

Athletics Coming Home

Munich awarded to host 2031 World Athletics Championships

Athletics are coming home: World Athletics awarded Munich the hosting rights for the 2031 World Athletics Championships today. This brings the biggest international athletics event back to Germany. Following an outstanding European Championships in 2002 and an unforgettable European Championships as part of the 2022 European Championships, Munich's Olympic Park will be the venue for the World Athletics Championships in 2031.

Even during the bidding process, the organising team from the Olympiapark München GmbH and the German Athletics Association, with the support of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Free State of Bavaria, and the City of Munich, developed a clear vision and objectives: a compact event concept, iconic venues, outstanding infrastructure, and an inspiring atmosphere for athletes and guests from all over around the world.

The Olympic Park will become a melting pot for the world of athletics. Top-level sport and the enthusiasm of the people will combine with the special flair of an arts and culture festival to create a unique and impressive overall experience. The vision for the 23rd World Championships: a packed Olympic Stadium, a vibrant park, an impressive atmosphere that will create unique moments and lasting memories for everyone involved.

World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said: "Germany has proved time and again that it is an outstanding and dependable host for major athletics events. Berlin 2009 remains one of the memorable editions of the World Championships, and we have since seen tremendous support for the sport at the European Championships in Berlin in 2018 and Munich in 2022.

We wholeheartedly believe in the vision for Munich Olympic Park – one of the iconic venues in world sport – to merge elite sport and the Germany people's enthusiasm for athletics with the special flair of an art and culture festival to create a unique and powerful overall experience. There are few places in the world that can combine these elements in such a comparable, mutually enriching way. The atmosphere in 2022 was exceptional and the attendance figures demonstrated the appetite that exists in the city and across Germany for major events.

The Olympic Park is also a symbol of sustainability, and we are assured that this will be a core value in the planning and implementation of the World Championships, aligned with international best practices and the Athletics for a Better World Gold Event standard.

It is encouraging to see German athletics enjoying renewed competitive success. Five medals at the World Championships in Tokyo last year were followed by an outstanding European Championships in Birmingham this summer. A home World Championships in 2031 gives the sport another major opportunity to build on that momentum.

We know Munich can deliver major championships. We know Germany has an audience for athletics. And we believe Munich 2031 has all the ingredients to be a spectacular World Athletics Championships.”

In 2031, the World Championships will be held in Germany for the third time. Previously, Stuttgart in 1993 and Berlin in 2009 thrilled the athletics world. Now, Munich will become the stage for international top-level sport and welcoming the world's best athletes from over 200 federations.

Since 1972, the Bavarian state capital has demonstrated how major events can leave a significant legacy for athletes, the city, and the sport itself. Short distances, unobstructed sightlines, and spacious warm-up and training areas will ensure optimal conditions for the athletes. Furthermore, this international event will provide a major boost to grassroots, youth, and club sports and will send message to society as a whole about the importance of sports in Germany.

The Olympic Park will provide the ideal setting for impressive images and unforgettable experiences at one of the world's largest sporting events. The close bond between fans and athletes, underpinned by a strong sporting culture and a diverse arts and cultural scene, will create an open, inclusive event experience that will thrill athletes, visitors and the global television audience alike, and will be remembered for a long time to come.

Statements on the awarding of the 2031 World Athletics Championships to Munich:

Ronald Rauhe, State Minister for Sport and Volunteering of the Federal Republic of Germany

"Many congratulations to Munich, Bavaria and the German Athletics Association! I am delighted that we are going to experience an absolute highlight of international sport in Germany with the World Athletics Championships 2031. For our young athletes in particular, competing in the World Championships on home soil is the greatest source of motivation. The Championships will once again show Germany to be a reliable and professional host. We will celebrate top-level sport, the athletes and our community spirit. With the Bavarian capital, we have a first-class venue and I am certain that the World Athletics Championships 2031 will be a wonderful celebration of sport and for our country."

Bavarian Minister-President Dr. Markus Söder:

"Welcome to Munich! We warmly welcome the international track and field community to Bavaria for the first World Athletics Championships ever to be held in the Free State. We are looking forward to another unforgettable summer of sport. The European Championships Munich 2022 showed once again that Bavaria and major sporting events are a perfect match. Our state combines hospitality, professionalism and the highest possible standards of safety. Bavaria will prove itself to be an outstanding host. Sport not only keeps us fit and healthy, but also strengthens social cohesion and provides young people with goals and role models. That is why sport plays such an important role in Bavaria. We support grassroots sport in local clubs as well as elite sport, including the World Athletics Championships and many other major events. We wish all participants the very best in their preparations and hope they enjoy unforgettable moments in Bavaria!"

Bavarian Minister of the Interior and Sport Joachim Herrmann:

"I am delighted that Munich has been awarded the first World Athletics Championships. This is a tremendous success and sends a strong signal about Bavaria as a sports destination. Hosting the World Championships is a sustainable investment in the future – in our sports facilities, in young athletes, in volunteerism, and in the social significance of sports. Bavaria stands for the highest safety standards, economic

strength, expertise, and international appeal as a host location. We have already impressively demonstrated on multiple occasions that we can successfully host major sporting events. Now we look forward to working together to put on an unforgettable sporting celebration.”

Dominik Krause, Mayor of the City of Munich:

“This is fantastic news for Munich and a strong affirmation of our standing as a city of sports. With the Olympic Park, we have a venue that, perhaps more than any other, is synonymous with great and emotional sporting moments. I look forward to welcoming athletes and fans from all over the world to Munich. We want to host a World Championship that delivers sporting excitement, makes a lasting impact in terms of sustainability, and will be remembered fondly by the people of Munich for many years to come.”

Jochen Schweitzer, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the German Athletics Association

“We are absolutely delighted to welcome the world to Munich in 2031. Together, we want to celebrate athletics in Germany, using this World Championships to serve as a beacon for young talent, and further strengthen sports in our society. Being able to present this global event in Munich together with the experienced team at the Olympiapark München GmbH sends a powerful signal for the future of our sport – in Germany and far beyond.”

Marion Schöne, General Manager Olympiapark München GmbH:

“This major international athletics event will be the first World Championships to be held following the multi-year renovation of our iconic Olympic Stadium and will mark a new, unique chapter in the Olympic Park’s impressive athletics history. This is what our Local Organising Committee stands for, with its many years of experience in organising major sporting events. ‘All in. One Park.’ was the slogan of our bid. Together with all those involved, we will create an international sporting festival in the Olympic Park for the athletes and fans from all over the world, one that will create great, unforgettable moments and remain in people’s memories.”

Gina Lückenkemper, two-time European Champion 2022:

"An event like this in our own country – that's the greatest thing for us athletes and a fantastic opportunity for sport in Germany as a whole. I love to remember of the amazing atmosphere at the 2018 European Championships in Berlin and the 2022 European Championships in Munich. I am absolutely convinced that in 2031, athletics will once again conjure up magical moments in Munich's Olympic Stadium and celebrate an unforgettable party with the whole world."

Fotocredits:

Olympic Stadium: Marc Müller / Munich2022

Olympic Park: Olympic Park / Fabian Stoffers

Olympiapark München GmbH
Spiridon-Louis-Ring 21
80809 Munich

Media contact: Tobias Kohler

T +49 (0)89 3067-2017

M +49 (0) 172 8618711

presse@olympiapark.de / www.olympiapark.de

German Athletics Association
Alsfelder Straße 27
64289 Darmstadt

Head of Media: Sven Ibald

T +49 (0) 6151 770840

M +49 (0) 151 55617652

medien@leichtathletik.de / www.leichtathletik.de