



Tiroler Zugspitz Arena celebrates a successful gravel triathlon debut with international appeal

The Zugspitz Arena Gravel Triathlon, the first event of its kind in the DACH region, made a successful debut in the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena at the weekend. Almost 200 athletes from ten countries took part in a total of eight competitions, turning the inaugural edition into an international sporting occasion.

Tiroler Zugspitz Arena, 31 August 2026: The first official gravel triathlon in the DACH region, combining swimming, gravel biking and trail running, was successfully held at Lake Heiterwanger See in the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena on Saturday, 29 August. Almost 200 athletes from ten countries, including Great Britain, Spain and Portugal, took on the sporting challenge. The evening before, the next generation of athletes took centre stage at the Zugspitz Arena Kids Run.

A range of competitions across swimming, gravel biking and trail running

The competition began at Lake Heiterwanger See, at an altitude of around 976 metres above sea level. This also made it the highest-altitude triathlon swimming event in Austria. Participants then switched to either gravel or mountain bikes before heading out onto the running course.

The sprint consisted of 750 metres of swimming, 22 kilometres of gravel biking and six kilometres of running. The standard distance featured 1,500 metres in the water, 33 kilometres on the gravel bike and 13 kilometres of trail running. Both distances were complemented by relay, AquaBike and BikeRun competitions.

Local athlete Dominik Poberschnigg from Heiterwang impressed in the sprint, crossing the finish line first in a winning time of 1:48:22. Alina Vogl from Germany followed shortly afterwards to claim the women's title in 2:10:50. The standard distance was won by Julian Mutterer from Germany in 2:41:22, while Laura Kuiper from the Netherlands took the women's title in 3:17:51.

Endurance sport meets an alpine natural setting

The courses took athletes through the diverse landscape of the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena, highlighting what makes this new format so distinctive. Rather than taking place on traditional asphalt courses, the event combined three endurance disciplines with the region's natural surroundings and alpine scenery. For the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena, the event also represents another step in establishing the region as a destination for outdoor and endurance sports. The area already offers numerous challenging running routes and an extensive gravel cycling network.

Björn Scherer, Managing Director of the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena, draws a positive conclusion: *"The gravel triathlon adds a sporting format to our established outdoor offering that is a perfect fit for the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena. The combination of sporting challenge, exercise in nature and an alpine experience is what gives the event its unique character. We are particularly pleased with the strong participation of athletes from ten countries, who experienced and discovered the region first-hand during the inaugural event. This means the event has already attracted international attention from the outset. This positive response provides an important foundation*

for us to further develop the gravel triathlon together with ALOHA SPORT and establish it as a long-term fixture in the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena.”

A milestone for triathlon

For event organiser ALOHA SPORT, the inaugural event was also an important test for a format that is unique in the German-speaking region. Combining gravel biking with triathlon not only presented the participants with new challenges, but also required an event organisation tailored to the specific conditions.

Stefan Leitner, Managing Director of ALOHA SPORT, is delighted with the successful debut: *“The foundations for the future have been laid. The setting at Lake Heiterwanger See in the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena is unique in Austria. Many of the participants had never heard of Heiterwang before and fell in love with the region after arriving. We have seen that the concept and vision of the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena have been well received by the international field of participants, and we will now set about establishing the event as a long-term fixture.”*

The Tirol Triathlon Association also sees the inaugural event as an important impetus for the further development of the sport. President Julius Skamen has been closely involved with the Tyrolean triathlon scene for decades: *“We welcome innovative formats in Austria, as gravel sports are booming. Athletes will find beautiful gravel cycling and trail routes in the region, and on Saturday a milestone was set here for European triathlon. We would like to thank the Tiroler Zugspitz Arena and ALOHA SPORT for this successful event.”*

The next generation takes centre stage

The next generation of athletes had already taken centre stage on Friday evening, 28 August. The Zugspitz Arena Kids Run gave children and young people in the U6 to U18 age groups their first taste of competitive racing. Depending on their age group, participants completed distances ranging from 250 to 1,600 metres. In doing so, the event placed a clear emphasis on youth sport and gave even the youngest participants the opportunity to experience the atmosphere of competition and develop their enthusiasm for endurance sports.

Photos must be used with the copyright notice ‘Wapics/Willdoner’: <https://app.skyfish.com/shared-link/jzuh1ein?sortBy=name-asc>

More Information:

[Zugspitz Arena Gravel Triathlon](#)

Press contact:

Maria Scheunpflug
Tiroler Zugspitz Arena
Schmiede 15
6632 Ehrwald
www.zugspitzarena.com
m.scheunpflug@zugspitzarena.com