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Karlsruhe, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**28.01.2022**

Messe Karlsruhe

[meeting-karlsruhe.de](http://meeting-karlsruhe.de)

## **Pole Vault World Record Holder Armand Duplantis to Start World Indoor Tour Gold in Karlsruhe**

Germany's top pole vaulters compete / Stars in 12 disciplines / Advance ticket sales start on Wednesday / World Indoor Tour Gold worldwide in more than 36 countries / Meeting broadcast live for two hours on SWR Stream

The INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe has seen numerous Olympic champions, World and European champions as well as medallists of international championships in its 38-year history. Now another highlight is being added, because with the pole vault world record holder both outdoors and indoors, Armand Duplantis, "the high-flyer" of the pole vault scene has confirmed his start at the INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022. "I am really looking forward to Karlsruhe and the meeting. The indoor season is very important for me, also in terms of preparation for the summer," said Duplantis during a press conference virtually connected from the USA. "I have never been to Karlsruhe before, but I have already heard about this great meeting from many of my colleagues. If nobody has jumped the 6 metres in Karlsruhe so far, it's about time. And I want to be that person," Duplantis continued.

Duplantis has proven that he is already one of the best in his field at his young age. 2020 was arguably *the* year of Duplantis' career. At the beginning of February, he increased his personal indoor best to 6.00 metres. Only four days later, this was already history. At the World Indoor Tour in Torun, Poland, he broke Renaud Lavillenie's seven-year-old world record with a leap of 6.17 metres. On 15<sup>th</sup> February in Glasgow, he even improved his own world record to 6.18 metres. And the outdoor world record was not far behind. Sergei Bubka's record had stood for 26 years, and Duplanti's name has been at the top of the list since 17<sup>th</sup> September, when he cleared 6.15 metres at the Diamond League meeting in Rome.

### **Strong German line-up with Zernikel, Lita Baehre and Blech**

He is joined by Oleg Zernikel, Bo Kanda Lita Baehre and Torben Blech on the podium of the German Indoor Championships 2021 and thus a very strong German line-up at the INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe 2022. "I am very pleased that we have the three German top jumpers at the start in addition to Armand as the absolute top athletes," says Sports Director Alain Blondel, who is satisfied with the commitments so far.

Veranstalter:



Ausrichter:



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In February, Torben Blech from TSV Bayer 04 Leverkusen won with a jump of 5.72 metres, ahead of his club colleague Bo Kanda Lita Baehre and Oleg Zernikel from ASV Landau. Zernikel did better at the outdoor championships in Braunschweig in June this year. With a personal best of 5.80 metres, he not only secured the championship title on that day, but also the ticket for the Olympic Games in Tokyo, where Lita Baehre and Blech, among others, also competed. This means that the Olympic participants will meet again in Karlsruhe on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### **Athletics stars compete in 12 disciplines**

In addition to a strong pole vault field, INIT INDOOR MEETING fans can also look forward to other top athletics. The women will compete in the 60-metre hurdles, 400 metres, 1,500 metres and the high jump as part of the World Indoor Tour Gold. There will be the 60 and 800 metres as additional disciplines. The men will compete for points for the overall victory in the 800 and 3,000 metres as well as in the pole vault and triple jump. As additional disciplines, the audience can look forward to the 60 metre hurdles and long jump.

### **Meeting to be broadcast worldwide and nationally**

As part of the World Indoor Tour Gold, Karlsruhe and the INIT INDOOR MEETING are part of the Champions League of athletics. The competitions of the tour will be broadcast in a total of 36 countries and can be seen by millions on TV screens. In Germany, SWR will broadcast the INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe live in a stream from 8 PM to 10 PM. The meeting will also be shown on the website of the World Athletics Association. Regionally, a summary of the meeting will be broadcast on Baden TV.

### **Limited number of tickets on sale as of Wednesday**

Originally, advance ticket sales for the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe were to start on St. Nicholas Day. Around 3,000 tickets were supposed to go on sale then. Due to the new Corona regulation of the state of Baden-Württemberg, which came into force last Saturday, 750 visitors are allowed as of today. "We are doing our best to offer the athletes a great competition atmosphere even with a limited number of spectators," says Martin Wacker,

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Meeting Director and Managing Director of the organising Karlsruhe Marketing und Event GmbH. "We have to act sensibly and submit to the restrictions of the pandemic. However, we are hoping for changes so that we can add more contingents, depending on how the situation develops," Wacker continues.

With around 250 of the 750 tickets reserved for trusted partners and sponsors, a total of 500 tickets will go on sale to the general public on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December from 8:00 AM. These will be available online via Ticketmaster. Tickets in the seating category cost 39.50 euros, reduced 29.50 euros. In addition, standing room will also be available in the exhibition hall for the first time, at a price of 19.50 euros. Tickets are also available in the Karlsruhe shop window at the Tourist Information Office (Kaiserstraße 72-74, 76133 Karlsruhe) and at all known advance booking offices.

Karlsruhe and the INIT INDOOR MEETING will be the opening event of the World Indoor Tour Gold on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022. This means that Karlsruhe, as an athletics venue, will also be one of the seven meetings with gold status in 2022, the highest category in which an indoor meeting can be classified. Next year, the two meetings in New York (USA, 13<sup>th</sup> February) and Birmingham (GBR, 19<sup>th</sup> February), which could not take place last year due to the Corona pandemic, will also be returning to the calendar. The tour will also make stops in Boston (USA, 6<sup>th</sup> February), Liévin (FRA, 17<sup>th</sup> February), Torun (POL, 22<sup>nd</sup> February) and Madrid (SPA, 2<sup>nd</sup> March).

For more information on the INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe, please visit [www.meeting-karlsruhe.de](http://www.meeting-karlsruhe.de) and the meeting's social network channels.

[www.facebook.com/IndoorMeetingKarlsruhe](https://www.facebook.com/IndoorMeetingKarlsruhe)  
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[www.instagram.com/indoormeetingkarlsruhe](https://www.instagram.com/indoormeetingkarlsruhe)

#### **Various Stations of the World Indoor Tour Gold 2022:**

28/01/2022: INIT INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe (Karlsruhe, GER)  
29/01/2022: Millrose Games (New York, USA)  
06.02.2022: New Balance Indoor Grand Prix (Boston, USA)  
17/02/2022: Meeting Hauts-de-France Pas-de-Calais (Liévin, FRA)  
19/02/2022: Müller Indoor Grand Prix (Birmingham, GBR)  
22/02/2022: Copernicus Cup (Torun, POL)  
02/03/2022: Villa de Madrid (Madrid, ESP)

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