## Preview: Olympic Test Event in Cortina /
## First qualifying race for Milano-Cortina 2026 /

Cortina (FIL/November 24, 2025) The Olympic Test Event in Cortina d'Ampezzo on Saturday, November 29, and Sunday, November 30, 2025, will be held as the first official qualifying race for the Olympic luge competitions in Milan-Cortina in February 2026.

The first qualifying event in accordance with Chapter G, page 7 of the current qualification system will thus take place on the new Pista Olimpica Eugenio Monti in Cortina d'Ampezzo.

Further Olympic qualifying competitions are the EBERSPÄCHER World Cups number two to five in December 2025 and January 2026 in Park City and Lake Placid (both USA), in Sigulda, Latvia, and finally in Winterberg (Germany).

The qualification criteria for luge for the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina can be found at the following link:

https://www.fil-luge.org/cdn/uploads/milano-cortina-2026-qualification-system-for-luge-v3.pdf

Starting on Monday, November 24, 2025, around 150 athletes from 25 nations will be training on the 1,730-meter Olympic track in Italy.

## Olympic Test Event Schedule:

**Saturday, November 29, 2025:**

9:00 a.m. Men's and Women's Doubles, 1st Run
10:55 a.m. Men's and Women's Doubles, 2nd Run

12:35 p.m. Women's Singles, 1st Run
2:24 p.m. Women's Singles, 2nd Run

**Sunday, November 30, 2025:**

9:30 a.m. Men's singles, 1st run
11:20 a.m. Men's singles, 2nd run

12:55 p.m. Team relay
Subject to change!

# LUGE

## Detailed Schedule

### Training and Olympic Test Event Week in Cortina d'Ampezzo:

| Training Groups: | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Group A** | USA, AUS, CZE, JPN, SVK | ***23 Sleds*** |
| | **Group B** | LAT, CHN, IRL, GEO, FIN, EST, GBR, CRO, BIH | ***25 Sleds*** |
| | **Group C** | ROU, GER, SUI, ARG, POL | ***28 Sleds*** |
| | **Group D** | AUT, SWE, KOR, CAN | ***28 Sleds*** |
| | **Group E** | ITA, UKR | ***26 Sleds*** |

*130 Sleds / 25 NFs*

| Monday<br>*24. Nov 25* | Tuesday<br>*25. Nov 25* | Wednesday<br>*26. Nov 25* | Thursday<br>*27. Nov 25* | Friday<br>*28. Nov 25* | Saturday<br>*29. Nov 25* | Sunday<br>*30. Nov 25* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *ITP* | *ITP* | *ITP* | *Off. Training* | *Off. Training* | *Test Event* | *Test Event* |
| **Group A**<br>08:00 - 10:30 | **Group C**<br>08:00 - 10:30 | **Group E**<br>08:00 - 10:30 | **M Singles**<br>09:00 - 12:00 | **Relay Test**<br>**M / W Doubles**<br>*09:00 - 12:00* | **W / M Doubles**<br>*09:00 h , Run 1*<br>*09:39 h, Run 1*<br>*10:55 h, Run 2*<br>*11:31 h, Run 2* | **M Singles**<br>*09:30 h, Run 1*<br>*11:20 h, Run 2* |
| *Track prep.* | *Track prep.* | *Track prep.* | *Track prep.* | *Track prep.* | | |
| **Group B**<br>11:00 - 13:30 | **Group D**<br>11:00 - 13:30 | ***Tech. Insp.*** | ***10:30 - 12:30***<br>***Weigh in*** | **W Singles**<br>12:30 - 15:30 | | **Team Relay**<br>*12:55 h* |
| *Track prep.* | *Track prep.* | **Group A**<br>11:00 - 13:30 | **M / W Doubles**<br>*12:30 - 15:30* | *Track prep.* | **W Singles**<br>*12:35 h, Run 1*<br>*14:24 h, Run 2* | |
| **Group C**<br>14:00 - 16:30 | **Group E**<br>14:00 - 16:30 | *Track prep.* | *Track prep.* | | | |
| *Track prep.* | *Track prep.* | **Group D**<br>14:00 - 16:30 | ***14:30 - 15:30***<br>***Weigh in*** | **M Singles**<br>16:00 - 19:00 | | |
| **Group D**<br>17:00 - 19:30 | **Group A**<br>17:00 - 19:30 | *Track prep.* | **W Singles**<br>16:00 - 19:00 | | | |
| *Track prep.* | *Track prep.* | ***Tech. Insp.*** | **Realy Test** | | | |
| **Group E**<br>20:00 - 22:30 | **Group B**<br>20:00 - 22:30 | **Group B**<br>17:00 - 19:30 | | **TCM / 19:30 h**<br>**Remote** | | |
| | | *Track prep.* | | | | |
| | | **Group C**<br>20:00 - 22:30 | | | | |

| **Anzahl der Trainingsläufe**<br>*Number of training run* | **Montag**<br>*Monday* | **Dienstag**<br>*Tuesday* | **Mittwoch**<br>*Wednesday* | **Donnerstag**<br>*Thursday* | **Freitag**<br>*Friday* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Für alle Starter**<br>*For all participants* | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |

**Start Order: Men´s start - Women and Doubles successional**
*Startfolge: Herrenstart-, Damen- und Doppelsitzerstart zusammehängend*

**Weigh in (mandatory) located at Men´s Start lockerroom /** *Körperabwaage (verpflichtend) in der Herrenstart Umkleide*

**Technical Inspection located at Finish Outrun /** *Technische Kontrolle im Auslauf Gebäude*

**Technical Inspection in NF Groups /** *Technische Kontrolle wird gruppenweise abgehalten*

**Draw by NFs for Thursday´s session /** *Auslosung für die Donnerstags Einheiten nach NFs*

**Seeded List based on the 24/25 Season /** *Gesetztenliste basiert auf der Saison 2024/2025*

## Ahtletes' Quotes:

**Frank Ike (USA):** “Being a brand-new track it’s definitely a challenge. It’s fun getting to work together with the team to learn how to drive the best lines through!”

**Sophia Kirkby (USA):** "Waking up to morning cappuccinos in Italy and learning the Cortina track has been amazing. A few sections have changed since I was last here in March, which keeps it fresh and exciting. It’s a thrill knowing I’m sliding on the 2026 Olympic track—everything’s starting to feel real!"

**Ashley Farquharson (USA):** "The new track has been super fun and exciting to learn! It offers a unique set of challenges with long curves, lots of uphill sections, and a couple of tricky transitions. So far, I'm really enjoying the speed and the pressure and can't wait to see how all the pieces fit together."

**Kristers Aparjods (LAT):** "The track in Cortina is really cool—completely new and interesting. We spent the first three days getting to know the variations and character of the track, but step by step we have now set ourselves small goals for each run, improved our performance, and increased our speed—the track was easy to ski from the start and I liked it right away. The weather in Cortina is also very nice and the ice quality is stable."

**Lisa Schulte (AUT):** "What we saw during pre-homologation has been confirmed. Even though it doesn't feel particularly fast and you get hardly any feedback from the sled, it's basically a cool track. The upper section is fairly flat, but it does contain a few technical difficulties, such as the exit from curve four. From curve nine onwards, the gradient increases the speed, and you can really let the sled run well, especially in the large, long curves in the lower section of the track. The exit from curve eleven marks the first low point of the track, followed by a short flat section and then the first of two uphill passages with the chicane in 12/13."

**Hannah Prock (AUT):** "The curve profiles remind me of Asian tracks with their long entry and exit sections. Apart from curve four, the technical challenges are manageable. What you lose at the top is difficult to make up at the bottom, as it goes uphill again from transition 14-15. I think you can work your way up this track very well, I like it. “

**Wolfgang Kindl (AUT):** ”We heard beforehand that it was a very easy track, but I personally think it has its pitfalls. The upper section in particular is technically demanding; you have to get the line right in the first curves. There's more speed in the lower section. Here you have to stretch out really long, and the aerodynamics have to be spot on. The conditions haven't allowed for very fast runs so far, but I hope it will get faster.“

**David Gleirscher (AUT):** ”I struggled a bit at the beginning, but I've gotten used to the track now. It's not a high-speed track, so the challenge isn't getting down it, but pushing the limits and being fast."

**Armin Frauscher (AUT):** “The track is technically demanding at the start and is particularly good for gliding at the bottom. It's a modern and interesting track that is very enjoyable to race on overall. The long, pressureless curves suit us, we know what to do, now we need to push ahead with the setup and work out the ideal line.”

**Julia Taubitz (GER):** "I really like the track. It's very sensitive, was still a bit slow during the training week and could be a bit faster. It's very flat. Turn four is a crucial point for us, where you have to hit it well. The curve rhythm is very nice, and since the ice construction was already very good, there were hardly any bumps. We always compare it a bit to a bathtub. If you have a good rhythm, you can let the sled dance down the track. Then it's really fun. I often arrived at the finish line with a smile on my face."

**Merle Fräbel (GER):** "At first glance, I liked the track, but then I didn't like it so much. Turn four gave me trouble at the beginning, and the first few runs were a bit bumpy. But then I got the hang of it relatively quickly. We didn't have such a fast track at the beginning – that's always good for the start, because you think: ‘Okay, now we can go faster.’ Our last two sessions, the two qualifying races at the end, were really fast. We had good conditions, which of course makes it fun. That's when you feel the pressure – you have to steer, and that's something we're good at in Germany. We have a lot of tracks where you have to steer a lot."

# Interview Luge World Champion Max Langenhan (Germany): “I really like the track in Cortina”

Cortina d'Ampezzo (FIL/November 25, 2025) World Champion Max Langenhan raves about the atmosphere in Cortina d'Ampezzo after his first runs on the new Pista Olimpica Eugenio Monti. As a two-time overall World Cup winner, the German is naturally one of the favorites. But the reigning world champion also promises plenty of excitement in the Olympic competitions.

Hello Mr. Langenhan, you raced in the ice track in Cortina d'Ampezzo at the end of March during the pro homologation and again in October during the International Training Week.

**How do you like the new track?**

Max Langenhan: "It's too early to say definitively whether the track suits me. In any case, I really like it. Everyone will love the whole setting with the mountains around it. Cortina has so much history, not only with skiing, but also with bobsleigh and luge. It's great to have a new track now."

**Is the track challenging?**

Max Langenhan: "What we've seen so far promises a lot of excitement because it's going to be very tight. Every mistake will be punished."

**Is the track similar in character to an existing one?**

Max Langenhan: "Every track has its own character. Of course, you'll find one or two passages that resemble a section on another track. I think it's really cool that they've kept some of the old curves. That gives the track its own character. And it has its own flair when the curves aren't numbered, but have their own names."

**What are the key sections called?**

Max Langenhan: "The key sections are the big curves at the bottom, the Curva Antelao and the Curva Cristallo. The labyrinth 1, 2, and 3 will also be decisive. If you don't get through there well, you can't achieve a good time."

**Which competitors do you expect to be strong?**

Max Langenhan: "No new candidates have joined the fray. So it's the usual suspects. At the top of my list is my teammate Felix Loch, but the Austrians Jonas Müller and Nico Gleirscher are also contenders. The Italians Dominik Fischnaller and Kristers Aparjode from Latvia are also among those competing for the title or medals."

**You won the overall World Cup in each of the past two winters, so you're the one to beat. How do you feel about that role?**

Max Langenhan: "It's not really a burden for me. What bothered me more was that I didn't perform so well in the competitions last season and often made mistakes in the races. That's something that didn't happen to me so often in previous years. But it must also be said that the competition has improved this season. At the start, in the way they race, and probably also a little bit in terms of equipment. So you simply can't afford to make any mistakes."

**The Austrians in particular are suddenly strong across the board.**

Max Langenhan: "Yes, they've closed the gap on us at the start, and some of them are even better than us. Jonas Müller has incredibly good start times. Lately, they've been skiing incredibly well, like they're on rails. And that goes for the whole team. In recent years, they were all world champions in training, but then they made a lot of mistakes in the races. But you can see that they've done all their homework perfectly."

**You share a room with three-time Olympic champion Felix Loch. What else can you learn from him?**

Max Langenhan: "I would like to start like him, and I would also like to be able to adapt as quickly as he does to changing circumstances. Felix simply flips the switch to the situation he needs. I'm not so good at that."

**Is that a question of experience?**

Max Langenhan: "I think it is experience. When you've done so many runs everywhere, you've already been through everything 18 or 19 times. I'm only in my sixth season. That makes a bit of a difference. Otherwise, communicating with him helps me."

**Why do you describe your ambition as both a strength and a weakness?**

Max Langenhan: "The best example is my broken foot. Because I want to win the overall World Cup, I can't take a three-week break so that I'm fit for the World Championships. The fact that I can block out a lot of things is definitely a strength. But a weakness is that sometimes I don't recognize when a break would be good for me. Perhaps the perfectionism that goes hand in hand with my ambition isn't so good either. I can never be satisfied. I win races and think about the one mistake I made."

**Is there such a thing as the perfect run?**

Max Langenhan: "I haven't achieved the perfect run 100 percent yet. But I've managed it 99.9 percent twice."

**In which races?**

Max Langenhan: "In 2018 at the Junior World Championships in Altenberg in the team relay. The second run was in Lake Placid in the sprint race in the penultimate season. At my second World Championship start in Königssee, I had a 98 percent run. Except for a slip out of the Teufelsmühle, everything was 100 percent perfect. At the finish line, Armin Zöggeler (two-time Olympic champion, editor's note) congratulated me on this run. For me, that was the ultimate accolade."

**A year ago, before the World Championships in Whistler, you said that a perfect day for you would look like this: skiing in powder snow in the morning, winning 10-0 against your teammates in soccer, and then becoming world champion. Are you that relaxed, or is it that easy for you?**

Max Langenhan: "That would actually be the perfect day. That's what I was asked at the time. An 8-0 or 7-0 soccer win would also be enough for me. For me, it's just a race."

**It was the World Championship race that many of your competitors were nervous about.**

Max Langenhan: "Some people really can't cope with the fact that I'm totally relaxed until shortly before the race. That's how it's developed over the years. I know immediately what's going on. I'm totally focused when it comes to delivering 100 percent. But for me, the switch is quickly flipped back. I say you shouldn't get too caught up in your head, but instead approach it with a sense of fun in the end."

**Fun, yes, but with a clear goal in mind?**

Max Langenhan: "Of course I want to be Olympic champion. But at the Olympics, anyone can be good on the big day."

Thank you Max!

## Olympic Bobsleigh, Skeleton and Luge Track "Eugenio Monti" – Cortina d'Ampezzo

The newly constructed **Olympic Ice Track "Eugenio Monti"** in Cortina d'Ampezzo proudly carries the name of Italy's greatest and most decorated bobsleigh athlete. It pays tribute to the historic track that existed until 2008, bearing forward the legacy of Olympic excellence and Cortina's rich winter sports tradition.

Each section of the track has been named with great care and deep connection to local history, dialect, and geography:

- **Curve Stries**: Reviving a name from the original track, this curve is named after the *Stries* area above the course. In the local Ampezzano dialect, "Stries" means "witches," and the curve lies near a small lake called *Lago delle Stries*.
- **Curve Verzi**: Named after the *Verzi* family, who donated the land for the construction of the 1956 Olympic track. A gesture of generosity etched into the course.
- **Curve Sento**: From the dialect word *"scènto"*, meaning a woodpile. Historically, this area was a meadow used for stacking firewood.
- **Labirinti (Curves 1–2–3)**: A set of three closely connected curves, preserving the traditional "Labyrinth" sequence from the original track.
- **Curve Belvedere**: Translating to "beautiful view," this curve offers a breathtaking panorama of the Ampezzo basin.
- **Curve Lago Bandion**: Named after a nearby lake and location below the curve, again tying nature and geography to the layout of the track.
- **Curve Lino K2**: Honoring the legendary mountaineer who made the first ascent of K2 (8,611 m). His home lies just behind this curve.
- **Rettifilo Antelao / Curve Antelao**: This straightaway and curve are named after Mount Antelao, visible from this point on the track.
- **Curve Cristallo**: Offers a spectacular view of the Cristallo mountain range, as seen from inside the curve.
- **Chicane Sopiazes**: A quick combination following Curve Cristallo, with a view toward the Sopiazes tennis courts.
- **Curve Tofana**: In homage to the original 1956 start curve. The Tofane mountain range frames the view from this section.

- **Curve Anpezo**: Named for the sweeping view of the valley and the heart of Cortina itself (*Anpezo* in Ladin dialect).
- **Curve Arrivo**: Simply named “Finish Curve,” continuing the tradition of the final bend from the historic track.

The track is operated by **Bob Club Cortina a.s.d.** and is located in Ronco, Cortina d’Ampezzo (BL). This modern ice track represents not only a rebirth of Cortina’s Olympic legacy but also a celebration of local heritage, nature, and sporting spirit.

LUGE

**Link zu den Biographien der Athleten:innen:** Athletenübersicht & Erfolge - Int. Rodelverband FIL (fil-luge.org)

**Contact:**
**International Luge Federation (FIL)**
Margit Dengler-Paar
Communications Manager
Mobil: +49 179 459 66 30
Mail: press@fil-luge.org