

NORDIC COMBINED WOMEN – Progress Report

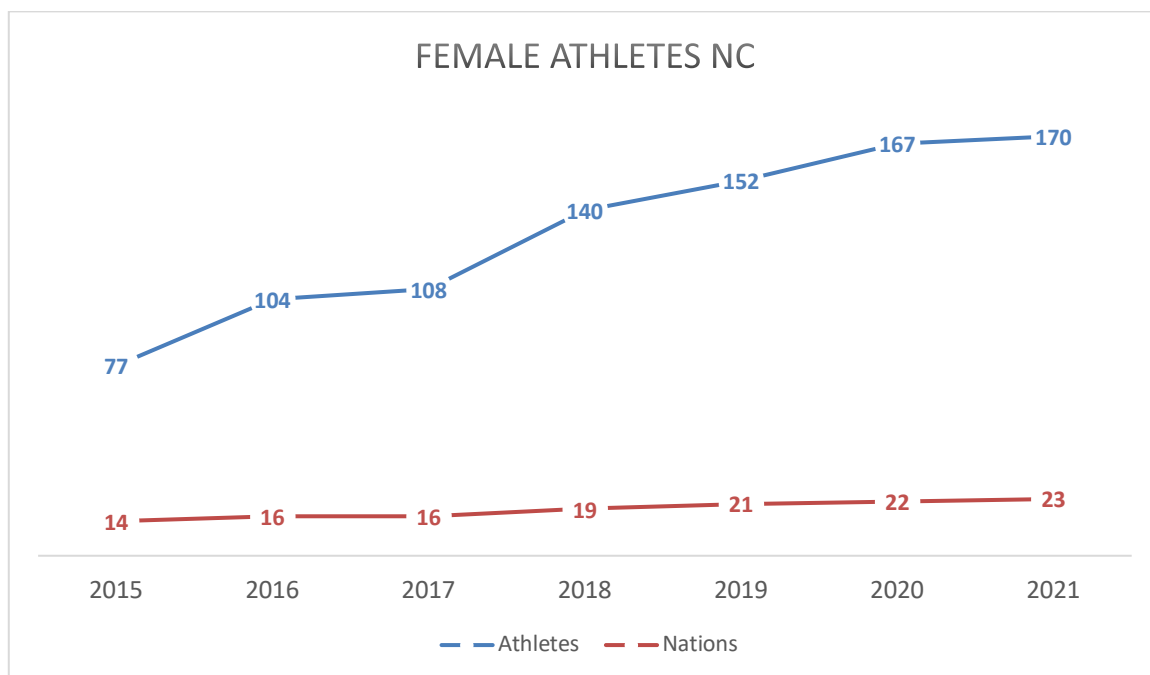
April 2021

The season 2020/21 was heavily influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic and its different economic and organisational consequences. Especially events for young athletes became almost impossible to host due to bans on all sports below the elite level and with ever-changing travel restrictions, lockdowns and border closures, as well as the rising costs due to Covid-19 testing and other safety protocols, even attending elite-level events became problematic for many teams. The numbers in this report have to be interpreted carefully against this backdrop.

1. Statistics and numbers

In total, 170 female athletes from 23 nations are registered with a FIS Code for Nordic Combined. Across all cups and systems (FIS events, FIS Youth Cup, Alpecup, Continental Cup, JWSC, WSC), 89 of these athletes from 14 nations took part in international events at 10 different venues in 2020/21.

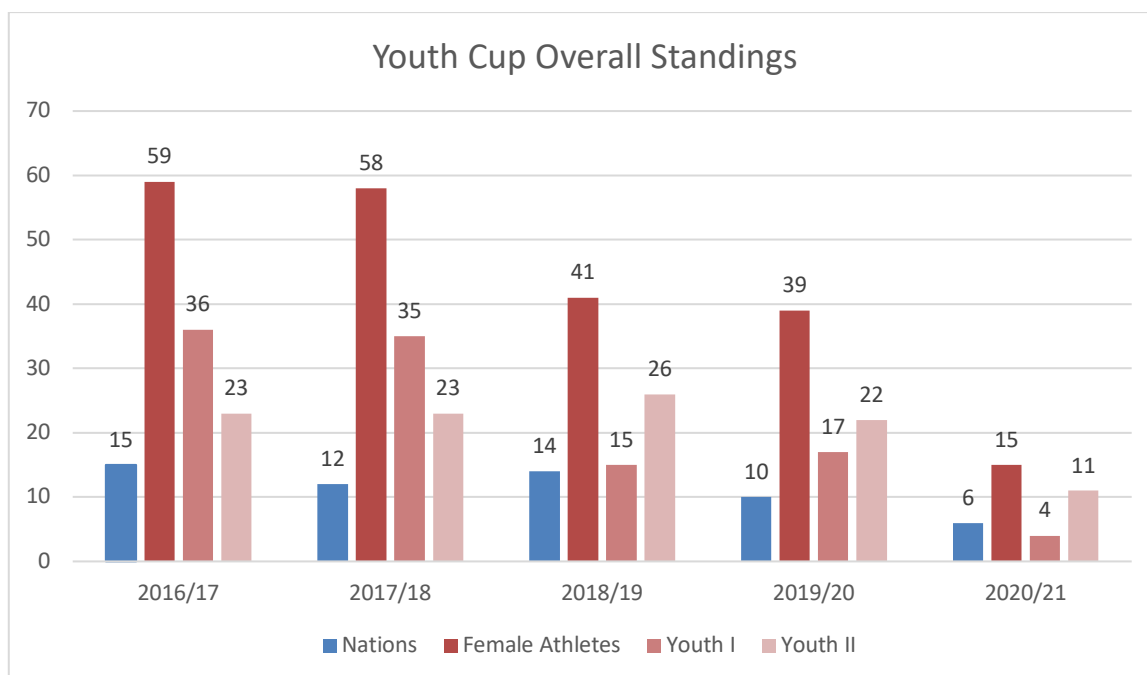
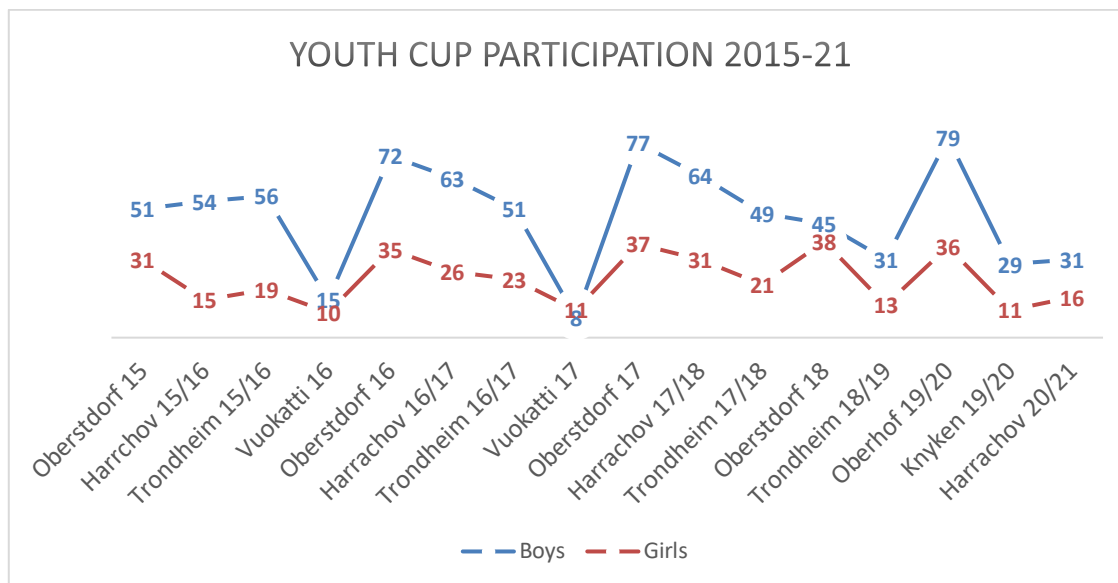
13 female athletes debuted in FIS Continental Cup this season and 31 in the World Cup, compared to 19 men in COC and 10 in World Cup. The average age of female Nordic Combined participants is 18.43 years, compared to the men's average age of 22.55.



2. FIS Youth Cup

The 2020/21 FIS Youth Cup season featured one event weekend in Harrachov (CZE). Both categories, Youth I and Youth II, were held for female and male competitors.

Statistics



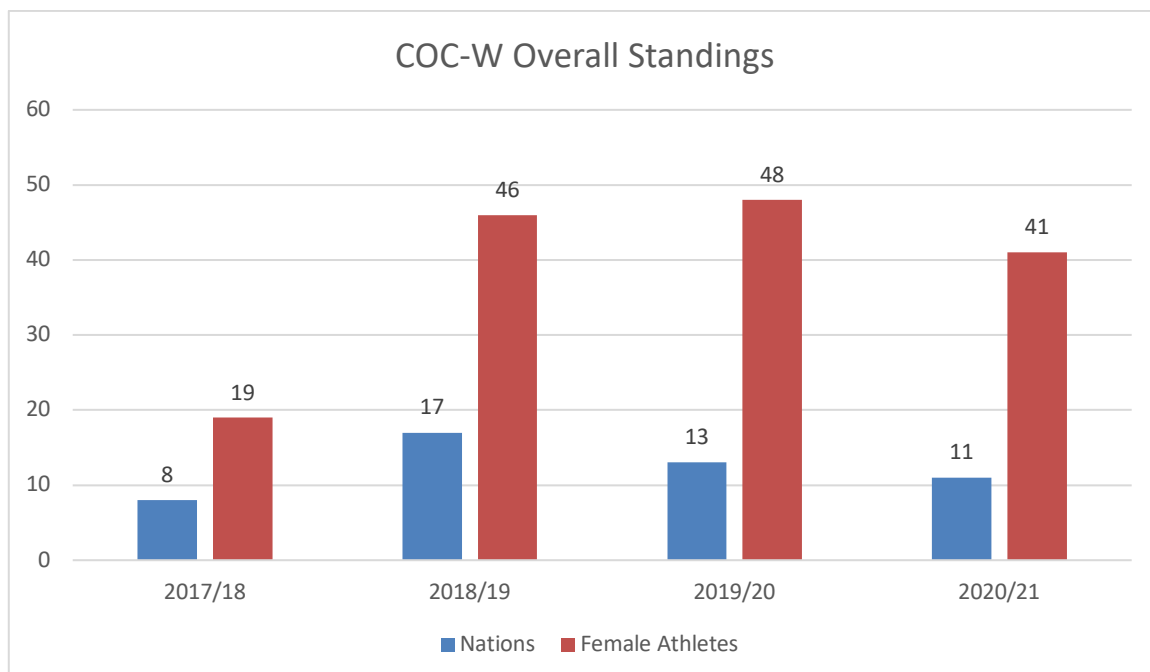
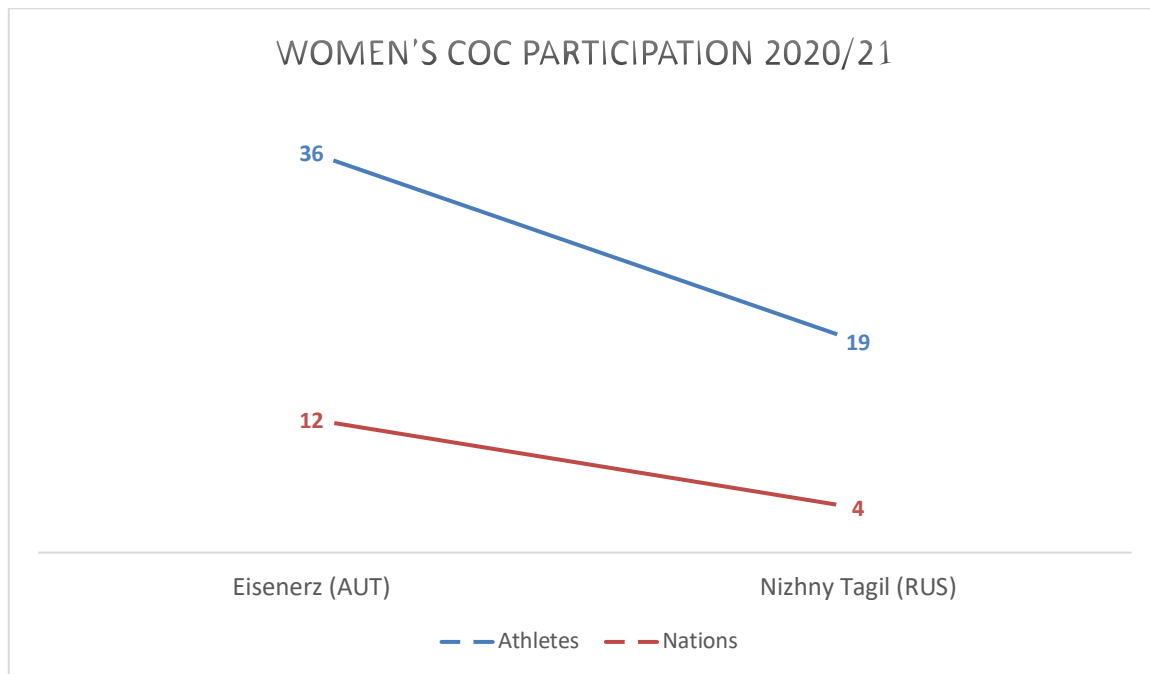
3. Women's Continental Cup

The fourth winter of the Women's Nordic Combined Continental Cup featured a calendar with 6 events at two venues. The planned competition in the USA, and Rena (NOR) had to be cancelled due to different Covid-related problems.

This season, a 2-jump, 7.5 km Final Individual Gundersen competition was held for the first time at the FIS Continental Cup Finals in Nizhny Tagil (RUS).

The overall number of participating women in the Continental Cup slightly dropped from 48 to 41 women in points. The number of participating nations was 12 (AUT, CZE, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, ITA, JPN, NOR, SLO, RUS, USA).

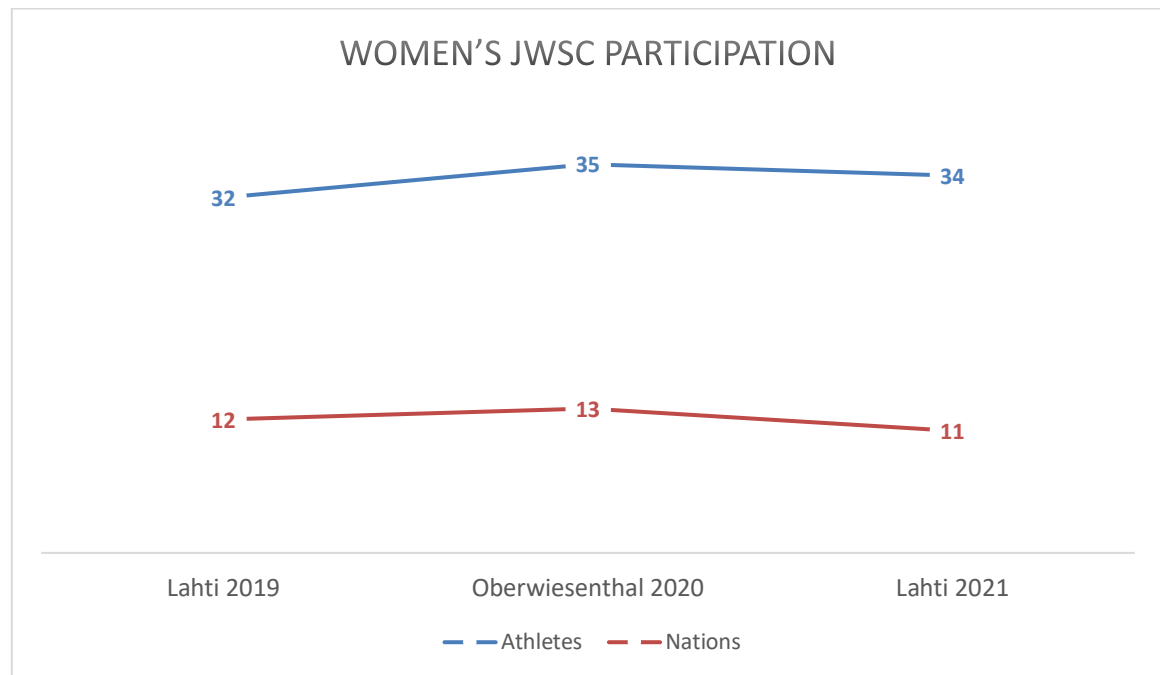
Statistics



4. FIS Junior World Ski Championships

The Nordic Combined women had their third FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships in Lahti (FIN). Gyda Westvold Hansen (NOR) won the gold medal, ahead of Marte Leinan Lund (NOR), who defended her silver medal. Lisa Hirner (AUT) took bronze.

The Mixed Team Event saw its second edition at JWSC level with 10 teams on start. The gold medal went to Norway, ahead of Austria and Italy.



4. Viessmann FIS Nordic Combined World Cup

Even though the Covid-19 pandemic caused all five of the planned five inaugural Women's World Cup events of the season 2020/21 to be cancelled, Ramsau (AUT) stepped in to host one replacement event in December 2020.

32 athletes from nine nations were on start in Ramsau and even though the event unfortunately remained the only Women's World Cup of the winter, an overall winner was crowned with Tara Geraghty-Moats (USA), who received her crystal globe at the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Oberstdorf. Gyda Westvold Hansen (NOR) and Anju Nakamura (JPN) ranked second and third.

5. FIS Nordic World Ski Championships

Women's Nordic Combined was included in the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships for the first time with one Individual Gundersen event. 31 competitors from 10 nations were on start. The inaugural Women's Nordic Combined gold medal went to Gyda Westvold Hansen (NOR) and her teammates Mari and Marte Leinan Lund swept the podium for Norway.

6. Nordic Combined Awards

For the third time, the Nordic Combined women were a part of the Nordic Combined Award line-up and this year with the same number of categories as the men: Gyda Westvold Hansen (NOR) became Athlete of the Year, Sigrun Kleinrath (AUT) was Rookie of the Year, Thomas Kjelbotn (NOR) and his team were awarded as coaches of the year.

7. Short-term strategy

Women's Nordic Combined has continued to develop considerably.

The following points are on the agenda for the next one to two years:

- Improve set-up for the FIS Youth Cup.
- Grow and develop the Women's COC, SGP and WC competition calendars.
- Determine and develop competition formats for the future
- Develop season highlights for the future
- Develop a long-term strategy for the financial sustainability and development of Women's Nordic Combined and its associated costs and work towards equality with men's Nordic Combined.
- Close cooperation with SJL and the SJ/NC Youth Committee

8. Long-term strategy

With the development we have seen in the last seasons, the following timeline goals for the future have been set up (TBC by the NC Committee at its meeting in late May 2020).

2023: Confirmed - WSC programme to include the Nordic Combined Mixed Team Event.

2026: Nordic Combined Women part of the Olympic programme.