

International Ski
Mountaineering
Federation



MEDIA GUIDE
SKI MOUNTAINEERING MILANO CORTINA 2026

V.2 FEBRUARY 2026

01

SKI MOUNTAINEERING



ORIGINS OF SKI MOUNTAINEERING

Roots of Ski Mountaineering: Ski mountaineering as a sport began to take shape in Europe during the late 19th century. Because skiing started before the advent of mechanical lifts, the first alpine skiers were mountaineers. Ski mountaineering tours and races have their origins in the Alps and the start of recreational skiing and mountaineering ascending summits and traversing mountain cols. Early terms used to describe ski mountaineering competitions (civil or military) were alpine races and the 'military patrol'. The term military patrol was used because high mountain ski tours were usual for border patrols in the Alps. The first army competition was held in 1893 in Germany and the name "patrol" or "patrouille" is still used as a synonymous for teams in modern ski mountaineering team races. Initially, skiers used horse or other terrestrial animal skins or other methods for preventing backward sliding, which later evolved into seal skins and, eventually, synthetic materials for better grip during ascents.

Evolution and Global Expansion: Over the 20th century, ski mountaineering evolved from a practical mode of winter travel into a competitive sport. In this historic context, the Military Patrol was included in the 1924, 1928 and 1936 Olympic Winter Games. The first formal competitions began in Europe, particularly in the Alps, Tatras and Pyrenees. The first documented civil ski mountaineering race was held in the Pyrenees in 1927. Famous races as the Trofeo Mezzalama were held for first time in 1933 and the Patrouille des Glaciers in 1943. The sport gained international official recognition in the early nineties with the European Cup and the first European Championship in 1995. The first World Championships were held in France in 2002. Today, the International Ski Mountaineering Federation (ISMF) leads and provides governance of World Ski Mountaineering matters. Ski Mountaineering, or SkiMo, enjoys global popularity, with competitions held across Asia, North America, South America, Europe, and Oceania, involving more than 50 countries. The Sport's inclusion in the Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne 2020 further solidified its place in the competitive winter sports landscape, setting the stage for its Olympic debut in 2026.



CURRENT SITUATION

SKI MOUNTAINEERING

Ski mountaineering has grown rapidly from a niche Alpine discipline into a global winter sport. Combining endurance, climbing skill and technical downhill ability, it features multiple race formats at elite level. These include individual races, vertical races (uphill only), sprint races on short technical courses, and mixed relays. All events are contested on steep, often high-altitude terrain, where athletes climb using skins, transition to boot-packing or crampons, and descend on skis.

The ISMF, which has 56 member National Federations spanning five continents, organises an annual World Cup circuit as well as Continental and World Championships, which take place biennially. World Cup and Youth World Cup races are held at venues across Europe, North America and Asia.

Ski mountaineering will feature on the Olympic programme for the first time at Milano Cortina 2026, following a successful appearance at the Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020, where 48 athletes representing 16 NOCs competed across three events: individual, sprint and mixed relay.

France, Italy, Switzerland and Spain currently dominate the elite circuit, with strong emerging athletes from Austria, Germany, China and the USA. The sport's popularity has surged in recent years due to its mix of adventure, athleticism and connection to nature, as well as the rise in recreational ski touring.



A MODERN MOUNTAIN SPORT WITH PURPOSE

ISMF AT A GLANCE



GLOBAL GOVERNING BODY – The ISMF regulates and develops ski mountaineering worldwide, with **56 National Members** across 5 continents



OLYMPIC RECOGNITION – Fully recognised by the IOC, ski mountaineering made its debut at the Lausanne 2020 Youth Olympic Games and will feature at the **Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games**.



GLOBAL COMPETITION CIRCUIT – ISMF World Cup, World and Continental Championships span **Europe, Asia, and the Americas**, with an average **800,000 live & digital reach per event** and over **14M across the season**.



DYNAMIC DISCIPLINES – Sprint, Mixed Relay, Vertical, Individual and Team events blend endurance, technique, speed, and alpine skill.



AUTHENTIC MOUNTAIN CULTURE – A sport with deep alpine tradition, attracting committed athletes and passionate fans.



PROVEN GROWTH PLATFORM – Leveraging Olympic momentum, digital transformation, and a professional global event series.



THE ULTIMATE ALPINE CHALLENGE

NOW AN OLYMPIC SPORT

- / **DUAL CHALLENGE** – athletes climb and descend on skis, testing both aerobic capacity and technical skill.
- / **STUNNING ENVIRONMENTS** – races unfold in spectacular mountains and high-altitude alpine terrain.
- / **DYNAMIC FORMATS** – from explosive sprints to epic endurance tests, each discipline offers a distinct spectacle.
- / **FROM ALPINE HERITAGE TO THE OLYMPIC STAGE** – born from alpine rescue and exploration, Ski Mountaineering debuts at Milano Cortina 2026 with Sprint and Mixed Relay events, delivering fast, tactical racing and global appeal.



SPRINT

Short individual heats race

Ascent with skins, walking part and single descent

Qualification > heats > finals

Per circuit, approx. 3 mins

Up to 70 m

[WATCH NOW ▶](#)



MIXED RELAY

Team race with 1 female / 1 male

Team members execute the circuit two times each, one after the other

Qualification > finals

Finals, approx. 30 mins

Approx. 120m-150m

[WATCH NOW ▶](#)



VERTICAL

Individual race to the top

A single ascent with skins

Mass start

Approx. 30 mins

Up to 700 m

[WATCH NOW ▶](#)



INDIVIDUAL

Ultimate solo test

3 ascents & 3 descents, combining all elements of ski mountaineering

Mass start

Approx. 1 h 30 mins

Up to 1,600 m

[WATCH NOW ▶](#)



TEAM

Technical team endurance race

Teams of 2, navigate long, technical ascents & descents together

Mass start

Approx. 2 h 30 mins

Up to 2,400 m

[WATCH NOW ▶](#)

RACE TRACK EXAMPLES

ASCENT ————— TRANSITION
FOOTPART ————— START
DESCENT ————— FINISH



SPRINT



MIXED RELAY



VERTICAL



INDIVIDUAL



TEAM

[WATCH NOW ▶](#)[WATCH NOW ▶](#)[WATCH NOW ▶](#)[WATCH NOW ▶](#)[WATCH NOW ▶](#)

SKI MOUNTAINEERING ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

HELMET

- Must be worn for the entire race and be certified according to applicable safety standards
- Helmets are compulsory for both ascents and descents, including Sprint and Mixed Relay.

RACE SUIT

- One-piece or two-piece race suit designed for high-intensity effort.
- Often includes integrated pockets on the thighs or chest for storing skins, gloves, or snacks.
- Designed for speed, comfort, and easy access during transitions.

BOOTS

- Dual-function boots for walking uphill and skiing down.
- Lightweight, with a switch between walk and ski mode.
- Compatible with specific bindings.
- Minimum boot weight (per boot): Men: 500 g / Women: 450 g

SKIS

- Lightweight and narrow for uphill efficiency.
- Shorter than alpine skis to improve agility and control.
- Designed to handle both ascents and descents.
- Minimum width: 65 mm
- Minimum weight (per ski, without binding): Men: 780 g / Women: 730 g

SKINS

- Adhesive fabric strips (climbing skins) attached to the base of the skis for ascents
- Allow the skier to grip and glide uphill without sliding back.
- Skins are removed before descents and stored on the athlete or in the racing suit during competition.



BACKPACK

- Lightweight racing backpack, required in disciplines where safety equipment must be carried.
- Designed to allow secure transport of mandatory safety gear and fast access during race situations
- Backpack use depends on discipline and event-specific requirements.

POLES

- Designed to support propulsion during climbs and stability during descents.
- Poles must not present a danger to other athletes.

BINDINGS

- Specialized ski mountaineering bindings allow for:
 - Free heel movement when climbing.
 - Locked heel for skiing downhill.
- Very light and designed for fast transitions.

SKI MOUNTAINEERING TERMINOLOGY

Skins on

Putting the climbing skins under the skis so they can grip the snow and allow the athlete to climb uphill without sliding back

Skins off

Removing the climbing skins from the skis once the uphill section is finished, usually before a downhill section.

Skis on backpack

Attaching the skis securely to the athlete's backpack so they can run or climb on foot (for example, on steep or technical sections).

Ski boots

Special boots used in ski mountaineering that allow:

- Walking uphill comfortably
- Skiing downhill with support
- They can be switched between walking mode and ski mode.

Binding lock

Locking the ski binding at the toe so the boot is fixed in place for climbing uphill. This prevents the boot from coming out of the binding while ascending.

Binding unlock

Unlocking the binding so the boot can:

- Move freely when walking
- Release for downhill skiing or transitions, depending on the race format



WE ARE ALREADY A LARGE COMMUNITY AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO GROW

>650

ISMF Athlete License Holders,
competing in ISMF International
Competitions

>30K

Active athletes competing in over
250 Ski Mountaineering competitions
across each season

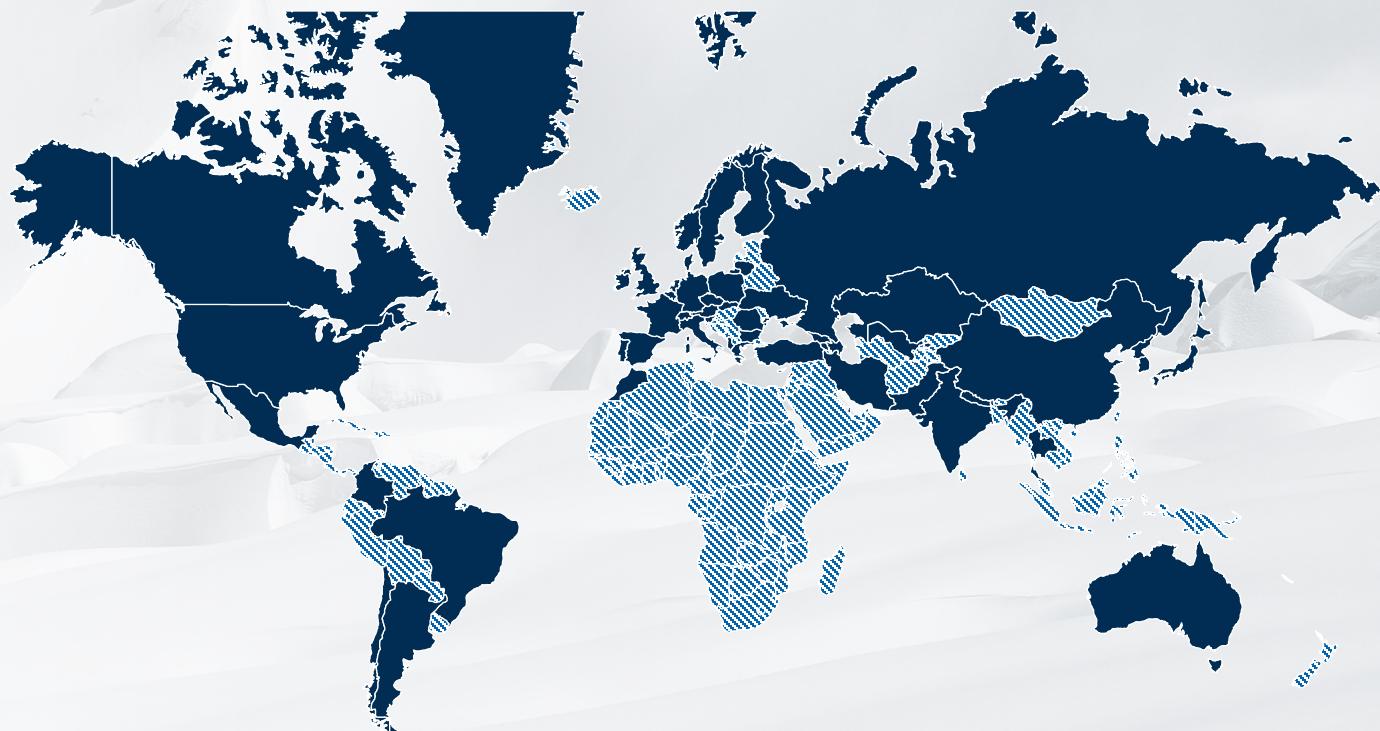
>3M

Conservative estimate of total global
Ski Mountaineering Practitioners

56

National Federations from NOCs in Europe,
Americas, Asia, Oceania and Africa.

Increase of over 45% since Ski Mountaineering
was added to the Olympic Programme in 2021 (38)



ALBANIA	GEORGIA	POLAND
ANDORRA	GERMANY	PORTUGAL
ARGENTINA	GREECE	QATAR
ARMENIA	INDIA	ROMANIA
AUSTRALIA	IRAN	RUSSIA
AUSTRIA	IRELAND	SLOVENIA
AZERBAIJAN	ITALY	SWITZERLAND
BELGIUM	JAPAN	SLOVAKIA
BRAZIL	KAZAKHSTAN	SPAIN
BULGARIA	KOSOVO	SWEDEN
CANADA	SOUTH KOREA	THAILAND
CHILE	LEBANON	TURKEY
CHINA	LITHUANIA	UKRAINE
COLOMBIA	MEXICO	UNITED KINGDOM
CZECH REPUBLIC	MONGOLIA	UNITED STATES
DENMARK	MOROCCO	UZBEKISTAN
FINLAND	NETHERLANDS	SPAIN
FRANCE	NORWAY	INDIA
	PAKISTAN	

02

ISMF – THE FEDERATION

ABOUT ISMF



International Ski
Mountaineering
Federation

The ISMF is a non-profit and nongovernmental international association in accordance with Art. 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code having its legal seat and headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland and an administrative office in Mondovì, Italy.

 HEAD OFFICE - SWITZERLAND

 ADMIN OFFICE - ITALY

Recognised by:



International
Olympic
Committee

Associate member of:



WOF
Winter Olympic Federations

Member of:



Code signatory of:



Aligned with:



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP
AGAINST CORRUPTION IN SPORT

Partner of:

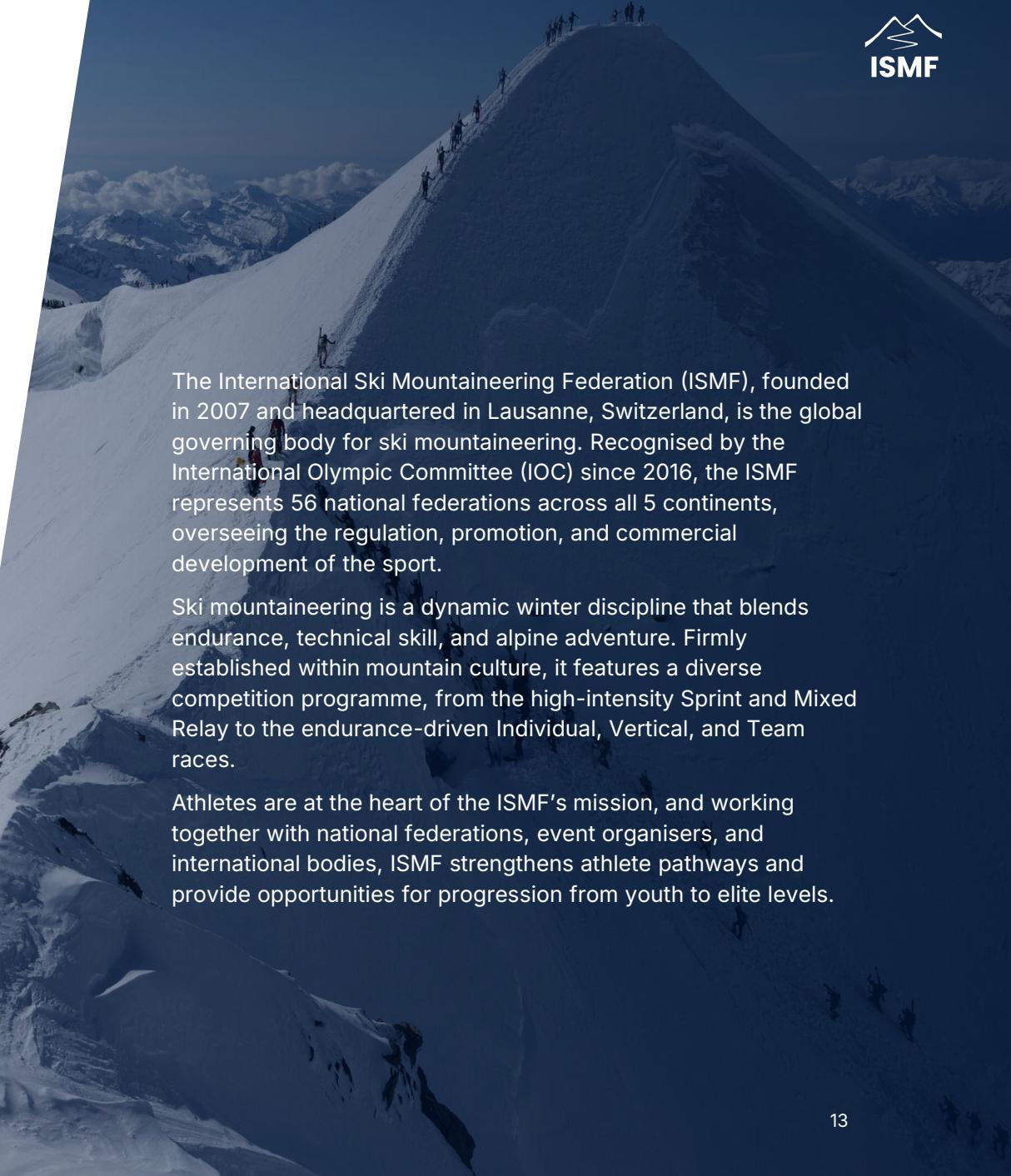


ITÀ
KEEPING SPORT REAL

Supported by:



Sport on the programme of:



The International Ski Mountaineering Federation (ISMF), founded in 2007 and headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, is the global governing body for ski mountaineering. Recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) since 2016, the ISMF represents 56 national federations across all 5 continents, overseeing the regulation, promotion, and commercial development of the sport.

Ski mountaineering is a dynamic winter discipline that blends endurance, technical skill, and alpine adventure. Firmly established within mountain culture, it features a diverse competition programme, from the high-intensity Sprint and Mixed Relay to the endurance-driven Individual, Vertical, and Team races.

Athletes are at the heart of the ISMF's mission, and working together with national federations, event organisers, and international bodies, ISMF strengthens athlete pathways and provide opportunities for progression from youth to elite levels.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

VISION VALUES MISSION

The ISMF is the global platform to develop and promote recreational & competitive ski mountaineering and its values.

Respect: we are always respectful; people, rules and mountains.

Responsibility: we are personally accountable.

Well-Being: we promote quality of living through our sport.

Innovation: we innovate.

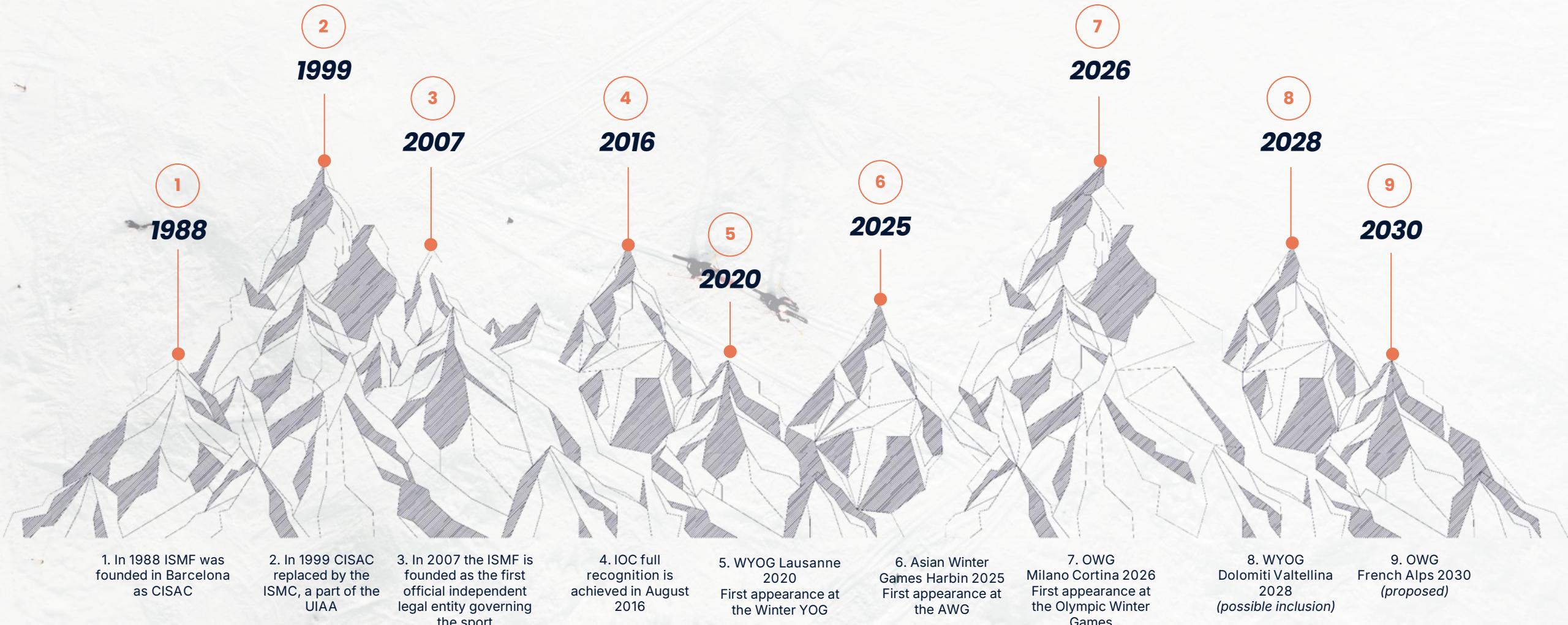
Excellence: we never compromise.

Provide high quality international races: in cooperation with member federations, local and institutional partners and supporters.

Develop ski mountaineering worldwide: more nations, more athletes, more youth engagement.

Foster a global ski mountaineering community: through a unique digital services & communication platform.

THE ISMF JOURNEY SO FAR



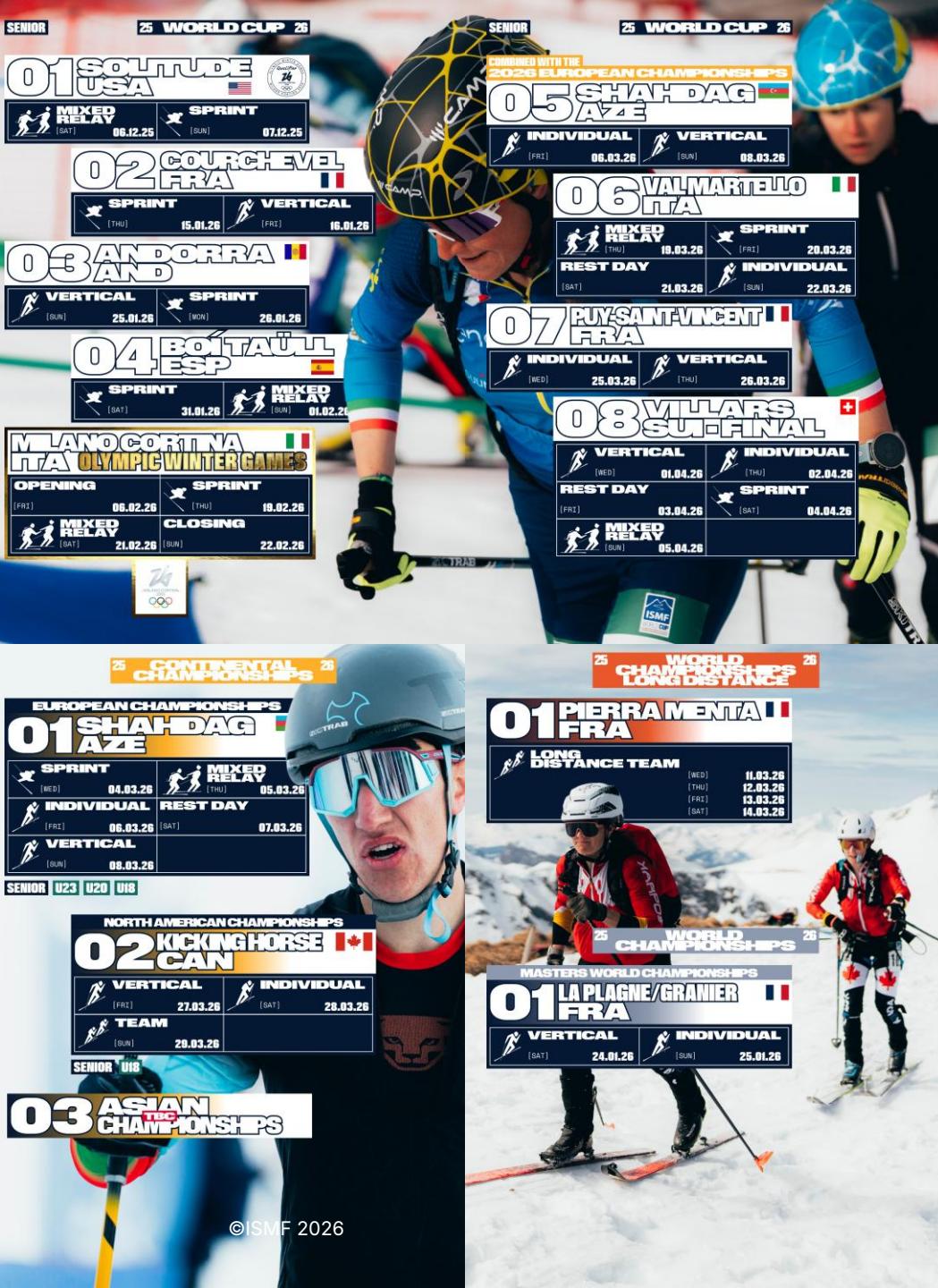
OUR GLOBAL EVENT PORTFOLIO

FROM GRASSROOTS TO THE OLYMPIC STAGE

	ISMF WORLD CUP	ISMF YOUTH WORLD CUP	WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	OTHER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	MULTI-SPORT GAMES	CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
 FREQUENCY	Annual series	Annual series	Biennial (every two years)	Annual	Olympic Winter Games Winter Youth Olympic Games Asian Winter Games European Youth Olympic Festival Military World Games World Masters Games FISU Winter World University Games	Biennial (every two years) (alternating with World Championships)
 EVENTS PER SEASON	7 – 9 events	3 – 4 events	5 races over 6-7 days	*LDT: Long Distance Team WCH *MAS: Masters WCH		Asian Championships European Championships North American Championships
 WHO COMPETES	Elite athletes (ISMF Elite licence holders)	U18 & U20 athletes (ISMF Youth licence holders)	Top national team athletes (by ISMF quota criteria) (ISMF Elite licence holders)	*LDT: Senior athletes-team of 2 (ISMF Elite licence holders) *MAS: Athletes aged 35+ (ISMF Competition licence)	Top-ranked ISMF athletes based on quota and qualification (ISMF licence holders)	National team athletes within respective continents
 DISCIPLINES	Sprint, Mixed Relay, Vertical, Individual	Sprint, Mixed Relay, Vertical, Individual	Sprint, Mixed Relay, Vertical, Individual, Team	*LDT: Long Distance Team *MAS: Vertical, Individual	According to sports programme	Sprint, Vertical, Individual, Mixed Relay (optional)
 ORGANISED BY	ISMF in collaboration with National Members and LOCs	ISMF in collaboration with National Members and LOCs	ISMF in collaboration with National Members and LOCs	*LDT: ISMF & LOC, often part of 'La Grande Course' series *MAS: ISMF & LOC	Event owner with cooperation with ISMF	ISMF, respective Continental Councils and LOCs
 SEASON TIMING	November – April	December – March	February/March (every two years)	*LDT: March – April *MAS: December – March	Varies based on Games calendar	January – March
 PURPOSE	Flagship competition series of the ISMF, bringing together the world's top athletes across multiple venues and disciplines	Development pathway for youth athletes	Crown world champions, highest-level competition outside of the Olympics	*LDT: Test endurance over ultra- long courses *MAS: Competitive platform for Masters athletes	Showcases ski mountaineering on the global stage	Determine continental champions, develop regional talent

+ MORE (ISMF Series, ISMF Youth World Championships, Vertical 500, Vertical 1K and Open Challenge events)

ISMF CALENDAR 25-26





03

MILANO CORTINA 2026 OLYMPIC DEBUT



OLYMPIC DEBUT

MILANO CORTINA 2026

Ski mountaineering will debut at Milano Cortina 2026 with three medal events—men's sprint, women's sprint, and a mixed-gender relay—featuring 36 athletes (18 men, 18 women).

The competition will take place in Bormio on 19 and 21 February 2026, integrating into the programme with a compact format tailored for Olympic delivery.

This inclusion marks a critical step in positioning ski mountaineering within the Olympic framework, establishing the technical, logistical, and competition standards that will serve as a reference for future editions.



Milano Cortina 2026 - Media Guide

©ISMF 2026



QUALIFICATION SYSTEMS

- Athletes must qualify by earning a quota place for their respective NOCs through one of three opportunities: the 2025 ISMF World Championships in Morgins, Switzerland from 2-9 March, the Olympic Mixed Relay Ranking List, and the Olympic Sprint Ranking List.
- At the 2025 ISMF World Championships, quotas were awarded in each of the three ski mountaineering events on the Milano Cortina 2026 sports programme: Four (two men and two women) in the mixed relay, two in the women's sprint and two in the men's sprint.
- Athletes were given further opportunities to earn quotas through the Olympic Mixed Relay Ranking List and Olympic Sprint Ranking List during the qualification period lasting from 1 November 2024 to 21 December 2025.

MAXIMUM QUOTA PLACES PER NOC	
Men	2
Women	2
Total	4

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ATHLETES	
Men's Sprint	18
Women's Sprint	18
Mixed Relay	18 Teams (maximum)
Total	36

QUOTA PLACES		HOST COUNTRY QUOTA PLACES	TOTAL
Men	17	1	18
Women	17	1	18
Total	34	2	36



QUOTA ALLOCATION



Total NOCs: 14

NOC	COUNTRY	CONTINENT	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
AIN	AIN	AIN	1	0	1
AUS	Australia	Oceania	1	1	2
AUT	Austria	Europe	1	1	2
BEL	Belgium	Europe	1	0	1
CHN	China	Asia	1	1	2
ESP	Spain	Europe	2	2	4
FRA	France	Europe	2	2	4
GER	Germany	Europe	1	2	3
ITA	Italy	Europe	1	2	3
NOR	Norway	Europe	2	1	3
POL	Poland	Europe	1	1	2
SUI	Switzerland	Europe	2	2	4
SVK	Slovakia	Europe	1	2	3
USA	United States	Americas	1	1	2
			18	18	36



COMPETITION FORMAT

MILANO CORTINA 2026

WOMEN'S SPRINT AND MEN'S SPRINT – 19 FEBRUARY 2026

The sprint events comprise three phases: heats, semifinals and final.

- **HEATS:** consist of three heats of six athletes each. Athletes start in a mass start lined up in rows according to their Olympic sprint ranking list. The first three athletes in each heat and the three fastest athletes from the combined heats phase ranking not already qualified (lucky losers) will advance to the semifinals.
- **SEMIFINALS:** consist of two heats of six athletes each. Qualified athletes are assigned to the semifinal heats as follow:

SEMIFINAL 1	SEMIFINAL 2
1 st from Heat 1	1 st from Heat 3
1 st from Heat 2	2 nd from Heat 1
2 nd from Heat 3	2 nd from Heat 2
3 rd from Heat 3	3 rd from Heat 1
Lucky Loser 1	3 rd from Heat 2
Lucky Loser 3	Lucky Loser 2

- The first two athletes from each semifinal and the two fastest athletes from the combined semifinals ranking not already qualified (lucky losers) will advance to the final.
- The athletes with the best time in the previous phase are assigned their start line position.
- **FINAL:** the top 6 athletes in the previous phase are assigned their start line position.



COMPETITION FORMAT

MILANO CORTINA 2026

MIXED RELAY – 21 FEBRUARY 2026

- NOCs are limited to 1 team
- Each mixed relay team consists of one woman and one men who will compete in the following order: W-M-W-M.
- Teams will be lined-up in two rows. Starting positions are seeded based on the Olympic mixed relay ranking list.
- After a mass start, each athlete covers two runs of two loops each with one ascent and one descent.
- The relay is exchanged when the finishing athlete enters the handover zone and touches any part of the next athlete's body with his hand. This handover must take place within the relay handover zone.
- Lapped athletes will be stopped by a competition official.



COMPETITION FORMAT

MILANO CORTINA 2026

PENALTIES

- There are penalties for incorrect or unsportsmanlike conduct, technical errors and incorrect or missing equipment.
- Penalties range from disqualification to an addition of 3 seconds to 30 seconds to the race time of the athletes, depending on the severity of the violation and according to each discipline.
- For more information check the ISMF Sport Rules on the ISMF official website ([Sport Rules](#)).

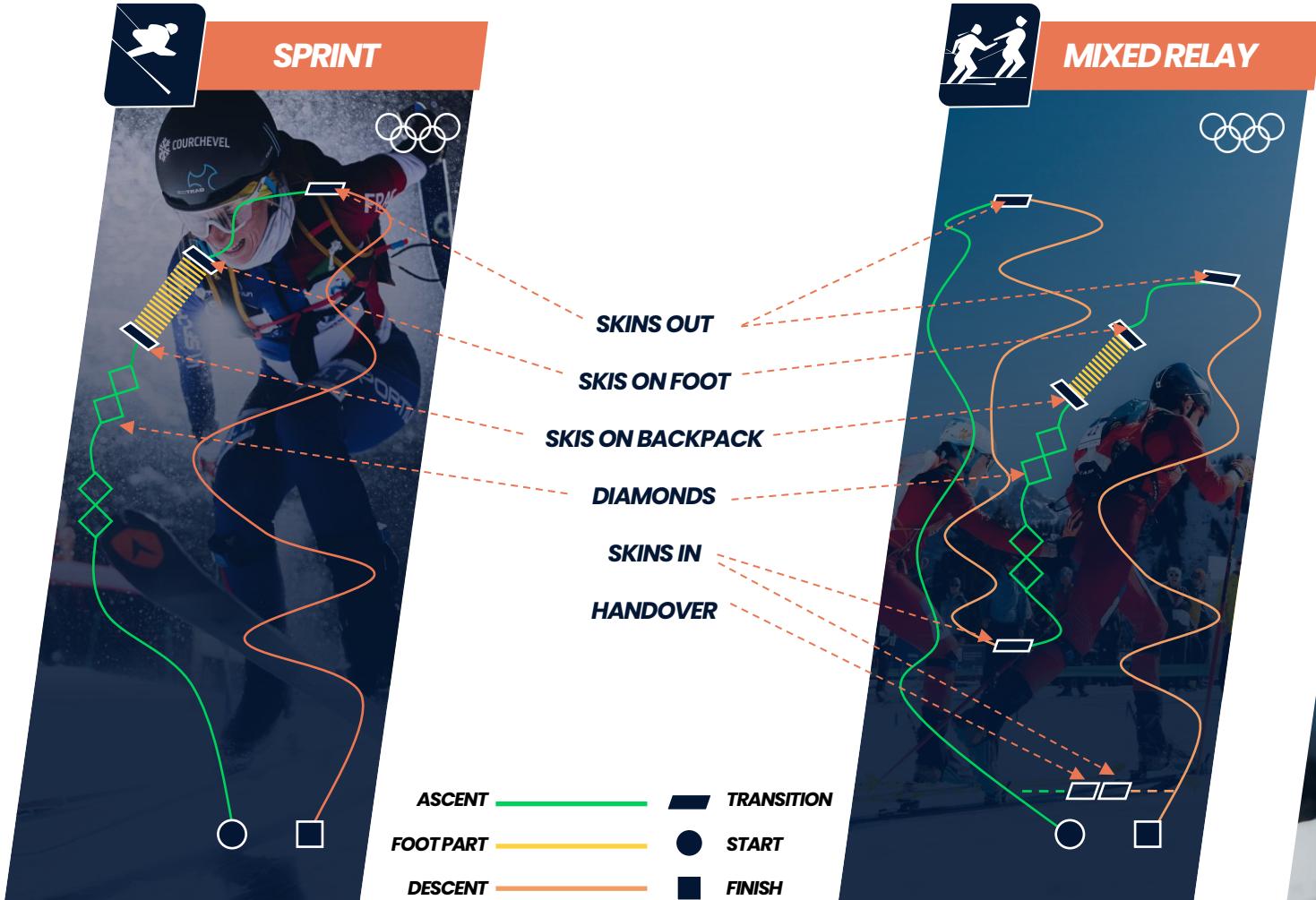
MOST COMMON PENALTIES IN SPRINT AND MIXED RELAY

PENALTY DESCRIPTION	SPRINT / MIXED RELAY
Skis outside transition zone	3 seconds
Ski poles not placed flat on the ground in the transition area.	3 seconds
Incorrect stowage of the skins.	3 seconds
Incorrect fastening of skis on the backpack (less than two fastening points).	3 seconds
Losing skin before finish line	30 seconds
False start	30 seconds



TRACK SPECIFICATIONS

SPRINT & MIXED RELAY



Stelvio Ski Centre

SKI MOUNTAINEERING

Course map and profile

Men's Sprint

Women's Sprint

1215m
Start altitude

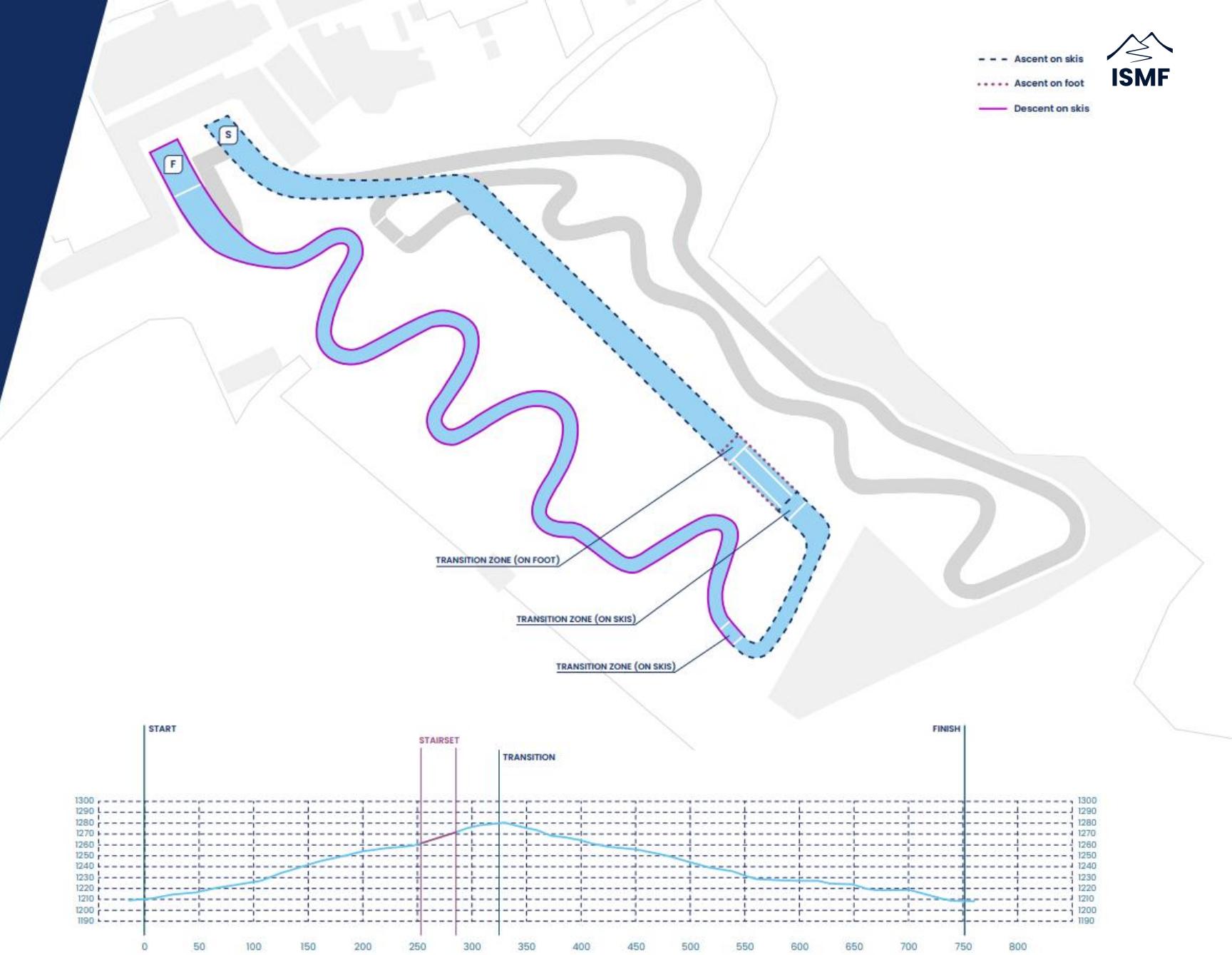
1215m
Finish altitude

70m
Total ascent

750m
Course length

1285m
Maximum height

S Start
F Finish





Stelvio Ski Centre

SKI MOUNTAINEERING

Course map and profile

Mixed Relay

1215m
Start altitude

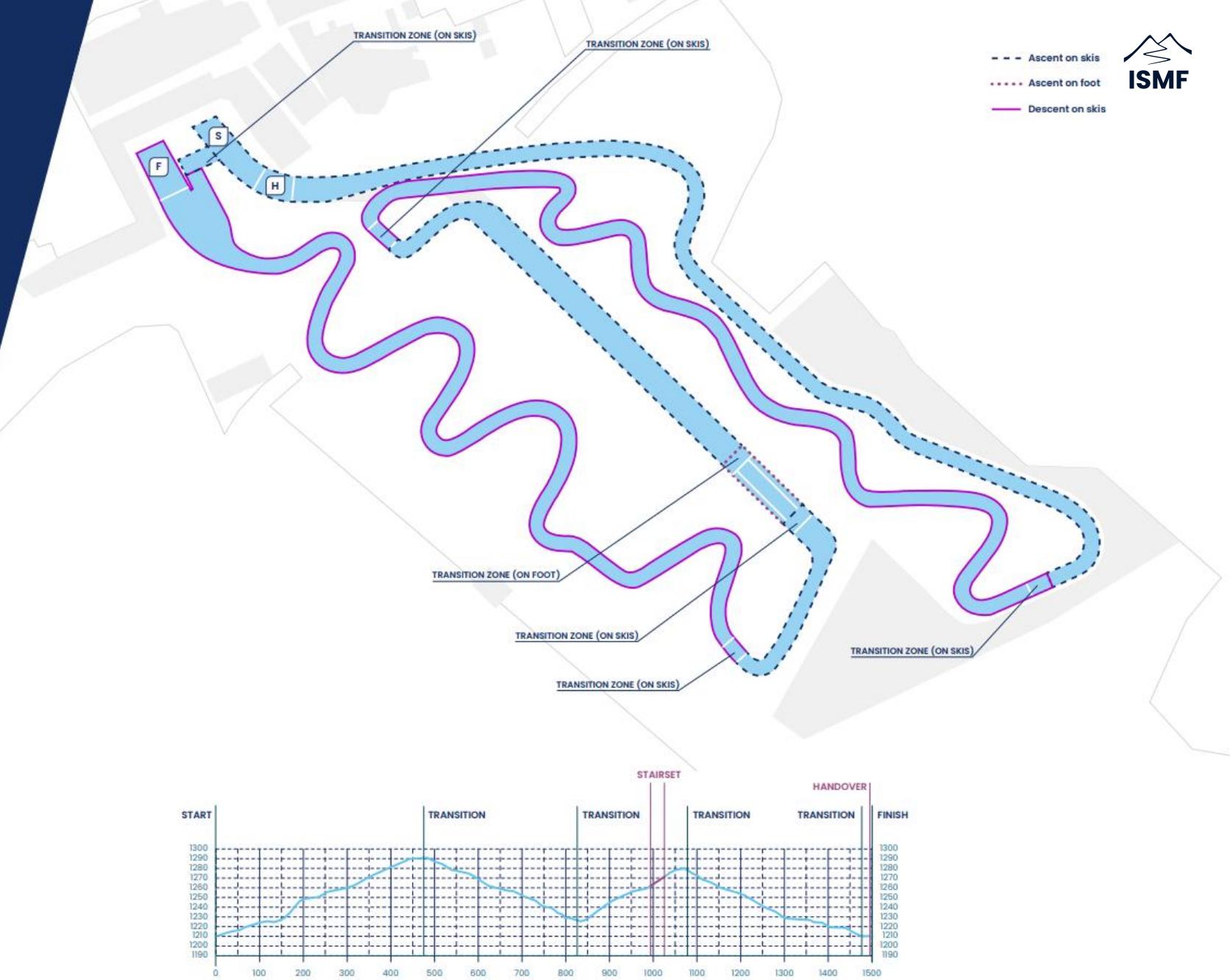
1215m
Finish altitude

135m
Total ascent

1500m
Course length

1295m
Maximum height

- Start
- Finish
- Hand over zone



PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR THE MEDIA

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Men's and Women's Sprint Race

21 February 2026 **Mixed Relay Race** 13:30 – 14:30 Bormio Stelvio Ski Centre

ISMF MEDIA CONTACTS

Jordi Millastre
Phone : +41 77 404 33 30
e-mail : jordi.millastre@ismf-ski.org

Olalla Cernuda
Phone: +34 618 57 09
e-mail: olallac@gmail.com

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR DISTRIBUTION LIST

[CLICK TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

ACCESS OUR MEDIA HUB

CLICK TO ACCESS





04

NOCs & ATHLETES TO FOLLOW

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

THE OLYMPIC FIELD AT A GLANCE



26.5

AVERAGE AGE OF THE FIELD

26

AVERAGE AGE OF
THE MEN'S FIELD

27

AVERAGE AGE OF
THE WOMEN'S FIELD

19

YOUNGEST
ATHLETE(S)



HELENA EURINGER
(GER)



CIDAN YUZHEN
(CHN)

40

OLDEST
ATHLETE



MARIANNA
JAGERCIKOVA (SVK)

50/50

GENDER BALANCE

18

WOMEN

18

MEN

35

OLYMPIC DEBUTANTS
+ One 4 time Olympian
Philip Bellingham (AUS),
Cross Country Skiing

13+1

4

CONTINENTS
REPRESENTED
(Americas, Asia,
Europe, Oceania)

3

Locals from
the host
nation (ITA)

NOCS

AIN

7



- OT FERRER (ESP) – Bronze medallist in the Sprint race; Bronze medallist in the Mixed Relay; 5th place in the Individual race
- TRYM DALSET LØDØEN (NOR) – 11th place in the Sprint race; 6th in the Individual race
- FINN HÖSCH (GER) – 8th place in the Sprint race; 9th in the Individual race
- NIKITA PHILIPPOV (RUS/AIN) – 6th place in the Sprint race; 11th in the Individual race
- MARIA COSTA DÍEZ (ESP) – Gold medallist in the Sprint race, bronze medallist in the Mixed Relay; 9th in the Individual race
- MARGOT RAVINEL (FRA) – Bronze medallist in the Sprint race; silver in the Mixed Relay; bronze in the Individual race
- CAROLINE ULRICH (SUI) – Sixth in the Sprint race; Gold in the Mixed Relay; gold in the Individual race

#athletes competed at Lausanne 2020 WYOG

ATHLETES' WHO ARE MOTHERS



IWONA
JANUSZYK (POL)



JOHANNA
HIEMER (AUT)



REBEKA
CULLY (SVK)



Mother

Daughter

FAMOUS PARENTS

Marianne Fattori's
(SUI) mother, Anna
Janouskova (CZE)
Competed at
Albertville 1992 in
Cross-Country
Skiing

TOP-RANKED SPRINT ATHLETES

	MEN		WOMEN		MIXED TEAM
1	ESP	CARDONA COLL Oriol	FRA	HARROP Emily	ESP
2	SUI	KISTLER Jon	SUI	FATTORI Marianne	SUI
3	SUI	LIETHA Arno	ESP	ALONSO RODRIGUEZ Ana	FRA

ONES TO WATCH: MIXED RELAY

1



ITALY

Italy is a historic reference point for ski mountaineering, deeply rooted in the Alpine tradition and high-level winter sport. With a strong development system and a long record of international success, Italian athletes continue to play a key role in shaping the sport on the world stage.

[Official website.](#)
[NOC website](#)

2



SPAIN

Spain has an established and dynamic ski mountaineering community, shaped by the Pyrenees and other key mountain regions. With a strong competitive culture, Spanish athletes are an important and increasingly visible presence on the global ski mountaineering scene.

[Official website.](#)
[NOC website](#)

3

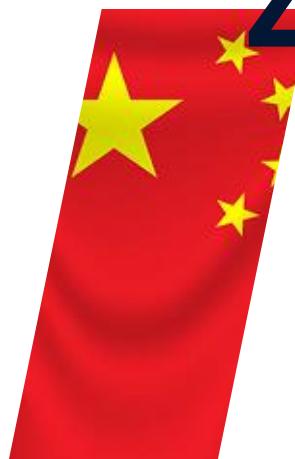


FRANCE

France is a powerhouse in ski mountaineering, with a rich Alpine tradition and a history of top-level international performances. French athletes are known for their skill, innovation, and consistent success, making the nation a central force in the sport worldwide.

[Official website.](#)
[NOC website](#)

4



CHINA

China is rapidly developing its ski mountaineering programme, supported by diverse mountain regions and a growing winter sports culture. Chinese athletes are increasingly making their mark in international competitions, reflecting the nation's rising presence in the sport.

[NOC website](#)

5



USA

The United States has a vibrant ski mountaineering community, with strong roots in the Rockies and other mountain ranges. American athletes are active on the international stage, combining tradition, innovation, and competitive ambition to strengthen the sport globally.

[Official website.](#)
[NOC Website](#)

6



AUSTRALIA

Australia may be best known for its sun and surf, but its alpine regions foster a dedicated ski mountaineering community. Australian athletes are increasingly competing internationally, bringing energy, resilience, and a pioneering spirit to the sport.

[Official website.](#)
[NOC Website](#)

ONES TO WATCH: MIXED RELAY

7

SWITZERLAND

Switzerland has a long-standing tradition in ski mountaineering, shaped by its iconic Alpine terrain. Swiss athletes are renowned for their skill, endurance, and consistent success, making the nation a leading force in the sport worldwide.

[Official website](#)
[NOC website](#)



8

AUSTRIA

Austria is a cornerstone of ski mountaineering, with a strong Alpine heritage and a tradition of competitive excellence. Austrian athletes are known for their technical skill and endurance, consistently performing at the top level internationally.

[Official website](#)
[NOC website](#)



9

GERMANY

Germany has a growing ski mountaineering community supported by the Alps and other mountain regions. German athletes combine dedication and precision, steadily making their mark in international competitions.

[Official website](#)
[NOC website](#)



10

NORWAY

Norway has a rich tradition in winter sports, and ski mountaineering is increasingly gaining momentum. Norwegian athletes bring endurance, skill, and a deep connection to their mountainous landscapes to the international stage.

[Official website](#)
[NOC website](#)



11

SLOVAKIA

Slovakia is developing a strong presence in ski mountaineering, supported by its mountainous regions and growing competitive programmes.

Slovak athletes are steadily making an impact on the international scene with skill and determination.

[Official website](#)
[NOC website](#)



12

POLAND

Poland has an emerging ski mountaineering community, shaped by the Tatra Mountains and other alpine regions. Polish athletes are increasingly active internationally, bringing determination and passion to the sport.

[Official website](#)
[NOC website](#)



ONES TO WATCH: WOMEN

[CLICK TO KNOW MORE](#)

1



FATTON Marianne SUI

Marianne Fatton is the 2025 World Champion in the sprint and the winner of the 2020 Overall World Cup. With 16 career wins and over 25 World Cup podiums, she is one of Switzerland's most consistent and successful athletes.

Marianne discovered the sport in Arolla while her parents were training for the PDG. She is known for her love of downhills and peakbagging. Her proudest achievement is her 2020 World Cup title, and she continuously strives to improve her mountaineering technique. In her spare time, she enjoys photography, drawing on Illustrator, and reading books on health and nutrition.

2



HARROP Emily FRA

Emily Harrop is one of the most dominant athletes in the history of the sport, evidenced by her four consecutive Overall World Cup titles (2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025). Her trophy cabinet includes multiple World Championship gold medals in the mixed relay and individual World Cup victories. Known as the "Queen of Sprint," she achieved a perfect record in the 2024/25 season by winning every single World Cup sprint event she entered. A native of Bourg-Saint-Maurice in the French Alps, Emily grew up fully immersed in mountain culture. She made the transition to professional ski mountaineering at the age of 20 and saw an immediate rise to the top of the podium by 2021. Her training is characterized by extreme precision and explosive power, which has made her nearly unbeatable in technical transitions. Off the snow, she remains deeply connected to her Alpine roots, focusing on maintaining her peak physical condition.

3



ALONSO RODRIGUEZ Ana ESP

Ana Alonso Rodriguez is a powerhouse of the Spanish national team, holding the titles of 2024 European Champion in the Mixed Relay and silver medalist at the 2025 World Championships. Her 2024/25 season was a masterclass in consistency, as she reached the podium in every single World Cup relay event to secure the overall Mixed Relay World Cup title. Most recently, at the Boí Taüll World Cup in February, she stunned the field by securing a silver medal in the Mixed Relay alongside Oriol Cardona Coll, a definitive statement of her readiness for the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympics, following a training accident in September 2025 that would have ended her Olympic dreams. She was back on her skis within 100 days and returned to the top 10 of the World Cup circuit by January. Driven by an "inner fire" that refused to be extinguished, Ana's journey from the hospital to Milano has become one of the most inspiring stories heading into the 2026 Winter Games.

4



MURADA Giulia ITA

Giulia Murada is a mainstay of the Italian national team. Her resume boasts seven World Cup wins and 12 podiums, alongside prestigious team titles. Ranked 3rd overall for the 2026 season, Giulia is the daughter of ski mountaineering champion Ivan Murada. Giulia initially practiced rhythmic gymnastics before trying her father's sport at age 12. She joined the Italian Army in 2017, turning her passion into a professional career. Outside of racing, she is a fan of endurance sports like road cycling and skiroll. To recover mentally, she loves to travel for a few weeks between competitive seasons.

5



PALLER Tatjana GER

Tatjana Pahler is a rising talent for the German national team. Her results in the vertical and individual disciplines have shown a steady upward trajectory over the past two seasons. Tatjana balances her professional training with her studies, often finding time for mountain sessions in the Bavarian Alps. She is known for her positive attitude and dedication to the technical aspects of the sport, particularly her efficiency in transitions. Outside of racing, she enjoys mountain biking and spending time with her teammates.

6



JAGERCIKOVA Marianna SVK

Marianna Jagerčíková made history for Slovakia by winning the World Champion title in the sprint in 2023. She is also a 2022 European Champion and has multiple World Championship silver medals (2019, 2021). She has established herself as one of the fastest and most technically proficient sprinters in the women's field. Marianna began ski mountaineering at age 15 with her father. She holds a PhD in environmental sciences and is an accomplished climber. Her philosophy for the upcoming Olympic cycle is simple: "Enjoy it!"

ONES TO WATCH: WOMEN

[CLICK TO KNOW MORE](#)

7



COSTA DIEZ Maria ESP

Maria Costa Diez made history as the 2020 Youth Olympic Champion in the sprint and bronze medallist in the mixed relay, a result that signaled her arrival as one of the sport's brightest young talents. Since moving to the senior ranks, she has consistently placed in the top 10 of the World Cup Sprint standings. Her explosive speed and tactical racing style have made her a specialist to watch. Maria's journey is defined by the early success she found on the international stage, which has fueled her transition into a professional career. Outside of racing, she is focused on her studies and enjoys the vibrant mountain culture of her homeland. Her goal for 2026 is to translate her Youth Olympic success into a senior Olympic podium.

8



JANUSZYK Iwona POL

Iwona Januszak is the most decorated female skimo athlete in Poland, with multiple national titles. She has consistently been a top-20 finisher on the World Cup circuit. Her endurance and strength in long-distance team races have earned her a reputation as one of the "iron women" of the circuit. Based in the Tatra mountains, Iwona's training involves immense volume and steep climbing. She is a prominent figure in the Zakopane mountain community and has played a significant role in raising the profile of ski mountaineering in Poland. In addition to her skiing career, she is an accomplished mountain runner.

9



HAMILTON Lara AUS

Lara Hamilton has made history for Australian skimo by qualifying for the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics. Her top results include a 13th-place finish in the vertical race at the Schladming World Cup and a 19th-place finish at the 2025 World Championships in Morgins. She transitions from a background in Nordic skiing and trail running. Lara's entry into the sport was a true grassroots effort; she traded her marketing services for her first skimo setup during college because she couldn't afford the kit. An accomplished DJ, vocalist, and producer with degrees in opera singing, Lara brings a creative flair to the skimo community. When she is not training or producing beats, she can be found trail running or surfing back home in Australia.

10



HIEMER Johanna AUT

Johanna Hiemer is one of Austria's most decorated ski mountaineers, boasting 11 career wins and four senior World Cup podiums. Her results span across the vertical, individual, and sprint disciplines, with points rankings consistently placing her among the world's top 10 female athletes. Johanna fell in love with the sport at 18 after competing in her first vertical race. Today, her life is a balancing act between elite athletics and motherhood. Johanna is known for her love of cooking and baking, though she jokingly admits she often forgets things in various places. Her ultimate goal for the upcoming cycle is nothing less than an Olympic medal.

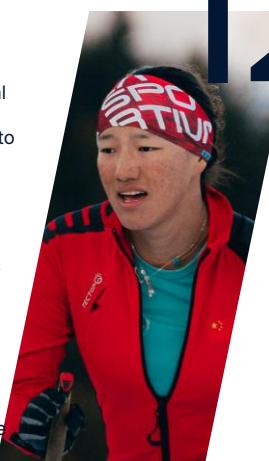
11



GIBSON Anna USA

Anna Gibson made headlines across the skimo world in 2025 by winning a gold medal in her very first World Cup appearance at Solitude, leading the U.S. Mixed Relay team to a victory that secured a historic Olympic quota spot. Her rise in the sport has been meteoric, transitioning from a top-tier track background to becoming the top-ranked American female sprinter. Originally a standout middle-distance runner at the University of Washington, Anna returned to her Wyoming roots to pursue mountain sports professionally. Anna is known for her tenacity and high-altitude training base in Jackson Hole. Outside of training, she is an advocate for mountain sports development and enjoys exploring the rugged terrain of the American West.

12



CIDAN YUZHEN CHN

Cidan Yuzhen is the breakout sensation of Chinese ski mountaineering, a Tibetan athlete whose rapid ascent from a junior race walker to a world-class skimo champion has stunned the international community. She only transitioned to the sport in late 2020. Her junior career is defined by a series of historic "firsts" for China. At just 16 years old, she made a spectacular debut at the 2023 ISMF World Championships where she claimed double gold medals. She continued this streak of excellence throughout the 2023/24 season. Now competing in the U20 category, Yuzhen has proven that her talent scales with the competition.

ONES TO WATCH: WOMEN

[CLICK TO KNOW MORE](#)

13

RAVINEL Margot FRA

Margot Ravinel first caught the world's attention at the Lausanne 2020 Youth Olympic Games, where she secured two medals. Since transitioning to the senior level, she has earned one World Cup win and several podium finishes. Margot followed her uncle into the sport at age 15. She views the Olympic Games as the ultimate challenge, focusing on maintaining her identity and values under the pressure of elite competition. Beyond skimo, she is an avid squash player and has a creative side, enjoying sewing, singing, and playing the piano.



14

EURINGER Helena GER

Helena Euringer is a Youth World Cup winner and a top 20 performer on the senior World Cup circuit. She has successfully qualified for the 2026 Winter Olympics, where she aims to reach the semifinals. Helena grew up surrounded by mountains and was inspired by her parents and skimo idols. Her busy daily routine involves balancing school with two daily training sessions. She is a music lover who enjoys spending time with friends and admits that she often forgets to water her plants at home.



15

ULRICH Caroline SUI

Caroline Ulrich is a double gold medalist from the 2020 Youth Olympic Games, where she won both the individual and mixed relay events. Since moving to the senior ranks, she has already secured four World Cup wins. Ranked 6th in the world, she is the only athlete in the top ten still competing at the U23 level, making her one of the most promising talents for the 2026 Olympics. Caroline began her journey by following her brother into the sport at a very young age. Her focus is on becoming the best version of herself and bringing "200%" to every race.



16

DE SILVESTRO Alba ITA

Alba de Silvestro is a cornerstone of the Italian national team, with a career highlighted by a 2021 World Championship gold medal. She is a perennial podium finisher in the Individual World Cup and has found great success in long-distance classics. Her consistency across all disciplines makes her one of the most versatile and respected female athletes on the circuit today. Hailing from the Dolomites, Alba has spent her life in the high mountains, which is reflected in her durability and technical skill. She balances her career as a professional athlete with her role in the Italian Army's elite sports section. Married to fellow champion Michele Boscacci, she is part of a legendary skimo household. In her free time, she is a passionate trail runner and hiker.



17

WALDAL Ida NOR

Ida Waldal is a multiple gold medallist at the 2023 World Championships. She replicated this golden double at the 2024 European Championships and has amassed a staggering collection of U20 World Cup wins, rarely finishing off the top step of the podium. As a specialist in steep, technical climbs, she is now focusing her incredible uphill engine on the senior circuit. Originally a cross-country skier, Ida transitioned to skimo after her coach recognized her extraordinary strength in uphill sections. Interestingly, Ida does not use complex mental rituals, preferring to simply "embrace" the pressure of big competitions.



18

CULLY Rebeka SVK

Rebeka Cully's top performance to date is a 14th-place finish in a World Cup sprint. A former swimmer and competitive triathlete, she transitioned to ski mountaineering in 2018 after using it as winter training and realizing she loved the mountains more than the triathlon circuit. Rebeka faces a unique challenge; she currently lives in a flat region without snow, meaning her training involves running, biking, and transition drills until she can travel to the mountains. A proud mother of a boy, she is passionate about educating herself in nutrition, coaching, and physiotherapy to support her athletic career.



ONES TO WATCH: MEN

[CLICK TO KNOW MORE](#)


1


CARDONA COLL Oriol ESP

Oriol Cardona Coll is widely regarded as the world's premier skimo sprinter, highlighted by his 2023 World Championship title and his back-to-back European Sprint Championship titles in 2022 and 2024. With over 14 career World Cup sprint victories, Oriol has a proven track record of performing under pressure on the biggest stages. His explosive speed and technical mastery in transitions have made him a mainstay of the Spanish national team and a top contender for the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympics.

Oriol's athletic journey began in trail running and skyrunning, where he is also a world-class competitor. Known for his calm, calculated approach to racing, he is a master of the sport's technical nuances. When he isn't competing on snow, Oriol is often found on the podium of the world's most prestigious mountain races, maintaining his status as one of the most versatile mountain athletes in the world.

2


ANSELMET Thibault FRA

Thibault Anselmet is one of the most successful athletes in modern ski mountaineering, with an incredible 30 career wins and an Overall World Cup title. His championship resume includes two gold, three silver, and one bronze medal at the World Championships, alongside numerous French National titles. A specialist in the sprint—where he has 10 World Cup wins—Anselmet is one of the gold-medal favorites heading into the 2026 Winter Olympics. For Thibault, skimo is a "family story," and he has trained every day since he was young to reach the sport's peak. He is a photography enthusiast and a general lover of all sports.

3


KISTLER Jon SUI

Jon Kistler is a rising star in the sprint discipline, having won a bronze medal at the 2025 World Championships. He is the reigning U23 World Champion and finished the 2024/2025 season ranked 2nd overall. With a recent World Cup win in Solitude (2025), Jon is a leading candidate for a medal as the sprint makes its debut at the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympics.

Jon was inspired to compete after accompanying his father on training tours for the Patrouille des Glaciers. He balances his elite athletic career with his studies in Mechanical Engineering at ETH Zurich.

4


DRION DU CHAPOIS Maximilien BEL

Maximilien Drion du Chapois is a powerhouse on the World Cup circuit, having finished second in the Overall World Cup rankings three times. Ranked 4th in the world for the 2026 season, Maximilien's trophy room includes one European Championship podium and two World Championship podium finishes. Born in Belgium but raised in Switzerland, Maximilien's path to skimo began when a mountain guide introduced his alpine ski club to the discipline in 2008. Known for his sense of humor, he often finds it "funny enough" that he competes for Belgium in a winter mountain sport. Outside of racing, he enjoys playing board games, walking his dogs, and creating content for his YouTube channel.

5


FILIPPOV Nikita AIN

Nikita Filippov's career highlights include an impressive 6th finish in the sprint at the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games and a 7th-place finish in the vertical race at the 2025 World Championships, where he also secured a silver medal in the U23 category. He recently earned his first two senior World Cup podiums in January 2026. A former biathlete until the age of 14, Nikita was inspired to pursue ski mountaineering by his father and coach, with whom he spent his childhood hiking and skiing on the volcanoes of his homeland. His typical training day is grueling, starting with a 7:30 AM workout followed by two major sessions totalling nearly six hours. A fun fact many don't know is that he had his first encounter with a bear at the young age of eight.

6


KLETTE Hans-Inge NOR

Hans Inge Klette is the leading figure in Norwegian ski mountaineering, with a career highlighted by over 10 National Cup victories and multiple podium appearances in the World Cup Sprint. He played a pivotal role in Norway's qualification for the 2026 Olympics. His explosive power and Nordic skiing background make him a formidable competitor in the sprint and individual disciplines alike.

Hans Inge grew up in Voss, a legendary hub for Norwegian winter sports, where he developed a deep love for the backcountry. He balances a heavy training load with a focus on growing the skimo community in Norway, hoping to inspire more athletes to transition from cross-country skiing to the mountains.

ONES TO WATCH: MEN

CLICK TO KNOW MORE

7

**FERRER MARTINEZ Ot** **ESP**

Ot Ferrer is a double Youth Olympic bronze medalist from the 2020 sprint and mixed relay, a feat that served as the launchpad for his professional career. He has since become a regular in the top six of the senior World Cup Sprint. As one of the youngest stars on the Spanish national team, Ot is viewed as a future leader of the sport, known for his technical fluidity and tactical awareness during high-pressure races. Ot made his debut in the senior World Cup podium last year, after multiple medals in his U23 career.

Ot grew up in the Catalan Pyrenees, where he began skiing at a very young age. He is a passionate mountain athlete year-round, excelling in trail running during the summer months.

8

**ELANTKOWSKI Jan** **POL**

Jan Elantkowski is a multi-time Polish National Champion. He has achieved numerous top-30 finishes on the World Cup circuit. Jan is known for his grit and durability, often performing at his best in the most challenging weather conditions, a trait typical of his Zakopane training roots. Jan is deeply embedded in the mountain culture of southern Poland, where he works and trains year-round. He is an advocate for the development of skimo in Eastern Europe and frequently organizes training camps for local youth.

9

**BELLINGHAM Phillip** **AUS**

Philip Bellingham is an elite endurance athlete and a four-time Australian Winter Olympian, having competed in cross-country skiing at Sochi 2014, PyeongChang 2018, and Beijing 2022 before qualifying for the inaugural Olympic ski mountaineering event at Milano Cortina 2026. He was named Snow Australia's Ski Mountaineering Male Athlete of the Year in 2025.

Growing up at the base of Falls Creek, Phil spent over a decade on the cross-country World Cup circuit before transitioning to skimo after the 2022 Olympics. In the winter, he balances high-level training with his full-time role as a Ski Patroller at Falls Creek resort. Outside of snow sports, he is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys surfing, white-water kayaking, and mountain biking.

10

**VERBNJAK Paul** **AUT**

Paul Verbnjak is Austria's leading male talent in ski mountaineering. A specialist in climbing-heavy disciplines, he consistently finishes in the top five of the World Cup Vertical and Individual rankings. His success at the 2025 World Championships solidified his status as one of the best pure climbers in the sport.

Born and raised in the heart of the Austrian Alps, Paul has been a dominant force on the national circuit since his junior years. Beyond his results, Paul is recognized for his technical proficiency and tactical intelligence during mass-start races.

11

**SMITH Cameron** **USA**

Cameron Smith best ever result was his historic 1st-place finish in the Solitude World Cup mixed relay, which secured an Olympic quota for the U.S. team. He is a four-time U.S. National Champion and has represented the USA at several World Championships. Cameron was "hooked" on skimo after competing in the Grand Traverse race in Colorado. Though he grew up far from the mountains in Illinois, he fell in love with the sport at 18. He works as an instructor at the Adaptive Sports Center in Crested Butte. His primary goal is to represent the U.S. well at the Olympic competitions in Bormio.

12

**BU LUER CHN**

Bu Luer is a pioneer for the Chinese national skimo team. He has shown incredible progression over the last three seasons, particularly in the mixed relay and sprint disciplines. His performance is a key indicator of the rising competitiveness of the Chinese program as they prepare for the sport's Olympic debut in 2026.

Bu Luer's journey into skimo is part of a broader national effort to develop winter sports talent in China. He trains extensively in both China and Europe to gain experience against the world's best.

ONES TO WATCH: MEN

CLICK TO KNOW MORE

13

GINER DALMASSO Pablo FRA

Pablo Giner Dalmasso is a rising star in the French skimo system. As a member of one of the world's most competitive national teams, Pablo has proven he can compete with the very best in both technical sprints and grueling individual races.

Pablo is known for being a technical specialist, particularly in the downhill sections of the course. Outside of the World Cup, he is a dedicated mountain athlete who enjoys exploring new lines in the Alps.



14

HOESH Finn GER

Finn Hoesh is a rising star in German ski mountaineering. He has already secured four German National Championship titles and multiple career wins. Finn's goal is to translate his youth success into a podium finish on the senior Olympic stage. Inspired by his father, Finn joined the World Cup circuit at just 19 years old. He emphasizes a "hit hard, recover" philosophy in his training and spends his summers trail running to maintain his aerobic engine when the snow is thin. As a Munich native, his favorite training grounds are in and around Tölz.



15

BOSACCI Michele ITA

Michele Boscacci is a legend of the sport, having won the Overall World Cup title three times (2016, 2018, 2022). With 42 career wins, his achievements include multiple gold medals at the World and European Championships. A veteran of the Italian "Esercito" team, Boscacci started skiing at age five, following in the footsteps of his father, Graziano Boscacci. He is married to fellow skimo champion Alba De Silvestro, forming the sport's most famous "power couple." When he isn't in the mountains, Michele manages his family agricultural business and has a deep passion for animals.



16

LODOEN Dalset Trym NOR

Trym Dalset Lødøen is a powerful Norwegian athlete who has dominated the national circuit. He has several top-20 finishes in the World Cup and is recognized for his immense physical strength and Nordic skiing engine. As part of the new wave of Norwegian skimo talent, Trym is a key player in the country's efforts to become a global powerhouse in the sport. Trym's daily life revolves around the rugged terrain of western Norway, where he trains in all conditions. Beyond skiing, he is a fan of all endurance sports and spends his summers cycling and running.



17

LIETHA Arno SUI

Arno Lietha is the 2019 Sprint World Champion and one of the most dominant sprinters in the sport's history, with 17 career wins and 10 World Cup victories. Heading into the 2026 Olympics, his singular goal is clear: to secure the first-ever Olympic gold medal in the sprint discipline. Arno followed his father and brother into the sport after a previous career in alpine ski racing. His life is defined by a unique balance; when he isn't training at an elite level, he works on his parents' farm, which he considers his second passion. His physical strength, partly attributed to his farm work, makes him a formidable opponent on the sprint course.



18

SIARNIK Jakub SVK

Jakub Šiarník is the most successful Slovak male skimo athlete of his generation, with career highlights including a 7th-place finish at the 2023 World Championships in the mixed relay and a 10th-place finish in the vertical. He is also a four-time winner of the Red Bull 400, a testament to his incredible uphill power. A true mountain enthusiast, Jakub is well-known for his "Partisans" project, an alpine crossing he completed to honor Slovak history. He is a prolific climber and trail runner, holding multiple speed records on the highest peaks of the High Tatras.





International Ski
Mountaineering
Federation

CONTACT

 press@ismf-ski.org



ISMF Headquarters
Avenue de Rhodanie 54
1007 Lausanne
Switzerland

ISMF Office
Via Sant'Agostino, 16
12084 Mondovì
Italy

Phone: +39 392 3566064
E-mail: office@ismf-ski.org
Web: www.ismf-ski.org