

Luge and Olympism



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1964 - Innsbruck : Ortrun Enderlein (GDR) is the first Women's Luge Olympic champion.

Foreword



Without false modesty, the sport of luge can clearly be called the oldest winter sport ; after all, it was born of many transformations undergone over the centuries by a means of transportation already known in prehistoric times – the sledge. The sledge, it is true, has also always been used for the pleasure of sliding down snowy slopes. There is documentary proof to show that the first international luge competition was organised on 12th February 1883 at Davos, in Switzerland. The Englishmen Harald Freeman and the Australian H.P. Robertson, who came to Davos each year, appear to be the true forerunners of this official competition, which offered large prizes, thus adding to the pleasure of the sport.

At the end of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th. many competitions used different types of sleigh, but a specific sport, "racing luge" emerged, developed and very quickly became popular. After the First World War, the rapid development of ski-ing pushed luge back into the second row of snow sports with bobsleigh and the skeleton. In 1923, the International Bobsleigh and Tobogganing Federation was founded. It included a "luge" section, but the sport did not have the place which it deserved in relation to its importance and the number of its adherents.

The setting up, in 1957, of an Independent International Luge Racing Federation and the admission of luge on the programme of the Winter Games in 1964 at Innsbruck, meant a rapid extension of this discipline and brought with it an unforeseen development in equipment and runs.

Scientific studies enabled a balance between speed (maximum 120 km/h) and the demands of the sport, without at any time forgetting the security factor.

On artificial runs, the top athletes measure their abilities each year against each other at FIL competitions while the natural track luge riders are more interested in mass sport, recreation or high level international competition.

The entry of luge on the Olympic Programme and its general expansion necessitated the establishment of rules and increasingly structured organisation.

In this sport, the athlete, with his physical and psychic qualities, and his ability to react rapidly, is at the centre of the effort, and not the equipment. The road to becoming a champion is a long one and only excellent training and good experience can enable him to reach this peak.



Bert Isatitsch
President of the FIL

The International Federation of Racing Luge

General Information

Year of foundation : 1957.

President in office : Bert Isatitsch* (AUT).

Secretary General in office : Jan Steler* (FRA).

Treasurer in office : Helmut Ganster* (AUT).

Address :

President : Olympiadestrasse 168, 8786 *Rottenmann/Austria*.

Secretary General : 56, Chemin du Vallon de Toulouse, 13009 *Marseille/France*.

Telephone :

President : 3614 2266.

Secretary General : 91 74 21 50.

Telex :

President : 38 166 Vbrott

* See biographical notes.

Executive Board members who met in Hammarstrand (SWE) in 1981: from left to right, standing, the treasurer Helmut Ganster (AUT), Björn Walden (SWE), the secretary general Jan Steler (FRA), and seated, Erhard Feuereis (GDR), the President Bert Isatitsch (AUT), Richard Hartmann (FRG), Lucjan Swiderski (POL).



The History of the FIL - Origin and foundation



Turn-of-the-century (1907) toboggers at Murau in the Austrian province of Steiermark

In 1520, the German poet Hans Sachs drew attention to the joys of a sleigh ride down a snowy slope. A few years later, in 1532, the word "Rodel" (luge) appeared in a work by Conrad Schwarz. This text was mentioned by Jan Steler, the Secretary General of the FIL, in the introduction to his history of the luge, published in the "Olympic Review" N° 124. Luge, then, was already known in the 16th century, but it was not until the 19th century that repeated sliding on a device similar to the present day child's toboggan was seen on the slopes of the Swiss Alps. Thus, the first luge competitions, usually organised on roads by Swiss hoteliers, took place. The first run, the "Schatzalp" was laid out in Davos where the International Luge Club was founded in 1913. The same year, the International Luge Sports Union was created in Dresden.

In 1914, the first European championships were held at Reichenberg¹, in Bohemia. More than 80 competitors from many different countries took part. The 1914-18 war interrupted the growth of this marvellous sport, but

when peace was restored the International Luge Sports Union continued its activities throughout Central Europe. It grouped together the German, Austrian and Swiss Federations, and later that of Poland, where one of the first artificial race tracks was constructed at Kryrnica.

Bobsleigh developed alongside luge, setting itself up internationally as a federation created in 1923, the Fédération Internationale de Bobsleigh et de Tobogganing (FIBT), presided over by the Count de la Frégolière, a Frenchman.

In 1935, luge was incorporated in the FIBT and a "luge" section was set up. From then on, luge championships took place annually. The section was made up of the national federations of Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Norway, Poland and Czechoslovakia. A new luge, lower than the previous model, made its appearance ; it was the real racing luge made by Marti Tietze, European champion in 1934, 1935, 1937 and 1938.

The Second World War in its turn, halted the development of the sport, but from 1945

¹ Today Liberec

onwards, luge, under the influence of Austria, became a very important sport in central Europe.

From 1952 onwards this sport has been influenced by one man in particular, Bert Isatsch, President of the Austrian federation and President of the "Luge" section of the FIBT. He strove energetically to make luge a sport in its own right and to have it included in the Olympic events.

When the USA and Canada joined the luge section, the members decided to organise a luge congress every year.

Luge racing then went on to win its own autonomy, and this it finally achieved in 1957 with the creation of an autonomous international federation.



In Payerbach (AUT) in 1912, the future Emperor of Austria-Hungary, Crown Prince Karl-Franz Josef and his wife, Princess Zita, give the start of a race for young people

A few other dates

1600: Use of the "Hörner" luge for transporting people and heavy loads.

1879 : Construction of two special luge runs in Davos (SUI).

12th February 1883: First international luge race on the St. Wolfgang-Klosters street with 21 participants from six countries (ALL, AUS, GBR, HOL, SUI, SWE).

1892: Foundation in Germany of the "Rodelclub Braunlage » (Luge Club of Braunlage) ».

1904: Creation of the « Verband Steirischer Rodler » (Association of luge riders of the Austrian Region of Steiermark).

1905: Opening of the «Schatzalp», the famous luge run in Davos. (SUI)

1907: The book « Das Rodeln, ein Wintersport » (Luge, a winter sport) edited by F. Smutny was published by Cieslar, Graz (AUT)

1908: Establishment of the « Verband Deutsche Schlittensportvereine in Oesterreich » (German Luge Federations in Austria).

26th December 1911 : Establishment of the German Luge Federation in Hannover.

1913: Establishment of the International Davos Luge Club by Comte de la Frégolière, who was later the FIBT President.

8th November 1913: Establishment of the International Luge Sport Federation, whose

members are the "German Luge Club", the "German Luge Federations" in Austria and the "Davos Luge Club".

1923: Re-establishment of the German Luge Federation (33 clubs with 28 380 members).

1923: Establishment of the FIBT.

1927: Re-establishment under the Presidency of Dr. Wernecke, of the International Luge Sport Federation grouping together Federations from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia.

14th February 1935: Establishment of a luge section independent of the main body of the FIBT.

1954: The USA participated officially in the European Championship in Davos (SUI) for the first time (83 nations belonged to the luge section).

13th May 1954 : The IOC Session substitutes luge for skeleton in the Olympic programme.

1957: Establishment of the FIL.

Successive Presidents

Bert Isatsch* has been President of the FIL since its foundation in 1957.

Successive Secretaries General

Jan Steler* became the first Secretary General of the FIL in 1971, and he has remained in this post ever since.

Subsequent development through congresses

I. 6th February 1953 - Cortina d'Ampezzo (ITA) : delegates from 4 federations

- The first congress held by the "Luge" section of the FIBT. It is decided to hold world championships every year, the first to take place at Oslo (NOR) in 1955.

II. 22nd January 1954 - Davos (SUI) : delegates from 6 federations

- The decision to set up an International Federation for luge racing, independent from the FIBT, is taken.
- The IOC includes luge amongst the Olympic sports.

III. 3rd February 1955 - Oslo (NOR) : delegates from 8 federations

- Introduction of international rules : one page was enough !

IV. 27th January 1956 - Imst (AUT) : delegates from 9 federations

V. 25th January 1957 - Davos (SUI) : delegates from 12 federations¹

- Official foundation of the Fédération Internationale de Luge de Course (FIL) and election of Bert Isatitsch* (AUT) as President.
- A few months later, at its Session in Sofia (BUL) the IOC gives its official recognition.

VI. 31 st January 1958 - Krynica (POL) : delegates from 16 federations

- Report on the first meeting held by the "Youth" committee.

VII. 6th February 1959 - Villard-de-Lans (FRA) : delegates from 16 federations

- Construction of a luge run at Innsbruck for the IXth Winter Games, planned for 1964, is studied.

VIII. 12th February 1960 - Garmisch-Partenkirchen (FRG) delegates from 17 federations

- Report of the first meeting of the technical committee.

IX. 27th January 1961 - Hinwil (SUI): delegates from 19 federations

X. 9th February 1962 - Krynica (POL) delegates from 19 federations

- New version of international rules.

1962 : Executive Committee of the FIL

PT: Bert Isatitsch* (AUT).

VPTs: Lucjan Swiderski (POL), Odd H. Erichsen (NOR), William Kerth (USA).

T: Baron Edward von Falz-Fein (LIE).

S: Ingrid Berger (AUT).

PTs of Committees

- Sport : Ehrard Feuereis (GDR) ;
- Run construction : Anton Weissnicht (AUT) ;
- Youth : Richard Hartmann (GDR) ;
- Control : Helmut Berndt (GDR).

XI. 24th January 1963 - Imst (AUT) delegates from 20 federations

XII. 8th February 1964 - Innsbruck (AUT) delegates from 20 federations

XIII. 5th February 1965 - Davos (SUI) delegates from 19 federations

- The heating of runners before competition is banned.

XIV. 25th February 1966 - Friedrichroda (GDR) delegates from 16 federations

XV. 17th February 1967 - Hammarstrand (SWE) delegates from 21 federations

XVI. 16th February 1968 - Grenoble (FRA) delegates from 22 federations

XVII. 31st January 1969 - Königssee (FRG) delegates from 21 federations

- Inauguration of the first refrigerated run at Königssee. This idea marks a development in the sport of luge racing for these runs can accommodate riders from autumn to spring, regardless of weather conditions.

XVIII. 30th January 1970 - Berchtesgaden (FRG): delegates from 22 federations

XIX. 29th January 1971 - Olang (ITA) : delegates from 22 federations

- Foundation of a commission for competitions on natural runs.

XX. 12th February 1972 - Sapporo (JPN) : delegates from 23 federations

- Rules aimed at compensating weight differences amongst competitors are studied.

XXI. 16th February 1973 - Oberhof (GDR) : delegates from 23 federations

- Inauguration of the artificial run at Oberhof.

XXII. 15th February 1974 - Berchtesgaden (FRG) delegates from 24 federations

XXIII. 14th February 1975 - Hammarstrand (SWE) : delegates from 22 federations

- The development of the practice of luge by young people is studied.
- Builders are highly complimented on the new refrigerated run for Olympic bobsleigh and luge at Igls (AUT).
- Rules aimed at ensuring proper weight balance amongst teams are adopted.

XXIV. 12th February 1976 - Innsbruck (AUT) delegates from 24 federations

XXV. 18th February 1977 - Innsbruck (AUT) delegates from 23 federations

A new World Cup is created.

Special commission is named to study the problem of luge standardisation.

Creation of the three runs tournament.

Creation of world championships on natural runs.

Setting up of committees on sports medicine, finance, competitions on natural runs.

Presentation of the official film of the FIL, "On singing skates" (in German).

XXVI. 20th January 1978 - Imst (AUT) delegates from 23 federations

- According to Erhard Feuereis, vice-president of the FIL, the introduction of security rules for competitors and on the running of events has reduced the number of accidents to 0.085 %.
- The technical innovations made to luges must be presented to the FIL at least a year

before their appearance in international races.

- Standardisation of the size of devices

XXVII. 24th-26th January 1979 - Berchtesgaden (FRG) : delegates from 24 federations

- New distribution of international calendar, alternating world championships on artificial runs with natural runs.

400 m runs to be encouraged in order to promote the practice of this sport and to reach a wider public.

Approval of the artificial run at Winterberg (FRG).

Opening of the artificial run at Bludenz (AUT) and the Olympic run at Lake Placid (USA).

- 21 artificial runs and 63 natural runs now exist throughout the world.

XXVIII. 18th February 1980 at Lake Placid (USA) : delegates from 23 federations

- Setting up of Junior world championships.
- Awarding of the FIL Medal of Honour to the organisers of the XIIIth Winter Games at Lake Placid (USA).

XXIX. 6th February 1981 - Hammarstrand (SWE) : delegates from 24 federations

- New definitions for construction of luges.

XXX. 12th February 1982 - Winterberg (FRG) delegates from 23 federations

- Celebration of FIL's 25th anniversary.
- World Cup : henceforth five races run in five different countries will decide the annual awarding of this trophy.

XXXI. 19th May 1983 - St. Vincent d'Aoste (ITA) : delegates from 16 federations

- Recommendation to the IOC Programme Commission that recognition as Olympic disciplines of competitions on natural runs should be considered.
- General increase in number of Junior Competitions.

¹ AUT, FRG, GDR, ITA, LIE, NOR, POL, SUI, SWE, TCH, USA, YUG.

Biographical notes

Bert Isatitsch, Founding President of the FIL since 1957.

Born 14th September 1911 in Fürstenfeld (AUT). He became a teacher, and was responsible for schools for handicapped children in Rottenmann.

A keen sportsman, he took part in many national competitions in various sports.

President of the Austrian Luge Federation since 1952, he breathed life and dynamism into this body which, under his leadership, was to become the biggest of all the national luge federations.

Between 1948 and 1956 he was President of the "luge" section of the International Bobsleigh and Tobogganing Federation and quite naturally was elected President of the FIL when it was set up, under his impetus. His steps to obtain Olympic recognition of his favourite sport led to rapid success and in 1960 he obtained the inclusion of luge on the Olympic programme.

Jan Steler, Secretary General of the FIL since 1971

Born 10th September 1928 in Poland, and now a naturalised Frenchman. He qualified as an Engineer-Architect at Warsaw Polytechnic. Member of the Polish National Bobsleigh team from 1949 to 1959.

Within the FIL, he was Chairman of the technical committee from 1955 to 1959, member of the Run Construction committee from 1962 to 1971 and then Honorary Secretary General.

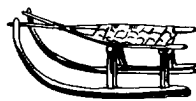
He was technical adviser to the organising committees for the Winter Games at Grenoble and Sapporo and his talent as an architect has been behind the construction of many luge and bobsleigh runs in recent years.

Helmut Ganster, treasurer of the FIL since 1975

Born 3rd April 1925 at Spittal in Austria. Tax adviser, a great luge rider, among the best in his country. In 1967, he becomes Vice-President of the Federation for five years. President of the FIL commission for competitions on natural runs from 1968 to 1976 and then treasurer, he is one of the best informed organisers.



Einsitzer "Daves"



Zweisitzer "Bozen" 1930



Salzburger Rodel 1930



Halltaler Rodel 1920



Matreier Rodel 1930



Der Skeleton



Der Toboggan



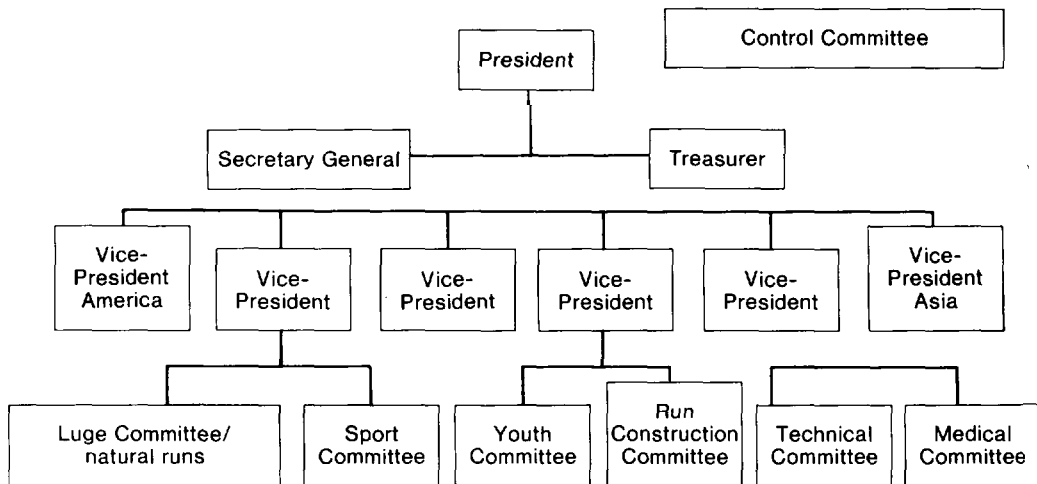
Tietze Rennrodel 1940



Part II

The Administration of the FIL

Organisational Chart



• Member Federations

To date, the FIL groups together 28 national federations.

Growth in the number of affiliated federations

1957:	12	1968:	17	1976:	23
1960:	17	1972:	20	1980:	26
				1983:	28

The 28 affiliated Federations

NOC ¹	Affiliation	NOC ¹	Affiliation
FRG	1957	LIE	1957
AND	1975	NOR	1957
AUT	1957	HOL	1979
BEL	1976	POL	1957
CAN	1959	PUR	1983
KOR	1982	GDR	1957
ESP	1960	ROM	1970
USA	1957	SWE	1957
FIN	1970	SUI	1957
FRA	1960	TPE	1975
GBR	1960	TCH	1957
GRE	1978	URS	1970
ITA	1957	VEN	1977
JPN	1960	YUG	1957

¹ According to the alphabetical list in the IOC's "Olympic Directory"

• **The Congress**, the decision-making body, meets at least once a year during a FIL competition - the Olympic Games, the World or European Championships.

• **The Board**, which watches over the application of resolutions made by the Congress, is made up of the President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and the Vice-Presidents.

• **The Executive Committee**, brings together the members of the Board and the Chairmen of the Committees. It prepares for the Congress, gives advice and makes decisions on specific questions relating to the organisation of competitions ; it expresses an opinion in regard to the construction and approval of sports installations and checks and approves the runs for FIL competitions.

- **The Executive Committee of the FIL**, elected on 6th February 1981 by the Congress meeting in Hammarstrand (SWE), is made up as follows for the period 1981-1985 :

PT: Bert Isatitsch* (AUT).

VPTs: Ehrard Feuereis (GDR), Richard Hartmann (FRG), Lucjan Swiderski (POL), Björn Walden (SWE), Charles Y. Neff (USA), Naomi Matsuzono (JPN).

SG : Jan Steler* (FRA)

T: Helmut Ganster* (AUT).

- **Chairmen of Committees :**

- Sport : Milo Kriz (TCH).
- Runs : Heinz Döring (FRG).
- Technical : Klaus Bonsack (GDR).
- Natural runs : Hans Wannner (AUT).
- Youth : Yury Berezin (URS).
- Medical : Richard Liversedge (GBR).
- Control : Al Malpassi (ITA).

- **Financing of the FIL**

The FIL receives its revenues from members' subscriptions (SF 150 per year in 1983), entry fees for official competitions, and above all, the sums allocated by the IOC from the money received from the sale of television rights for the Winter Games.

Expenditure is made more or less according to the following percentages :

30% on subventions aimed at youth and recruitment ;

15 % for coaches' training courses ;

35 % on subventions allocated to athletes to enable them to take part in international competitions.

18 % for meetings and administration.

2 % on publicity.

- **Training and improvement of technical officials**

Technical officials are all trained by their national federations. Most of them are former participants in the sport.

The FIL controls this training and organises courses for international judges.

Olympic Solidarity has for several years contributed to the running of training courses for coaches.

- **Awards made by the FIL**

The FIL Insignia of Honour (in bronze, silver and gold, or gold with brilliants) the only distinction offered by the FIL, is given as a mark of recognition to those who have contributed most to the development of the sport of luge.

- **Main publications**

– The FIL Bulletin has been published regularly since 1954. It appears in German, mainly, and in English.

– Several national federations publish an information review : FRG, ITA, SUI, SWE.

Amongst those publications recommended by the FIL are :

« Der Rodelsport » (The Sport of Luge), by Adolf Rziha. Published in 1908 by Lammers.

« *Geschichte des Rodelsportes in der Steiermark* » (History of the Sport of Luge in the Austrian Region of Steiermark), by Bert Isatitsch*. Published in 1954 by Eigen.

« *Auf schnellen Kuffen* » (On Rapid Runners), by Harro Esmarch (in German). Published in 1969 by the author.

« *Schlittensport* » (The Sporting Luge), by the Olympic Champion Thomas Köhler, Published in 1971 by Sportverlag in Berlin (GDR).

« *Schlittensport* » (*The Sporting Luge*), by Irène Kohler. Published in 1975 by Sportverlag in Berlin (GDR).

« *The Sport of Luge* » by Piotr Rogowski and Mario Wala (in English). Published in 1978.

« *Mein Leben für den Rodelsport* » (My Life with the Sport of Luge), by Anton Weissnicht (in German). Published in 1978 by the FIL.

« *100 Jahre Rodelsport* » (100 Years of the Sport of Luge), by Bert Isatitsch*, in which the President of the FIL presents documentation in various languages (French, English, German, Japanese, Italian. Etc.). Published in 1983

- **Films**

« *Rodeln Altester Wintersport* » (Luge, the Oldest Winter Sport), 16 mm film (short film 300 m), produced by Friedl Voss.

¹Since 1974, the FIL has taken in charge the competition expenses of two competitors per national federation for each competition that it controls World or European Championships.

Competitions



Jan Steler (in the foreground), on the luge track in Lake Placid.

The sport of luge - technical aspects¹

In order to understand the sport of luge and its technique, three elements must be brought together : the run, the device, the athlete.

The run

This is made of a channel of cement installed, according to the space available, either on the ground, or cut into it, with elliptical bends ensuring a smooth transition between the straight, horizontal parts, and the centre of the vertical bend. The whole surface of the run is covered with a layer of ice for the competition. Each run has a theoretical line, calculated but unseen, of the luge rider's course ; in principle, this constitutes the ideal line.

The run has a minimum length of 1000 m.

The device

The racing luge is made up of a pair of runners fitted with a metal sole. The distance between the runners is 450 mm. Two crossbars link the runners and make up the rider's seat. The seat is bordered by a frame linking the curved runners towards the top at the front of the luge.

1. Chapter written by Jan Steler. Secretary General of the FIL

The structure of the runners, crossbars and frames is flexible.

Length : approximately 1 m 50.

The athlete

He must cover a minimum distance of 1,000 m in four rounds, lying on his back using his body and especially his legs to direct himself in a line which must match an ideal line to enable him to make the best time.

1. 1976 - T. Köhler (GDR).
2. 1972 - U. Rührold (2nd), A. M. Müller (1st) and M. Schumann (3rd, and 1st in 1976), all three from the GDR, have just been awarded their medals by Avery Brundage, IOC President, and Bert Isatitsch, FIL President.
3. 1976 - Hahn-Rinn (AUT) on the podium with Brandner-Schwarm (FRG, 2nd, far left) and Schachner-Schmid (AUT, 3rd, far right) at their sides.
4. 1980 - V. Zozulia (URS).
5. 1964 - J. Feistmantl (right) and M. Stengl (AUT).
6. 1968 - K. Bonsack-T. Köhler (GDR).



It is a timed, individual course sport (single or two seater luge). The total of the four rounds gives the winner.

For this, the athlete must have great physical stamina and extraordinary reflexes, for unlike the bob rider, he has no mechanical means of changing direction and he must be particularly tough in order to stand up to the speed, sometimes more than 120 km an hour, on a contrivance without any careenage.

He is therefore a complete man, who must practise many different accompanying sports in order to be a complete luge rider, being placed above a car racing driver or a bob rider and closer to a motorcycle racer.

J.S.

Luge at the Winter Games ¹

Three luge events - men's and women's single seater luge, and men's two-seater luge - have appeared on the programme of the Winter Games since 1964.

¹On artificial runs

List of Olympic Winners Men

Single seater

- 1964 Thomas Koehler (GDR)
- 1968 Manfred Schmid (AUT)
- 1972 Wolfgang Scheidel (GDR)
- 1976 Detlef Günther (GDR)
- 1980 Bernhard Glass (GDR)

Two- seater

- 1964 Josef Feistmantl - Manfred Stengl (AUT)
- 1968 Klaus Bonsack - Thomas Koehler (GDR)
- 1972 Paul Hildgartner - Walter Plaikner (ITA) and Horst Hörnlein - Reinhard Bredow (GDR)
- 1976 Hans Rinn - Norbert Hahn (GDR)
- 1980 Hans Rinn - Norbert Hahn (GDR)

List of Olympic Winners (Women)

Single seater

- 1964 Ortrun Enderlein (GDR)
- 1968 Erika Lechner (ITA)
- 1972 Anna-Maria Mueller (GDR)
- 1976 Margit Schumann (GDR)
- 1980 Vera Zozulia (URS)

Participation by NOC from 1964 to 1980

NOC	Innsbruck 1964	Grenoble 1968	Sapporo 1972	Innsbruck 1976	Lake Placid 1980
FRG	9 (3)	11 (2)	14 (3)	10 (2)	7 (2)
ARG					
AUT	9-(3)	11 (3)	9(3)	10 (3)	10(3)
CAN	-	7 (3)	4	8 (3)	4 (2)
ESP					
USA	10 (2)	11 ⁴ (3)	10 (3)	9-(3)	10 (3)
FRA		8 (2)	6	1 (1)	
GBR	4	3		5	7-(2)
ITA	7 (2)	9 (3)	10 (2)	11 (2)	9 (3)
JPN			7 (3)	5 (2)	2
LIE	3	3	1	3	2
NOR	4	2			-
POL	12 (5)	11 (3)	11(3)	67(2)	
GDR	10 (3)	10 (4)	9 (3)	9 (3)	9(3)
ROM					4(2)
SWE		5 (1)		6	4 (2)
SUI	8(3)				3
TPE				2	
TCH	6(2)	8(3)		4 (1)	2-(1)
URS			7(3)	6 (1)	7 (3)

The figures in brackets represent the number of women participants included in the first figure.

Participation by event during the last three Olympic Games

	<i>Sapporo</i>		<i>Innsbruck</i>		<i>Lake Placid</i>	
	<i>Athletes</i>	<i>NOC</i>	<i>Athletes</i>	<i>NOC</i>	<i>Athletes</i>	<i>NOC</i>
Men's single seater	45	13	43	15	30	11
Men's two seater	20	11	25	15	19	12
Women's single seater	23	8	26	12	26	11

European Championships before 1955

Prior to the setting up of the World Championships, European Championships were organised a dozen times between 1914 and 1955.

M = Men's W = Women's,

<i>Edition</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>National Federations</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Double</i>
1.	1914	Reichenberg (Bohemia)	2		83	33
2.	1928	Schreiberhau (ALL)	4	19	70	24
3.	1929	Semmering (AUT)	5	16	58	24
4.	1934	Ilmenau (ALL)	5	15	60	21
5.	1935	Krynica (POL)	4	14	90	25
6.	1937	Oslo (NOR)	5	11	46	19
7.	1938	Salzburg (AUT)	6	12	64	23
8.	1939	Liberec-Reichenberg (TCH)	2	16	128	30
9.	1951	Igls (AUT)	4	11	25	10
10.	1952	Garmisch-Partenkirchen (FRG)	6	11	35	12
11.	1953	Cortina d'Ampezzo (ITA)	5	9	33	9
12.	1954	Davos (SUI)	8	18	52	20

Although supplanted by the World Championships, European Championships have taken place in 1955, 1956, 1962, 1967 and every year since 1970.

List of prize-winners (Men) in European Championships before 1955

Single-seater luge

1914	Rudolf Kauschka (Bohemia)
1928	Fritz Preissler (TCH)
1929	Fritz Preissler (TCH)
1934	Martin Tietze (ALL)
1935	Martin Tietze (ALL)
1937	Martin Tietze (ALL)
1938	Martin Tietze (ALL)
1939	Fritz Preissler (TCH)
1951	Paul Aste (AUT)
1952	Rudolf Mascke (FRG)
1953	Paul Aste (AUT)
1954	Fritz Kienzt (AUT)

Two-seater luge

1914	Karl Löbel - Erwin Posselt (BOH)
1928	Herbert Elger - Wilhelm Adolph (ALL)
1929	Richard Feist - Walter Feist (ALL)
1934	Walter Feist - Walter Kluge (ALL)

1935	Walter Feist - Walter Kluge (ALL)
1937	Martin Tietze - Kurt Weidner (ALL)
1938	Walter Feist - Walter Kluge (ALL)
1939	Walter Feist - Walter Kluge (ALL)
1951	Hans Krausner - Rudi Peyfuss (AUT)
1952	Paul Aste - Heini Isser (AUT)
1953	Hans Krausner - Willi Lathe (AUT)
1954	Josef Isser - Heinrich Isser (AUT)

List of prize-winners (Women)

Single-seater luge

1928	Hilde Raupach (ALL)
1929	Lotte Embacher (AUT)
1934	Hanni Fink (TGH)
1935	Hanni Fink (TGH)
1937	Titti Maartmann (NOR)
1938	Friedl Tietze (ALL)
1939	Friedl Tietze (ALL)
1951	Karla Kienzl (AUT)
1952	Maria Isser (AUT)
1953	Maria Isser (AUT)
1954	Maria Isser (AUT)

The FIL World Championships¹

These championships have been held every year from 1955 to 1980, with the exception of Olympic years. Since 1980, the Olympic Games and World Championships have been merged. On the other hand, championships on natural runs have recently been included on the international calendar every two years in place of the artificial run championships which did not, therefore, take place in 1982.

<i>Edition</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	National		<i>M</i>	<i>Double</i>
			<i>federations</i>	<i>W</i>		
1.	1955	Oslo (NOR)	8	12	40	14
2.	1957	Davos (SUI)	10	26	84	25
3.	1958	Krynica (POL)	14	22	51	11
4.	1959	Villard-de-Lans (FRA)	10	18	44	cancelled
5.	1960	Garmisch-Partenkirchen (FRG)	11	22	60	21
6.	1961	Girenbad (SUI)	13	26	69	26
7.	1962	Krynica (POL)	15	25	79	22
8.	1963	Imst (AUT)	16	27	83	28
9.	1965	Davos (SUI)	16	32	71	23
10.	1966	Friedrichsroda (GDR)	cancelled			
11.	1967	Hammarstrand (SWE)	13	34	81	33
12.	1969	Königssee (FRG)	15	27	78	23
13.	1970	Königssee (FRG)	17	30	85	26
14.	1971	Olang (ITA)	15	30	83	25
15.	1973	Oberhof (GDR)	18	28	92	27
16.	1974	Königssee (FRG)	17	21	61	16
17.	1975	Hammarstrand (SWE)	15	22	60	24
18.	1977	Innsbruck (AUT)	15	22	45	18
19.	1978	Imst (AUT)	14	20	46	19
20.	1979	Königssee (FRG)	18	31	51	18
21.	1980	Lake Placid (USA)	12	26	30	19
22.	1981	Hammarstrand (SWE)	17	23	48	17
23.	1983	Lake Placid (USA)	12	24	32	14
24.	1985	Oberhof (GDR)				

¹ On artificial runs

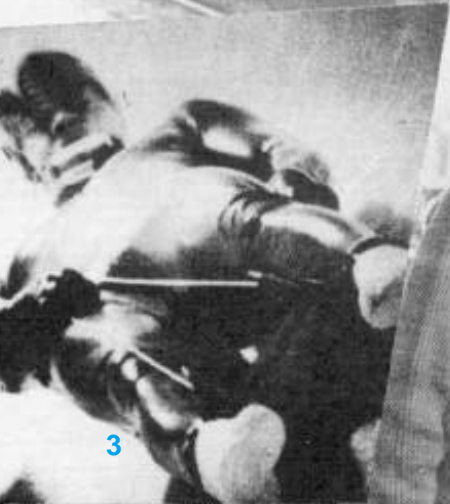
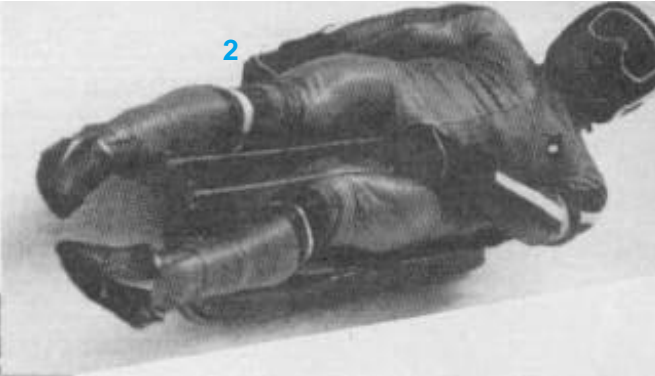
List of prize-winners (Men)

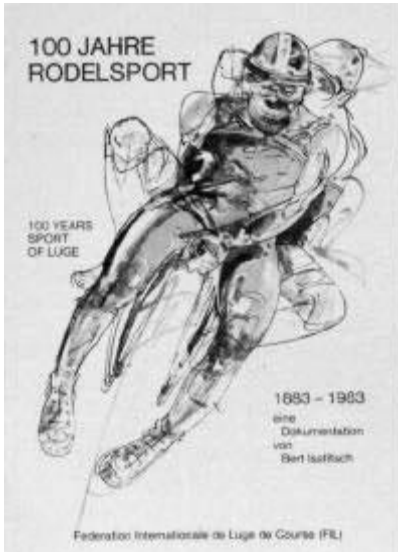
Single-seater luge

1955 Anton Salvesen (NOR)
 1957 Hans Schaller (FRG)
 1958 Jerzy Wojnar (POL)
 1959 Herbert Thaler (AUT)
 1960 Helmuth Berndt (FRG)
 1961 Jerzy Wojnar (POL)
 1962 Thomas Koehler (GDR)
 1963 Fritz Nachmann (FRG)
 1965 Hans Plenk (FRG)
 1988 Event cancelled
 1967 Thomas Koehler (GDR)
 1969 Josef Feistmantl (AUT)
 1970 Josef Fendt (FRG)
 1971 Karl Brunner (ITA)
 1973 Hans Rinn (GDR)
 1974 Josef Fendt (FRG)

1975 Wolfram Fiedler (GDR)
 1977 Hans Rinn (GDR)
 1978 Paul Hildgartner (ITA)
 1979 Detlef Günther (GDR)
 1980 Bernhard Glass (GDR)
 1981 Sergej Danilin (URS)
 1983 Miroslav Zajonc (CAN)

1. 1958 - J. Wojnar (POL).
2. P. Hildgartner (ITA).
3. D. Günther (GDR).
4. President Isatitsch and Maria Isser (AUT).
5. 1980 - B. Glass (GDR).
6. E. Demleitner (FRG)
7. 1961 - R. Pichler - R. Prinoth (ITA).





The cover of President Isatitsch's book, showing one of I. Mujecinovic's poster designs for the Winter Games which will take place in Sarajevo in 1984.

Two-seater luge

- 1955 Hans Krausner - Herbert Thaler (AUT)
- 1957 Josef Strillinger - Fritz Nachmann (FRG)
- 1958 Josef Strillinger - Fritz Nachmann (FRG)
- 1959 Event cancelled
- 1960 Reinhold Frosch - Ewald Walch (AUT)
- 1961 Roman Pichler - Raimondo Prinoth (ITA)
- 1962 Giovanni Graber - Gianpaolo Ambrosi (ITA)
- 1963 Ryszard Pedrak - Lucjan Kudzia (POL)
- 1965 Wolfgang Scheidel - Thomas Koehler (GDR)
- 1966 Event cancelled
- 1967 Klaus Bonsack - Thomas Koehler (GDR)
- 1969 Manfred Schmid - Ewald Walch (AUT)
- 1970 Manfred Schmid - Ewald Walch (AUT)
- 1971 Paul Hildgartner - Walter Plaikner (ITA)
- 1973 Horst Hörnlein - Reinhard Bredow (GDR)
- 1974 Bernd and Ulrich Hann (GDR)
- 1975 Bernd and Ulrich Hann (GDR)
- 1977 Hans Rinn - Norbert Hahn (GDR)
- 1978 Dainis Bremse - Aigars Krikis (URS)

- 1979 Hans Brandner - Balthasar Schwarm (FRG)
- 1980 Hans Rinn - Norbert Hahn (GDR)
- 1981 Bernd and Ulrich Hann (GDR)
- 1983 Jorg Hoffman - Jochen Pietzsch (GDR)

Major Luge Centres

Refrigerated artificial runs

- Altenberg/Hirschsprung (GDR)
- Igls (AUT)
- Königssee (FRG)
- Lake Placid (USA)
- Oberhof (GDR)
- Sarajevo (YUG)
- Winterberg (FRG)
- and soon Calgary (CAN)

Non-refrigerated artificial runs

- Bludenz (AUT)
- Bratsk (URS)
- Hammarstrand (SWE)
- Imst (AUT)
- Jesenice (YUG)
- Karpacz (POL)
- Krynica (POL)
- Kufstein (AUT)
- Leningrad (URS)
- Olang (ITA)
- Mikuszowice (POL)
- St. Moritz (SUI)
- Sapporo-Fujino (JPN)
- Sigulda (URS)
- Sinaia (ROM)
- Tatranskalomnica (TCH)
- Villard-de-Lans (FRA)

and various natural runs on the European continent

- Aosta (ITA)
- Insing (AUT)
- Oslo (NOR)
- St-Gervais (FRA)...

List of prize-winners (Women)

Single-seater luge

- 1955 Karla Kienzl (AUT)
- 1956 Maria Isser (AUT)
- 1957 Maria Semczyszak (POL)
- 1959 Eilly Lieber (AUT)
- 1960 Maria Isser (AUT)
- 1961 Elisabeth Nagele (SUI)

1962 Ilse Geisler (GDR)
 1963 Ilse Geisler (GDR)
 1965 Ortrun Enderlein (GDR)
 1966 Event cancelled
 1967 Ortrun Enderlein (GDR)
 1969 Petra Tierlich (GDR)
 1970 Barbara Piecha (POL)
 1971 Elisabeth Demleitner (FRG)
 1973 Margit Schumann (GDR)
 1974 Margit Schumann (GDR)
 1975 Margit Schumann (GDR)
 1977 Margit Schumann (GDR)
 1978 Vera Zozulia (URS)
 1979 Melitta Sollmann (GDR)
 1980 Vera Zozulia (URS)
 1981 Melitta Sollmann (GDR)
 1983 Steffi Martin (GDR)

1979-1980 Ernst Haspinger (ITA), 78 pts
 1980-1981 Ernst Haspinger (ITA) and Paul Hildgartner (ITA), 111 pts
 1981-1982 Ernst Haspinger (ITA), 131 pts
 1982-1983 Paul Hildgartner (ITA), 111 pts

Two-seater luge

1977-1976 Peter Gschnitzer - Karl Brunner (ITA), 91 pts
 1978-1979 Peter Gschnitzer - Karl Brunner (ITA), 89 pts
 1979-1960 Gunther Lemmerer - Reinhold Sulzbacher (AUT), 34 pts
 1980-1981 Gunther Lemmerer - Reinhold Sulzbacher (AUT), 40 pts
 1981-1982 Gunther Lemmerer - Rheinhold Sulzbacher (AUT), 41 pts
 1982-1963 Hans-Jörg Raffl - Norbert Huber (ITA), 42 pts.

The World Cup

The first World Cup appeared on the calendar for the 1977-78 season. The final classification was drawn up according to the total number of points obtained in four competitions at the first three editions (1977-78, 1979-1980, 1981-1982) and since the winter of 1982-1983, the points obtained in five competitions.

List of prize-winners (Men)

Single-seater luge

1977-1978 Anton Winkler (GDR), 212 pts
 1976-1979 Paul Hildgartner (ITA), 219 pts

List of prize-winners (Women)

Single-seater luge

1977-1978 Regina Koenig (FRG), 68 pts
 1978-1979 Angelika Schafferer (AUT), 65 pts
 1979-1980 Angelika Schafferer (AUT), 39 pts
 1960-1981 Angelika Schafferer (AUT), 51 pts
 1981-1962 Vera Zozulia (URS), 50 pts
 1982-1983 Ute Weiss (GDR), 54 pts

World Championships on natural runs

Edition	Date	Place	National			
			Federations	W	M	Double
1.	1979	Inzing (AUT)	11	15	40	10
2.	1960	Moos im Passaier (ITA)	10	14	36	10
3.	1982	Feld am See (AUT)	11	13	42	12
4.	1964	Kreuth (FRG)				
5.	1965	Aosta (ITA)				

Two-seater luge

1979 Damiano Lugon-Andrea Millet (ITA)
 1980 Oswald Pornbacher-Raimund Pigneter (ITA)
 1982 Andreas Jud-Edeltraud Oberhammer (ITA)

List of winners (Men)

Single-seater luge

1979 Werner Prantl (AUT)
 1980 Erich Graber (ITA)
 1982 Gerhard Pircher (AUT)

List of winners (Women)

Single-seater luge

1979 Delia Vaudan (ITA)
 1980 Delia Vaudan (ITA)
 1982 Herta Hafner (ITA)

Junior World Championships ¹

Open to young luge riders aged from 14 to 19 years, these championships will take place every two years as from 1982.

<i>Edition</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>National Federations</i>		<i>W</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Double</i>
1.	1982	Lake Placid (USA)	9	20	38	11	
2.	1984	Bludenz (AUT)					
3.	1986	Winterberg (FRG)					

Prize-winners in the first World Championships (1982)

M. Hans-Joachim Shurak (GDR)

Double : Jorg Hoffmann-Jochen Pietzsch (GDR)

F. Elena Buslaeva (URS)

¹ On artificial runs

Major International Competitions

Events	1	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Olympic Games	4	Sarajevo (YUG)	-	-	-	Calgary (CAN)
World Ch. ² (artificial run)	2	-	Oberhof (GDR)	-	x	-
World Ch. (natural run)	2	Kreuth (FRG)	-	Aosta (ITA)	-	Montreux (SUI)
World Ch. ³	1	x	x	x	x	x
European Ch. (artificial run)	2	Olang (ITA)	-	Hammarstrand (SWE)	-	x
European Ch (natural run)	2	-	Bielsko-Biela (POL)	-	x	
3 run tournament ⁴ (artificial run)	1	x	x	x	x	x
Junior						
World Ch.	2	Bludenz (AUT)	-	Winterberg (FRG)	-	x
European Ch. (natural run)	2	-	Bruck (AUT)	St-Gervais (FRA)	x	Kreuth (FRG)
European Ch. (artificial run)	2	Tatranska (TCH)	-	x		x

¹ Periods between events : (1) every year, (2) every two years. etc.

² Ch. = Championship.

³ C. =Cup.

⁴ Oberhof (GDR), Igls (AUT) and Königssee (FRG).