



DENMARK OPEN AIR

Olympic shooters, thrilling finals, and an amazing atmosphere





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Denmark Open Air brings together the world elite in Vildbjerg

From 11–14 February, Vildbjerg Sports & Culture center will host Denmark Open Air, Denmark's largest international air gun shooting competition, organized by Talent Center Vest.

This year features a star-studded entry list with Olympic, World, and Continental champions—all ready to deliver top performances and set new competition records. Since Denmark Open Air was launched in 2019, the event has experienced significant growth, and 2026 will be a record year. From just 80 participants at the inaugural edition, the competition has now grown to 226 shooters from 12 nations, representing four continents.

Together, the participating athletes boast an exceptional medal tally:

- 8 Olympic medals
- 23 World Championship medals
- 18 European Games medals
- 63 European Championship medals
- 160 World Cup medals

Denmark Open Air sets itself apart from traditional shooting competitions by creating a truly unique finals experience. Where silence is normally essential, the finals here feature music, drums, audience effects, and an energetic announcer - together creating an intense atmosphere and a high pulse for both shooters and spectators.

A competition with a purpose

Denmark Open Air was established in 2019 with the aim of generating financial support for Talent Center Vest, the regional talent center that develops shooters for the Skydesport Danmark elite program and for international championships such as the European Championships, World Championships, and the Olympic Games.

The event is run entirely by volunteers. A total of 45 volunteers handle planning and execution from range setup and equipment control to running the finals thereby contributing directly to the development of Denmark's future elite shooters.

Our vision is to create a competition that offers more than traditional contests:

An international top-level event where world stars compete at the highest level, while also making room for young shooters competing in their first international event giving them the confidence to aim higher.

Facts about the competition

- Date: 11–14 February
- Venue: Vildbjerg Sports & Kulturcenter, Sports Allé, 7480 Vildbjerg
- Participants: 226 shooters from 12 nations
- Disciplines: ISSF 10 m air pistol and 10 m air rifle
- Program: Team competition on day 1, individual competitions on days 2–4

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Star power

Over the years, many big names have taken part in Denmark Open Air. This year, the event welcomes, among others, the following strong international stars.



Victor Lindgren (Sweden)

Despite his young age, 22-year-old Victor Lindgren has firmly established himself among the world elite. In 2023, he became World Champion in the 10 m air rifle event. In 2024, he claimed a silver medal at the Olympic Games in Paris after an outstanding final. In 2025, he closed the season with a victory at the World Cup Final.



Doreen Vennekamp (Germany)

Germany's Doreen Vennekamp is one of the standout figures in the women's pistol field. Since her breakthrough in 2021, the 30-year-old sport shooter who is part of the German Armed Forces has won 28 medals at European Championships and World Cups, including two at World Championships.



Christian Reitz (Germany)

Germany's Christian Reitz is a living legend in pistol shooting, having dominated multiple disciplines for over 16 years. Reitz won Olympic gold in 2016 and bronze in 2008 in the 25 m rapid fire pistol event, and he also became European Champion in the 10 m air pistol in 2017.



Felipe Wu (Brazil)

Brazilian Felipe Wu is a specialist in air pistol shooting. He previously won a silver medal at the Olympic Games on home soil in 2016, as well as at the Youth Olympic Games in 2010. In 2024, he also competed at Denmark Open Air, where he won all three competition days.



Robin Walter (Germany)

Germany's Robin Walter is one of the country's specialists in the 10 m air pistol event. He reached the final at the Olympic Games in Paris, where he finished sixth. In 2022, he became European Champion, and in 2023 he won the World Cup Final. He has never finished lower than ninth at the 11 European Championships he has competed in.



Rikke Mæng Ibsen (Denmark)

Denmark's Rikke Mæng Ibsen, from the local area, is the country's most internationally successful female rifle shooter. A two-time Olympic competitor, she won the World Cup Final in 50 m rifle three positions in 2024, and in 2025 she secured the European Championship title in the same discipline.



10m air rifle

The 10 m air rifle discipline places extreme demands on the shooter. Even the smallest mistake can send a competitor far down the rankings. The target is very small, and the 10-ring has a diameter of only 0.5 mm.

The maximum score per shot is 10.9 points, after which the score decreases in increments of 0.1 down to 1.0. To achieve 10.9 points, the pellet's center must hit an area with a diameter of just 0.05 mm equivalent to shooting through the hole of a Danish five-krone coin from 10 meters away.

The shooting position is standing, with only the shooter's own body supporting the rifle. To achieve the necessary stability, shooters use specially designed shooting clothing that helps stabilize the body during shooting.

Competition format

Before the competition, shooters have 15 minutes of practice shots for warm-up and sighting. In the main competition, each shooter fires 60 shots within a total shooting time of 75 minutes. In the veteran category, 40 shots are fired. The top eight shooters qualify for the final.

Finals

Thursday

15:15 Veterans

17:15 Women Junior

18:15 Men

19:15 Men Junior

20:15 Women

Friday

12:45 Women

13:45 Men

14:45 Men Junior

17:45 Veterans

19:45 Women Junior

Saturday

Men 10:15

11:15 Men Junior

13:15 Veterans

15:15 Women Junior

20:15 Women

[Find results](#)

[See pictures from competition](#)

Facts about the air rifle:

Maximum weight: 5.5 kg

Pellet caliber: 4.5 mm

Muzzle velocity: 175–180 m/s



10m air pistol

The 10m air pistol discipline requires extreme timing and fingertip sensitivity. Since the pistol is held with only one hand, even the smallest movements can cause the shot to miss the center by a large margin.

In this discipline, scoring is done in whole numbers, unlike rifle events, which use decimal scoring. The 10-ring on the air pistol target has a diameter of 11.5 mm, demanding high levels of precision and control.

The Competition format

Before the competition, shooters have 15 minutes of practice for warm-up and sighting. In the main competition, each shooter fires 60 shots within a total shooting time of 75 minutes. In the veteran category, 40 shots are fired. The top eight shooters qualify for the final.

Finals

Thursday

10:15 Women

11:15 Men Junior

13:15 Men

14:15 Pistol Women Junior

Friday

09:45 Men

10:45 Women Junior

15:45 Women

16:45 Men Junior

Saturday

16:15 Women

17:15 Men Junior

18:15 Men

19:15 Women Junior

[Find results](#)

[See pictures from competition](#)

Facts about the air pistol:

Maximum weight: 1.5 kg

Minimum trigger pull: 500 g

Pellet caliber: 4.5 mm

Muzzle velocity: 150 m/s



PARA SH2

In recent years, the para shooting disciplines have become a permanent part of the program. SH2 is a discipline for shooters with a disability that prevents them from shooting in the standing position like other athletes.

Shooters compete in a seated position, either on a chair or in a wheelchair, with the rifle placed on a support mounted on a table. Many shooters also have an assistant beside them who helps load the air rifle, allowing the shooter to focus fully on the shooting.

The target is extremely small, with the 10-ring having a diameter of only 0.5 mm. The maximum score per shot is 10.9 points, after which the score decreases in increments of 0.1 down to 1.0. To score 10.9 points, the center of the pellet must hit an area with a diameter of just 0.05 mm equivalent to shooting through the hole of a Danish five-krone coin from 10 meters.

Competition Format

Before the competition, shooters have 15 minutes of practice shooting for warm-up and sighting. In the main competition, each shooter fires 60 shots within a total shooting time of 75 minutes. The top eight shooters qualify for the final.

Finals
Thursday
16:15

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18:45

Saturday
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Pellet caliber: 4.5 mm

Muzzle velocity: 175–180 m/s



Individual finals

In all individual competitions, finals are held. The final format is the same for both air pistol and air rifle and applies to all classes. Eight shooters qualify for the final, and scoring is done using decimal points. This makes the finals especially exciting while also reducing the risk of ties.

The finals take place in a separate finals hall with music, a live announcer, and an audience. The entire final process is broadcast live on YouTube and Facebook.

The Final format

5 minutes of sighting shots followed by 2 series of 5 shots; each series has 250 seconds available.

The final then continues with 14 single shots.

During the single-shot phase, an elimination process takes place, where one shooter is eliminated after every second shot series until only two shooters remain:

- After 12 shots: 8th place
- After 14 shots: 7th place
- After 16 shots: 6th place
- After 18 shots: 5th place
- After 20 shots: 4th place
- After 22 shots: 3rd place
- After 24 shots: 1st and 2nd place

Shoot off

If two or more shooters are tied when an elimination is due, the ranking is decided by a shoot-off. The shooters fire one additional shot, and the shooter with the lowest score is eliminated. If the tie remains, the shoot-off continues until the tie is broken.



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Mix team competition

On the first day of the competition, a mixed team event is held in both rifle and pistol. A mixed team consists of one female and one male shooter on the same team.

In the qualification round, each shooter fires 30 shots within a total shooting time of 40 minutes. The individual scores of the two shooters are added together to form the team's total score. The four best teams qualify for the final.

Final format

The final begins with 5 minutes of sighting shots.

This is followed by 3 series of 5 shots. Each series has a shooting time of 4 minutes and 10 seconds.

The final then continues with 9 single shots, each with a shooting time of 50 seconds. During the single-shot phase, an elimination process takes place, where one team is eliminated after every third shot series until only two teams remain:

After 18 shots: 4th place

After 21 shots: 3rd place

After 24 shots: decision for 1st and 2nd place

Shoot-off

If two or more teams are tied when a team is due to be eliminated, the ranking is decided by a shoot-off. Each team fires one additional shot, and the team with the lowest score is eliminated. If the teams remain tied, the shoot-off continues until the tie is broken.



[Find results](#)

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DENMARK OPEN AIR

Hosted by Talent Center Vest



The competition where dreams are made



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