



THE WORLD MASTERS CROSS-COUNTRY SKI ASSOCIATION

Nationaler Direktor Deutschland

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## Annual report Masters cross-country skiing in Germany 2021/2022

After two years of the ongoing corona pandemic and many competitions that did not take place, things have fortunately picked up again this winter 2021/2022. Cross-country skiing races could take place again, some normality returned, because in the pre-winter only virtual races were possible on the trails.

Fortunately, now on 19./20. February 2022 in Warmensteinach / Bavaria in the Fichtelgebirge the German and Bavarian senior championships will take place. The course lengths in the free technique were 5 km / 10 km in the free technique and in the classic technique.

On day 1, 50 of the 63 participants were rated in the age groups from 31 to over 81 years. On day 2, out of 63 participants, 49 competed for the age group medals. It was again a small success and the starters very satisfied.

With a small number of only nine starters, the German delegation flew to the Masters World Cup (March 3rd - 12th) to Canmore, in the local province of Alberta. For many Masters, the pandemic was the decisive factor in not wanting or being able to start in Canada. Unfortunately, we had very short-term failures in the team.

Those who dared to step and fly to Canmore on the former 1988 Olympic trails were greatly rewarded with well organized competitions and great winter weather in the Canadian Rockies. The German team won a total of six medals in the competitions (2 x gold, 1 x silver, 3 x bronze) and took eighth place in the nation ranking of the starters from 19 nations. A big thank you again to the Canmore Organizing Committee and their many volunteers for giving us a great time and a return to normality.

On March 20, 2022, the German Championship Skimarathon over 42 km in the classic technique took place as part of the Euroloppet event "Skadi Loppet" in Bodenmais / Bavaria Forest. In the women's class, 11 women started in the age groups of a total of 19 German participants. In the men's class, out of 135 German participants, a total of 108 starters from the age groups finished. The overall victories and podium results went to the starters of the



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German national cross-country skiing team, who used this marathon race again to end the season. In the men's category, the German Olympic participants in the Beijing Winter Olympics with Jonas Dobler, Lucas Bögl and Albert Kuchler were on the podium and, like all Masters participants, received their medals and certificates from DSV Vice President Tobias Angerer.

At the end of the winter season, the elite athletes and the master athletes met at the German championships over the long distance and the club relays from April 1st to 3rd, 2022 in Oberwiesenthal / Saxony in the Ore Mountains below the Fichtelberg. In deep winter conditions, the mass start races were run over 20 and 30 kilometers using the classic technique. In the Masters classes, 53 starters in the field of elite athletes were at the starting line. The women's elite class was won by the Olympic champion Katharina Hennig. World Cup starter Thomas Bing won the men's race.

The club relays were run in the mixed category (1 x 3, 2 x 5 km), the women's class over 3 x 3 km and the men's relay over 3 x 5 km in free technique. In the club relays, a large number of other Masters cross-country skiers made themselves available in the free technique and gave the framework of the championship with a total of 116 relays a great stage at the end of the winter season.

### Hope for a hopefully good normal preparation for the next winter season:

From the month of May and then in summer and autumn, a new marathon race series on slow roller skis is planned. The Masters are very welcome. In autumn, as every year in Oberhof / Thuringia, the finale of the racing series takes place as part of the central performance control of the German Ski Association with the participation of the national cross-country skiing team and all the youngsters from the youth class.

For the state representatives of the state ski associations, the meeting of the masters representatives will take place in mid-May 2022 in the House of Ski in Planegg at the German Ski Association.

The date of the German Masters Championships over the short distance was assigned to Isny / Allgäu and the two races are to take place in February 2023. Further dates for the long distance and the ski marathon championship are still being finalized.



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The next highlight is of course the upcoming Masters World Cup 2023/24 in Seefeld / Austria. Fortunately, SC Monte Kaolino Hirschau, a well-known Bavarian organizer, stepped in at short notice. The experienced team around Thomas Heckmann already organized the MWC in 2003 with 1070 participants in Seefeld. In 2023, the MWC is to be held again on the varied Seefeld cross-country ski trail network on the routes towards Mösern. The date is March 18-24. The event is under the patronage of DSV Vice President Tobias Angerer, who, as a former overall World Cup winner and multiple medalist at Olympic Winter Games and World Championships, has won a large number of titles and is a likeable model athlete. He will then be on site in Seefeld and I hope that he can bring some older teammates to the starting line.

Andreas Dilleluth

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