



**Riga / Latvia**

**August 27 to September 1, 2013**

## **First information**



## **WELCOME**

The Latvian Skating Association and the Local Organizing Committee are looking forward to welcome the skating family in Riga for the Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating Riga Cup.

We have enclosed various pieces of information which might be useful for you and for your preparation to attend this event.

## **Information about Latvia**

### Geography

Latvia is the central country of the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) and is located in North-eastern Europe on the east coast of the Baltic Sea. Its geographic coordinates are 57°00'N latitude and 25°00'E longitude. It consists of fertile lowland plains and moderate hills, with most of its territory less than 100 metres above sea level. It has an extensive network of rivers, thousands of lakes and hundreds of kilometres of undeveloped seashore lined by pine forests, dunes, and continuous white sand beaches.

### Fact

Area 64,589 sq.km or 24,937 sq.miles.

Regions Kurzeme, Zemgale, Vidzeme, Latgale.

Total national border length 1,862 km.

Length of Latvia's Baltic coastline 494 km.

Largest lake Lubāns, 80.7 sq.km.

Deepest lake Drīdzis, 65.1 metres.

Longest river within Latvian territory the Gauja, 452 km.

Largest river to flow through Latvian territory the Daugava, total length 1,005 km, of which 352 km within Latvian territory.

Highest point Gaiziņkalns, 311.6 metres.

Metric units 1 km = 0.62 mile; 1 m = 39.37 inches

### Location

Latvia is bordered by Estonia to the north, Russia to the east, Lithuania to the south and the Baltic Sea to the west. Its strategic location has made it an international crossroad for trade, commerce and cultural exchange since ancient times. Vikings followed the 'Amber Road' through Latvian territory along the Daugava River to reach Byzantium and the Mediterranean Sea.



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### Climate

Latvia's weather features a temperate maritime climate, with mild summers, moderate winters and frequently high levels of humidity and precipitation.

- Summer: June - August.
- Winter: December - February.
- The average temperature:

In summer: 18.8°C (in the capital 20.1°C),

In winter: -14.5°C (in the capital -13.8°C).

- The warmest month: July,
- The coldest month: January.

### Nature

With over 44 percent of its territory covered by forests, a vast network of free flowing rivers and thousands of lakes, Latvia is one of Europe's best preserved havens for a wide variety of wildlife. Over 27 thousand species of flora and fauna thrive in natural settings that are still relatively undisturbed by man. Many rare species, such as the black stork and lesser spotted eagle, make their homes in Latvia's mixed forests, marshes and meadows. There is also an abundance of otters, beavers, lynx and wolves, as well as great concentrations of deer, elk, fox and wild boar. Bird-watching is particularly rewarding in Latvia, especially in the coastal areas and wetlands during annual migration periods.

### Population

Latvians are the indigenous people of Latvia, and the Finno-Ugric Livs (or Livonians) are the only indigenous minority. Latvia's present ethnic mix is largely a result of massive post-war immigration, which resulted in a decline in the share of ethnic Latvians from 77% in 1935 to 52% in 1989.

Population in 2012: **2, 041, 763**

Urban: 68% Rural:32%

Capital: Riga

Major language: Latvian

Major religion: Christianity (Lutheran)

Monetary unit: 1 lat = 100 santims

Main exports: Machinery and electrical equipment, textiles, timber and timber products, food and agricultural products.



### **About Riga**

Latvia's political, economic and culture centre is in Rīga, where more than one third of Latvia's population (650 thousand) lives and works. Rīga's elegant Old Town and distinctive Art Nouveau architecture serve as a stimulating setting for a vibrant modern business and cultural life. Founded in 1201, this former Hanseatic League member is one of the oldest medieval cities in Europe and has been listed by UNESCO as one of the world's most important cultural and natural sites. As one of the new stars of the dynamic Baltic Sea region, Rīga has hosted a NATO summit, world hockey championship, the Eurovision Song Contest and many other large-scale international events. Rīga's International Airport is one of the fastest growing travel hubs in Europe.

Riga was officially founded in 1201, just over eight hundred years ago, as German merchants came over to colonise the Baltics. By 1282 the city was granted admittance into the powerful Hanseatic trading league of predominantly German towns, allowing Riga to flourish. Since that time Riga has been a free town, part of the Polish-Lithuanian kingdom, part of the Swedish empire, part of the Russian empire and part of the USSR. This has always led to Riga being a cosmopolitan and ethnically diverse town. Riga is in fact the largest city of the Baltic states, despite a relatively small population of 800,000. It has a large Old Town (Vecrīga), which stretches alongside the Daugava river, and boasts a number of historic monuments, the most striking of which are the Doms Cathedral and St. Peter's Church; whilst the area of Riga referred to locals simply as 'the centre' is famous for its Art Nouveau (Jugendstil) architecture. The Historic Centre of Riga as a whole is included on the UNESCO world heritage list.

Riga is also home to two of Latvia's largest academic institutions, the University of Latvia and Riga Technical University; it houses the Latvian parliament (Saeima); boasts the largest airport in the Baltics - Riga International Airport; and can claim the tallest building in the Baltics - the Riga Radio and TV Tower. Riga maintains sister relationships with cities around the world, including Moscow, Beijing, Dallas, Santiago, Stockholm, Florence...

### **TRAVELLING TO RIGA**

#### ***BY PLANE***

The official airport for the ISU Junior Grand Prix in Riga will be Riga International Airport (RIX).

The Organizing Committee provides a pick-up service at the Riga International Airport. Please inform the Organizing Committee together with your entry whether you will be using the transportation offered.

#### **Pick up service**

Airport/hotel/airport

20 euro /pers - round trip ( must be payed upon arrival )



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Distance between airport and hotel - 8 km ; airport and icerink - 6 km  
hotel Maritim and icerink - 7 km; hotel NB and icerink - 3km;

**TRAIN STATION**

Riga train station

**PORT**

Port of Riga is 1 km far from city centre. There is connection by ships to Stockholm.

**PLACE OF COMPETITION:**

Volvo Ledus Halle, Jūrmalas gatve 78 D, Riga, Latvia.

"**VOLVO**" Sports Center opened its doors to visitors in 2005 August but the official opening was only in November 16th. Our hall is only hall in Latvia with two-standard indoor ice rinks, located between two housing estates Imanta and Zolitude.

Ice hall is opened seven days a week from 6:30 am to midnight, ice hall offers various programs to the public, including public skating sessions, learn-to-skate classes and youth/adult hockey times.

In Hall we have a newly created professional oriented sports school "PARDAUGAVA".

Sports School enrol students in ice hockey and figure skating groups.

Two icerinks are under one roof, both icerinks are heated and air-conditioned.





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**The official hotels**

**MARITIM PARK HOTEL**

**Slokas Str.1**

**LV-1048 Riga, Latvia**

**phone: +371 670 69000**

**fax: +371 670 69001**

**web: <http://www.maritim.lv>**

Price EUR incl. VAT.including breakfast :

Single	Double	Triple
100.00	120.00	150.00

All the rooms equipped with air conditioner; Wi-Fi ; satellite TV ; phone line; hair dryer ;

**Hotel NB**

**Slokas street 49,**

**LV-1007 Riga, Latvia**

**phone: +371 67815333**

**fax: +371 67815222**

**web: <http://www.nb.lv>**

Price EUR incl. VAT. including breakfast:

Single	Double
60.00	80.00

Team Leaders, Coaches, Team Officials, Chaperons have to pay for their accommodation to "OC office" in Maritim Park Hotel.

All phone bills; room services and other possible extra costs are borne by the respective guest/team and must be paid before checkout to the hotel.

***! The Team Leaders are responsible for the unpaid bills of their team.***

**Please notice :**

All the reservations **with special rates can be booked only via the Organizing Committee** and must be prepaid or paid in cash immediately after arriving;

**Meal prices :**

18 euro /pers - lunch

18 euro /pers - dinner

The official meal vouchers (lunch and dinner), will be given to Event Officials, Judges and Competitors.

Meal Vouchers (lunch and dinner) are valid only in the official Restaurant.

The meal vouchers are not transferable.



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**EVENT SHUTTLE**

A shuttle-bus-service on 30 minutes interval connects the Maritim Park Hotel/NB Hotel with the Volvo Arena (main and practice rink) and return starting on the first practice day (Wednesday, August 28,2013).

The shuttle will run in accordance with the final time and practice schedule and distributed at the time of registration.

**REGISTRATION**

The registration for all teams will be held at the **Maritim Park Hotel** upon arrival.

The registration office / organizing committee office are located in the 1st floor.

Operating hours:	Tuesday, Aug 27	10:00 – late night
	Wednesday, Aug 28	08:00 – 22:00
	Thursday, Aug 29	09:00 – 22:00
	Friday, Aug 30	09:00 – 22:00
	Saturday, Aug 31	07:00 – 00:00

*Accreditation*

Accreditation as a Team Member will be given to all entered Judges, Competitors and one Team-Leader per participating team, one Coach per Competitor, a maximum of two Team Officials of ISU Members (including the Member President), provided that they are Council Members, Technical Committee Members or Members of the Head Office of their Federation and a maximum of two medical persons. Accreditation will only be granted to persons in those various functions if officially entered and named through their National Association. The ISU Member certifies with the signed entry form the indicated functions within the team of all team members. Any misuse of any function will be sanctioned by the ISU/OC.

Accreditation will be given to appointed ISU Event Officials, ISU Office Holders and Guests of Honour

**Passports of the skaters have to be presented at the accreditation for verification!**

**EXHIBITION**

**NB!** There will be no Exhibition held!

**VISA REGULATIONS**

Please inform the Organizing Committee as soon as possible about visa confirmations in case of needed.

Please contact:



**Latvian Skating Association**

Brivibas gatve 333, Ledus halle, Riga LV-1006

e-mail: [jgp2013riga@gmail.com](mailto:jgp2013riga@gmail.com)

**VARIOUS**

*MEDICAL SERVICE*

There is a permanent medical service at the rinks during all practice and competition hours in charge of a doctor.

*BULLETINS/ INFORMATION BOXES*

The information boxes for the Teams are at the Ice Rink. All official information and bulletins will be placed there. Bulletins are also available at the Hotel.

*SKATING LOUNGE*

The "Skating Lounge" is located at the Ice Rink 2nd floor. Competitors, Team-Leaders, Judges, Event Officials and Coaches are welcome to visit it.

There is also a small Café, which is open daily and where you can buy hot food and snacks.

*TICKETS*

All-event tickets will be available at the price of 15€ ( 10 lats in local currency). Chaperons may purchase all-event ticket at the rate of 10 euro ( 7 lats in local currency)

Tickets will be available at the Maritim Hotel and ice-rink.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

*CURRENCY EXCHANGE:*

National currency: 1 Lat = 100 santims

Most of the hotels, stores and restaurants accept Visa, MasterCard, Eurocard, Diner's Club and American Express. However, it is advisable to carry some cash with you.

Traveller's checks can be exchanged in most banks but are less likely to be accepted in shops. Eurocheque is the most widely accepted traveller's check.

Banks are plentiful and easy to find in Riga. Most are open from 9:00 to 18:00 on weekdays, while some offices are also open on Saturday mornings. All banks offer currency exchange services. Exchange offices can also be found in larger hotels, the airport, harbour, railroad station and major shopping centres. ATM cash machines are available throughout the city.





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***ELECTRICITY***

The electricity is **220 Volt** and most over-sea countries will need an adaptor to fit the plugs, which is **standardized two-point plug**.

***PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION***

Public buses, trolleys, and trams operate regularly from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. You may purchase tickets ahead of time at newsstands across the city or via driver in each transport.

***EMERGENCY NUMBERS***

**Police:** Free-of-charge call from any phone: 112.

**First aid:** In case of accident or illness, call for an ambulance free-of-charge from any phone: 112.

**CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE OC :**

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Latvian Skating Association  
Brivibas 333  
LV-1006 Riga, Latvia  
e-mail: [skatinglatvia@gmail.com](mailto:skatinglatvia@gmail.com)

**MEETINGS**

Team Leaders Meeting  
Wednesday, August 28, 2013 **2st floor, Volvo ice rink,**

Initial Starting Order Draws  
Wednesday, August 28, 2013, **2st floor, Volvo ice rink,**  
The exact times will be published in the final time and practice schedule which will be handed out at time of registration.

Intermediate Draws  
Intermediate draws will be held approximately 15 minutes after the conclusion of the respective Short Programs and Short Dance at the main rink – **2st floor, Volvo ice rink.**

Referees and Technical Controllers Meeting  
Wednesday, August 28, 2013 **MARITIM PARK HOTEL** (room: TBA)

Judges Draw and Meeting  
Wednesday, August 28, 2013 **MARITIM PARK HOTEL** (room: TBA)



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Round Table Discussions

All Round Table Discussions are planned to be held at the **MARITIM PARK HOTEL** (room: TBA)

Exact times as to the event schedule.

**EVENT SCHEDULE**

Tuesday, August 27, 2013	All day	Arrival of teams
Wednesday, August 28, 2013	All day	Official practice
	11:30	Team Leaders Meeting
	16:30	Referees and Technical Controllers Meeting
	17:30	Judges Draw and Meeting
Thursday, August 29, 2013	10:30	LADIES – Short Program PAIRS – Short Program MEN – Short Program
Friday, August 30, 2013	10:30	ICE DANCE – Short Dance PAIRS – Free Skating LADIES – Free Skating
Saturday, August 31, 2013	07:00	PAIRS – Round Table Discussion for Judges
	08:30	LADIES – Round Table Discussion for Judges
	10:00	MEN – Free Skating ICE DANCE – Free Dance
	19:00	MEN – Round Table Discussion for Judges
	20:30	ICE DANCE – Round Table Discussion for Judges

**Please note:**

**This schedule is subject to changes and will be updated in accordance with the final number of entries.**