

Dear Sir or Madam,
dear Friends of the Ski Jumping Sports,

In January 2021 the Mühlenkopf Hill in Willingen will once again be the venue for a FIS Ski Jumping World Cup. Even if this ski jumping event has to take place under special conditions due to the Corona pandemic, the Upland region is already looking forward to the great sporting event.

For more than 25 years, the World Cup days have been one of the most important and beautiful times of the year in Willingen. For many of us, ski jumping has been a matter of the heart for a long time; a large part of the people living here identify themselves with the event and get involved in the organization and execution of ski jumping competitions on a voluntary basis. Thus ski jumping has become an outstanding sporting and social event in our community affecting and bringing people together. But also the economic effects are considerable, because the FIS Ski Jumping World Cup has made Willingen known all over the world as a winter sports and vacation resort.

Obviously, the focus is on international sports. The world's best ski jumpers meet in fair competitions and captivate the spectators with their remarkable sporting achievements. We have often been able to experience competitions in Willingen that were hard to beat in terms of excitement. And it is precisely against this backdrop that the fundamental importance of sports in our society is repeatedly demonstrated in Willingen. Sports connects people; sports transcends all boundaries because people from different nations and cultures come together in sports.

In order to make such a sporting event possible, the cooperation of many associations, clubs, authorities, private companies and other organizations is necessary, and I would like to thank all of them for their support. But a very special thanks goes to the many volunteers contributing to the event every year with great energy. As "Free Willis" these committed volunteers became known far beyond the local community boundaries. An event without Free Willis would be unthinkable. My recognition and respect also belongs to the responsible persons of the Ski-Club Willingen. For decades, they have selflessly committed themselves to ski jumping with energy and perseverance. Their high level of professionalism has always ensured an excellent organization and realization of the event, even under the most difficult circumstances.

These responsible persons will be additionally challenged in the 2021 competitions by the Corona pandemic restrictions. This time we will all experience different competitions than we are used to. But we must accept the circumstances as they are and do our best. I am convinced that the Ski-Club and all other parties involved will succeed in doing so.

With this in mind, I am looking forward to the FIS Ski Jumping World Cup in Willingen. I wish the event a good course, the athletes much success and the spectators exciting competitions. It is a special pleasure for me to be the patron of this ski jumping event. I consider this to be a great honor and would like to thank the Ski-Club Willingen very much.

Kind regards,
Thomas Trachte, Mayor