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SUNDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FIS MEDIA INFO

### New in Åre: Qualification for men's giant slalom and slalom

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Åre, February 11, 2007/ -- For the first time at the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, there will be qualification races for the men's giant slalom and slalom competitions. The giant slalom qualification race will be held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 as of 10:00 CET with the giant slalom final taking place on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 at 10:00 CET. The slalom qualification race will take place on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2007 as of 10:00 CET with the slalom final on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 beginning at 10:00 CET

More than 170 racers representing 59 nations have been preliminarily registered for both the men's giant slalom and slalom. The deadline for the final entries is at 15:00 CET on Sunday, 11th February for the giant slalom and Wednesday, 14th February at 15:00 CET at for the slalom. The best 50 registered athletes, as determined by the FIS World Cup Starting List (WCSL), are pre-qualified for the final that will be staged with a total of 75 racers. The rest will compete in the qualification races for the remaining 25 starting places.

"With increasingly large fields of participants especially in the technical disciplines, the qualification for the men's giant slalom and slalom here in Åre will help us ensure regular conditions for all participants, as well as enable us to better control the total duration of the competition," noted Günter Hujara, FIS Chief Race Director for the men.

The results of the qualification races will be valid for FIS points and determine the final rankings for the athletes from 76<sup>th</sup> place onwards. Participation in the qualification counts as participation in the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships.

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