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## **Press release**

### **Rediscovering values through track and field**

"So much dedication to such a cause in such a short time is something I have never experienced before." Heidrun Laschka, former town council member and pillar of the local sports community in Schweinfurt, is evidently impressed by what the 14 other founding members and she herself have achieved.

"Our aim isn't to reinvent track and field. We do however want to systematically intertwine it with elements of youth education and development." Marco Gößmann-Schmitt, athletic director and one of the two board directors of the newly formed Track & Field Club Mainfranken (TFC Main-Franconia) presents the club's goals resolutely and his colleague Sebastian Bauer adds: "We want to serve as an example and show that values and ideals like commitment, discipline and authenticity have in fact not lost their place in modern times, since we sense an ever growing longing for such values in society." The new club has the potential to make quite an impact: While Gößmann-Schmitt, who after earning his coaching A-license worked full-time as the state coach for the Bavarian sprint team, is in charge of all aspects relating to sports, Bauer, who has optimized local and regional structures in sports with the ISB for ten years, is responsible for the management of the club. That is, two experts in their fields guiding the development of this nonprofit club.

The local head of BLSV Dr. Kurt Vogel is fascinated by the presentation. He is clapping enthusiastically to the plans of establishing a sports badge group and shows his joy about the young activists. "I can see a lot of young people in this room, and I really like this commitment. "And indeed: With a median age of 29 years, it is clear to see that Track & Field Club (TFC) Mainfranken is all about young commitment and new ideas.

## **What differentiates a Trackster from a track athlete**

Ensuring that especially the younger athletes aren't left behind is something that the youth representative Sophie Dettweiler recognizes as her job. The 18 year old school student explains: "We educate, support and of course challenge. However that is not only the trainers' task but that of all those involved in the club. Especially young people can and should contribute and have a say in matters concerning their futures."

Tracksters is what the founding members have named themselves and are clearly proud that their areas of interest aren't restricted to only doing sports. "It isn't only about having a nice homepage and combining words to form a charming phrase. We want to set an example and live out our values." Meike Paulick who is 21 years old and studies media communications will be responsible for matters related to public affairs.

## **Integration through sport without regional boundaries**

After intense discussion the founding members unanimously voted for the english name in combination with a reference to the Main-Franconian region. "The most convincing argument apart from coolness was the fact that we live in an era in which our track and field should also be attractive to those, who do not speak German so well," explains Gößmann-Schmitt. "We see ourselves as the best first address for all who wish to play a part in shaping track and field in our region cooperatively."

But why the whole Main-Franconian region? A group of successful young athletes has been training according to the athletic director's concept in Wuerzburg for six years. Among them are Naomi Hemmelmann, multiple gold medallist at Bavarian Championships and fastest sprinter in Lower-Franconia as well as Alma Goller, the German Youth Champion in Mountain Running from Kitzingen. The team is supported by highly dedicated coaches and medics from Aschaffenburg, Wuerzburg and Schweinfurt; together they have decided that the club's affairs should be managed from Schweinfurt. "We only have a small running group at our Schweinfurt location at the moment," reports managing director Bauer and adds with a grin: "The entire board of directors is already participating."

In spring 2019 the systematic establishment of youth development in Wuerzburg and Schweinfurt will begin. "In total there's a lot to come for the Main-Franconian region," Gößmann-Schmitt summarizes and refers to the newsletter for which those interested can sign up.

More information at <http://www.tfc-mainfranken.de>