

Press release

A new CSIO Youth in Switzerland

First International Zurich Youth Masters to take place in 2022 at the Horse Park Zurich-Dielsdorf

Zurich, 5. October 2021 - From 25 to 28 August 2022, the best European young riders will compete at the very first Zurich Youth Masters at the Horse Park Zurich-Dielsdorf, Switzerland. On four days international show jumping competitions for youngsters in various age groups are planned: A CSI-P for pony riders, a CSIO with Nations Cup in the categories Children (U14) and Juniors (U18), and a CSI-U25 as a qualifier for the final of the European Youngster Cup (EY-Cup), which serves as a springboard for young riders to join the world's elite. The best Swiss riders will receive wildcards for the CHI Geneva (U25) and the CHI Basel (Ch, J). The Organising Committee around initiator and event director Yves von Ballmoos has officially sent the application for the tournament to the Swiss Equestrian Federation SEF and the Fédération Équestre Internationale FEI. The event is organised under the patronage of the "Suisse Youth Jumping Academy" SYJA. Alongside with numerous sponsors and partners, BDO Switzerland, Grand Hotel Les Trois Rois and Tommy Hilfiger Equestrian have already agreed to be the main sponsors.

With the Zurich Youth Masters, an international youngster tournament in show jumping will take place for the first time at the Horse Park Zurich-Dielsdorf, one of the most modern and spacious equestrian facilities in Switzerland. On the newly renovated showground (5,000 m²) a total of 20 show jumping competitions in the categories CSIO-Ch, CSIO-J, CSI-P and CSI-U25 (EY-Cup) with obstacle heights between 110 cm and 145 cm are on the schedule. The key dates for the competitions are already known. The provisional programme is published on the website of the Zurich Youth Masters Association. The official announcements will follow as soon as possible.

An international stage for young Swiss riders

More than 150 riders are expected to take part in the first Zurich Youth Masters with more than 300 horses from Switzerland and abroad. To make the journey, the stay, and the competition as pleasant and

successful as possible for the participants and guests, the organisers are offering extensive services, such as the free handling of customs formalities with free passes for all horses. Two large indoor riding arenas, permanent stables, and mobile guest horse stalls at the Horse Park Zurich-Dielsdorf, as well as plenty of surrounding area and sufficient space for transporters and trucks are at the disposal of the young riders and their entourage expected from Switzerland and all over Europe.

World-class Swiss youth show jumping

Yves von Ballmoos, initiator and President of the Organising Committee of the Zurich Youth Masters, says on the motivation and objectives for the new horse show: "This is a big premiere for us. We want to show top international youth jumping sport in Switzerland and offer the best conditions and an ideal platform for horses and young riders of all ages and performance levels. For more than a decade, there has not been an international youngster tournament in Switzerland during the outdoor season, although Switzerland has been one of the top nations internationally in the categories Children (U14), Juniors (U18) and Young Riders (U21) for many years. »

And Yves von Ballmoos continues: "We want to offer young riders a stage where they can measure themselves against international competitors in front of a local audience. This is something that has been missing in Switzerland up to now, apart from the international youth tournament in Chevenez JU. In addition, it offers a large circle of young Swiss riders the chance to compete internationally or even to make their international debut."

Performance in front of the home crowd

The Swiss young riders were most recently successful at the FEI Jumping European Championships 2021 in Vilamoura (POR). The team led by Chef d'Equipe Cornelia Notz with Linus Hanselmann, Gaëtan Joliat, Noah Keller, Thibaut Keller and Géraldine Straumann won the silver medal behind Belgium and ahead of Great Britain. "The young riders of today are the future of tomorrow," says Cornelia Notz, who is also the project manager of the "Suisse Youth Jumping Academy" SYJA. "However, for a comprehensive promotion of young talents, the availability of the appropriate horses and the entire environment in this sport are also of very great importance. To reach top international level, the youngsters train hard every day and miss out on a lot of things, they must reconcile education, training and sport. With their parents, trainers, and horses, they travel to the important CSIOs in Europe and often cover many thousands of kilometres, with the aim of qualifying for the annual European Championships. It is therefore very welcome and extremely

gratifying that with the Zurich Youth Masters a CSIO for young riders and upcoming talents will once again be held outdoors in Switzerland."

Under the patronage of the Suisse Youth Jumping Academy

The Zurich Youth Masters is organised under the patronage of the "Suisse Youth Jumping Academy" SYJA. The aim of this promotion project, which the Straumann family from Riehen, Basel (SUI), has been supporting since 2018 in cooperation with the SEF, is to promote the sound equestrian training of young talents in show jumping, with a practical focus on dressage, jumping as well as theory and mental training. It is primarily aimed at the national squads in the categories pony, children, junior and young rider and complements the existing SVPS young rider promotion programme.

The stars of tomorrow at the Zurich Youth Masters

For a long-term and comprehensive promotion of young riders, opportunities to start and gain experience at national and international tournaments are essential and important. At the Zurich Youth Masters, the young riders can compare themselves and put themselves in the limelight. And perhaps there might be some of the future stars of equestrian sport among them. Many former Swiss young riders today are among the world's most successful athletes at the elite level and are the current figureheads of Swiss show jumping. Just to be mentioned, besides Steve Guerdat (Olympic champion, three-time World Cup champion, European team champion, third at the World Equestrian Games, won team bronze twice at the European Championships for Juniors and Young Riders) and Martin Fuchs (second at the World Equestrian Games and European champion in the individual and team competitions at the elite level, won both titles formerly also at the European Championships for Young Riders), the former European Young Riders Champion and today's shooting star Bryan Balsiger, who has just won gold with the Swiss team at the recent European Championships at the elite level, is also the most successful U25 rider worldwide in 2021.

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High-resolution images and **logos** of the Zurich Youth Masters (ZYM) are available on request and can be downloaded from the website www.youth-masters.ch in the "Press" section.

Caption (Photo of the press release):

The Organising Committee of the Zurich Youth Masters (from right to left): Yves von Ballmoos (President of the OC); Matthias Lienhop (Sport & Tournament Administration); Simone Segantini (Hospitality); Pedro Mor (Communications & Media); Philipp Jöhr (Infrastructure); Toni Laurino (Sponsoring).

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Interviews with exponents of the Zurich Youth Masters can be found continuously on the website in the "News" section:

- Yves von Ballmoos, initiator and event director Zurich Youth Masters
- Cornelia Notz, Responsible for the Swiss Youth Jumping Squad, Project Manager Suisse Youth Jumping Academy SYJA
- Martin Koller, CEO Barney & Baxter AG, representative main sponsor Tommy Hilfiger Equestrian

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