



WORLD ATHLETICS
RELAYS
SILESIA 21

1 – 2.05.2021
SILESIA STADIUM
**OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME**

Contents

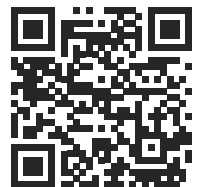
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The World Athletics Relays Silesia21, our newest World Athletics Series event, comes to Europe for the first time on May 1-2, courtesy of our hosts in Silesia, Poland.

Established over three very successful editions in Nassau, The Bahamas, from 2014-2017, the World Relays has quickly become one of our most vibrant competitions, developing a culture of fun and innovation that gives it a unique flavour.

We took this event to Asia for the first time two years ago, where it was embraced by athletics fans in Yokohama, Japan and we are now pleased to stage this the 5th edition of this compelling competition in our traditional stronghold in Europe, and particularly in Poland, which has an outstanding record of relay success on the international stage.

Despite its short history, the World Relays has already created a host of memorable moments, from Jamaica's world record in the men's 4x200m relay in 2014 to the exhilarating hometown triumph of the Bahamian team in 2017 in the mixed 4x400m relay, an event that was successfully introduced there, and will make its Olympic debut in Tokyo later this year.

In Yokohama two years ago, the Polish women achieved one of the biggest upsets of the competition with their stirring victory in the 4x400m relay and I know local fans will be hoping for a repeat performance at home.

There is much at stake for all competing teams. This will be an important qualifying event for national relay teams hoping to attend the Tokyo Olympic Games and the World Athletics Championships Oregon22.

The first eight finishers in the 4x100m, 4x400m and mixed 4x400m events will automatically qualify for Tokyo, and the first ten finishers in the 4x100m and 4x 400m, and first 12 in the mixed 4x400m relay will automatically qualify for Oregon.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this won't be the event we originally imagined. We have had to adjust to local circumstances, which means that we will be unable to have spectators in the stadium. We regret that local fans will not be able to attend the event, but we have done our best to ensure that followers everywhere can tune in and support their teams as if they were in the arena.

Our Local Organising Committee has been determined and resilient in re-designing the event, and introducing stringent health and safety protocols to ensure that all athletes, officials and media in attendance are able to participate safely.

In serious times, they have also been able to maintain a sense of fun about the event through their creation of a relay team of engaging animal mascots inspired by the presence of the Silesian Zoo right next door to our host venue.

I am grateful for their efforts. I would especially like to thank the Marshal of the Silesian Voivodeship, Jakub Chęłstowski, for his unflinching support for this event, and all our Official Partners and Suppliers, for their continued commitment to our sport.



Sebastian Coe
President, World Athletics



Województwo
Śląskie

The Silesia Province:

full of positive energy !

History is happening before our eyes. The Silesian Stadium will become the arena of the greatest athletic events in the world, and outstanding athletes will fight for the highest laurels, competing not only with their rivals, but also trying to push their own limits.

I am proud to be the host of the Silesian Voivodeship, which is developing not only in economic area, but is also a more attractive place to live and a region that hosts the biggest world sporting events.

The Silesian Stadium is undoubtedly a unique place on the sports map of Poland and Europe. It is hard to find a football fan who does not know the legendary fortress of the white and red team, the magic and legend associated with this iconic facility. It is the "Witches' Cauldron" where the greatest successes of Polish sport were forged, where stars were born, where thousands of throats cheered and led our representatives into the battle.

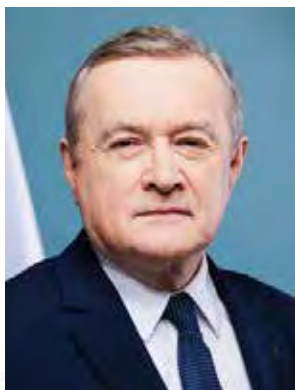
In recent years, the facility has undergone a real metamorphosis and is now a multi-purpose stadium. It has officially been given the title of the National Athletics Stadium, which successfully hosts the largest athletics meetings and soon the World Athletics Relays Silesia21, in which more than 120 teams have announced their participation. This is a step towards the future, but also a tribute to the rich history of the facility, which over the years hosted great events and where records were set. We're following this beautiful tradition and building a new legend.

Organizing such a prestigious event is a source of pride for us, but also a great logistical challenge. We want the Silesian Stadium to become a permanent part of the calendar of the biggest athletic events in the world, to attract the best athletes and thousands of fans thirsting for excitement of the highest world class quality.

The magic of the Silesian Stadium is still alive, and its rich history motivates and provides true inspiration for young athletes whose dream is to be a part of a great sporting spectacle. I am convinced that this event will be an athletic feast for us and will allow us to experience plenty of sporting excitements during this difficult time for everyone.



Jakub Chelstowski
Marshal of the Silesian Voivodeship



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the most important athletic events of this year, the World Athletics Relays Silesia21 will soon be upon us.

For athletes, this is certainly a priority event at the start of a season that will culminate with the 32nd Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. The World Athletics Relays Silesia21 is also a great opportunity for relay teams to qualify for the Olympic Games.

During the championship in Silesia, we will see the cream of world athletics. During one weekend in May, the Silesian Stadium is going to host almost 1000 contestants and more than 120 relay teams. This is the first such large international event since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

I wish to express my gratitude to the organisers, the authorities of the Silesian Voivodeship and the Silesian Stadium for their immense efforts preparing this event. I am deeply convinced that it will remain in the memory of its participants for a long time. Among the contestants there is an insatiable hunger for rivalry, as numerous sports events have disappeared from the calendars and Poland will always support the organisation of championship-level and international events.

I wish all the contestants of the World Athletics Relays Silesia21 a successful rivalry. Especially, we are cheering for the Polish team, as two years ago our 4x400 m female relay team won the gold medal during the Yokohama World Relays. It would be wonderful to witness such a great success at the National Stadium again. We are keeping our fingers crossed for the 4x400 m male team and their efforts to reach Tokyo.

I am deeply convinced that we will soon be witnessing a true celebration of sport and record-breaking results. May the best ones win!

Best regards,

Piotr Gliński

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Culture, National Heritage and Sport of the Republic of Poland



Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very glad that the Polish Tourism Organisation has become a partner of the World Athletics Relays Silesia21. Sports events are a great chance for hosting country to present its values to both competitors and spectators as well as to all viewers through international media. The current epidemic situation allows us to explore the world online, we often discover the corners of the world that we had no idea about before. However, I hope that what fans will see at the World Athletics Relays Silesia21 will encourage them to visit Poland in the future when traveling will be possible. Poland is a country that has a lot to offer to tourists - especially those who like to travel actively including enthusiasts of cycling, hiking and water sports. In Poland, there are over 7,000 lakes, approx. 60 000 tourist routes, there are also numerous unique places such as the largest sand dunes in Europe or the Białowieża Forest. I encourage everyone to look for travel inspiration at poland.travel, where

everyone will surely find something for themselves.

Tourism and sports have a lot in common. Since the beginning of the year, the Polish Tourism Organisation has been undertaking activities in the field of promoting of Poland, sports, culture, tourism and economy. It is our pleasure to share knowledge about Poland in the world and present its potential, modernity and tourist attractions, while spreading universal sports values.

Poland is more than a destination – it is a journey that affects all the senses - the tastes and aromas of Polish cuisine, the sounds of nature and scenic views. Visiting Poland is an unforgettable experience.

Finally, I would like to wish good luck to all competitors. We are keeping our fingers crossed for you.

Rafał Szlachta

President of Polish Tourism Organisation

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me welcome you to Poland and the impressive modern Silesian Stadium for the World Athletics Relays.

The World Athletics Relays Silesia21 is the first major international event to be held in the venue, which since 2020 has proudly borne the name of the National Athletics Stadium. In recent years, the Silesian Stadium has become the real and proper home to Polish athletes. It is now joining the list of stadiums which have hosted major international events. After successfully hosting the Janusz Kusociński and Kamila Skolimowska Memorials, which have taken place here since 2018, it is time for another test. It is time for the World Athletics Relays Silesia21! At the outset of the Olympic season, the representatives of 37 nations are coming to Poland, with over 120 relay teams competing. Excitement is guaranteed. The stakes are high – on the blue track of the Silesian Stadium, the top teams will earn qualification spots for the Tokyo Olympic Games. That guarantees an exciting fight for a goal close to all athletes' hearts – becoming an Olympian.

I wish everyone success, as well as a happy and safe stay in Poland



Henryk Olszewski, PhD
Chairman of the Polish Athletics Association

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— Adventurer, Naomi Uemura

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Silesia

The Silesian voivodeship attracts guests with its diversity. We are lucky to live in a region full of contrasts, with a great richness of landscapes, views and traditions. Technology co-exists with the beauty of nature, the industrial heritage intertwines with the charms of the Beskid Mountains and the Kraków-Częstochowa Upland, known as the Polish Jura.

For decades we have drawn on our diversity, cultural wealth and the tradition which has shaped generations and forms a unique quality on the map of the country. The Silesian voivodeship today is not just old mineshafts, which have been transformed over the years into places teeming with life, but also delightful nature, unique historical monuments and modern spaces. You need to see it with your own eyes by visiting the region and dwelling on its possibilities. What used to be the baggage of complicated history has now become our pride and identifying feature. We have turned our weaknesses into strengths.

Our region is dealing with the challenges of economic transformation, turning away from heavy industry, and is developing fast, based on new technologies and innovation. For years we have ranked high on investment opportunities, giving the investors excellent conditions for doing business. We utilise European Union funding effectively in cooperation with the government and the European Commission, as evidenced by the prestigious European Entrepreneurial Region award. This came as evidence that our hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic has been appreciated and it also gives us motivation to continue supporting entrepreneurs and improving the quality of life.

We focus on knowledge development, environmental protection and modern technology without losing sight of the industrial traditions. Our challenge is to improve the quality of life, not just by creating well-paid jobs, but also by developing education, recreational facilities and clean transport, as well as a range of cultural and sports activities. We are modernising the Silesian Park, wanting it to be a modern and people-friendly place which brings generations together. In the Silesian Stadium we organise sporting and musical events, featuring both global stars and amateurs, for whom performing in the legendary venue often is a dream come true.

We have everything it takes to make our region a modern and green one, using our greatest asset – our people, with their passion, knowledge and a strong work ethic passed from generation to generation. We are both proud of our heritage and conscious of the direction we need to take.



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Attracting Tomorrow



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Silesian Stadium

54 375

seats

1777

business places

85 000

places during music concerts

842

media posts

25

VIP lounges

106

places for people with disabilities

The Silesian Stadium has already achieved a legendary status. It is one of the most recognisable places in the whole country. It is located in the largest park in Europe - the Silesian Park in Chorzów. It is the only World Athletics Class 1 certified athletics arena in Poland. The certificate confirms the compliance with the necessary requirements for organization of the biggest events in the world of the Queen of Sport, such as European championships and world championships.

The Cauldron of Witches provides unforgettable experiences, to which everyone wishes to return. This was best demonstrated by Kamila Skolimowska's Memorial, which in 2018 was held for the first time on the Silesian track. During the event, a record audience sat in the stands – 41,200 fans could be heard cheering in the stadium, all of them enthusiastic and having time of their lives.

Equally great emotions prevail among the audience during the Memorial of Janusz Kusociński held every year at the Silesian Stadium. During

the last edition on August 25, 2020, the Silesian Stadium was officially awarded the title of the National Athletics Stadium.

This unique facility is also the largest and the best open music scene in Poland. Famous throughout the world artists such as AC/DC, Iron Maiden, Metallica, Guns N'Roses and U2 performed on the stadium stage.

Chorzów stadium is also a modern football arena. It was after the famous match of Poland vs England on June 6, 1973, that it earned the nickname „The Cauldron of Witches”. English journalists hailed the Silesian Stadium as such after the white-reds' only victory over the Lions of Albion.

Euphoria after a win, frustration after a loss, delight, surprise, uncertainty, rivalry, adrenaline, defeat, success, record, VICTORY! All of our events provided and still provide an unforgettable experience. Due to the World Athletics Relays Silesia21, together we will add another chapter to the legend of the famous Silesian Stadium, the Stadium of Great Emotions!

A History of the World Athletics Relays

Just two-and-a-half hours into the first session of the inaugural World Relays, held in The Bahamas in 2014, the enthusiastic crowd at Nassau's Thomas A Robinson Stadium was treated to a world record.

A full-strength Kenyan quartet of Faith Kipyegon, Hellen Obiri, Mercy Cherono and Irene Jelagat joined forces to demolish the previous record for the 4 X 1500m by 32 seconds, becoming the first team to cover the 6000m distance within 17 minutes.

Cherono opened with a leg of 4:07.4, leading at the handover, and Kipyegon followed with 4:08.5, by which point the Kenyan team had an 80-metre lead over their nearest opponents. Jelagat then ran a leg of 4:10.8 before Obiri brought them home with a 4:06.9 effort, crossing the line in 16:33.58.

Such was Kenya's dominance, they finished 22 seconds ahead of the US team, whose performance of 16:55.33 was also well inside the previous world record.

Just minutes after Kenya smashed the newly established world record in the women's 4x1500m, a formidable Jamaican quartet headed out on to the track to take aim at the world record in the men's 4x200m.

Although the event is rarely staged, the world record for the men's 4x200m – 1:18.68 – had stood for 20 years as it was set by a full-strength Santa Monica Track Club team comprising Floyd Heard, Leroy Burrell, Michael Marsh and Carl Lewis.

But Jamaica's team for Nassau was hardly lacking in footspeed either. Nickel Ashmeade, pushed by Antoine Adams of St Kitts and Nevis, gave Jamaica a slight advantage on the first leg before 2013 world silver medallist Warren Weir produced a 19.2 split to open up a clear margin ahead of the half-way point.

Jermaine Brown held the lead on leg three and then 2011 world champion Yohan Blake produced a 19.4 anchor to cross the line in 1:18.63, shaving 0.05 from the previous record.

The combination of outstanding performances and a vibrant atmosphere created by the passionate fans in attendance established the World Relays as a great new event on the athletics calendar.

2015

The following year, the distance medley made its first –and, so far, only – appearance at the World Relays in the same stadium, and the USA confirmed their all-round relay dominance by winning both finals with world record performances.

In the women's race, France held a marginal lead from USA's Treniere Moser at the end of the opening 1200m leg, 3:18.11 to 3:18.38, but a swift 50.12 lap by 2012 Olympic 400m champion Sanya Richards-Ross put the US in total control with a lead of almost three seconds.

Ajee Wilson completed her 800m effort in 2:00.08 and Shannon Rowbury covered the final 1600m stage in 4:27.92 to lead the quartet

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to a time of 10:36.50 – well under the previous mark posted indoors by a different US team.

The US men's team replicated the feat just 24 hours later. They were in second place behind Australia after the first two legs with Kyle Merber covering 1200m in 2:53.56 and Brycen Spratling clocking 45.95 for the 400m leg.

A 1:44.75 effort from Brandon Johnson on the 800m stage gave the US a narrow lead over Kenya, but it was short lived as Timothy Cheruiyot darted into the lead at the start of the 1500m anchor leg. Refusing to panic, USA's Ben Blankenship bided his time and gradually made up the deficit, finally hitting the front on the final bend.

He crossed the line in 9:15.50 to take 0.06 from the previous world record set nine years prior by Kenya.

2017

The mixed 4x400m made an equally thrilling debut at the World Relays in 2017.

Hosts of the first three editions of the World Relays, The Bahamas had finished a close second to the USA in the men's 4x400m in 2014 and 2015. But the addition of the mixed event meant the home team could make use of their star performer, Olympic 400m champion Shaunae Miller-Uibo.

Steven Gardiner, who went on to win the world 400m title in Doha in 2019, gave the team a comfortable lead on the opening leg with a stunning 44.33 effort, roared on by the home crowd. Miller-Uibo then took the baton and blazed around the track in 49.60 to extend their lead to almost five seconds.

Anthonique Strachan then found herself up against USA's Paul Dedewo on the third leg and the long-time leaders unsurprisingly dropped to second place by the end of that stage. But The Bahamas still had their second man, Michael Mathieu, to draft in.

He overtook USA's Claudia Francis on the final leg to regain the lead and give The Bahamas their first ever victory at the World Relays, winning by almost three seconds in 3:14.42.

2019

Anything can, and will, happen in a relay, and the 2019 edition of the World Relays, held in Yokohama, Japan, was testament to that.

The Shuttle Hurdles relay and 2 X 2 X 400m relay were both added to the programme but the biggest upset came in the most traditional of events, the men's 4x100m relay, as Brazil's 4x100m squad of Rodrigo do Nascimento, Jorge Vides, Derick Silva and Paulo André Camilo de Oliveira combined to overcome the might of the United States.

In a close and competitive race, by the time De Oliveira received the baton for the final leg, Brazil was in third place behind China and Great Britain & Northern Ireland. The US team, meanwhile, was another metre behind in fourth but had 200m star Noah Lyles on anchor.

De Oliveira edged ahead of his British and Chinese opponents and held off a fast-finishing Lyles to cross the line in 38.05, winning by just 0.02.

Earlier in the evening, the USA had suffered another shock defeat, this time to the hands of Poland in the women's 4x400m.

Having won the women's 4x400m at all three previous editions of the World Relays, the US team was favoured to win again in Yokohama. Jaide Stepter (52.5) and Shakima Wimbley (50.8) led for the USA on the first two legs, but they only had a relatively slender 0.4 margin over Poland at that point.

Anna Kielbasinska edged into the lead in the final 40 metres of the third leg as USA's Jessica Beared faded to fourth. USA's world indoor champion Courtney Okolo made up a bit of ground for the USA on the final leg, but there was no catching European 400m champion Justyna Swietek-Ersetic, who anchored Poland to victory in 3:27.49.

The Polish women will now have the opportunity to defend their title before their home crowd as the World Relays moves to Europe for the first time for the 2021 edition in Silesia.



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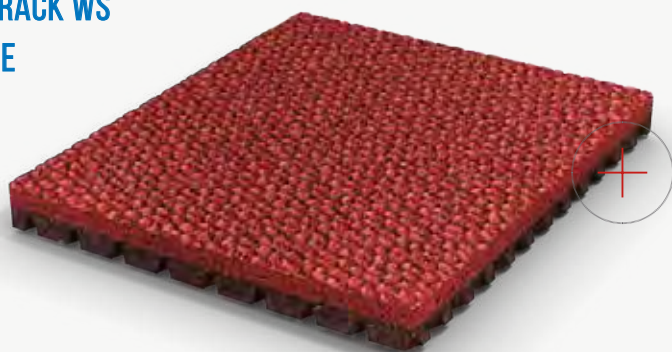
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Timetable

DAY 1 SATURDAY 1.05.2021

TIME	GENDER	EVENT	ROUND
19:00	W	4x400 m	Heats
19:35	M	4x400 m	Heats
20:08	W	4x100 m	Heats
20:39	M	4x100 m	Heats
21:06	X	2x2x400 m	FINAL
21:20	X	4x400 m	Heats
21:58	X	Shuttle Hurdles Relay	FINAL

DAY 2 SUNDAY 2.05.2021

TIME	GENDER	EVENT	ROUND
19:20	X	4x400 m	FINAL
19:35	M	4x100 m	FINAL
19:46	W	4x100 m	FINAL
19:59	W	4x200 m	FINAL
20:13	M	4x200 m	FINAL
20:26	W	4x400 m	FINAL
20:42	M	4x400 m	FINAL
20:52	X	CEREMONIES	MC



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Competition Awards Prize Money

Men: 4x100m – 4x400m

Women: 4x100m – 4x400m

Mixed: 4x400m

PLACE	PRIZE
1st	USD 40,000
2nd	USD 20,000
3rd	USD 10,000
4th	USD 8,000
5th	USD 6,000
6th	USD 4,000
7th	USD 3,000
8th	USD 2,000

Men: 4x200m

Women: 4x200m

PLACE	PRIZE
1st	USD 24,000
2nd	USD 12,000
3rd	USD 5,000
4th	USD 4,000
5th	USD 3,000
6th	USD 2,000

2x2x400m Mixed Relay

PLACE	PRIZE
1st	USD 12,000
2nd	USD 6,000
3rd	USD 2,500
4th	USD 2,000
5th	USD 1,500
6th	USD 1,000

Shuttle Hurdles Mixed Relay:

PLACE	PRIZE
1st	USD 24,000
2nd	USD 12,000
3rd	USD 5,000
4th	USD 4,000

Competition Format

Events Programme

The World Athletics Relays programme shall comprise the following events:

4x100m	Round 1 and Final	Men and Women
4x200m	Round 1 and Final	Men and Women
4x400m	Round 1 and Final	Men and Women
4x400m	Round 1 and Final	Universal (Mixed)
Shuttle Hurdles	Round 1 and Final	Universal (Mixed)
2x2x400m	Final	Universal (Mixed)

Universal (Mixed) Relay

Each team will be composed of two men and two women. The running order is free and will be decided by the Member Federation at the time of the Final Declaration.

2 x 2 x 400m Relay

Each team will be composed of one man and one woman. The running order is free and will be confirmed by the Member Federation at the time of the Final Declaration.

The start of the race will be without blocks and each athlete must run two separate legs of 400m. The exchange zone will be the same as for the 4 x 400m.

Shuttle Hurdles See appendix

Each team will be composed of two men and two women. The running order will be woman-man-woman-man, and the names will be confirmed by the Member Federation at the time of the Final Declaration.

No baton or other exchange will be required in the Shuttle Hurdle Relay, which will be run in lanes on the track straight. After the race start, each team member must be motionless in a set position and in starting blocks when they start and shall start only after their incoming team member's torso breaks the exchange line.

There will be a maximum of four teams by race. Lanes 1, 3, 5 and 7 will be set up as Women's 100m hurdles in running direction from finish line to 110m start line. Lanes 2, 4, 6 and 8 will be set up as Men's 110m hurdles in running direction from 110m start line to finish line.

Women athletes will run 100m hurdles plus an additional 10 meters to reach the exchange line.



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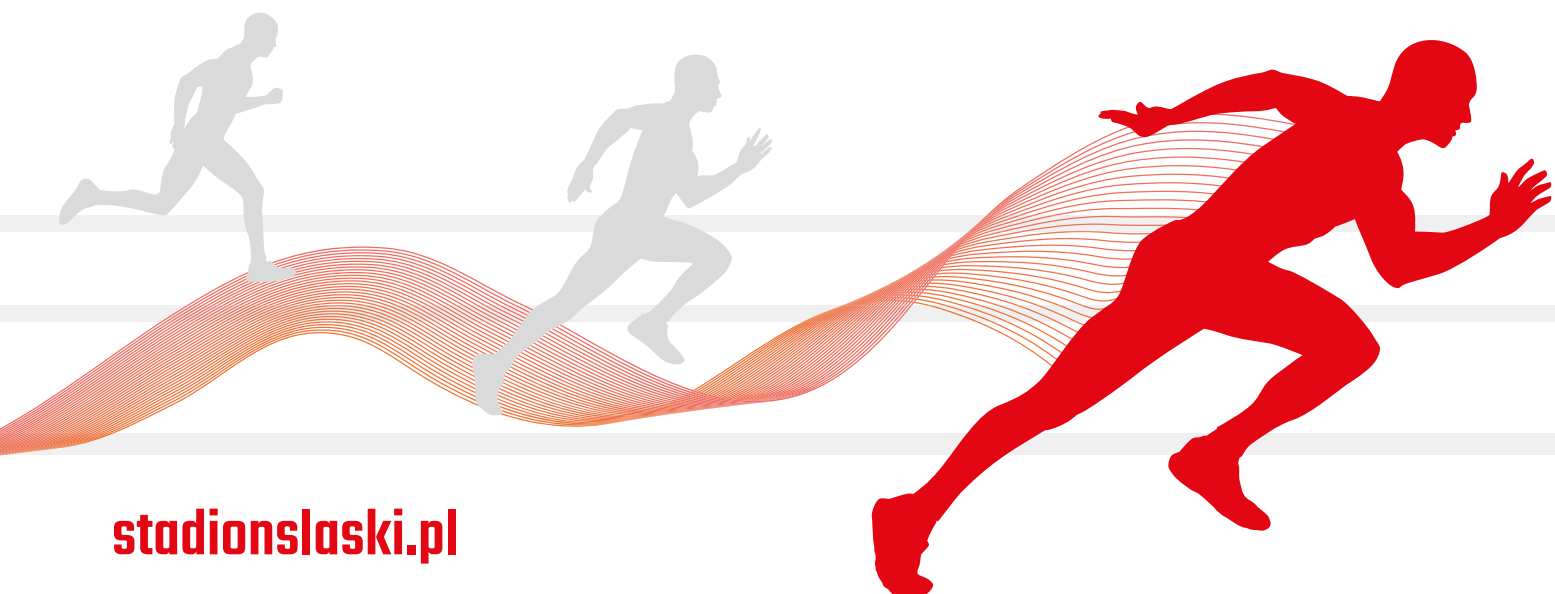
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As in the past, the World Athletics Relays will offer automatic qualification to the next edition of the World Athletics Championships (Oregon) and, with the Olympic Games moved to 2021, they will also qualify for Tokyo 2020. Details are as follows:

The first 8 in the 4x100m, 4x400m and Mixed 4x400m shall automatically qualify. If the country already qualified through the World Athletics Championships Doha 2019, the remaining places will be allocated according to the World Athletics Top Performance Lists of 29 June 2021.

The first 10 in the 4x100m and 4x400m and first 12 in the Mixed 4x400m automatically qualify.

Mixed Shuttle Hurdles - Layout:



Competition Records

MEN

EVENT	RESULT	ATHLETES	TEAM	DATE	PLACE
4x100 m	37.38	Mike Rodgers	USA	5/2/15	Nassau
		Justin Gatlin			
		Tyson Gay			
		Ryan Bailey			
4x200 m	1:18.63	Nickel Ashmeade	JAM	5/24/14	Nassau
		Warren Weir			
		Jermaine Brown			
		Yohan Blake			
4x400 m	2:57.25	David Verburg	USA	5/25/14	Nassau
		Tony McQuay			
		Christian Taylor			
		LaShawn Merritt			
4x800 m	7:04.84	Duane Solomon	USA	5/3/15	Nassau
		Erik Sowinski			
		Casimir Loxsom			
		Robby Andrews			
1200-400-800-1600	9:15.50	Kyle Merber (1200 m)	USA	5/3/15	Nassau
		Brycen Spratling (400 m)			
		Brandon Johnson (800 m)			
		Ben Blankenship (1600 m)			
4x1500 m	14:22.22	Collins Cheboi	KEN	5/25/14	Nassau
		Silas Kiplagat			
		James Kiplagat Magut			
		Asbel Kiprop			



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WOMEN

EVENT	RESULT	ATHLETES	TEAM	DATE	PLACE
4x100 m	41.88	Tianna Bartoletta	USA	5/24/14	Nassau
		Alexandria Anderson			
		Jeneba Tarmoh			
		LaKeisha Lawson			
4x200 m	1:29.04	Jura Levy	JAM	4/22/17	Nassau
		Shericka Jackson			
		Sashalee Forbes			
		Elaine Thompson			
4x400 m	3:19.39	Phyllis Francis	USA	5/3/15	Nassau
		Natasha Hastings			
		Sanya Richards-Ross			
		Francena McCorory			
4x800 m	8:00.62	Chanelle Price	USA	5/3/15	Nassau
		Maggie Vessey			
		Molly Beckwith-Ludlow			
		Alysia Johnson Montañó			
1200-400-800-1600	10:36.50	Treniere Moser (1200 m)	USA	5/3/15	Nassau
		Sanya Richards-Ross (400 m)			
		Ajee' Wilson (800 m)			
		Shannon Rowbury (1600 m)			
4x1500 m	16:33.58	Mercy Cherono	KEN	5/24/14	Nassau
		Faith Kipyegon			
		Irene Jelagat			
		Hellen Onsando Obiri			

MIXED

EVENT	RESULT	ATHLETES	TEAM	DATE	PLACE
4x400 m	3:14.42	Steven Gardiner	BAH	4/23/17	Nassau
		Shaunae Miller			
		Anthonique Strachan			
		Michael Mathieu			
2x2x400 m	3:36.92	Ce'Aira Brown	USA	5/11/19	Yokohama
		Donavan Brazier			
Shuttle Hurdles Relay	54.96	Christina Clemons	USA	5/11/19	Yokohama
		Freddie Crittenden			
		Sharika Nelvis			
		Devon Allen			



TM

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