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Forecast Verification Activities of the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics

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Forecast verification is a fundamental undertaking to be considered in the planning, during the conduction and in the post-evaluation of major events having high socio-economic impacts. So-called Forecast Demonstration Projects (FDP) and Research Demonstration Projects (RDP) have been operated during the past several Olympics Games of Vancouver (2010), Beijing (2008) and Sydney (2000) under the umbrella of the WMO World Weather Research Project (WWRP). Forecast verification and product evaluation has been an integral component related to these highly impact-oriented activities. This heritage will continue with the FROST-2014 (Forecast and Research in the Olympics Sochi Testbed) project of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Along with the locally produced forecasts, several international partners will run their state-of-the-art deterministic and probabilistic nowcasting and forecasting systems during the Olympics. Consequently, an international Expert Team has been formed to perform and look after these actions. The vast array of specialized forecast products will need to tackle high impact weather systems affecting the very much time and space critical sports events taking place in the complex terrain of the Sochi sports sites and thus also posing a demanding verification challenge. The presentation will provide a detailed overview of the various forecast verification aspects to consider during FROST-2014.
Contribution by the international FROST-2014 Expert Team is acknowledged.