

AFTER COVID 19-PAUSE: KVÖ LAUNCHES WITH "AUSTRIA CLIMBING SUMMER SERIES 2020"

The wait for competitions has come to an end: The Austrian Climbing Association (KVÖ) starts the "Austria Climbing Summer Series 2020" in Innsbruck in early July. Included are all red-white-red top stars as well as top-class international competition from Germany and Switzerland upon invitation.

While the climbing World Cup is still paused, the KVÖ (climbing association Austria) developed a competition concept that met the Austrian government's corona requirements.

"After the lockdown, all competitions had to be canceled. The Olympic Games, the World Cup and other major events have been postponed. Together with our trainers, we gave birth to the idea of organizing our own series. It is now important that the athletes can feel the competitive atmosphere again," says KVÖ sports director Heiko Wilhelm.

The "Austria Climbing Summer Series 2020" takes place from July to September and comprises a total of 10 competitions. Three each in the individual disciplines Lead, Boulder, Speed and at the end a competition in the Olympic combination format. The field of participants comprises around 25 women and 25 men per event. The first six events of the Summer Series in July and August will take place without spectators, and only in September will the KVÖ plan to hold the remaining four events with an audience. The course of the competitions will also be different than normal. For example, to ensure the 2-meter minimum distance for bouldering, the qualifying and semi-final rounds for women and men do not take place in parallel, but in a row. This creates more space and the boulders can be screwed sufficiently far apart. There will also be no classic isolation zone.

"If you like, the Austria Climbing Summer Series is not only a national, but also an international level for climbing events. We have worked intensively on which adaptations in the application organization are necessary to comply with the Corona requirements. We will then share our experiences with the world

association and other national associations.” explains KVÖ sports manager Michael Schöpf.

The World Cup-proven duo of "Roodixx Entertainment" will push the athletes to top performances so that there is a competitive atmosphere even without a spectator.

Bouldering finale LIVE on ORF Sport +

The "Austria Climbing Summer Series 2020" will kick off on July 8th and 9th with a bouldering event on the mobile World Cup wall from 2018 in the track and field hall in the Sillside area in Innsbruck, on July 10th the first of three speed competitions take place in the climbing center Innsbruck.

A week later (July 15/16), the second bouldering competition and another speed competition (July 17) will follow. The bouldering finals on July 9 (5 p.m. women, 8:15 p.m. men) and July 16 (5 p.m. men, 8:15 p.m. women) will each be broadcast live on ORF Sport + and in a live stream via YouTube (link) transfer.

In addition, two lead competitions are planned in August and the grand finales with bouldering, speed, lead and the Olympic combined competition in September. The Austrian state championship titles are also awarded there. The exact dates depend on the further plans of the International Climbing Association (IFSC) whether the World Cup can continue in August.

Top starter field, important location determination

In the first competition after the Corona break, 16 Austrian men and women will start. In addition to the top stars, the best rookies from U18 and U20 also climb. In addition, up to four athletes from Switzerland and Germany will travel to Innsbruck.

KVÖ sports director Heiko Wilhelm: *“We are particularly pleased that we can also welcome our neighboring teams from Germany and Switzerland. As far as we can tell, the starting field will be heavily staffed. The route construction and*

the entire event infrastructure will also be World Cup level. The Summer Series will be an important location for the rest of the season. ”

Jessica Pilz: *“I see the Summer Series as a good opportunity to slowly get back into competition mode. Especially, when it comes to the head. Switching to fight mode is often not so easy. Athletes from Germany and Switzerland are also invited, which gives us a bit of international competition - that's really cool. ”In the run-up to the "Austria Climbing Summer Series 2020", the KVÖ national team will complete two training camps (June 20/21, Gaflenz, June 22/23, Nuremberg).*

“The focus there is already on preparing for the competition. After such a long phase, it is also important for team spirit and cohesion. The athletes are all in good shape and have come through the break well. Some have made a virtue of necessity and worked on their weaknesses. The anticipation for the competitions is huge,” says KVÖ trainer Katharina Saurwein.

Youngsters are also climbing for championship titles

Between August 28th and September 6th, the junior championships (U12, U14, U16) will be held in Innsbruck and Imst in the disciplines boulder, speed and lead. This ensures that even the best domestic climbing talents have their title fights.

It has not yet been determined whether and in what form the climbing World Cup will continue this year. According to the IFSC, the European climbing championship in Moscow was postponed again and is scheduled to take place in November (20-29).

DATES AUSTRIA CLIMBING SUMMER SERIES 2020

-08/09/09 July - Boulder 1 Innsbruck

-July 10 - Speed 1 Innsbruck

-15th / 16th July - Boulder 2 Innsbruck

-July 17 - Speed 2 Innsbruck

-August (TBD) - lead 1 Imst

-August (TBD) - lead 2 Imst

-September (TBD) - State Championships Innsbruck (Boulder, Speed, Lead, Combined)