

### **Sports facility concept**

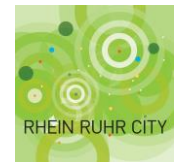
Taking into account a sustainable and economically and ecologically sensible cost-benefit ratio, the concept of the purely privately financed Rhine-Ruhr City Initiative is based on almost 90% of existing sports facilities on the Rhine and Ruhr that are needed for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Ten stadiums are already available, five of which have a capacity of more than 45,000 spectators. 24 large sports halls with a capacity of more than 3,000 spectators are available, as are golf courses, regatta courses, equestrian facilities, tennis courts and more than 700,000m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space that can be used for the numerous indoor sports. For comparison, Paris, which will host the 2024 Games, has 470,000m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space, while Los Angeles, which will host the 2028 Games, has 68,000m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space. More than 640,000 spectators can now be seated simultaneously in the existing arenas and stadiums in the Rhine-Ruhr region. At the same time, the radius of the sports venues in a Rhine-Ruhr City 2032 is 63 kilometers. By comparison, in Los Angeles, where the 2028 Games will be held, the radius is 62 kilometers.

### **Giving sport back to the Olympic Games**

The existing sports facility concept of the Rhine Ruhr City makes it possible to present sports to an audience the likes of which will no longer exist on the Rhine and Ruhr before or after the Games. The most popular games in basketball or handball, for example, are held in Düsseldorf's Merkur-Spielarena, where up to 50,000 spectators can watch the games. For the smaller games, they switch to halls such as the Telekom Dome in Bonn, the ISS Dome in Düsseldorf or the König Pilsener Arena in Oberhausen. In the Veltins Arena, where a temporary swimming pool will be set up, more than 50,000 visitors will be able to watch the competitions of the swimmers and steeplechasers. Field hockey in Mönchengladbach in front of 45,000 spectators, horseback riding in Aachen in front of 40,000 spectators or gymnastics in the Lanxess Arena in Cologne in front of just under 20,000 spectators: With the present sports facility concept, there is a unique opportunity to give sport back to the Olympic Games without having to build a large number of new sports facilities that will not be put to good use afterwards.

The question is often raised as to whether the arenas and stadiums will still be fit and up to date by the time of the possible Olympic and Paralympic Games. Most of the existing sports facilities are privately operated and are in weekly, monthly or annual use. Investments in the maintenance and modernization of these sports facilities are ongoing, and this is completely independent of possible Olympic and Paralympic Games. For example, Messe Köln will invest almost 700 million euros in modernizing the exhibition center by 2030 (2), regardless of whether the Olympic fencing competitions are held there. The Lanxess Arena is investing in the modernization of its infrastructure in the same way as the CHIO in Aachen or the BVB in the Signal Iduna Park in Dortmund in order to remain competitive in the future.

Millions of sports fans on the Rhine and Ruhr identify with the existing arenas and stadiums, which they visit weekly, monthly or annually. As a result, people have a high emotional connection to "their" sports venues. The Olympic and Paralympic athletes meet with immense enthusiasm in the sports state of NRW, which is characterized by a large grassroots sports base.



### **NRW is the number 1 sports state!**

Almost 19,000 sports clubs with over five million members make North Rhine-Westphalia the number 1 sports state in Germany. Sport makes an important contribution to society and connects people, especially from the perspective of inclusion. Grassroots sports form the basis from which individual talents make the leap into competitive and elite sports. Without mass sport, competitive sport would not exist in its current form. Competitive sports serve as a model and goal for many young athletes, often motivating them to actively participate in popular sports. The role model function of competitive sports thus favors popular sports.