

WORLD ATHLETICS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS **BELGRADE 22**

NEWSLETTER **1**



HISTORICAL DAY FOR SERBIAN ATHLETICS - BELGRADE WILL HOST WORLD ATHLETICS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

Following the organisation of the European Cross Country Championships in 2013 and the European Athletics Indoor Championships in 2017, Serbia will host the crème de la crème of the world's athletics elite!

From 18 to 20 of March 2022, athletes from

more than 200 countries all around the world will compete in the Serbian capital.

At the World Athletics Council Meeting in Monaco, a delegation of 7 members presented Belgrade as a candidate to host the World Athletics Indoor Championships 2022.

Since Serbia has a reputation of being one of the best organisers of international sports events, it was no surprise it was acknowledged by all members of the Council.

This will be the biggest sporting event ever organised in the region!

CROUSER DOMINANT AGAIN WITH 22.59M IN BELGRADE

Ryan Crouser celebrated his first ever visit to Serbia by unleashing another tremendous series of throws to comprehensively dominate the Belgrade city centre shot put competition, with his first round 22.59m being his best effort but having all five of his valid throws in excess of 22.32m on Thursday (17).

The Olympic champion was in the Serbian capital, along with his US compatriot and world champion Joe Kovacs, to promote the World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade 22 in the wake of the recent launch of the official logo for the competition.

Crouser looked relaxed from the outset in ideal conditions for good distances with the temperatures still in the low 20s even with sun having gone down over Belgrade's iconic Republic Square.

Despite spectators being restricted to about 400 people due to Covid-19 restrictions, he was greeted enthusiastically every time he entered the circle.



His first effort went out to what was to be his winning distance of 22.59m to ensure his seventh straight win well beyond 22 metres. In fact, since setting a world-leading mark and personal best of 22.91m in July to start his streak of 22-metre competitions, his shortest winning distance has been 22.43m. Crouser's full series was 22.59m, 22.32m, foul, 22.57m, 22.55m, 22.37m to bring the curtain down on his summer season. Before

today no athlete had ever thrown beyond 22 metres on Serbian soil.

"I'm happy overall with my throws, especially the three throws over 22.50m," said Crouser. "It shows consistency and good distances, and when I get consistent it usually signals I'm ready for another leap forward."

It was clear that Crouser was indirectly indicating that the long-standing world record of 23.12m, which has stood to USA's Randy Barnes for more than 30 years since 20 May 1990, could well be under threat in 2021, as if people were not already of that likelihood already.

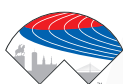
"And I was hoping to get 23 metres tonight but this competition still really excited me with the music and crowds. Most of the time I've been competing in front of 50 people, so it was great to get a big crowd. I love events like this where we can move it out of the stadium and into the city centre and the streets."



"This year has been really difficult for everyone, but it's also ignited my passion for the sport," he added. "Just finding ways of training, I've been on sidewalks and parks. Of course, it hasn't been optimal training and I'm not as strong as previous years because I've been doing a lot of my training in a garage. What makes me pleased is that I set a goal of competing this summer (despite all the problems) and committed to it 100 per cent."

Kovacs, who battled with technical issues throughout the competition, finished almost two metres in arrears of Crouser in second place with a relatively modest 20.61m.

"I'm definitely not happy as I was expecting to get



around 21.30m or closer to the 22-metre line but, hey, two weeks ago I didn't know whether I would have any competitions this summer," said Kovacs, sporting a heavy strapping on the wrist of his right throwing arm.

It would certainly be unwise to write off Kovacs as an Olympic medal contender on the evidence of one poor performance on Thursday.

At the pre-event press conference, he admitted that since the Olympic Games were postponed, he has used this season to regenerate his body and heal some minor injuries and hopes to have an extensive indoor season from the start of next year.



ONE YEAR TO GO – WORLD ATHLETICS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS BELGRADE22

A unique countdown clock called “The World on the Track” has been unveiled to mark the one year to go milestone ahead of the World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade22. Its role is to symbolically mark 365 days until the beginning of the biggest sporting even in Serbia.

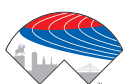
The design idea is to show a map of the world on an athletics track. Belgrade, the host city, is in its centre, as a symbol for the entire athletics world heading to the city. A “clock” crowned with a logo of the World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade22 comes out of the athletics track. This magnificent clock is placed at Terazije Square.

Terazije Square is the central and most famous Belgrade square located between major crossroads. It was created at the beginning of the 19th century to the order of Prince Milos Obrenovic. It was named after the water tower, which played an important role in supplying the city with water, and in 1860 the Terazije fountain was installed at that place, which still adorns this Belgrade square. The most famous hotels, cafes and shops are located here and in the vicinity of the square as well as many historical and cultural sites of the City of Belgrade.

In the official presentation of the clock on Thursday (18), the most important officials of the World Athletics Indoor Championships addressed us: President of the Local Organising Committee,

Slobodan Brankovic, Deputy Mayor of Belgrade, Goran Vesic, President of the Serbian Athletics Federation, Veselin Jevrosimovic, and Minister of Youth and Sports of Serbia and President of the Organising Board, Vanja Udovicic.

Brankovic said: “There is only one year left until the beginning of the World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade22. I am proud that Belgrade got this clock “The World on the Track” that counts down the time until the biggest



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sporting event held in Serbia begins. Today, we have also launched the official website of the World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade22 – where you can find all the information about the event we host. I would take this opportunity to invite the whole world to join us next year in Belgrade so that we can all celebrate athletics together.

Vesic said: “Belgrade will be the centre of the world and the World Athletics Indoor Championships will probably be the most important sporting event in the upcoming year. What Mr. Jevrosimovic has done illustrates what the right people in the right places are able to do for their sports.”

In his address, Jevrosimovic noted: “We are exactly 365 days away from the World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade22 – the biggest sporting event in our country which will be organised by the Serbian Athletics Federation.

We have named this clock “The World on the Track” because in one year’s time Belgrade will be the centre of the world. I would like to thank the City of Belgrade and the Ministry of Youth and Sports for their help in staging this event.”

Udovicic said: “There is one year of preparation, mutual hard work and dedication ahead of us until we reach the goal which is hosting the world athletics competition in our Serbia. I believe that we will prove, as we did many times before, that for a reason we are considered the best host who goes an extra mile, and that we will once again show the international sports audience that Serbia is a country of sports in every way possible.”

By symbolically pressing the start button, the clock has officially started the countdown to the beginning of the World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade22.



WORLD ATHLETICS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS BELGRADE22 LOGO UNVEILED

Organisers of the World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade22 have launched the event’s official logo at a ceremony in the Serbian capital’s City Hall today.

More than 1000 athletes from around 150 countries are expected to participate in the Championships which are set to take place from 18 to 20 March 2022.

To get inspiration for the logo, the designers drew upon the culture and heritage of both Serbia and Belgrade as well as the impact that athletics has on everyone’s lives.

The most important and historic buildings and landmarks in Belgrade – the monument to Prince Mihailo, Belgrade Palace, the Kalemegdan Fortress,

and the Ada Bridge – are represented within the World Athletics graphic which embodies the organisation’s initials and incorporates the image representing an athletics track in the colours of the Serbian flag.

“This is an exciting milestone for the City of Belgrade, the host of 2022 World Indoor Championships, as it reveals a logo that represents both its culture and ambitions as a sporting city,” World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said. “In just 18 months, Belgrade will welcome the global athletics community and we are confident that our Local Organising Committee will be well-prepared and will deliver a highly successful event for athletes and fans from around the world. I am very much looking forward to being there and seeing our athletes put on a show.”

The Minister of Youth and Sports, Vanja Udovicic, the Deputy Mayor of the City of Belgrade, Goran

Vesic, the President of the Serbian Athletics Federation, Veselin Jevrosimovic, and the Local Organising Committee Director, Slobodan Brankovic have been present on today's launch.

“Serbia, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Serbian Athletics Federation, and the City of Belgrade have great honour to host this big international sporting event,” Udovicic said. “This will be a great opportunity to remind the world that Serbia knows how to organise the greatest international sporting events and the World Athletics Indoor Championships will not be just a sporting event, it will also be an opportunity for our capital city to open its doors to the visitors from all around the world.”

Vesic added: “This is important for our country, the city, and for our sports. To host a world athletics championship, whether outdoors or indoors, means to host one of the most high-profile sporting events in the world after the Olympic Games and the World Cup. We will do our best to justify the trust the World Athletics has placed in us and we believe that these World Athletics Indoor Championships will be the springboard to successfully hosting other major events here so that Belgrade becomes the sports capital of the part of Europe.”

The combination of elements in the logo will serve as a potent reminder of the values and prestige this competition will have when it takes place in 2022.

“Belgrade hosted the 2017 European Athletics Indoor Championships, which was a huge success,” Jevrosimovic said. “We showed Europe just how well we can organise major sporting events on a continental scale. In 2022, our ambitions are global,

and I believe we will build on our achievements and experience from three years ago to stage an outstanding event.”

Belgrade is well known as a sports city and is especially famous for its football teams. It is the largest city in Balkan region and has been a hospitable and enthusiastic host of many major events, both sporting and non-sporting ones, in the recent past.

The city's tourism infrastructure is growing every year and there are now more than 100 hotels in Belgrade, an increase of more than 50% in less than a decade.

It boasts modern sports facilities, such as the Belgrade Arena, and has excellent connections between the airport and competition and training venues, all being vital assets to successfully hosting a sporting event of the magnitude of Belgrade22. Brankovic said: “This is the biggest event in the history of Serbian sports. Serious work awaits us in creating the best conditions not only for the athletes, but also athletics fans. For us, these world championships are not just competitions that last for three days. Everything we do is also dedicated to the long-term impact of having such an event here in Belgrade. We are looking to the future and want to promote sports in the years ahead and act as advocates for healthy living habits across our entire nation.”

The next promotional event for Belgrade22 organisers is “GET TO...22”, an innovative world-class shot put competition which will be held in the centre of the city, on Republic Square, on Thursday 17 September. Several of the world's shot putters are expected to compete.





APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS ARE OPEN!

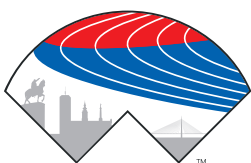
The World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade22 is inviting volunteers to join organisation of the biggest athletics competition ever held in Serbia.

Such an event cannot be successfully organised without the support of a large number of volunteers that will be engaged in 11 different departments.

Applications to volunteer will open on 5 May and will close on 30 December. People interested in volunteering can apply through the World Athletics Indoor Championship Belgrade22 website: wabelgrade22.com

Applications are open to all citizens of the Republic of Serbia who are older than 15, and to all foreign citizens considered adult under the legislation of their countries of origin.

“Our goal is to attract as many young people as possible. Volunteers at the World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade22 will have the opportunity to gain new experiences, friendships and work in a big and harmonious team. Through their training for the competition including workshops and team building, they will create lots of beautiful memories.” said Maja Antonic, the Volunteer Department Manager.



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