**X OVER RIDE 2025 – THE SHOWDOWN OF THE FREERIDE ELITE at the KITZSTEINHORN IN ZELL AM SEE-KAPRUN**

**The freeride scene is looking forward to 2025 - it will be bigger, more intense and even harder! For the first time, there are six FWT Challenger events on the program and the legendary X OVER RIDE on the Kitzsteinhorn in the Zell am See-Kaprun region remains an integral part of the series. Since 2012, the Kitzsteinhorn has been a hotspot for the crème de la crème of freeriding, and this year the event promises thrilling action and spectacular lines.**

Possible stepping stone to the Freeride World Tour! In the Challenger competitions, the best athletes from the previous year meet to secure one of the coveted starting places for the Freeride World Tour 2026. The participants for the Challenger Series are selected taking into account the three best results of the respective athletes from the previous season. This means that the most successful 24 male skiers, 13 female skiers, 13 male snowboarders and eight female snowboarders have the chance to prove their skills and fight for a ticket to the World Tour. There is also the possibility of collecting Challenger points via a wildcard - seven wildcards are available per Challenger, which can also be awarded once to current World Tour riders.

**Limited places - hotly contested.** The competition is merciless and the starting places for the 2026 World Tour are extremely limited. Every run counts, every line could decide whether you get promoted or are eliminated. The four best of six Challenger results are taken into account for the FWT Challenger Ranking. This in turn means that important decisions about qualification for next year's World Tour will be made on the Kitzsteinhorn. If one of the previous Challengers cannot take place due to weather, it will be even more important to assert yourself on the Kitzsteinhorn in order to get into pole position. The four best placed riders from the Ski Men category, two riders each from the Ski Women and Snowboard Men categories and only one snowboard woman from each region will receive their place in the Freeride World Tour 2026 at the end of all Challenger competitions.

**Why more Challenger competitions?** The expansion to six Challenger events is the result of intensive experiences and feedback from riders over the past two seasons. The basic idea is to make the competition format more sustainable and create fairer conditions. Among other things, optimizing the conditions was one of the

goals: The weather conditions in March and April are often unpredictable, which could lead to less optimal Challenger events. In order to ensure fair qualifications and high-quality events, the system had to be adapted. Another goal is to establish a Challenger series to offer riders more visibility and thus create an even more interesting interface between the qualifier competitions and the Freeride World Tour. In addition, a larger number of Challengers guarantees that consistently good performances are rewarded and that the World Tour is therefore continuously filled with a strong field of participants.

**Save the date! On March 15, 2025,** the Lakarschneid-Face will once again be the stage for the best freeriders in the world. From the public viewing area on Langwied, the audience can enjoy the best views of the action. For all those who cannot be there live, the event will be broadcast via professional livestream with commentary from former and active freeride professionals.

The X OVER RIDE 2025 - more than just an event: the decisive battle for promotion to the premier class of freeride!

Pictures and highlight videos of the #xoverride event can be found on the social media channels and on the website [www.x-over.at](http://www.x-over.at).

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