

FAQ - Answers to all your questions

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1. Before the race

1.1 Arrival without car

Note: We recommend arriving by bike – or alternatively, using public transportation (KVB)!

1.1.1 By Bike

Waze | [Google Maps](#)

1.1.2 By KVB

The following Kölner Verkehrsbetriebe (KVB) trains and buses stop near Harry-Blum-Platz:

- Trams: Lines 15 and 16 to the Ubierring stop
- Trams: Lines 3, 4, and 17 to the Severinstraße stop
- Bus: Lines 133 and 142 to the Ubierring stop
- Bus: Lines 106 and 132 to the Severinstraße stop

1.2 Arrival by car (to be avoided)

Note: We recommend arriving by bike – or alternatively, using public transportation (KVB)!

However, if you (have to) come by car, here are a few tips:

You can park for free on Sunday in the parking lot of our partner Bauhaus in Cologne-Kalk ([Waze](#) | [Google Maps](#)) (approx. 15 min by bike).

The address for your navigation system: Istanbulstraße 20, 51103 Cologne

Alternatively, you can park in the underground parking garage of the Rheinauhafen ([Waze](#) | [Google Maps](#)) for a fee. The underground parking garage can only be reached from the south via Rheinuferstraße. However, there may be waiting times at the entrance due to road closures. The address for your navigation system (note: the northern Rheinuferstraße is closed): Agrippinawerft 30, 50678 Cologne

ATTENTION: In the period from 07.00 a.m. to approx. 10.00 a.m. there will be an advance closure this year coming from the south at Schönhäuserstraße. Access to the southern entrance will be possible throughout!

We have summarized [all route closures and closure times for Saturday and Sunday](#) in the navigation and traffic app Waze.

This will guide you around the closures and get you to your destination stress-free. Download the app here:

- [iTunes/App Store \(iOS\)](#)
- [Google Play Store \(Android\)](#)

Based on the passing times of the cyclists ([maps/Listenübersicht](#)) a closure of the respective section of the route is to be expected approx. 1 hour in advance.

The police will reopen the route to public traffic after the last cyclists have passed through.

1.2.1 Getting to Velodom30

Arrival without a car (Velodom 30)

Please travel to the start in Bergisch Gladbach-Heidkamp on Sunday, May 18, 2025, preferably by bike or public transport - S11 to Bergisch Gladbach or KVB line 1 to Neuenweg - and cycle from there to the start on Hüttenstraße/Bensberger Straße.

Arrival by car (Velodom 30)

If you want to arrive by car, you can park free of charge in the Krüger Group parking lot [Waze](#) | [Google Maps](#)) from 11:00 to 18:00.

1.3 Bike.EXPO

From Saturday to Sunday, May 17 to 18, 2025, the [free bike fair Bike.EXPO](#) will take place on Harry-Blum-Platz and under the Kranhäuser in Rheinauhafen.

Numerous exhibitors will offer a wide range of products and services relating to bicycles and bicycle accessories as well as nutrition, fitness and wellness, sportswear, lifestyle and outdoor activities. The trade fair presents partners and players from the world of cycling.

At the Bike.EXPO, at the starting document distribution point under the middle Kranhaus, you will receive your start numbers, your Rund um Köln jerseys and cycling shorts if ordered, as well as all important information about the day of the event.

Please bring your confirmation of participation with you - preferably digitally on your smartphone (alternatively printed out, but not sustainable), which you have received by e-mail.

If you are unable to attend the Bike.EXPO on any of the event days, you may authorize a friend to collect your documents. To do so, please provide them with the confirmation of participation mentioned above, along with a signed letter of authorization from you.

If you have booked the shipping of your race pack, your race bag, as well as your Rund um Köln jersey and or the Rund um Köln bib shorts (if booked) will be sent directly to your home with all documents. Shipping will take place at the end of April 2025.

1.3.1 Program and opening times

Saturday, 17. Mai 2025 (Subject to change)

12:00 to 19:00	Pick-up of race kit
12:00 to 19:00	Bike.EXPO
12:30 to 15:00	Student, Youth, and Junior Races U11 to U19
14:30 to 17:00	Kreissparkassen Student Tour
17:00 to 18:00	Live podcast on stage with Rick Zabel, Tanja Erath and other guests

Sunday, 18. Mai 2025 (Subject to change)

07:00 to 9:00 a.m.	Pick-up of race kit
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09:00 to 9:45 a.m.	Start Velodom 60 and 120
09:00 to 17:00 a.m.	Bike.EXPO
10:15 to 11:15 a.m.	Registration of the elite
10:30 a.m.	Finish Velodom 60
11:15 to 11:45 a.m.	Award ceremony Velodom 60
11:30 a.m.	Start Elite Holzmarkt 4, art otel
11:50 a.m.	Finish Velodom 120
12:30 p.m.	Start Velodom 30 in Bergisch Gladbach, Heidkamp
12:45 – 13:15 p.m.	Award ceremony Velodom 120
14:30 p.m.	Pänz Tour – Wheel race in the finish channel
15:35 p.m.	Elite finish
15:50 p.m.	Award ceremony Elite

1.3.2 Pick-up of race kit

You will receive your start documents (bib numbers and start bag) at the [Bike.EXPO](#) on Harry-Blum-Platz on

- Saturday, May 17, 2025, from 12:00 to 19:00
- Sunday, May 18, 2025, from 7:00 to 09:00 *We recommend picking them up on Saturday. There may be waiting times on Sunday*

Please bring your confirmation of participation with you - preferably digitally on your smartphone (alternatively printed out, but not sustainable), which you have received by e-mail.

If you are unable to attend the Bike.EXPO on any of the event days, you may authorize a friend to collect your documents. To do so, please provide them with the confirmation of participation mentioned above, along with a signed letter of authorization from you.

1.3.3 Bib numbers

Everyone will receive a three-piece bib number set:

Please attach your back bib number to the back of your jersey at pocket level using four safety pins (will also be issued). On this bib number you will find the color of the starting block from which you are starting, e.g. red background = red starting block.

You will also receive a helmet start number, which must be clearly visible on the front of your helmet.

IMPORTANT: There is also a seat post start number for the seat post in which the transponder is integrated.

Starting from the wrong starting block (control via timekeeping) and/or making the sponsor strip on the start number unrecognizable, bent or similar will lead to disqualification.

1.4 Shipping of starting documents

With our exclusive service, you can save time and money and arrive directly on Sunday morning - without visiting the trade fair and without having to stand in line.

We will send you your complete start documents to your home in good time before the event - one package, everything included:

- Your start numbers including seatpost transponder for timekeeping
- Your start bag and contents
- Your Rund um Köln jersey/bib shorts, if ordered

You could book the shipping until April 15, 2025. The start package will be sent out afterwards.

IMPORTANT: We recommend having the package delivered to an address (e.g. your workplace) where you can be sure it will be accepted.

If the delivery fails (e.g. due to an incorrect address, absence, failure to collect from a Packstation, etc.), participants can only collect their race documents at the Bike.EXPO.

Please note that a second delivery attempt will not be made due to time constraints, and the shipping fee will not be refunded in such cases. Any costs incurred due to returns must be covered by the participants.

1.5 Data changes

Data changes and subsequent bookings of additional services

You can change your personal data (excluding master data such as name, gender, date of birth, etc.) yourself via the change link in your e-mail registration confirmation and, if necessary, book additional products or services.

Changes are still possible as follows:

- April 15, 2025 Mailing booking of the starting documents
- April 15, 2025 all changes relevant to the event, e.g. your average speed (does not apply to mail order bookers)

1.5.1 Change of registration

Change of registration to another person

We offer the option of transferring a starting place to another person. Additional services already booked will be taken over by the purchaser. Optional information such as the expected finish time, jersey size etc. will be reset and can be adjusted by the buyer afterwards until April 15th via the change link.

The re-registration fee is €25.00 and will be deducted from your account by direct debit.

Note for free entry: People with a free entry code cannot pass on their starting place.

Note for students: The starting place can only be passed on to other Cologne students. Uni fields are mandatory.

Note for insured persons: If you have booked insurance, you cannot re-register.

IMPORTANT: This process is irrevocable and cannot be reversed.

Upgrade from Velodom 30 to Velodom 60 or Veledom 120

We are happy if you would prefer to ride the longer route.

You can upgrade to the Velodom 60 or Velodom 120 by April 15, 2025 at the latest (does not apply to shipping bookers). In addition to the upgrade fee of € 25.00, you will pay the difference between the entry fee you have already paid and the current entry fee for the new competition. You can change your registration yourself using the change link in your confirmation email.

Downgrade from Velodom 120 to Velodom 60 or to Velodom 30

It is **not** possible to downgrade from Velodom 120 to Velodom 60 or Velodom 30.

1.5.2 Withdrawal

... if you have booked entry fee insurance:

We are sorry that you are unable to take part in this year's event.

As you have taken out entry fee insurance when registering, a refund of the entry fees is possible via the relevant insurance company.

Please send us an [e-mail](#) with the relevant information. You will then receive a deregistration form from us, which you should then submit with the following documents via the [online tool](#):

- Copy of the e-mail confirmation of registration for the cycling event
- Completed deregistration form
- Proof of the claim (e.g. medical certificate etc.)
- Bank details (IBAN and BIC)

Paid additional services, e.g. Rund um Köln jersey, will be returned after the event by sending a stamped return envelope (C4 envelope, stamp € 1.95) to the following address

Kölner AusdauerSport GmbH
Girnitzweg 30 – Tor 1
50829 Köln

or can be picked up at our Bike.EXPO. We wish you all the best.

... if you have not booked entry fee insurance:

It's a pity that you can't take part in our event this year.

For the first time, we are offering the option of transferring a starting place to another person.

Additional services already booked will be taken over by the purchaser. Optional details such as the expected finish time, jersey size etc. will be reset and can be adjusted by the buyer afterwards until April 15th via the change link.

The re-registration fee is €25.00 and will be deducted from your account by direct debit.

2. The Race

2.1 Own women's starting block

Are you participating for the first time, or do you feel a bit uneasy about starting alongside male riders and want to reduce any potential stress? Then we've got something just for you! Due to popular demand, we're offering a separate women's starting block for all female participants in the Velodom 60 and 120.

If you're interested, simply select the "Women's Starting Block" option during online registration or use the change link to update your registration.

2.2 Note on the Velodom 30 route

Please note: There are no rankings and no award ceremonies for the Velodom30. There is no specified average speed.

2.3 Refreshments during the Race

To perform at your best during the race, you should bring your own food and drinks.

We offer route-based refreshments, depending on the weather conditions.

When approaching the refreshment zones on the course, it is important to signal your intention to stop, only stop at the far right side of the road, and allow other riders a safe passage.

Trash should only be disposed of in the designated waste bins.

At Velodom 60, there will be one refreshment station, and at Velodom 120, there will be two refreshment stations.

Here you can refill water bottles and take typical cycling nutrition such as energy gels.

2.4 Disqualification

Failure to comply with the regulations will result in immediate disqualification, including, but not limited to:

- Starting without a race number
- Starting in the wrong start block too far ahead (monitored via timing system!)
- Making sponsor logos on the race number unrecognizable, covering, or removing them
- Starting without a transponder (on the seat post)
- Starting with more than one transponder (on the seat post)
- Missing split times during timing
- Exceeding the specified time limit
- Leaving and/or shortcutting the course
- Not meeting the required age
- Riding an unauthorized bike (information here, see Bikes and Accessories)
- Using audiovisual media during the race (using headphones, mobile phones, etc.)
- Additional criteria here (see penalty list)

2.5 Start

2.5.1 Start Area

The start area for the Granfondo races Velodom 60 and 120 is located on Bayenstraße at the height of Harry-Blum-Platz. The start area for Velodom 30 will be set up in Bergisch Gladbach on Hüttenstraße, near the Krüger Group factories.

The individual start blocks will be sent off separately with a countdown for each group.

Please follow the signage on site to the respective start blocks.

Start times (subject to change):

- 9:00 to 9:45 AM Velodom 60 and Velodom 120
- 11:30 AM Elite
- 12:30 PM Velodom 30 (in Bergisch Gladbach)

2.5.2 Start Blocks

For all competitions, you will start exclusively from the assigned start blocks.

You must be in your start block at least 15 minutes before the race begins. Please note that access to blocks 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 after 9:00 AM may be difficult due to the starts of the previous blocks!

The start block assignment is based on your own specifications.

You can still adjust your indicated average speed via the change link in the email registration confirmation until April 15, 2025 (this does not apply to bookers with postal registration).

To keep waiting times for the rear blocks as short as possible, we kindly ask you to move quickly across the starting line.

Starting in the wrong start block (monitored via timing) and/or making the sponsor banner on the race number unrecognizable, bending it, etc., will result in disqualification.

2.6 Routes

You can find the [different courses details on our website](#).

Changing routes during the race is not possible.

The routes pass through the city of Cologne and the surrounding area. During the race, the routes will be closed off by volunteer helpers. The passable road is mostly two-lane, but there may be narrow sections in some parts of the course.

Although we check and clean the entire route multiple times beforehand, there may still be asphalt damage, debris, etc., that arise at short notice.

Please ride attentively and inform other participants of any potential hazards.

2.6.1 Mountain classification in Sand Tough mountain classification at the Velodom

At the Velodom 60 and Velodom 120, the “mountain goats” among you can let off steam again:

Over a distance of approx. 580m, the uphill classification leads uphill on the Dombach-Sander-Straße in Bergisch Gladbach - Sand with a gradient of 11.8% in places. Timekeeping is automatic here. In the Velodom 120, the faster time measured counts in the overall classification.

Turn the crank a little faster on this section of the route! The fastest can look forward to a surprise at the end!

2.6.2 Timekeeping

Timekeeping for all competitions is carried out using a [race result](#)-transponder to be attached to the seat post.

You do not need an additional own or rental chip.

According to the regulations, the first 50 arriving male participants/15 arriving female participants after the finish (gross), the following participants will be counted for the result based on their net riding time according to the transponder.

Please make sure that you stay within the given time limit.

The driver of the sweeper bus and the course marshals will give you a signal in good time if you fall outside the time limit.

As soon as the sweeper bus overtakes you, you are outside the secured course and are NO longer in the competition. You are then no longer insured and the StVO applies, which you must adhere to. You can then complete the route independently. Alternatively, a bus will take you to the finish area.

This means for the individual competitions:

- For the Velodom 30 there is no specified average speed.
- Velodom 60 at least an average of 25 kilometers per hour
- Velodom 120 at least an average of 25 kilometers per hour

2.6.3 Technical service

There will be a huge [Schwalbe](#) stand at the Bike.EXPO. With the support of the RR-Bikes team, the colleagues on site will help with bike adjustments or minor repairs.

At the Velodom 120 race there will be a [Schwalbe](#) support vehicle to help you in the event of a breakdown.

2.6.4 Sweeper bus

If you exceed the official time limit, the driver of the sweeper bus will approach you. At that point, you will be removed from the race classification. From then on, you are no longer part of the official event, and regular road traffic rules apply. You must ride your bike back to Harry-Blum-Platz on your own.

The sweeper bus is only available in emergencies, but it will continue to follow the entire course.

2.6.5 Event points and hotspots (current information will be added shortly)

In Cologne and the Bergisches Land region, numerous event points with thousands of spectators provide a great atmosphere along the route. Music, food and drink and a great supporting programme are organized by local authorities and clubs.

2.6.6 Roadbook

(current information will be added shortly)

2.6.7 Finish at the Rheinauhafen

After crossing the Severinsbrücke, with a stunning view of the Cathedral on your left, you'll head back to the left bank of the Rhine. The finish line is just around 700 meters ahead, running directly alongside the Rheinauhafen.

Spectators will line the route, cheering you on during your final meters, until you reach the finish line in front of the grandstand, where you'll be met with the roar of the crowd – just like the pros.

Once you've crossed the finish line, you can head to the refreshment area (please dismount your bike).

3. After the race

3.1 Bike parking at the finish

What to do with your bike after the finish? Somehow it is an annoying “accessory” in the refreshment village, at the Bike.EXPO, while watching the live stream etc.!

We have a solution: guarded bike parking spaces in the immediate finish area! Less congestion, more flexibility, more fun!

Please note: The contingent is very limited! No booking on the day of the event. The bike parking lot is open from 10:30 to 17:00.

Simply book when you register online - or reorder via the change link!

3.2 Showers

Showers and changing rooms are available at the Gesamtschule Severinswall 40, 50678 Cologne, on Saturday from 12:00 to 20:00 and Sunday from 8:00 to 18:00.

3.3 Bike.EXPO

Our [Bike.EXPO](#) will also be open for you after you cross the finish line until 17:00. Come to Harry-Blum-Platz, stroll around the trade fair, chat with like-minded people, watch the live stream of the elite and be there up close when they cross the finish line in Rheinauhafen!

3.4 Award ceremony

The fastest three riders in the overall standings and the top three teams in the Velodom 60 and Velodom 120 will be honored on the award ceremony stage on the day of the event.

This year there will be no award ceremony for the Studi-Werk Cup (Velodom 60 and Velodom 120) on race day. The winners will be sent a prize afterwards. However, an interview will take place at 14:00 as part of the Studi-Werk Cup.

Here is a detailed schedule:

- 11:15 a.m. Velodom 60 TOP 1-3 m/f
- 11:45 a.m. Velodom 60 TOP 1-3 teams
- 12:45 a.m. Velodom 120 TOP 1-3 m/f
- 13:15 a.m. Velodom 120 TOP 1-3 teams
- 15:50 a.m. Elite TOP 1-3, hill and sprint classification

3.5 Results

The [\(unofficial\) results can be found here.](#)

According to the regulations, the first 50 arriving male participants/15 arriving female participants after the finish (gross), the following participants will be counted for the result based on their net time according to the transponder.

You will be able to view the final and official results list approx. 8 days after the event (end of the objection period).

You will also find a link to your personal certificate under your name.

3.6 Photos

[Sportograf](#) is our official photo partner. The photographers will capture your [athletic performance](#) several times at various points along the course.

The offer includes individual photos, the photo package or upgraded photo products such as the photo with the finisher's time or a photo certificate.

To get a nice selection of photos, please wear your race numbers clearly visible!

[Click here for the photos.](#)

3.7 Live stream of the elite on video wall

From 11:30 a.m., we will be broadcasting the elite race live on the digital LED finish line arch and on the video wall on Harry Blum Square.

Once you have crossed the finish line yourself, you can watch the professionals' race on the video wall and witness them cross the finish line live on site!

We will also be streaming the race on the internet:

- [our website](#)
- [our Youtube Channel](#)
- [wdr.de](#)
- [sportschau.de](#)

3.8 Help Hotline

In the week before the event (Monday to Saturday) you can reach us from 09:00 to 17:00 and on race day (Sunday, May 18, 2025) from 07:00 to 16:00 on the following telephone number: **0221 / 33 77 73 11**

If you have any questions about traveling by public transport and the timetables for Cologne's buses and trains on Sunday, please call the KVB's "smart number": 0 1805 / 50 40 30 (9 cents/minute from a German landline; mobile max. 42 cents/minute).

3.8.1 Medical care

ASB Cologne will be there for you with paramedics and doctors along the entire route and in the start/finish area.

This medical staff is also authorized to remove athletes with signs of injury and/or overexertion from the race for their own safety.

Recommendation: Please refrain from starting if you have any signs of a cold or infection. Your body will thank you for it.