



FIS NORDIC WORLD SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

**OBERSTDORF**  
**ALLGÄU 2021**



Presented by  
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**FIS NORDIC WORLD SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**OBERSTDORF/ALLGÄU**

**WM-JOURNAL**

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## IMPRINT

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# FOREWORD

## ALL GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES

Dear readers!

An idiom says: All good things come in threes! And this is also true for the 53rd Nordic World Ski Championships. After 1987 and 2005, the FIS entrusted Oberstdorf, Germany's third largest municipality, with the organisation of the World Championships in 2021 for the third time, which started on Tuesday, February 23. In the three disciplines of cross-country skiing, ski jumping and Nordic combined, athletes from 63 (21 x 3) nations are fighting for the much sought-after 3 kinds of medals – gold, silver and bronze – in 24 (8 x 3) competitions.

When the triad of athletic records, interest of winter sports fans and objective and fair coverage by the media is in harmony, Oberstdorf reaches a perfect symbiosis. Instead of the audience, 3,000 (1,000 x 3) weather-proof cardboard cut-outs will at least visually cheer on the participants from all over the world.

A total investment of 36 (12 x 3) million Euros was made to bring the venues at Schattenberg and in the Cross-Country Stadium Ried up to the latest standards. More than three years of intensive preparatory work came to an end with the official opening of the Nordic World Ski Championships, 21 (7 x 3).

With our WSC Report (which will be released more than three times), we will keep you informed about interesting facts and figures as far as the competitions of the World Championships in Oberstdorf are concerned. And of course, you will have the chance to win something as well.

In this spirit:

On your marks – get set – go!



# GREAT ANTICIPATION

## JOHANNES RYDZEK IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



Johannes Rydzyk wants to enjoy the WSC in his hometown Oberstdorf even without spectators. Oberstdorf's local hero is 2-time Nordic Combined Olympic Champion and 6-time Nordic Combined World Champion and Germany's Athlete of the Year 2017. And he is still very happy about the "WSC at home".

**Since 2016, you have been eagerly awaiting the World Ski Championships in your hometown Oberstdorf. How happy are you that the big day has arrived?**

„I'm really extremely happy about the WSC at home. I still remember the great news from Cancun, when Oberstdorf in the fifth run was chosen to host the WSC during the FIS Congress. Even if I have, of course, not thought about the WSC 2021 every day in the past five years, the matter was kind of present all the time.“

But now, everything without the lively hustle and bustle of the spectators. I presume it is not a lot of fun to fight for medals in an empty WSC Ski Jumping Arena and in an empty WSC Cross-Country Stadium Ried, right?

„No doubt about it, with 25,000 spectators the fun factor would be incredible. This is the "kick", you really love as an athlete. But we are all competitive personalities and motivate each other in these competitive situations. And if you know the venues like the back of your hand and almost all volunteers in person, it is really something special. I simply want to enjoy the competitions and the days of the WSC nonetheless.“

**Don't you feel any pressure to succeed?**

„I guess, at the moment others are rather under pressure in Nordic Combined. Jarl-Magnus Riiber has an impressive form this season, but also my team colleague Vinzi Geiger has shown that he can win and beat Riiber. I am also pleased with my own progress. In Klingenthal, I lately had good results in ski jumping and cross-country skiing. I will enter the competitions in Oberstdorf full of confidence and optimism.“

**Do you have a concrete goal?**

„First of all, we have to see, whom the coach will nominate for which competition. With the team, we definitely want to fight for the title. Everything else, is or would be a bonus.“



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Auf Basis der Hygieneempfehlungen der Organisatoren wurde unter Berücksichtigung der Corona-Bedingungen ein Reinigungs- und Hygienekonzept entwickelt, welches auf Sportveranstaltungen abgestimmt ist.

Dies entstand in enger Absprache mit den Oberallgäuer Experten von Parat, einem Institut für Hygiene.

Vom eingesetzten Material, Unterweisungen und Schulungen bis hin zur persönlichen Schutzausrüstung der Service-Mitarbeiter, mussten alle Elemente nochmals den verschärften Bedingungen angepasst werden. „Durch die seit Monaten vorhandenen Anforderungen unserer Kunden an Hygienekonzepten im Rahmen unserer hauseigenen Pandemie-MAX-Planung, konnten wir natürlich auf vielfältige Erfahrung zurückgreifen“, so Marcus Merk, als Prokurist für die Umsetzung während der Ski-WM verantwortlich.

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# ATHLETS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

## WHAT WOULD WSC BE WITHOUT THE EXOTIC FOREIGNERS?

Offhand, you would not think of athletes from Trinidad and Tobago taking part in the cross-country sprint competition nor of a sprint specialist from Cameroon. Even if the temperatures here in Oberstdorf are rather spring-like at the moment, and make the athletes sweat, these countries are not among the classic winter sports nations after all. But Nicholas Lau from Trinidad and Nzumbe Nyanduga from Tanzania will enter the competitions nevertheless. Even before the official opening ceremony, they will traditionally start off the competitions with the qualification races.

In real life, the 41-year-old Nicholas Lau is an all-rounder as far as sports is concerned. He lives in Switzerland and has been working for the International Federation of Association Football FIFA for 11 years. The former Harvard student had prepared the “Project World Championships”. Years ago, the man from Trinidad and Tobago discovered cross-country skiing for himself and then he was making his own business. Taking part in the competitions on the occasion of the Nordic World Ski Championships in Oberstdorf, he wants to recommend himself for the Olympic Winter Games 2022 in Peking.

Also Nzumbe Nyanduga from Tanzania wants to make this dream come true. He works full-time for the Olympic Committee in Lausanne (SUI). Before he was able to enter the competitions in Oberstdorf, he had to master several bureaucratic hurdles. First of all, he had to found an Olympic Committee in his home country.

And he has to master an athletic hurdle as well: based on the FIS regulations, he has to stand the test during the qualification races of the Nordic World Ski Championships as all the other athletes.

Both athletes, who as “touches of colour” contribute so much to the international air of the World Championships, are very happy about the large support they get from established teams. In the past days, Nicholas Lau and Nzumbe Nyanduga were able to take part in the training of the teams from Switzerland and Finland and benefit from their professional technological equipment. They both are taken care of affectionately by a long-time university friend. Together with the two Nordic athletes, Kristina Fraesdorf successfully completed the FIFA Master in Sports Marketing in Switzerland. Since world-wide only 30 people succeed, the three are kind of World Champions already.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY GEORG SPÄTH

## CHIEF OF THE COMPETITION GEORG SPÄTH CELEBRATES HIS 40TH BIRTHDAY

He took part in the Nordic World Ski Championships in 2005 and got the silver medal in the team competition on the normal hill. 10 years ago, Georg Späth said goodbye to his long ski jumping skis. But he is still connected to his sport and above all to his home ski jumping hill. In 2012, he became Chief of the competition for the Vierschanzentournee (4 Hills Tournament) and has been close to the action since then as an official for all large sports events. In this function, he will also contribute to the success of the men's ski jumping competitions during the Nordic World Ski Championships.

His best time as an active athlete was in the years 2003 to 2008. During the Ski Flying World Championships in Planica he was in the position to get the title after his first rank on the first day, in the end it was the 4th place.

He won a silver medal in the team competition on the normal hill on the occasion of the WSC 2005 in his hometown Oberstdorf. A World Cup victory with the team in Willingen (2005) and the bronze medal with the German team during the Ski Flying World Championships in 2006 complete his streak of success.

After a fall during training in 2008, when he tore his cruciate ligament, the Oberstdorfer was no longer able to match former successes. His private life and job took priority. Georg Späth successfully completed his studies, meanwhile works in a tax consultancy and dedicates himself with all his heart to his wife Nadya and his son Dominic.

Yesterday Georg Späth celebrated his 40th Birthday. Congratulations to the Race Director of the men's ski jumping competitions.







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# CEREMONIOUSLY OPENED

## THE OFFICIAL START OF THE FIS NORDIC WORLD SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

Ceremonial moving-in of all nations, acclaimed by the fans in the stadium and a big display of fireworks: This is the normal opening ceremony of Nordic World Ski Championships. Due to Corona, the competitions in Oberstdorf, Allgäu, had a slightly different start on Wednesday evening. The motto was: "Laser show instead of crowd". The organisers presented symbols typical for the region with musical and technical highlights, including saluting guns and cultural events. After the reception of the more than 60 nations, which will fight for gold, silver and bronze medals starting this Thursday, the Allgäu witnessed a light and laser show all around the ski jumping hill towers of the Four Hills Tournament location.

Moreover, we heard welcoming speeches by politicians and sports officials. The flags of Germany and the FIS (International Ski Federation) were flown, afterwards, the Bavarian Minister of the Interior, Joachim Herrmann, and DOSB President Alfons Hörmann, carried out the official opening. No audience was allowed in the stadium, only some participants, such as several top former athletes from the Allgäu region: Thomas Müller, Georg Späth, Evi Sachenbacher-Stehle and Katrin Vallet (former Zeller) as flag bearers for example.



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# OUR DRAFT

## PHOTO COMPETITION - EXPERIENCE WCS

Due to Corona, the Nordic World Ski Championships in Oberstdorf take place without audience. Millions of television viewers and newspaper readers will, however, follow the sports events. The question is how and where you follow the competitions?

Please send us an expressive photo and a short description of the time and place the photo was taken. We will publish the three nicest and funniest pictures in the next issue of the WSC Report. As a thank-you for taking part, all whose photos are published with their name and place of residence will get a headband, a bag and a thermos cup.

### How it works:

Send an e-mail by Saturday, February 27 (3pm) to [mpc@oberstdorf2021.com](mailto:mpc@oberstdorf2021.com).

Please do not forget to include your first and last name as well as your mail address to make sure that you will receive your prize.

Please take note of the privacy information according to Art. 13, GDPR, on the Internet under [www.oberstdorf2021.com](http://www.oberstdorf2021.com).



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