

Weltklasse Zürich and Athlétissima to Be Part of the New IAAF Diamond League

Zurich - The two major Swiss athletics meetings Weltklasse Zürich and Athlétissima will be members of the IAAF Diamond League, a new series allying the most important athletics one-day events starting in 2010

Today, IAAF-President Lamine Diack has presented the IAAF Diamond League in Monaco: 12 of the most renowned athletics meetings worldwide have signed an agreement with the IAAF Diamond League (three further meetings to follow).

With the meetings of Zurich and Lausanne becoming members of the new elite series, two Swiss events will be represented in the IAAF top category of meetings. Athlétissima, currently a Super Grand Prix Meeting will be upgraded to the highest category. Weltklasse Zürich, so far one of the six members of the AF Golden League, will keep its status among the most important one-day events in athletics worldwide.

The membership of the two top meetings in Switzerland both underlines and rewards a long standing tradition of high quality work of the Swiss promoters. Apart from Switzerland, only the USA and Great Britain, two athletics superpowers, are expected to be represented twice in the Diamond League.

“We are very happy that our work and our excellent standards will now be reflected in the status of the meeting”, Jacky Delapierre, Meeting Director of Athlétissima explains.

Patrick K. Magyar, Meeting Director of Weltklasse Zürich, stresses that the highest meeting category will not experience a mere name change, but that the product will be innovated and renewed. “Amending the structures of our sport is essential. Athletics holds an enormous potential. I am convinced that it will be able to surface with the new Diamond League, and our events will become even more attractive through that”, he points out.

A Promising Common Project

With the new league, the major one-day meetings have agreed on a very promising common project indeed. The biggest stars of athletics will receive overall agreements; thus the strongest opponents will compete at the most important meetings.

The Diamond League, which will not only stop in Europe but also in Asia, the US and the Middle East, will involve 32 disciplines in total. Every discipline will be staged at seven or eight meetings. The prize money schedule will be identical at all member meetings, and will amount to 416,000 US dollars per meeting. Standardised timetables will be designed to be more viewer-friendly, and will also meet TV requirements by offering a compact, attractive two-hour main programme of events.

In all events, an IAAF Diamond Race will be staged, where athletes will be able to earn points. The athlete with the highest score at the end of the season will be awarded a diamond worth of 80,000 US dollars.

IAAF Diamond League

- Aviva London Grand Prix
- Aviva British Grand Prix
- Athletissima Lausanne
- ExxonMobil Bislett Games Oslo
- DN Galan Stockholm
- Herculis Monaco
- Meeting AREVA
- Memorial Van Damme Brussels
- Prefontaine Classic Eugene
- Reebok Grand Prix New York
- China Golden Grand Prix
- Weltklasse Zurich
- DKB ISTAF Berlin *
- Golden Gala Rome *
- Qatar Athletics Super Grand Prix in Doha *

* contractual status to be confirmed

In case of questions please contact Janine Geigele, jgeigele@weltklassezuerich.ch,
telephone: +41 79 341 03 32