

The most spectacular ski-o-games ever

Commentary from Head course planner Vidar Benjaminsen

The Championship week in Norway is well under way. The organizers have been working steadily for months, and the course setter's team has started the enormous work of preparing tracks.

The snow conditions at Sjusjøen were poor until the first week of January. Then the snow came in rich amounts. Now the snow depth is from 80 – 100 cm in the terrain. Almost perfect for ski-o.

The competitors will be met by a huge net of tracks in the terrain. Never before have there been so many tracks prepared and planned for a ski-o-event in Norway - and maybe not elsewhere in the world.

All in all the plan is to have more than 90 kilometers of normal ski-o-tracks and additional 25 kilometers of wide tracks. This is of course also a risky business as the weather in the Norwegian mountains can be quite harsh.

If a snow storm arrives then the organizers need to do a great work to recover the tracks in time for the competition. But we hope for nice weather and we also have good capacity to do the tracks also in bad conditions.

The competitions will also be spectacular in other ways. The mountainous terrain will give a breathtaking experience to the competitors. Both the route choices and the map reading will be decisive during the competitions.

A quick glance at the latest bulletin can tell you that the Mens 21 long distance will cover approximately 21 kilometers (as the crow flies) with about 750 meters of climbing. Let's just hope for nice skiing conditions.

The competitions will have some different terrain and track density network. The Fridays sprint will have two very short loops for all classes, and with a map change. This will be an exciting and fun race to watch both live at the arena and via web.

The plans for live coverage from the events are also well under way. The Norwegian Federation will have the big screen at the competition centre. There will be live results and GPS-coverage via web from all events. And together with World of O we will also try to have a live commentary via Coverit Live during the days at Sjusjøen.

We will try to give you the most spectacular ski-o-games ever!

Best regards

Vidar Benjaminsen