

Everyone's Included: Involvement and Diversity at the Eschborn–Frankfurt Cycling Classic

The Eschborn–Frankfurt Cycling Classic is more than just a major sporting event for professionals, amateur riders, and young athletes – it also stands as a powerful symbol of belonging and diversity. Two inclusive races, the VGF Inclusion Race and the VGF Handbike Race, have become a firmly established part of May 1st in the Main metropolis – in line with the motto of the Verkehrsgesellschaft Frankfurt (VGF): “Everyone rides.”

Together to the Finish: Inclusion Race with Frankfurt Students

Around 40 students from the Paul-Hindemith School and the Panoramaschule – a special needs school focused on cognitive development – will take part in a unique experience during the Inclusion Race. Forming mixed pairs, they ride one lap of the closed-off race circuit through downtown Frankfurt, cheered on by thousands of spectators just like the pros.

Under the motto “Together to the finish,” the tandems encourage one another, demonstrate team spirit, and celebrate their achievements with a dedicated medal ceremony on the stage at the Alte Oper. The aim: to promote social skills, boost self-confidence, and let young people experience the joy of movement through cycling.

Handbike Race: A Highlight of the ADAC Velotour

Also an integral part of the program is the Handbike Race, traditionally held as part of the ADAC Velotour along the 40-kilometer Skyline Route. Starting from their own designated block, around 30 handcyclists race through the streets of Frankfurt and the Vordertaunus – a physically demanding route with plenty of enthusiastic support along the way.

Back on the start line this year: Vico Merklein, Paralympic gold medalist and multiple world champion in handcycling. A long-time fan of the event and resident of Langstadt, Merklein has already won the handbike race three times.

“Usually I’m stuck in traffic in Frankfurt – but on May 1st, riding here is just a huge amount of fun,” he says with a wink.

Inclusion as Lived Reality

The VGF has long supported both races as an official partner, reinforcing its commitment to an inclusive urban society.

“‘Everyone rides’ isn’t just a slogan for us – it’s something we live by. Every year, the Cycling Classic shows



how sport brings people together and fosters inclusion – both on and off the course,” say Kerstin Jerchel and Thomas Raasch, members of the VGF management team.

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