

More than just an elite race: Eschborn-Frankfurt delivers pure cycling

Although the elite of the Eschborn-Frankfurt race is the focus of the cycling classic on May 1, the promotion of young talent in all age groups is also very important around the professional event. And even all amateur athletes and fans will get their money's worth.

Elite Race sticks to its recipe for success

With just under 204 kilometers, the double Feldberg crossing and the three-time passage of the Mammolshainer Stich, the route of the elite race has not changed compared to last year. However, the character of the race could change. This year, there are far more classics specialists on the provisional start list than in 2023, with defending champion Sören Kragh Andersen (Alpecin - Deceuninck), Marc Hirschi (UAE Team Emirates) and Maxim Van Gils (Lotto Dstny) leading the list of experts for hilly terrain.

But even the sprinters are not at a loss, as last year showed, when the fast men finished just a few seconds behind the leaders. With Alex Aranburu (Movistar), Mike Teunissen (Intermarché - Wanty) or the four-time Frankfurt winner Alexander Kristoff (Uno-X Mobility), the more mountain-resistant of their kind are also well represented. Almost all of the 14 teams from the UCI WorldTour - never before have so many of the best teams in the world been there - have a potential candidate for victory.

From a German perspective, Pascal Ackermann (Israel - Premier Tech) and Max Walscheid (Jayco AlUla) in particular are hoping for a sprint finish. Local heroes John Degenkolb (dsm-firmenich PostNL) and Jonas Rutsch (EF Education - EasyPost) may find the going a little tougher, while Nils Politt (UAE Team Emirates) would normally also benefit. If it gets really tough, Maximilian Schachmann (Bora - hansgrohe) and Georg Zimmermann (Intermarché - Wanty) are the trump cards for a home win.

The pros start in Eschborn at 12:05 p.m. and are expected to arrive in Frankfurt around five hours later for the final. Hessischer Rundfunk will be there live the whole time, broadcasting the race in its entirety on television and in a live stream on [hessenschau.de](https://www.hessenschau.de). Of course, fans can also be there live along the route. Many route festivals, including one on the Feldberg this year, offer ideal opportunities to do so. At [verkehr.eschborn-frankfurt.de](https://www.verkehr.eschborn-frankfurt.de) you can find the passage times of the pros and all other fields at the key points of the courses.

From the U23s to the U11s: young talent gets into position

Like the elite, the U23 also has to cross the Feldberg twice at Eschborn-Frankfurt this year, which extends the distance to 129 kilometers. However, the youngsters do not have to torture themselves over the Mammolshainer Stich. Otherwise, the route is similar to that of the elite race. 26 teams from 12 nations will be at the start to fight for victory in the renowned junior classic, which has also been won by Mads Pedersen and Fabio Jakobsen in the past. This year, the U23 will start at 12:25 in Eschborn, shortly after the pros. They are expected to cross the finish line in front of the Alte Oper in Frankfurt at 15:30.



The Süwag Energie Junior Cup races are held in the urban canyons beforehand. All age groups between U11 and U17 take part and have almost the whole morning to themselves. The various age groups complete several laps of the 6.6-kilometre professional circuit in Frankfurt city center. Later, the focus is on having fun when the kids cross the finish line in the children's Joy of Moving mini tour in the bike races or the bike parade with former pro Jens Voigt.

10,000 participants in the fully booked Škoda Velotour

For some, the focus of the Škoda Velotour is on the joy of cycling, while for others it is also a competitive event. A total of 10,000 amateur cyclists have registered, which means that the available starting places have once again been exhausted, although the limit has been raised by 2,000 places compared to the previous year. Three quarters of all starters opted for the Taunus Classic, the longest route at 103 kilometers. Between 8:45 am and 9:50 am, all participants will start in Eschborn, where they will also finish their races.