



**January 23-24, 2027 | Lago di Tesero Cross-Country Stadium | Trentino (ITA)**

## **43<sup>rd</sup> SKIRI TROPHY XCOUNTRY**

The Skiri Trophy XCountry is the most important international appointment dedicated to young cross-country skiing talents. This iconic Italian event will celebrate its 43<sup>rd</sup> edition on the weekend of January 23 and 24, 2027, in Trentino—more specifically in Val di Fiemme, the land of cross-country skiing and home of the legendary Franco Nones. At the 1968 Winter Olympics in Grenoble, Nones wrote the greatest chapter in the history of Italian cross-country skiing, becoming the first Olympic champion from outside Sweden, Norway, Finland, and the Soviet Union, which, until then, had been the undisputed leaders of the sport. However, his contribution to cross-country skiing and to his region went far beyond the medal. His story reflects a generation that found in the mountains and the snow the passion, strength, and determination to build something special. A culture that, over the years, has nurtured Val di Fiemme's commitment to youth cross-country skiing as well: a tradition that has transformed a love for snow and sport into a shared heritage among entire communities. It was in this context that the Topolino Trophy—now known as the Skiri Trophy XCountry—was born. It is the result of the passion of those who have always believed in the value of cross-country skiing and, above all, in its young athletes. Among them was Franco Nones himself, one of the first presidents of the organizing committee.

The Skiri Trophy XCountry takes place at the Cross-Country Stadium of Lago di Tesero, which about eight months ago hosted the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The stadium is considered among the four most important and historic venues worldwide for cross-country skiing: it is the only facility in the world to have hosted three World Championships (1991, 2003, and 2013), an edition of the Winter World University Games (2013) and the Olympic and Paralympic Games, in addition to being a regular venue for the World Cup and, in 2028, host to the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

This prestigious venue will host the 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Skiri Trophy XCountry, with the Under-10, Under-12, Under-14, and Under-16 boys' and girls' categories taking centre stage, along with regional teams and national delegations from Italy, Europe and around the world. The competitions, both fun and thrilling, range from 1.2 km courses for the youngest, up to a maximum of 5.6 km for the oldest athletes.

The Skiri Trophy XCountry is a true international touchstone for new generations of cross-country skiing and a special opportunity to compete and have fun with peers who share the same passion, while experiencing a high-level international setting.

Over the course of its long history, the manifestation has welcomed among its participants several athletes who went on to become stars on the Olympic stage: from Olympic champion Cristian Zorzi to Sabina Valbusa, who won bronze in the relay at Torino 2006; to the Slovenian athletes Petra Majdič, who won bronze in the sprint at Vancouver 2010, and Vesna Fabjan, bronze medallist in the sprint at the 2014 Sochi Olympic Games, all the way to the more recent Davide Graz and Martino Carollo, both medallists in the relay at the 2026 Milano Cortina Olympic Games.

Drawing on its long experience, the GS Castello di Fiemme organising committee, with Franco Nones now serving as its honorary president, is, as always, in charge of preparing the event. As per tradition, the committee will offer numerous exciting activities to liven up the entire weekend of January 23–24, even off the tracks. Registration for the Skiri Trophy XCountry is already open, with space for up to 1,500 cross-country skiers ready to participate in one of the most beloved and highly regarded events on the youth cross-country skiing circuit. For those who have already taken part in the Trophy but have now exceeded the age limit, there will also be the exciting Skiri Trophy XCountry Revival, a 5-km race in classic technique.

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