# Junior World Ski Championships Val di Fassa
# The participating nations are 56

This is the number of nations registered for the 38th edition of the under-21 Junior World Ski Championships, which will see 500 skiers from 56 countries taking to the slopes.

This is a record in terms of attendance for the Junior World Ski Championships, achieved thanks to the entry of the last hour of the Lithuania team, followed by that of Romania, which brought the final count to 56. This fact says a lot about the interest around the event, favoured by the high quality standards guaranteed by the staff of the organizing committee and by the appeal exercised both by the location and by the tracks proposed for the Junior World Ski Championships, often chosen as training center by many national teams - the Italian one above all, which has its training center in Val di Fassa since 2006 - and already the scene of many events of an international nature.

From 18 to 27 February, therefore, the Val di Fassa will be visited by representatives of 56 countries from all five continents. In addition to all the major European national teams, led by Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Finland, there will be also Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia, the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, as well as Australia and New Zealand and Kenya and Madagascar.

The competition programme will be spread over 10 days, with 11 world champion titles and 33 medals up for grabs, awarded in the two locations of Pozza di Fassa (for the technical competitions) and San Pellegrino (for downhill and SuperG).

At Passo San Pellegrino and Alpe di Lusia, the Italian Sofia Goggia, who took off from Val di Fassa towards the podium at the World Championships in Are, immediately won the silver medal in superG, starting again with her training after the injury at the beginning of the season. The other champions of the Italian team Federica Brignone, Marta Bassino, Dominik Paris and Christof Innerhofer also refined their preparation on the snow of Fassa, which also hosted the training of some leading athletes on the world scene such as the Slovenian Ilka Stuhec, the Olympic medalist Frida Hansdotter, the other Julia Scheib (junior world champion in charge) and Katharina Liensberger and last year also Lindsey Vonn. The presence of 56 national teams will ensure even greater visibility at international level to the event, which will be broadcasted by tv channels and media around the world.

For the Junior World Ski Championships, it is already a record even before the start, because never in the history of the most important event reserved for the under-21s had there been such a massive participation in terms of nations represented. The last in order of registration is Lithuania, which has thus allowed to reach a record at the Organizing Committee Trentino, while among the most curious there will be the suits and flags of Madagascar, Taiwan, Kenya, Malaysia, Brazil, Philippines, Puerto Rico and China.

From February 18 to 27 the slopes of Val di Fassa will therefore have the honour of officially consecrating the new talents of alpine skiing, thanks to the precious work of the Organizing Committee chaired by Davide Moser, but also of the two sports clubs that are responsible for the technical aspects, namely the Ski Team Fassa for the technical disciplines and the Unione sportiva Monti Pallidi for the fast ones, with the precious contribution of the Val di Fassa Tourist Board.

Not too long ago, athletes such as Henrik Kristoffersen, winner of six under-21 titles, and Marcel Hirscher, who collected three gold medals, triumphed, while both Lindsey Vonn and Mikaela Shiffrin were on the podium, but never on the top.

Olympic downhill champion Sofia Goggia did not get much in the two Junior World Ski Championships appearances, only highlighting herself in the downhill (sixth place) on the slopes of the French location of Mont Blanc in the 2010 edition, where in the same year Federica Brignone (bronze in giant at Pyeongchang) got a silver in the giant slalom. In Garmisch Partenkirchen she also won the gold medal in the Alpine combined. The last prodigy that the Junior World Ski Championships is the Swiss Marco Odermatt, who last February on the home slopes of Davos, has conquered five gold medals in the various disciplines, a historic result for a champion who will surely stand out immediately even in the World Cup. In the Graubünden area, the Italian Alex Vinatzer obtained a silver medal in slalom. Vinatzer himself is certainly the most eagerly awaited Italian for the Junior World Ski Championships together with Lara Della Mea. Both contributed to the bronze medal in the team event at the World Championships in Aare. Each country can bring a maximum of 16 athletes, enrolling in each race a maximum of 4 skiers in addition to 2 first tier as FIS scores, advantage that can have only the strongest nations.

For Val di Fassa, the Junior World Ski Championships represent an extraordinary opportunity for visibility on television and media around the world, guaranteed by Infront Sports & Media, thanks to the collaboration of Fisi and the Autonomous Province of Trento. In fact, there will be three live television broadcasts on the main international broadcasters, as well as highlights of all the competitions.