



Press release – 05.02.2026

## Backcountry Invitational returns to Nendaz

**After the success of events held in Nendaz, Ushuaia (Argentina) and Treble Cone (New Zealand), Nendaz will once again host the Backcountry Invitational this Saturday, February 7. The world's top freeride and freestyle athletes are set to compete.**

With this sixth edition, the Backcountry Invitational confirms its unique positioning at the crossroads of freeride, freestyle and exploration in natural terrain, while continuing its international development from Nendaz, the event's original home.

### **A behind-closed-doors edition, true to the backcountry spirit**

Due to a lack of snow on the face usually used for the competition in the Plan du Fou area, this year's event will take place behind closed doors, without spectators, in a deliberately undisclosed location far from marked ski runs. This decision ensures optimal safety and performance conditions for the athletes, while fully embracing the event's committed backcountry DNA.

### **Experiencing the event differently, in the heart of Nendaz**

The public is invited to share the athletes' emotions during an immersive evening that promises to be unforgettable. The event will take place on Saturday, February 7, at 7:00 pm, at the Nendaz Freeride HQ located below the Hôtel Nendaz 4 Vallées. The evening will feature the screening of the runs, live judging by the athletes, a video highlights recap of the day, an autograph session and the prize ceremony. The riders' party will then take place from 10:00 pm at Baraka. Full program available at [www.nendazfreeride.ch](http://www.nendazfreeride.ch)

### **An exceptional competitive lineup**

For the 2026 edition, the Backcountry Invitational once again brings together the world elite of freeride and freestyle. In the men's field, the starting list includes two-time freeride world champion Markus Eder, Swiss world champion Maxime Chabloz, as well as defending champion Tiemo Rolshoven, winner in Nendaz in 2025..

The women's competition also promises an outstanding level of performance, with the presence of three-time freeride world champion Arianna Tricomi, New Zealand champion Jessie Violet, as well as France's Astrid Cheylus — who landed the first-ever double backflip in Backcountry Invitational history last year in Nendaz — and Mila De Le Rue.

### **Useful links**

- [Photos](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Website](#)

### **Contact person**

Cyril Lanfranchi – chairman of the Organising Committee: +41 79 456 22 22 - [cyril@nendazfreeride.ch](mailto:cyril@nendazfreeride.ch)