

Ahrntal valley, 02.10.2025

Invitation to the 16th Klausberg ICE GAMES

International snow sculpture competition in Ahrntal valley

Dear Sir or Madam! Dear artist!

Olympic Atmosphere in the Snow: Snow Sculpture Competition 2026 at the Klausberg Ski Arena

Following the success of its 15th edition last winter, the international snow sculpture competition returns in 2026 – this time with a focus on the Olympic Winter Games in Italy! From January 11 to 16, 2026, the Klausberg Ski Arena in the Ahrntal will once again become an open studio at 2,500 meters above sea level. With breathtaking views of the Zillertal Alps, artists from all over the world are invited to unleash their creativity in wintry conditions. The challenge: to carve an impressive sculpture on the theme "Olympic Winter Games" from a 3x3x3 meter snow block – inspired by the spirit of sport, teamwork, and the magic of the Olympic flame.

Every sculpture will be valued by a jury of experts and the winner-teams will receive great prizes (net):

1st price: € 770,00	4th price: € 330,00
2nd price: € 605,00	5th price: € 275,00
3rd price: € 440,00	6th price: € 220,00

We are glad to welcome you at the 15th International snow sculpture competition in the ski area Klausberg in Steinhaus/ Ahrntal valley and we are waiting with great interest for your ideas about these snow sculptures.

Please let us have your registration form with a sketch, the title of your planned work and all other necessary documents at the latest on the 15th November 2025. The senders of the 10 best sketches will be selected to participate.

For further information don't hesitate to contact us directly in the tourist office.

Best regards

The organizing committee team

Regulations

Organizer and topic

The Ahrntal Valley Tourist Association is organizing the snow sculpture competition in the ski area Klausberg in Steinhaus/Ahrntal valley about the topic **"GAMING: From digital worlds to analogue classics"** from the 11th January to the 16th January 2026. The snow sculptures should have a certain stability, so that they can be admired as long as possible.

Participants

Sculptors from all over the world have the possibility to join the competition. The sculptors can participate in a team. The 10 attending teams can consist of maximum 2 people (of legal age). Groups of pupils (2 people) accompanied by an adult teacher can be a part to the event as well.

Appointments: Tender | selection of the artists

15th November 2025 – closing date for registration: handing out the fully filled in registration form with title, sketch and/or photo with a short description of the planned object, Curriculum vitae, reference objects (optional). End of November 2025: Selection of the participants through organizing committee and jury of experts with certificate of participation or refusal.

Obligations of the organizing committee

1. **Free Accommodation and Meals for Participants during the Event:**
From Sunday evening, January 11th, to Friday morning, January 16th, 2026, participants will be provided with free accommodation and meals (extra consumptions such as minibar, drinks, etc., are excluded). We recommend purchasing travel insurance to cover any unforeseen events.
2. The six first placed sculptors will receive a cash prize
3. Travel cost refunding: All participating teams will receive a contribution towards refund of € 0,20 (net) per km from the hometown to the venue. The maximum amount for teams from Europe is €280,00 (net), teams from other continents will get a maximum amount of €520,00 (net).
Travelling by public transport is preferable in the interests of sustainability
4. Assistance by a specialist
5. Evaluation from jury of experts
6. Certificate of participation
7. Additional evening program
8. GuestPass (Receiving at your accommodation)
9. Ticket for the cable car

Snow blocks

The snow blocks (3m long, 3m wide, 3m high) will be allotted to the team on 11th January 2026.

Equipment

The snow sculptures must be formed of snow, ice and water. The organizers will place the following tools at the disposal for the teams: 2 shovels, 1 ladder, 1 bucket and 1 pick. Each participant can additionally bring his own equipment.

Working hours

Daily from 8.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The works must be completed within 16th January 2025 until approx. 3 p.m.

Insurance

The organizer refuses any third part responsibility. Insurance is to be arranged by the participants.

Prizes

The winners teams will be selected by a jury of experts on 15th January 2026 (afternoon). The six first placed sculptors will be rewarded with cash prizes:

1st price: € 770,00
2nd price: € 605,00
3rd price: € 440,00

4th price: € 330,00
5th price: € 275,00
6th price: € 220,00

16th Klausberg ICE GAMES Programme

Sunday, 11th January 2026

- Arrival of the competitors with welcoming at the hotel
- Time at free disposal: eventual trip to the ski area Klausberg, so the competitors can take a look at the ice blocks (you will find them at the mountain station of the cableway K2 over 2500 m above sea level). The sculptors get the free passes for cable car and ski lift at the ticket office at the valley station.
- 6.30 p.m.: Dinner at the hotel
- 8.30 p.m.: Official welcoming and allocation of the ice blocks – explanation of the rules

Monday, 12th January 2026

- 8.30 a.m.: Trip to the Klausberg
- Start of the competition (until 4.00 p.m.)
- Lunch at the Klausberg
- Dinner at the Hotel

Tuesday, 13rd January 2026

- 8.30 a.m.: Continuation of the competition (until 4.00 p.m.)
- Lunch at the Klausberg
- Dinner at the Hotel
- 8.30 p.m.: Meeting point at the ski rental at the Skihouse next to the valley station. Together we shall enjoy the Klausberg by night and the starry sky above Steinhaus/Ahrntal valley.

Wednesday, 14th January 2026

- 8.30 a.m.: Continuation of the competition (until 4.00 p.m.)
- Lunch at the Klausberg
- Dinner at the Hotel
- 9.00 p.m.: Bowling night

Thursday, 15th January 2026

- 8.30 a.m.: Continuation of the competition
- Lunch at the Klausberg
- 3.00 p.m.: The jury of experts chooses the winner
- 7.00 p.m.: The week will be finalized by a common snug evening. With excellent food we'll talk, laugh, announce and celebrate the winner of the contest.

Friday, 16th January 2026

- Breakfast and departure

Subject to change

Contact people:

K2 summit station lift attendant

Klausberg Skiarena manager

Ski school director

Tourist office Ahrntal valley

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