neuchâtel on its South. The bottom of the canton is represented by the city of Neuchâtel, which is also its capital city. On the other hand, the higher part is represented by the city of La Chaux-de-Fonds, located in the mountains.

The city of Neuchâtel lies at an elevation of more or less 479 meters above sea level and its surface is 803 km^2. The city counts a population of 33,668 inhabitants.

This canton attracts visitors also for its historical and architectural heritage. In fact, in the 16th century, when the reformer Calvin banned on the wearing of jewellers in Geneva, he gave birth to one of the most prestigious industries in the world. In order not to disappear, jewellers turned to the creation of watches and clocks. The activity quickly spread in the whole of the Jura range. It was perfectly adapted to the material conditions of the region. It is also fully compatible with the decentralization (isolated houses) and the seasonal variations of the rural community's occupations. In their farm, craftsmen of the region developed an unequalled competence of watchmaking. First a craft, watchmaking then became an industry and today, the Pays de Neuchâtel can pride itself on having the most prestigious watch brands in the world.

2. The Arenas

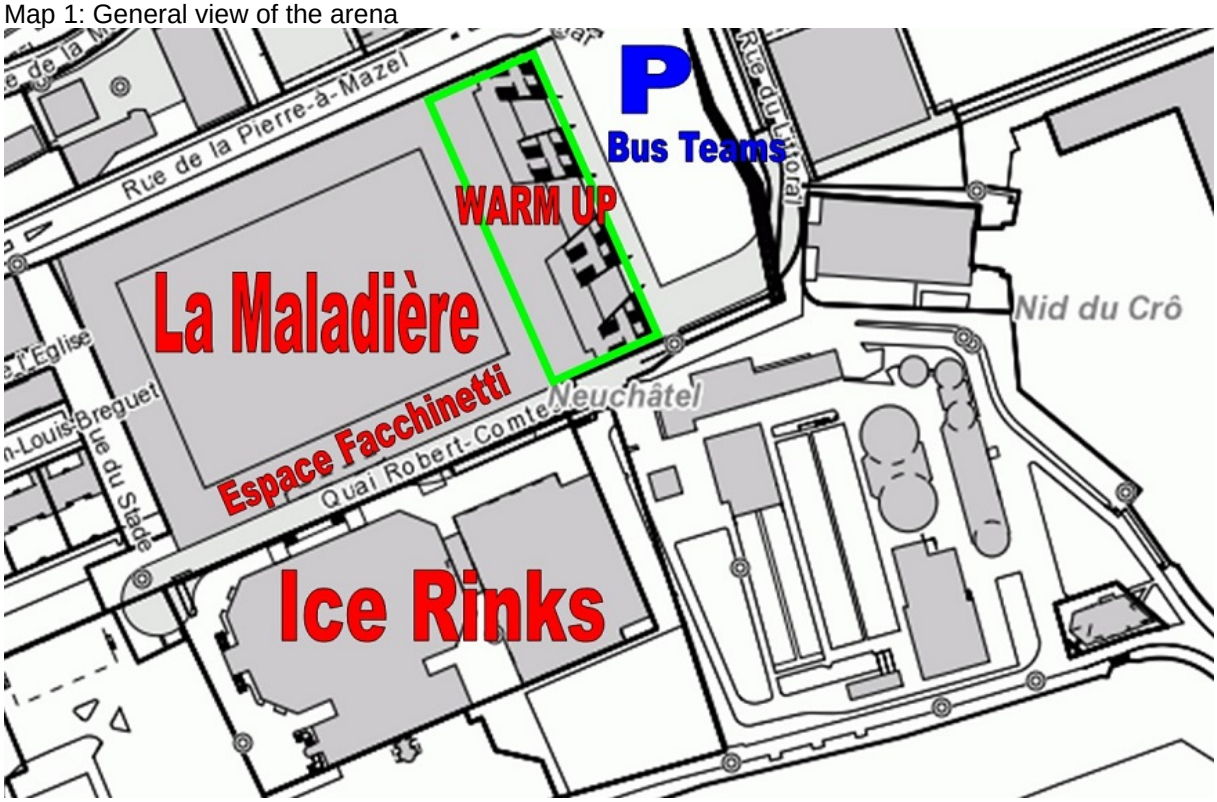
The ice skating complex of the city of Neuchâtel, called “Patinoires du Littoral”, is located along the seaside of Lake Neuchâtel, in the eastern part of the city. It consists in two ice surfaces of 30 x 60 meters. These structures were used for the first time in 1986. Its address is:

Patinoires du Littoral
Quai Robert-Comtesse 4
2000 Neuchâtel
Switzerland
Phone: +41 (0) 32 717 85 50
More on the web

The main venue rink can host up to 6,500 people, however the seating capacity is 3,200 places. There are ten changing rooms available to the athletes, a conference room and several refreshment rooms.

On the other hand, the secondary arena disposes of 1,000 standing places, five changing rooms and one refreshment room.

Map 1: General view of the arena



3. The Hotels

3.1 General information

Due to the small size of the city of Neuchâtel, no hotel is large enough to host the whole Skating Family. The teams will thus be housed in various hotels.

Reservations can be made through the Organizing Committee only.

Please define which category of hotel (3*, 4*, 5* or group accommodation) you would like to order on the Accommodation Request Form. The Organizing Committee will assign the hotels to the Teams in accordance with their rooming list once the request is received. Hotels will be reserved on the first come – first served basis.

For the payment conditions, please refer to paragraph 10 of the Announcement.

The table on next page provides an overview of the available rooms with prices in CHF per room (except for dormitories) as well as distances to the ice rink in kilometres.

Families and friends are requested to book their accommodation themselves through their travel agency or at the Neuchâtel Tourist Office. The address of the Neuchâtel Tourist Office is:

Tourisme neuchâtelois
Hôtel des Postes
2001 Neuchâtel
Switzerland
Phone: +41 (0) 32 889 68 90
E-mail: info@ne.ch
Website: https://www.neuchateltourisme.ch/en/contact/offices.html

The Neuchâtel Tourist Office opens on Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 12:00 and from 13:30 to 17:30, and on Saturday from 09:00 to 12:00.

Category	Distance in km to the ice rink	Single bed room	Double bed room	3-bed room	4-bed room	6-bed room	Dormitory 8 to 10 pers. Price/person
3*	city	130-164	170-200	220	192	307	
	9	128	147				
	12	90	90	120			
	13	200	200	250	290		
	23[1)]	95	150	195			
4*	city	275	310	345	380		
	23[1)]	130	170	220			
5*	city	290	290	380			
Dorm	8		95 [2)]		160 [2)]		40 [2)]
	16				140 [2)]	210 [2)]	35 [2)]

[1)] These hotels are not on a public transportation route and no transportation will be organized by the Organizing Committee. They will be booked only if a Team has its own bus.
[2)] Breakfast is not included in this hotel and costs CHF 12.50/person if ordered.

3.2 Addresses and type of accommodations

1 Best Western Premier ****
Hotel Beaulac
Esplanade Léopold-Robert 2
2000 Neuchâtel
www.beaulac.ch

Official hotel
Kind of international standard: 4
Distance hotel to main arena: 0,7 km
116 rooms

2 Beau-Rivage Hotel *****
Esplanade du Mont-Blanc 1
2000 Neuchâtel
www.beau-rivage-hotel.ch

Hotel
Kind of international standard: 5
Distance hotel to main arena: 1,5 km
66 rooms

3 Hotel Palafitte *****
Route des Gouttes-d'Or 2
2000 Neuchâtel
www.palafitte.ch

Hotel
Kind of international standard: 5
Distance hotel to main arena: 2 km
38 rooms

4 Hotel des Arts ***
Rue Jean-Louis Pourtalès 3
2000 Neuchâtel
www.hoteldesarts.ch

Hotel
Kind of international standard: 3
Distance hotel to main arena: 0,7 km
49 rooms

5 Hotel Alpes et Lac ***
Place de la Gare 2
2000 Neuchâtel
www.alpesetlac.ch

Hotel
Kind of international standard: 3
Distance hotel to main arena: 0,75 km
30 rooms

6 Hotel Touring au Lac ***
Place Numa-Droz 1
2000 Neuchâtel
www.touringaulac.ch

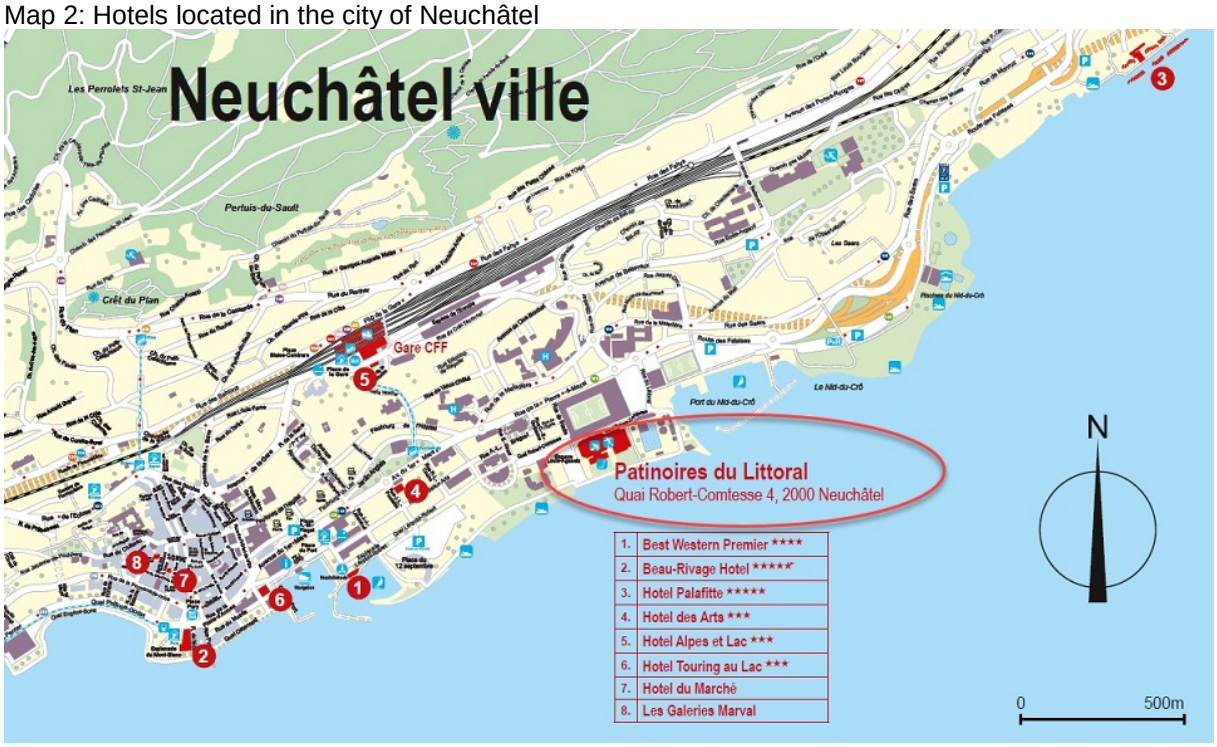
Hotel
Kind of international standard: 3
Distance hotel to main arena: 1 km
50 rooms

7 Hotel du Marché
Place des Halles 4
2000 Neuchâtel
www.hoteldumarche.com

Hotel
Distance hotel to main arena: 1,7 km
10 rooms

8	Les Galeries Marval Passage Marval 1 2000 Neuchâtel www.lesgaleriesmarval.ch	Appart'hotel Distance hotel to main arena: 1,7 km Apartments
9	Ibis 3 Lacs Neuchâtel-Thielle ** Le Verger 1 2075 Thielle www.3lacs-neuchatel.ch	Hotel Kind of international standard: 2 Distance hotel to main arena: 8 km 60 rooms
10	Hôtel-Restaurant Le Vaisseau Petit-Cortaillod 38 2016 Cortaillod www.hotel-le-vaisseau.ch	Hotel Distance hotel to main arena: 13,5 km 16 rooms
11	Hotel-Restaurant La Croisée Malvilliers 2043 Boudevilliers www.lacroisee.ch	Hotel Distance hotel to main arena: 12,5 km 10 rooms
12	La Rouvraie 2022 Bellevue-sur-Bevaix www.larouvraie.ch	Guest rooms and dormitories Distance hotel to main arena: 19 km 13 rooms
13	Le Louverain Ch. des Crotets 2206 Les Geneveys s/Coffrane www.louverain.com	Guest rooms and dormitories Distance hotel to main arena: 17,5 km 26 rooms
14	Auberge-Restaurant de La Tène La Tène 2074 Marin-Epagnier www.la-tene.ch	Guest rooms and dormitories Distance hotel to main arena: 8,5 km 11 rooms

Map 2: Hotels located in the city of Neuchâtel



Map 3: Hotels located in the greater area of the city of Neuchâtel

3.3 Extra services and incidentals

All hotel extras, including services such as telephone charges, Pay TV, room service, mini bar, laundry and dry cleaning, are to be settled directly at the hotel upon checkout. All Pay TV Channels and telephones will be blocked upon check-in and can only be activated when a personal credit card is presented at the hotel front desk. Each Member federation is responsible for incidentals and the Team Leader for each Member federation is the appointed contact person.

3.4 Contact person and room changes

For any problems with regard to rooms, room changes, damages in the room, etc. the Team Managers is agreed to be the contact person. Any room change should be addressed to the Organizing Committee. No changes are allowed directly with the hotel.

4. Travel and Transportation

4.1 Visa

We recommend to verify with the Swiss Embassy or Consulate in your country whether you need a Visa. Please visit the website of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs for more information: https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home.html

4.2 ISU Office Holders, Judges and Event Officials

Geneva International Airport (GVA) is the primary gateway to Neuchâtel.

On the arrival day, and based on the arrival information received in a timely manner, the Organizing Committee will meet ISU Office Holders and Guests, Judges and Event Officials at the Geneva International Airport (GVA) to help them boarding the train to Neuchâtel.

Direct trains to Neuchâtel leave the Geneva International Airport train station every hour at XX:05 minutes. The approximate journey time is one hour and 20 minutes.

Should the Officials choose to come to Switzerland through another airport like Zurich or Basel, they will have to rely on themselves to continue their journey by train to Neuchâtel.

The Organizing Committee will refund train costs related to the journey from the Swiss airport to the Neuchâtel train station to Officials upon presentation of the corresponding train tickets.

At the Neuchâtel train station, a shuttle service will pick the Officials up at no cost to bring them to the accreditation desk and to the Official Hotel – the Hôtel Beaulac.

During the event, a shuttle service will be provided to ISU Office Holders, Judges and Event Officials between the Official Hotel – the Hôtel Beaulac – and the ice rink prior to and after each event, as well as for all official practice sessions. The time schedule of the shuttle service will be posted at the reception desk of the Official Hotel, as well as at the ice rink in the judges' room and at the welcome desk.

On the departure day, a pick-up service will be organised according to the departure schedule provided in a timely manner.

4.3 Teams

It is the responsibility of all participating teams to organize and cover the costs of their journey to and back from Neuchâtel, which should include the transfer to and from the airport, or any transportation to Neuchâtel and back home, as well as within Neuchâtel from the hotel to the ice rink and back.

Teams arriving by train should indicate the time of arrival at the train station of Neuchâtel.

On Wednesday, March 13, 2019, if requested and based on the arrival information received in a timely manner, the Organizing Committee will be pleased to meet the Teams and accompanying personnel at the Geneva International Airport (GVA) and to help them boarding the train to Neuchâtel.

Direct trains to Neuchâtel leave the Geneva International Airport train station every hour at XX:05 minutes. The approximate journey time is one hour and 20 minutes. As an indication, a one way train ticket from the Geneva International Airport train station to Neuchâtel train station costs CHF 48.– per person.

Alternatively, our official transportation partner in Neuchâtel, Voyages Jean-Louis SA, is available for the journey from the Geneva International Airport to Neuchâtel at a price of CHF 800.– one way for a bus with 30-40 seats. The Teams will in this case be welcomed at the airport by the bus driver. For reservations, please contact the Organizing Committee on direction@WJSSC2019.com.

When possible, and upon agreement of the Teams, a bus sharing might be considered in order to reduce the costs. Please discuss this possibility with the Organizing Committee.

As the Patinoires du Littoral are within walking distance of most hotels of the city of Neuchâtel or reachable by public transportation, the Organizing Committee will not provide a shuttle service for the Teams hosted within the city during the event.

All participants to the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships® 2019 will receive a “Neuchâtel Tourist Card”. This is a pass which enables each visitor staying for a minimum of one night in a hotel, bed & breakfast or holiday apartment in the canton of Neuchâtel to benefit for free from the public transport system of the Neuchâtel region (trains, funicular and busses). This card is distributed by the host on the guest's arrival. It is valid from the time of check-in until midnight on the day of departure.

Further information on:
https://www.neuchateltourisme.ch/en/transport/public-transport.10009/neuchatel-tourist-card.12058.html

Regarding the public transportation system, the main bus lines connecting most hotels of the city of Neuchâtel to the ice rink are lines 101 and 121. Line 101 “Cormondrèche, Grand'Rue - Place Pury - Marin-Epagnier Gare” runs at least every 10 minutes and line 121 “Place Pury – Piscines” (with the stop “Maladière” very close to the ice rink) every 15 minutes. The trip takes about 6 minutes from the city centre (“Place Pury”).

Further information on: http://www.transn.ch/.

A map of the public transportation system is available on http://www.transn.ch/reseau-horaires/littoral-val-de-ruz/.

However, should a Team decide to rent a bus for its entire stay in Neuchâtel, the Organizing Committee will be pleased to help with the arrangements.
For reservations with our official transportation partner in Neuchâtel, Voyages Jean-Louis SA, please contact the Organizing Committee on accommodation@WJSSC2019.com.

Furthermore, should Teams accommodated in hotels in the greater area of the city of Neuchâtel not travel with their own bus and rely on the public transportation system, the Organizing Committee will contact them to organise the transportation from the hotel to the ice rink once the hotels will have been assigned.

5. Accreditation

The accreditation for all ISU Office Holders, Referees, Judges, Technical Controllers, Technical Specialists, Data and Video Operators, and Partner or Relative to an Official taking part in the event, for Competitors, Team Leaders, Team Officials, Team Medical Staff and Coaches, as well as for Media, TV, Volunteers and late arriving Teams and guests will take place at the Main Arena.

The opening hours of the accreditation desk will be the following
- Wednesday, March 13, 2019 from 09:00 to 18:00
- Thursday, March 14, 2019 from 09:00 to 12:30

For special requests please contact the Organizing Committee.

6. Extra Practice Ice

Additional practice sessions will be available against payment from Monday, March 11, 2019 to Wednesday, March 13, 2019. Extra practice ice is sold in blocks of 30 minutes at CHF 120.00/block.
For reservations, please use the Extra Practice Ice Request Form, which is also available on the website: www.WJSSC2019.com.

Or contact the Organizing Committee on direction@WJSSC2019.com.

7. Meal Service

7.1 Teams

All accredited persons that do not receive meal vouchers from the Organizing Committee need to pre-order their lunches and dinners. The Teams, Coaches and Team Officials are encouraged to utilize the meal service negotiated by the Organizing Committee. The use of the services is upon Teams' discretion and at their own cost (see Team Meal Plan Request Form).

Meals will be served at the Espace Facchinetti, which is located beside the Ice Rinks, and can be accessed with a two minutes' walk (see map 1 in chapter 2 "The Arenas").

7.2 ISU Office Holders, Judges and Event Officials

The ISU Office Holders, Judges and Event Officials entitled to the full board will receive vouchers for daily meals. Breakfast is served at the Official Hotel – Hôtel Beaulac – whereas lunch is served at the Espace Facchinetti, which is located beside the Ice Rinks, and can be accessed with a two minutes' walk (see map 1 in chapter 2 "The Arenas"). As for dinner, it will be served in selected locations according to a separate schedule for Officials which will be handed over in due time by the Organizing Committee.

A shuttle service will be provided to ISU Office Holders, Judges and Event Officials between the ice rink or the selected location and the Official Hotel – Hôtel Beaulac – after dinner (or late dinner).

8. Event tickets

For all information regarding tickets please visit our website: www.WJSSC2019.com
Seats will not be numbered. The reservation takes place per sector and will be open starting on December 1, 2018.
Payments will be possible with most major credit cards.
Further information on: info@WJSSC2019.com

9. Useful Information

9.1 Languages

The official language of the region is French, which is one of the four Swiss national languages together with German, Italian and Romansh. In the Neuchâtel region, the majority of population is usually able to speak also German and English.

9.2 Currency

Swiss Francs
The currency of the Swiss Confederation is the Swiss franc. The different bills are 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 1000 Swiss francs. ½, 1, 2, 5 are the coins and 5, 10, 20 the cents.

Euros
There are also several shops which accept payments in Euros.

Credit Cards
All main credit cards (like Eurocard/Master Card, Visa, American Express, etc.) are usually accepted in the majority of shops, hotels and restaurants.

Exchange
There is the possibility of changing money in proper exchange offices, as well as in every bank, post office and almost all train stations of the canton.

ATM
They can be found in post offices, banks or on the street. They are easily accessible 24h/24h.

Tipping
Though the tip is usually included in the price of every kind of service, it is customary to leave some at the restaurant.

9.3 Weather conditions

The average temperature during the spring is usually between 0° and 16°.

9.4 Time zone

Switzerland is part of the Central European Time Zone (GMT+1). When it is 12:00 in Neuchâtel, it is 12:00 in Berlin, 11:00 in London, 06:00 in New York, 14:00 in Moscow and 21:00 in Sydney.

9.5 Telephone

Country code of Switzerland: +41

9.6 Wi-Fi connection

Most hotels have their own Wi-Fi connection (usually free of charge), as well as many cafés, restaurants and public places in the city centre.

9.7 Electricity

The voltage in Switzerland is **230 V/50 Hz**. The outlets have a hexagonal form and count three holes. They usually work without problems with the European standard outlet which have two holes. So do not forget to take your adaptor with you. Otherwise, there is the possibility to buy them in various shops.

9.8 Opening hours

Banks

Monday-Wednesday, Friday:	08:30 – 12:00 / 13:45 – 17:00
Thursday:	08:30 – 12:00 / 13:45 – 17:30

Shops

Monday-Wednesday, Friday:	09:00 – 19:00
Thursday:	09:00 – 20:00
Saturday:	09:00 – 18:00
Sunday:	closed all day, except those at the train station

9.9 Information points

For any assistance, you may contact one of the information points located around the canton:

Neuchâtel
Tourism Office
Place du Port 2, 2000 Neuchâtel
+41 (0) 32 889 68 90
info@ne.ch

La Chaux-de-Fonds
Tourism Office
Espacité 1, 2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds
+41 (0) 32 889 68 95
info.cdf@ne.ch

Le Locle
Moulins souterrains
Le Col 23, 2400 Le Locle
+41 (0) 32 889 68 92
info.ll@ne.ch

Val-de-Travers
Boutique Goût & Région
Place de la Gare, 2103 Noiraigue
+41 (0) 32 889 68 96
info.vdt@ne.ch

Val-de-Ruz
Evologia
Route de l'Aurore 6, 2053 Cernier
+41 (0) 32 889 36 00
evologia@ne.ch

9.10 Emergency Calls

Police	117
Ambulance	144
Fire	118
Swiss Rescue	1414
European Emergency number	112

9.11 Lost property

If you find or lose any kind of item, you can contact the following offices:

Neuchâtel	**La Chaux-de-Fonds**
Service du domaine public	Sécurité publique
Rue des Poudrières 14	Place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville 1
Case Postale	Case postale 370
2002 Neuchâtel	2301 La Chaux-de-Fonds

10. Discover the best of Neuchâtel

This is a region of contrasts where you will find secular heritage side by side with contemporary architecture: the thousand-year-old city of Neuchâtel and many other towns and villages present mediaeval charm, while the architecture at La Chaux-de-Fonds, another of the principal cities of the canton, is unexpectedly avant-garde.

10.1 Neuchâtel à la Belle Epoque

Walking through the streets of the city, you can notice the historical signs related to the Belle Epoque which offer you a fascinating insight into the past. In fact, people have the possibility to do a guided tour, which, in different stages, shows the facets of a prosperous epoch rich in inventions and discoveries. Furthermore, in the centre of one of the most important squares of Neuchâtel, the Place Pury, an authentic Belle Epoque streetcar waits for the tourists and it is the scenery of an amazing visual presentation.

Further information on: www.neuchatelbelle-epoque.ch

10.2 La Chaux-de-Fonds

Together with its neighbour Le Locle, this town recently obtained UNESCO World Heritage Site status because the watchmaking industry has created an urban landscape that is unique in the world.

In fact, we recommend you to visit the city, starting by our Information centre "Espace de l'urbanisme horloger", established to help people to discover and understand the universal interest of La Chaux-de-Fonds. There, visitors have also the possibility to watch a short movie on the subject in order to better perceive the legacy and current role of the city as watchmaking metropolis.

The town is literally steeped in the traditional art of watchmaking. People have the opportunity of visiting the Corum manufacture for a first-hand experience of the fascinating trade. Their workshops are open to the public every Tuesday upon prior registration. It is a unique opportunity to learn everything about this first-class watch brand and the details of their watch assembly, done by hand by skilled professionals.

If visitors would like delving even deeper into the secrets of watchmaking, there is also the possibility to participate to one of the onsite workshops offered and assemble your own watch with the components you choose. There's no better souvenir to take home with you!

Further information on: www.explorewatch.swiss

10.3 Museums

It is also possible to learn about the historical and cultural heritage watchmaking, art and architecture of the cities of the Neuchâtel region, through its numerous museums.

For example, there is the International Watchmaking Museum in La-Chaux-de-Fonds, recognized as the world's most prestigious museum devoted to this art, the Château des Monts in Le Locle and the Neuchâtel Museum of Art and History, where you can see three android automatons created in the 18th century by Jaquet Droz, the most famous watchmaker of all.

The Laténium is a real treasure-chest for those who want to trace 50,000 years of archaeological history spanning man's presence on earth. Evidence of lakeside civilizations has now been uncovered, and the importance of these archaeological findings has been recognized at European level.

Further information on: https://www.neuchateltourisme.ch/en/decouvertes/museums.html

10.4 Le Corbusier

Given that perfection is the constant goal of all watchmakers, it comes as no surprise that one of the most renowned architects of all time was born in this region. Le Corbusier was a native of La Chaux-de-Fonds and he spent all his youth in this watchmaking town, searching for new architectural impetus. His first two buildings, the Maison Blanche and the Villa Turque, undeniably demonstrate his innovative spirit – especially in the historical context of the early 20th century when they were built. La Maison Blanche opens its doors to the public during the weekends, so take this opportunity to be initiated into architecture by one of the great masters.

10.5 Absinthe – a legendary beverage

The region has given birth to many typical Neuchâtel specialties that have become known around the world, such as the absinthe, the favourite beverage of artists in the 19th century, and a key factor in the history of Val-de-Travers, which is a municipality of the canton. Although it was eventually prohibited, absinthe survived in secret in the local cellars and is now a proud part of the region's heritage that can be sampled (with no risk of breaking the law) at the premises of the many distillers to be found here.

Further information on: www.routedelabsinthe.com

10.6 Sports and leisure

The region offers also the opportunity to enjoy a lot of different footpaths and biking trails.
The Areuse Gorges – leading from the Val-de-Travers to the lakeside – tame at times and dramatically wild at others, are an ideal area in which to admire rich vegetation, flora and mixed woodland, unexpected fauna and mysterious caves.
The nature reserve of the Creux du Van is most certainly the most impressive natural jewels of the Jura. This perfectly shaped rock amphitheatre with 100-600 meters high cliffs is a haven for wild life.
The Lake of Neuchâtel is the largest navigable stretch of water entirely on the Swiss territory. It offers a free access on all its shores, wild at times or well laid out at others.
Much smaller in size and much higher in altitude, the Lake of les Taillères is located in the heart of the Valley of La Brévine, well known for its very low temperatures in winter. The lake can easily turn into a giant open air ice rink during the coldest period.

11. Information

For further information, please contact:

ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships® 2019
Organizing Committee
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Rue des Cèdres 17
CH - 2017 Boudry
Switzerland
Phone: +41 (0) 79 275 73 02
E-mail: direction@WJSSC2019.com
Website: http://www.WJSSC2019.com