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## IFSC PRESS RELEASE

# FIRST EVER IFSC CONNECTED SPEED KNOCKOUT TO TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 2

Torino - July 23, 2020

The International Federation of Sport Climbing is proud to introduce the first, inaugural edition of the IFSC Connected Speed Knockout presented by Japan Airlines: a brand-new competition format that will see the participation of more than 50 athletes, representing nine nations and climbing on seven Speed walls located in seven different locations all around the world.

The event will be streamed on the IFSC's official Facebook page and YouTube channel on Sunday, August 2 at 5:00 pm (UTC+2:00), when clocks in Japan will switch to August 3: exactly one year away from Sport Climbing's debut at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, in 2021.

Athletes from Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Poland and Russia will compete in the initial qualification round, with the top-16 climbers in the overall ranking advancing to the finals.

The final phase of the competition will follow the same knockout pattern as a regular Speed World Cup, with the peculiarity of athletes battling head-to-head from different countries.

Among the participants, France's Olympic qualified athlete Mickael Mawem, Indonesia's two-time World Cup gold medallist Alfian Muhammad and six-time World Cup medallist Aspar Jaelolo, Italy's reigning Speed World Champion Ludovico Fossali, Poland's twin sisters Aleksandra and Natalia Kalucka – who respectively won the Speed Youth World Championship in 2017 and 2018, and Russia's Olympic qualified athlete Iuliia Kaplina and 2016 Speed World Champion Anna Tsyganova.

IFSC President Marco Sclaris said:

"We're pretty excited about this competition. It's a completely new format, and I have to congratulate with our Sport Department for coming up the whole idea, during these extremely challenging times. Our National Federations embraced the project with enthusiasm, and that already is the greatest satisfaction for us."

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The schedule of the competition will be as follows:

- Women's Qualifications
- Men's Qualifications
- Women's Final
- Men's Final

**For more information:**

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