

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

From March 11 to 17, 2023, the skiing world championships for people with mental disabilities will take place in Seefeld in Tyrol.

20 days until the World Championships - 168 athletes and coaches from 14 nations and 4 continents expected in Seefeld



In less than three weeks, a Virtus Ski World Championship for people with mental disabilities will take place on Austrian soil for the first time. Seefeld will once again be the venue for top winter sports performances when the ceremonial opening takes place in the Musikpavillon on 12 March 2023. A colourful array of flags can be expected, as no fewer than 14 nations from North America, Asia, Australia and Europe have confirmed their athletes for the World Championships. The domestic squad consists of 12 athletes from four federal states who have clearly defined their goals for the World Championships: Titles, medals and celebrating the community.

Upper Austria has the largest contingent with six athletes - four Alpine, two Nordic - followed by Tyrol with three skiers and one cross-country skier. Carinthia and Vorarlberg are also represented in the World Cup squad with one alpine athlete each. Together, the four women and eight men have won six world championship titles, 55 national championship titles and countless regional championship titles.

Athletes Alpine

Eva-Maria Dünser, Anna-Sophie Friedl, Markus Grameiser, Alexander Heissl, Michael Konrad, Christian Öllinger, Julia Pleikner, Stephanie Schlömmner, Richard Strohhäusl.

Athletes Nordic

Johannes Grander, Gregor Knogler, Siegfried Mayr.

Profiles of all Austrian athletes [here](#).

Together with the nine-member support team under delegation leader Florian Schneeberger, the 21 red-white-red representatives will meet delegations from 13 other countries between 13 and 16 March 2023.

Among them will be France, Italy, Japan and Sweden, some of the strongest nations in mental handicap sports, competing in Seefeld. The 61 alpine and 24 Nordic athletes will compete in the mental and down syndrome categories and define the fastest and most technically proficient among them in four disciplines each.

Participating federations

Sport Inclusion Australia | Australia

Fapa Bulgaria | Bulgaria

Czech Association for Athletes with Intellectual Impairment | Czech Republic

Estonian Mental Handicap People Sport | Estonia

Finnish Paralympic Committee | Finland

Fédération Française du Sport Adapté | France

FISDIR | Italy

Japan Para-Ski Federation | Japan

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ZSS Sprawni-Razem | Poland

Swedish Paraspport Federation | Sweden

Federación Española de Deportes para Personas con Discapacidad Intelectual | Spain

TOSSFED - Turkish Special Athletes Sports Federation | Turkey

Athletes Without Limits, US Ski-Team | USA

Österreichischer Behindertensportverband | Austria

"14 nations from four different continents! There has never been a World Ski Championships in mental disability sports with such a large, international starting field," KGM Chairman René Schönberger and Managing Director Paula Grameiser-Scherl are impressed, "together with the entire organisation team, we want to provide all participants with a fitting sports festival that will be remembered!"

For the first time since the World Championships premiere 13 years ago, the Virtus Ski World Championships will take place in Austria in 2023. Seefeld in Tyrol will be home to winter sports athletes from the Nordic and Alpine disciplines for a week.

Official channels

www.virtus2023seefeld.com

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