

With technology and precision – in memory of a former works driver

Porsche mourns the loss of Jochen Mass

05/05/2025 Porsche mourns the death of Jochen Mass. The former works driver died on May 4, 2025 at the age of 78 in Cannes, France. With his death, the brand not only loses a special driver, but also a person who shaped motorsport, and enriched and inspired Porsche with passion, experience and precision.

“We are very saddened by the news of his death. Jochen Mass was a driver with depth. One who could understand the car like few others”, says Thomas Laudenbach, Vice President Porsche Motorsport. “He had an excellent feel for technology and for everything that makes a team strong. We are losing a remarkable driver and a trusted companion who was with us for many years. His legacy extends well beyond his success – it lives in memories, in stories and in his way of thinking about motorsports. Our thoughts are with his family”.

Jochen Mass was born on September 30, 1946 in Dorfen, Upper Bavaria. His journey into motorsport did not begin in the cockpit, but rather on the high seas: as a young sailor, he circumnavigated the world

for three years. Only after this was he drawn to technology – and to the race track – and completed an apprenticeship as a car mechanic. When the regular driver at the Alfa Romeo dealer Hähn was absent due to illness in 1968, Mass stepped in and proved his talent. It was not a long-planned debut, but marked the spontaneous start of an extraordinary career.

His success speaks for itself: European Touring Car Champion in 1972, European runner-up in Formula 2, from 1973 he competed 105 times in Formula 1 – and won the Spanish Grand Prix in 1975. Until the Schumacher era, he was one of the most successful German Formula 1 drivers by points.

But Mass was to find his true home in endurance racing – and at Porsche. Between 1976 and 1987, he was a permanent member of the works team. He drove racing cars such as the 935, 936, 956 and 962 with passion, courage and precision. Together with fellow drivers such as Jacky Ickx, he celebrated consecutive victories, shaped championships – and his name was synonymous with reliability, not only due to his constant close contact with race engineers such as Norbert Singer. When the partnership with sponsor Rothmans was formed, it was Mass who helped establish it with vision and finesse.

In 1992, Mass ended his active career. His sporting record is impressive: More than 400 races, 105 Grand Prix starts, 71 World Championship points, winner of the German Racing Championship, European Touring Car Champion, Porsche Cup winner, German Sports Car Champion, Le Mans winner with Sauber Mercedes.

Even after retiring, he remained connected to racing – as a popular speaker, heritage ambassador and bridge builder between generations. Whether at trade shows such as Retro Classics, classic car events or media events organised by Porsche Heritage and Museum, people of all ages listened gladly to his unique stories.

Jochen Mass is survived by his wife Bettina and four children. Porsche mourns the death of one of the family – with gratitude, respect and deep affection.

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Image Sublines

Path: media/Images/img_1.jpg
Title: Porsche 956, Derek Bell, Hans-Joachim Stuck, Jochen Mass (l-r), Leipzig, 2022, Porsche AG
Subline: Jochen Mass together with Derek Bell (left) and Hans-Joachim Stuck (center) at a media event in Leipzig

Path: media/Images/img_2.jpg
Title: Jochen Mass, Norbert Singer (l-r), Retro Classics, Stuttgart, 2020, Porsche AG
Subline: 2020: Jochen Mass (left) and Norbert Singer at the Retro Classics

Link Collection

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