



Press Release – 20.02.2026

## The Nendaz Freeride Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

Twenty years of bold lines, intense emotions and legendary peaks... and the adventure continues. After just two editions as an amateur freeride competition, Nendaz Freeride quickly became a Freeride World Qualifier event and has never stopped growing since. In 2026, it will celebrate its 20th anniversary in style, notably with a *Run of Legends* that promises to leave a lasting impression.

### A CONTINUOUS ASCENT

From its very first edition in March 2007, Nendaz Freeride met with immediate success: nearly one hundred registrations were recorded, twice as many as expected. Two years later, in 2009, the event joined the Freeride World Qualifier circuit, confirming its potential and appeal.

Over the years, the event has expanded its program with the introduction of a junior competition, followed by the 1, 2 and 3\* categories, before joining the FWT Challenger for the first time in 2023. At the same time, Nendaz Freeride has opened its doors to new audiences:

- **Nendaz Freeride Kids**, launched in 2018, introduces the youngest riders to freeride with a strong focus on safety
- **Girls Powder**, created in 2024, is an event designed by women and for women
- **Backcountry Invitational**, born in 2021, brings together the world's best freeride/freestyle athletes and has already been the stage for two world firsts

These initiatives reflect the pioneering and inclusive spirit of Nendaz Freeride, ready to write the next chapters of its story.

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Nendaz Freeride Challenger

**Date: Saturday, 28 February 2026 (weather days: 1–3 March)**

This year, Nendaz Freeride is once again part of the FWT Challenger, the final step before qualifying for the legendary Freeride World Tour, confirming its status as one of the top freeride competitions. The Mont-Gond face offers athletes endless line options and ideal conditions to express their creativity. This is why it attracts many international freeriders seeking adrenaline. Spectacular and engaging, the event delights both riders and spectators. The public can watch it live from Plan du Fou or online via livestream.

[Vidéo Highlights 2025](#)

#### Run of Legends

**Date: Saturday, 28 February 2026**

Right after the final runs of the Nendaz Freeride Challenger, it's time for the legends to take over Mont-Gond. All winners from the previous 19 editions are invited to ride the face once again. Who will dare to take on the challenge? Big names from recent freeride history could return, such as Léo Slemett, Benoit Lamour, Solan Dejoux, Mickael Bimboes, and more.

#### Girls Powder

**Date: Saturday, 4 April 2025 (weather day: 5 April)**

This event introduces girls aged 14 and over to the world of freeride directly on the mountain, guided by a certified mountain guide and a renowned freerider.

[Vidéo Nendaz Freeride Girls Powder 2025](#)

#### Nendaz Freeride Kids

**Date: Saturday, 28 February 2026**

The Nendaz ski schools and the Nendaz Freeride association organize a day of introduction and safety awareness in the freeride environment for children aged 7 to 14. Several workshops are



offered: avalanche transceiver training, probing and shoveling, mini competition run, avalanche dog demonstrations, and freeride skiing technique.

[Vidéo Nendaz Freeride Kids 2025](#)

## OTHER DATES

- **Nendaz Freeride Village**– 20 to 28 February  
Ideally located at the foot of the slopes, it serves as a gathering point for freeriders and the public. On the program: big airbag, competition briefings and prize-givings, DJ sets and bars.
- **Nendaz Freeride Junior 3\*** - 22 February  
Around one hundred young athletes aged 14 to 18 take part in this 3-star FWT Junior event held as part of Nendaz Freeride.
- **Nendaz Freeride Qualifier 2 \*** - 23 February (weather days: 24–25 February)  
**Nendaz Freeride Qualifier 3 \*** - 25 February (weather days: 26–27 February)  
Around one hundred athletes are expected at each of these two events, which award qualification spots for the 3\* and 4\* competitions respectively.

## BACKCOUNTRY INVITATIONAL

The Nendaz Backcountry Invitational by The North Face took place on February 7, 2026, at a secret high-mountain location at around 3,000 meters above sea level in Nendaz. This sixth edition brought together 16 elite athletes (11 men and 5 women) from around the world, including professional skiers, Olympic athletes, Freeride World Tour riders and emerging talents. They competed in exceptional conditions, with 10 cm of fresh snow and a stable snowpack under a bright blue sky. Results and the live replay of the Nendaz Backcountry Invitational are available here:

<https://nendazfreeride.ch/en/live.php>

## USEFUL LINKS

- [Photos 2025](#)
- [Teaser Nendaz Freeride 2026](#)
- [Website Nendaz Freeride](#)

## Press Contact

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