



Media release 13.2.2023, Nordic Junior Competition in Laajavuori

Future skiing stars in Laajavuori, Jyväskylä 17.2.-18.2.

The best cross-country skiers and ski jumpers in their age group (under 18 years old), as well as nordic combined competitors, will compete for the Nordic Championships at the Laajavuori ski stadium this coming weekend. The competition is also open for athletes outside of national teams. The games are organized by Ski Jyväskylä and Jyväskylän Hiihtoseura in co-operation with The Finnish Ski Association.

This year's Nordic Youth Championships will feature athletes from the Nordic countries and Estonia and also from The United States. The competitions are free of charge for spectators. The first official race will take place on the Laajavuori ski jumping hills already on Thursday evening (16.2.) when the combined competitors will jump the reserve race of the hill section at 18:00. On Friday, the races will have their first full day of competition, with cross-country sprint distances and ski jumping and combined individual races on the agenda. On Saturday, the races will continue in cross-country skiing with the women's 5km and men's 10km distances, as well as ski jumping and combined team competitions. On the closing day, Sunday, it is time for the the cross-country relays.

The Nordic Youth Championships have been held for decades. The first competitions were was organized in 1975. The games are held annually in either Finland, Norway, Sweden or Estonia. In Finland, the competitions were last hosted in 2018 in Vuokatti. Over the years, The Nordic Junior Competition has seen competitors who, in a few years' time, have excelled in international competitions, even the Olympic Games. For example, of the Finnish top athletes, Perttu Hyvärinen, Matti Heikkinen and Iivo Niskanen have participated in these competitions in the past.

The Nordic Youth Championships are an important step on a young athlete's path to success, offering young people a feel for national team activities and experience of international competitions. The competitions are also of international interest, because the young people participating in the games are the top athletes of the future, whose efforts we will continue to follow for years or even decades.

In connection with the Nordic Championships, FIS-competition and national series organized by Ski Jyväskylä are also competed. On Saturday, the skiing distances in the FIS-competition are the same as in the youth races, and on Sunday, the FIS-competition continues with co-start races.

More information about the disciplines:

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Media accreditation: journalists and photographers can be accredited using this [form](#). Accredited media representatives receive a media card from the competition office Hotel Scandic Laajavuori.

Competition website: <https://hiihtoliitto.fi/nordic-junior-competitions-2023/>