

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION

Blochstrasse 2
3653 Oberhofen/Thunersee
Switzerland
Tel +41 33 244 61 61
Fax +41 33 244 61 71

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jenny Wiedeke
FIS Communications Manager
Mobile: + 41 79 449 53 99
E-Mail: wiedeke@fisski.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIS MEDIA INFO**Falun stages unforgettable FIS Nordic Ski World Championships**

The FIS Nordic World Ski Championships 2015 in Falun (SWE) concluded on Sunday, 1st March after an extremely successful 12 days of Cross Country, Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined action.

Altogether, 14 different nations won medals, with Norway and Germany having the most success. The Norwegians were strong across all disciplines, taking home 20 total medals including an impressive 14 in Cross Country. The Norwegians also topped the medal table for gold medals with 11 in total. Germany also had much success making it to the top of the podium, with five of the nation's eight total medals being gold. Host Sweden closed the World Championships with nine medals (2G, 4S, 3B).

In Cross Country, the top athletes individually were Therese Johaug (NOR), who took home three gold medals, while Sweden's Charlotte Kalla was the hero for the home nation, earning four total medals. On the men's side, Petter Northug Jr. capped off a strong comeback with four gold medals. Johan Olsson (SWE) also picked up a gold, silver and bronze medal.

In Ski Jumping, Germany's Severin Freund and Norway's Rune Velta were the men's top athletes. Freund earned two gold medals in addition to a silver, while Velta had a memorable World Championships earning a medal of each colour, including two golds after leading Norway to the team event title yesterday. Carina Vogt (GER) took home both of the gold medals in the ladies' competitions.

France and Germany shared the honours in Nordic Combined with Johannes Rydzek claiming a medal in all four Nordic Combined competitions, with gold in the normal hill individual Gundersen in addition to anchoring Germany to its first Team Event gold medal in 28 years. Jason Lamy-Chappuis won gold in the large hill individual competition as well as leading France to glory in the team sprint.

Saturday, 21st February brought the most fans to Lugnet Arena. More than 45,000 fans packed the stadium to cheer on men's and ladies' Cross Country skiathlon and the Ski Jumping normal hill. In total, the Falun Organising Committee exceeded all expectations for ticket sales, well over the goal of 200,000 total tickets as in the end they sold 228,000 tickets.

It was also an international atmosphere as fans from many different nations, including Finland, Germany, Poland, Austria, Switzerland and France, but in particular from nearby Norway flocked to Falun in great numbers to cheer on their athletes. The Falun 2015 Organisers estimate that 65 percent of the spectators came from outside of Sweden for the competitions.

At the closing press conference FIS Secretary General Sarah Lewis stated "These have been memorable and excellently organised World Championships. From the Opening Ceremony to today's closing 50 km race, both the sport and the Nordic Festival have been expertly presented. The athletes, teams and spectators have enjoyed Nordic events at the highest possible standard."

The Swedish weather also cooperated very well during the two weeks. The only competition postponement was to the first Nordic Combined competition on the first day. Athletes and especially the spectators enjoyed mild temperatures, which however meant there was considerable work to prepare the snow on the courses and hills at Lugnet Arena.

Outside of the competitions, the programme at the Medals Plaza was a massive success. With free concerts prior to the ceremonies and the national television stations from Sweden (SVT) and Norway (NRK) broadcasting live from their studios, it created a festive atmosphere for the athletes to collect their prizes.

Falun 2015 Organising Committee CEO Sven von Holst said, "We have created a competition venue for Nordic skiing where skiers and spectators integrate in a way that creates a fantastic atmosphere. Our vision was to arrange Championships beyond all expectations. Thanks to fantastic volunteers and engaged partners we feel that we succeeded in reaching it."

Facts and Figures

- 281,600 spectators at the races
- 70,000 visitors at Medal Plaza and other WSC activities besides the competitions
- 1,250 accredited media representatives
- 1,600 volunteers
- 58 nations
- 701 athletes
- 47,670 Falun 2015 Facebook Likes

The FIS Nordic World Ski Championships 2017 will be held in Lahti (FIN).

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About FIS

FIS, founded in 1924, is the governing body for international skiing and snowboarding. Recognised by the International Olympic Committee, FIS manages the Olympic disciplines of Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined, Freestyle Skiing and Snowboarding and sets the international competition rules. Through its 122 nations, more than 7'000 FIS ski and snowboard competitions are staged annually. Specific initiatives are undertaken by FIS to promote snow activities, notably for the young.