



U.S. Skydivers Going for Gold in Russia for 2021 FAI World Parachuting Championships

Top skydivers competing in the world-class event August 10-20 in Kemerovo, Russia

FREDERICKSBURG, VA. (July 20, 2021) – Next month, the [United States Parachute Association](#) (USPA) will send more than 60 of the most accomplished U.S. skydivers to Siberia to compete in the biennial Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (World Air Sports Federation) World Parachuting Championships-Mondial. A Mondial event occurs only once every four years, with “Mondial” translating to “world,” signifying that all of the many types of skydiving disciplines will take place in one location.

The U.S. is fielding elite athletes in formation skydiving, where teams make pre-designated formations in freefall; canopy piloting, where individuals fly high-performance parachutes over a pond; artistic events, where teams fly balletic routines in freefall; and speed, where individuals attempt to reach the highest possible vertical speed in freefall.

This spectacular event will bring together the world’s best skydiving athletes from more than 30 countries. Top U.S. competitors include 4-way formation skydiving team SDC Rhythm XP; 8-way formation skydiving team Arizona XP8; artistic freestyle skydiving team Axiom XP; six-time world canopy piloting champion Curt Bartholomew; three-time speed skydiving national champion Kyle Lobpries; and speed skydiver and record holder Maxine Tate. These fearless competitors will fall from the sky at altitudes up to 13,500 feet and descend at speeds up to 300 miles per hour.

The International Skydiving Commission (ISC) and hosts of this year’s event have fought to make this competition possible after the event was postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic, and finally the global stage is set for a remarkable event.

“Our U.S. Parachute Team has gone above and beyond to overcome the odds and prepare for this event to bring their very best to the world stage,” said USPA Executive Director Albert Berchtold. “The spirit of competition has never been stronger. We’ve experienced many unique roadblocks to bring this competition to life, yet our skydivers persevere and are ready to fly high at the most elite level.”

Competitions will take place over 6,000 miles from the United States in Kemerovo, Russia, at drop zones DZ Tanay and DZ Kemerovo. The official opening ceremony is set for Tuesday, August 10, and competition jumps will span over the course of two weeks. The event will end with the closing ceremony on Friday, August 20.

“From all over the country, the most talented skydivers are coming together to represent the United States and USPA, and we couldn’t be more excited to show the world what we’re made of,” continues Berchtold.

To learn more about the 2021 FAI World Parachuting Championships, visit www.tanaymondial2020.ru. To learn more about USPA, visit www.uspa.org.

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About USPA

Founded in 1946, the United States Parachute Association (USPA) is a nonprofit association dedicated to the promotion of safe skydiving nationwide, establishing strict safety standards, training policies and programs at more than 200 USPA-affiliated skydiving schools and centers throughout the United States. Each year, USPA's 40,000 members and hundreds of thousands of first-timers make roughly 3.3 million jumps in the U.S. USPA represents skydivers before all levels of government, the public and the aviation industry and sanctions national skydiving competitions and records. For more information on making a first jump or to find a skydiving center near you, visit www.uspa.org or call 800.371.USPA.

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