



Canoeing Competitions 2011/2012

World and European Championships

2011 and 2012 will bring top-class competitions to the Augsburg "Eiskanal" for enthusiastic fans of canoeing.

Organizer of both events is Kanu Schwaben Augsburg. More information at: www.kanu-schwaben-augsburg.de

June 11-13, 2011: World Championships in Wildwater Canoeing Sprint

From June 11 to 13, 2011 the first world championships in canoe sprint will take place in Augsburg. In contrast to the canoe slalom competitions, there will be no hanging gates. At the Olympic starting point

from 1972, athletes will descend into the 600 meter long Eiskanal. Participants from 25 nations will start in the disciplines Women's and Men's Kayak Single and Canoe Single, as well as Men's Canoe Double.

May 11-13, 2012: Second European Championships in Augsburg

From May 11 to 13, 2012 the European Championships in Canoe Slalom will take place in Augsburg for the second time since 1996. This competition is the last major event before the Olympic Games in London and will be an important showdown for top-ranking athletes.



Augsburg, City of Sports

Canoe slalom, soccer, ice hockey and many sights to see

Founded by the Romans, 2000 year old Augsburg is the city of the Fuggers, Mozarts, Brecht and a "city of peace." The Augsburg Puppenkiste (marionette theater), the Fuggerei, the Renaissance City Hall, the cathedral, the grand Maximilianstrasse and the charm of the old historical city lure visitors from all over the world. Augsburg is home to a university and Bavaria's center for environmental competence.

A great number of national and international guests, both active and spectators, visit the Eiskanal in the Augsburg district Spickel. Time and again world cup competitions take place on the

Olympic course, most recently in 2010. The National Training Center for Slalom Canoeing and White Water (also Olympic Training Center in Bavaria) at the Eiskanal offers excellent coaching and training at an international level. Augsburg rafters are among the world's best.

Augsburg is a city of sports. The Augsburg Panthers play in the highest German ice hockey league and FC Augsburg in the second division of the federal football league. The "impuls arena" is one of the locations of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2011. Golf star Bernhard Langer also began his career in Augsburg.

Information about Augsburg

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AUGSBURG EISKANAL

Olympic canoe slalom course



Beautiful...

Bavaria



Canoe Slalom Competitions of the 1972 Summer Olympics

Athletes of East Germany won all four gold medals

Canoe slalom was an Olympic discipline for the first time in 1972 but not included the next 20 years. The competition in white water is an inherent part of the Olympic Games since 1992. The canoe slalom facilities in Augsburg exist thanks to a one-time Olympic guest appearance of kayak athletes.

Because the course which can be used year-round provided West German athletes with too much of an advantage in training, East German sport authorities commissioned the building of a shortened variation in

Zwickau on the Mulde River. East German athletes won all the gold medals in Augsburg and proved true to their roll as favorites in the competition. Three silver medals and one bronze medal for West German paddlers contributed to the enthusiasm at the Eiskanal.

Two days of competitions and prominent guests

More than 30,000 spectators lined the course on both days of competitions in August 1972. Among the visitors were prominent guests Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt, Mayor of Munich Hans Jochen Vogel and IOC President Lord Killanin.

The Olympic competitions of 1972 at the Eiskanal were a major sports event (above). Each day crowds of more than 30,000 spectators surrounded the competitions on the canoe slalom course.



Olympic Canoe Slalom Course in the Augsburg Eiskanal

“Mother of all artificial canoe slalom courses”

In order to offer a canoe slalom course suitable as an Olympic competition site, the length of the previous and temporary canoe slalom course in the Hauptstadtbach canal was extended at that time to a total of 530 meters.

A masterpiece – with little change in 40 years

This first– 285 meters long – artificial white water rapid was the beginning of a new era in canoe slalom. A 25 meter long model of sheet metal was the basis for planning and design-

ing the course, and a great amount of handiwork was necessary to implement the complex obstacles. The facility was completed in 1971. Still today it is considered the “mother of all artificial canoe slalom courses” and a masterpiece which has hardly seen any change in 40 years. Presently the course is 308 meters long with a drop of 4.10 meters.

With a water flow of 3 to 6 meters per second, athletes fight their way through eddies, stoppers and rapids created by 35 concrete obstacles in this 10 meter wide canoe slalom course. With adjustable deflectors the water flow and character can be altered in various segments.

Canoe slalom world cups take place in the Eiskanal regularly, most recently in 2010 (above). Left: bird’s-eye view of the Eiskanal



Augsburg – City and Training Center of World and Olympic Champions

Outstanding series of medal winners nationwide

In 2010 Kanu Schwaben Augsburg, worldwide the most successful club in this type of sport, celebrated its 50th anniversary. The Augsburg Kayak Verein was founded in 1924. Augsburg canoeists began an unparalleled series of victories when Margit Messelhäuser won the World Championship title in canoe slalom in 1985. Athletes from both clubs won world champion titles in individual and team competitions. Four Olympic gold medals were taken.

In 1991 Elisabeth Micheler became world champion in the kayak single and in 1992 she won an Olympic gold medal. Oliver Fix repeated the pattern in 1995 and 1996, first as world champion then with an Olympic victory. In the 2000 Olympic

World champion Fabian Dörfler and Olympic champion Alexander Grimm (above)

Games in Sydney an Augsburg athlete stood on the winner’s podium: Thomas Schmidt won gold in the kayak single. Markus Becker and Stefan Henze paddled their way to gold in the canoe double in the Eiskanal in 2003. And in 2005 Fabian Dörfler took the gold in K1 in the world championships in Sydney.

Latest gold medal winner in the Olympics

In 2008 paddler Alexander Grimm from Augsburg earned a gold medal in the Olympic Games in Peking.

