

To European Athletics,
European Championships,
Münchner Olympiapark GmbH and
Eurosport/Eurovision

Prevent dangerous heat marathon at the European Championships in Munich - move start times!

Protecting the health of participating athletes should always be the priority when organizing any type of sport event. Prolonged exposure to extreme heat can cause heat-stress disorders such as heat cramps, heat exhaustion or heat strokes. The marathon races of the European Championships are set to start on August 15, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. (women) and 11:30 a.m. (men). The weather forecast projects temperatures of up to 37 degrees Celsius for this day. Considering the severe risks these conditions pose to our health, we – more than 50 runners set to compete in the races – urge the organizers to move the start to an earlier time.

We are aware that the topic has been unsuccessfully raised with European Athletics by its Athletes Committee and other stakeholders. Especially considering the dramatic images of athletes suffering from extreme heat at previous events it is incomprehensible that our concerns have not been taken seriously. Leading sporting federations such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and World Athletics have set good examples before, rescheduling championship competitions in midsummer so that athletes are at least spared the most extreme conditions.

At this point we do not feel that the organizers will change their mind which is why we make our demand public. We fully support the intention to boost our sport through TV exposure during the day and making it more accessible for spectators. Yet, these considerations should never take precedence over our health.



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