

## **Competitive sports performance, appreciation and friendship - Virtus Skiing World Championships 2022.**

**From March 13 to 19, 2022, the skiing world championships for people with mental disabilities will take place in Seefeld in Tyrol.**

**With athletes from at least 12 nations from as far as Australia, Japan and Estonia to Russia, Poland, France or Italy, the international competition in mental disability sports is highly motivated to compete in the third week of March within the framework of the Virtus Ski World Championships, which will take place for the first time on Austrian soil. Four Nordic and four Alpine disciplines are on the packed program, the top-class sponsors are confirmed and the Olympic region Seefeld presents itself world championship tested.**

For the first time since the World Championships premiere 12 years ago, the Virtus Ski World Championships will take place in Austria in 2022. Seefeld in Tyrol will be home to winter sports athletes from the Nordic and Alpine disciplines for a week.

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC), led by Seefeld's former mayor Werner Frießer and ÖBSV-KGM Chairman René Schönberger, as well as the Secretary General of the Virtus World Championships Paula Grameiser-Scherl, expects almost 100 athletes from all over the world and is proud that, in addition to Austria, some of the strongest Alpine and Nordic nations have already confirmed their participation and will thus ensure races at the highest sporting level.

Four Nordic and four Alpine disciplines are on the program at the Virtus World Championships, which will take place from March 13 to 19 both at Rosshütte (Alpine) and Gschwandtkopf (team competition) and in the Seefeld World Championships Arena (Nordic). The LOC of the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships 2019 in Seefeld is significantly involved in the organization and implementation of the World Championships. This guarantees that the competitions will be unforgettable and successful for the participants.

In addition to the guiding principle 'A celebration of friendship', the Virtus World Championships add sporting performance as a motivating factor. In addition to fun and enjoyment, the sporting results are also in the foreground and the times and placements of the participants are clearly reflected in the medal table. The fact that ambition will thus play a decisive and motivating role is clearly an advantage for the cadre team of the Austrian mental disability sports.

The alpine snow training starts with the first snowfall in autumn on the glacier and gets a further boost thanks to the active support of Virtus World Cup patrons Marlies and Benjamin Raich, who together have won five World Cup golds in the course of their successful careers. In numerous training courses, the 11-member squad is getting ready for the first World Championships on home soil.

As sponsors for the Nordic faction, Olympic champions Mario Stecher and David Kreiner are campaigning for a more conscious approach to mental disability in sport.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, the official kick-off of the Virtus Ski World Championships will take place in Seefeld in the presence of the Austrian national team, the sponsors and guests of honor.

### **Program Virtus Ski World Championships 2022**

**Alpine:** The Alpine competitions will take place at Rosshütte and Gschwandtkopf.



14.03.2022	9 am	Training
	6 pm	Opening ceremony in the music pavillon
15.03.2022	9.30 am	Start Super-G
	6 pm	Award ceremony in the music pavillon
16.03.2022	9.30 am	Start 1. run RTL
	afterwards	2. run
	6 pm	Dinner evening with award ceremony at the Rosshütte top station
17.03.2022	9.30 am	Start 1. run SL
	afterwards	2. run
	6 pm	Award ceremony in the music pavillon
18.03.2022	10 am	Start team paralell slalom
	1 pm	Award ceremony and closing ceremony in the WM-Arena

**Nordic:** The Nordic competitions will take place in the WM Arena Seefeld.

14.03.2022	9 am	Training
	6 pm	Opening ceremony in the music pavillon
15.03.2022	9.30 am	Start 5 km women & 10 km men
	6 pm	Award ceremony in the music pavillon
16.03.2022	9.30 am	Start Sprint
	6 pm	Dinner evening with award ceremony at the Rosshütte top station
17.03.2022	9.30 am	Start 10 km women & 15 km men
	6 pm	Award ceremony in the music pavillon
18.03.2022	10 am	Start relay 3 x 2,5 km
	1 pm	Award ceremony and closing ceremony in the WM-Arena

The arrival and departure of the delegations will take place on 13 and 19 March 2022.

After each race a Flower Ceremony will take place in the finish area.

\*Program subject to change!

### Statements

*"The World Championships will certainly be a highlight for the Austrian team - and they can also hope for one or two medals - after all, the ÖBSV mentally disabled ski team has been one of the most successful in recent years.*

*With the tried and tested FIS Nordic World Ski Championships 2019 organising committee at the forefront, the implementation is on a highly professional footing and we are convinced that we will be able to prepare an unforgettable sporting festival for the participating nations.*

*I look forward to a successful World Championships and a celebration of friendship. "*

**Brigitte Jank, President ÖBSV**

*"We are honored to be the first Austrian venue to host the Virtus World Skiing Championships. For decades Seefeld has been one of the TOP destinations for winter sports. Due to the knowhow gained through major events such as the Nordic World Ski Championships 2019 and the annual Nordic Combined Triple, we are also looking forward to ensuring an unforgettable event for intellectually impaired people at the World Championships. Both the Alpine and Nordic venues will present themselves to the athletes in their usual excellent manner. Our team is already looking forward to welcome athletes from all over the world in Seefeld in Tyrol."*

**Werner Frießer, LOC Chief**

*"As the Skiing Officer of the Competence Committee for Mentally Disabled Sports (KGM) and a native of Seefeld, I am particularly proud to be able to organize the first Virtus Ski World*



*Championships in Seefeld as Secretary General. My aim is to bring the best skiers in the world, in alpine as well as in Nordic, to Seefeld. This ski world championship will be the event of 2022 for the local mental disability sports. Together with my team I will organize and carry out this event in the best possible way. Thanks go out at this point already to all the volunteers!"*

**Paula Grameiser-Scherl, Secretary General Virtus WM**

*"As Chairman of the Competence Committee for mental disability Sports (KGM), it is an honor for me to now also be able to play a leading role in the planning and implementation of the first Virtus Ski World Championships (Alpine and Nordic) in Austria. There is a lot to do, but the work gives me great pleasure! You come into contact with interesting personalities, for example, I was able to talk on the phone with Benjamin Raich, who is one of our sponsors in the alpine skiing area!*

*Last winter was perfect for our team athletes. We had the best training and competition conditions. They were also hard at work training in the summer!*

*I am looking forward to a successful and accident-free World Skiing Championships in Seefeld in March 2022!"*

**René Schönberger, ÖBSV-KGM Chairman**

### **Virtus - Virtus.sport**

Virtus is the global organization that manages, represents, organizes and promotes professional sports for athletes with mental disabilities.

Virtus World Intellectual Impairment Sport, "Virtus" is the brand name for the international federation for athletes with intellectual impairment and is a founding member of the International Paralympic Committee.

Founded in 1986, Virtus (until 2019: INAS) has grown from 14 members to an organization with more than 500,000 athletes from more than 90 nations from Europe, Africa, Asia, North, Central and South America and Oceania.

In 2020, the Virtus sports program included 15 recurring summer and winter sports competitions in which more than 7000 athletes participated annually at an international level.

Virtus aims to promote inclusion in sports to the point where athletes with intellectual disabilities can train and compete at a professional, international level by 2030.

### **Austrian Sports Association for Persons with Disability (ÖBSV) - Obsv.at**

Our mission: Whatever disability you have, whether you are a beginner or a professional, old or young - the ÖBSV helps you to find your sport and your club. Because sports and exercise make you more mobile and keep you fit and healthy.

Our sports offer: mass sports are the top priority of the ÖBSV. Through a lot of grassroots work under the professional guidance of our trainers, we can offer our 6,000 members the very best support. The ÖBSV organizes over 150 events every year: Championships, sports weeks and training courses. If you want to make the step from amateur to top athlete, we are the right place for you. Every year we send about 25 athletes to European or World Championships, organize the preparations and also the financing.

### **Olympic Region Seefeld - Seefeld.com**

With its impressive natural backdrop between the Wetterstein Mountains and the Karwendel, and its varied range of leisure activities, the Olympic region Seefeld is an inspiring vacation paradise in the middle of the Tyrolean Alps. The year-round destination, which includes five villages – Seefeld, Leutasch, Mösern-Buchen, Reith and Scharnitz – welcomes guests with still-living traditions and an authentic Tyrolean warmth that can be felt in every encounter. It's energizing not only due to the hospitality and numerous available activities, but also because of the extended sunshine hours it receives by virtue of its special location on a high plateau open to the south,



1,200 meters above sea level. This makes a stay at this destination an all-round relaxing and activating experience.

### **Participating federations**

Czech Association for Athletes with Intellectual Impairment  
Estonian Mental Handicap People Sport Organization  
Fédération Française du Sport Adapté  
Finnish Paralympic Committee  
FISDIR Italy  
JAPAN Para-Ski Federation  
Russian Sport Federation of Persons with Intellectual Impairment  
Sport Inclusion Australia  
Swedish Parasport Federation  
TOSSFED - Turkish Special Athletes Sports Federation  
Virtus Poland  
Österreichischer Behindertensportverband

### **Organizer**

Organizing association: ÖBSV  
Organizing club (LOC): Ski-Club Seefeld

### **Official channels**

WWW: [Virtus2022seefeld.com](http://Virtus2022seefeld.com)  
IG: [mentalpin\\_kgm](https://www.instagram.com/mentalpin_kgm)  
FB: [obsv.at](https://www.facebook.com/obsv.at)



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