

+++ PRESS RELEASE INDOOR MEETING KARLSRUHE 2021 +++

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Europahalle Karlsruhe

Women's 60 metres: Swoboda, Asher-Smith, Del Ponte, and Pinto are guaranteeing word class at the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe

www.meeting-karlsruhe.de

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Watch the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe in SWR's live stream

A loud cry of joy filled the athletics arena in 2019. It was **Ewa Swoboda's** cry of joy. This happened immediately after she crossed the finish line of the women's 60 metres at the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe as its winner, thereby banishing Europe's sprint queen Dafne Schippers to second place. In general, 2019 was the year of this Polish woman. The 23-year-old secured the overall victory in the women's 60 metres following her victories at the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe and the two meetings in Torun and Madrid - as well as her second place in Düsseldorf. No more than a month after her meeting victory in Karlsruhe, Ewa Swoboda's gold medal in the indoor championships in Glasgow - where she also came ahead of Dafne Schippers - was the icing on the cake in terms of the athlete's top form. Having said that, it was even before this that Swoboda proved that she could one day make it big in athletics. In 2016, she achieved something sensational in her home country. At the meeting in Torun, she improved the U20 indoor record time to 7.07 which had, at that time, not been broken in 17 years. This remains the U20 world record to this day. One year later, she also won the silver medal at the European indoor championships in Belgrade.

At the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe 2021, she will meet **Dina Asher-Smith** and others. This means that she will be meeting the currently fastest women in the women's 200 metres (world champion in Doha 2019), who can even take on the sprint queens from Jamaica and the USA with her fast times. Regardless, Asher-Smith is among the absolute best of world-class athletes in women's sprint. At the European championships in Berlin in 2018, Asher-Smith won virtually everything there is to win. Her summary of what would appear to be one of the most successful championships of her career looks like this: gold for 100 metres, gold for 200 metres, and gold with the 4x 100 metre relay. Add to this, her international success at the Olympic Games in 2016, where she won the bronze medal. Asher-Smith's, who is 25 years old, indoor best is 7.08 seconds - only slightly below Swoboda's personal best.

In addition to this, **Ajla Del Ponte** will also be participating in the 60 metres. The Swiss woman, who originally began her career in heptathlon, might still be waiting for her truly big international successes, but she has quite a few international successes to show for herself. Two gold medals at the

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Universiade, the Students' World Championship, in 2017 and in 2019 with the 4x100 metre relay, silver in the 100 metres at the Universiade in 2019, as well as bronze in the relay at the U23 European Championships in 2017. All of these are among Del Pontes' greatest international successes. Last year, Del Ponte caught attention mostly in the Diamond League, as well as nationally. After winning at the Diamond League Meetings in Stockholm and Monaco for the first time, she also became Swiss 100 metres champion in September. In addition to this, she participated in last year's INDOOR MEETING. Back then, she came in second behind the USA's Shania Collins.

A German sprint star will also be there on 29 January. **Tatjana Pinto's** memories of the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe should be quite positive given that she won the 60 metre finals in 2018 in 7.10 seconds - ahead of Lisa Mayer and Asha Philip. If you look at Pinto's personal best of 7.06 seconds indoors, it becomes clear that the 28-year-old running for LC Paderborn does not need to hide from her competitors. One look at the trophies she has won makes this clear. She holds a total of four champion titles in the German outdoor championships, two in the indoor championships, as well as gold at European level (2012, with the 4x 100 metres relay) and two bronze medals at the European Championships (2016 and 2018, both in the 4x100m relay).

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this year's INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe is taking place without spectators. Having said that, fans will not have to do without athletics. You will be able to watch the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe in SWR's live stream. In addition to this, Baden TV will be broadcasting footage from the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe in the days after this.

You can find the exact schedule of the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe at www.meeting-karlsruhe.de.

Being a founding member of the World Athletics Indoor Tour, the athletics location of Karlsruhe has been an integral part of the international athletics calendar with its INDOOR MEETING since 2016. In 2021, the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe held on 29 January 2021 will mark the beginning of the World Athletics Indoor Tour. Other events include the meetings at Liévin, France (9 February), Boston, USA (13 February), Torun, Poland (17 February) as well as the conclusion of the tour in Madrid, Spain (24 February).

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