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# Results & Highlights

## 23 km - 10 km - Vertical Kilometer - Mini Cross

### Marathon du Mont-Blanc 2026

Press Release - June 27, 2026

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## 23 km du Mont-Blanc: A Thrilling Contest to the Finish

The 23 km du Mont-Blanc once again attracted a highly competitive field to one of the weekend's fastest and most demanding races. Combining runnable sections, sustained climbs and technical terrain, the course tested every aspect of the athletes' abilities, while soaring temperatures added an extra layer of challenge throughout the race.

## Benjamin Polin claims the men's title



**Benjamin Polin moved into the lead from the opening kilometres**, fully aware that the early part of the course played to his strengths despite struggling with poor sensations from the outset. Meanwhile, **Nathan Wanner and Lluís Puigvert Palacios adopted a patient race strategy**, sitting comfortably inside the top 15 before gradually increasing the pace.

**From Montroc onwards, the race took on a completely different complexion.** Wanner and Puigvert Palacios steadily accelerated, reeling in the leaders kilometre after kilometre before setting a relentless pace all the way to La Flégère.

In the closing kilometres, the battle for victory remained wide open between the three contenders. **The lead changed hands several times**, until Lluís Puigvert Palacios crashed on a technical section while leading the race, dramatically reshuffling the contest.

**Benjamin Polin ultimately proved strongest in the closing stages, crossing the line in 2:06:17.** Despite battling difficult physical sensations throughout much of the race, the Frenchman stayed within striking distance before making his decisive move in the final kilometres.

## Podium Reactions :

### Benjamin POLIN (FRA), 1st

*"It was tough today, I have to admit it was two hours of suffering. Normally, the first part of the course suits me quite well because I come more from road running and faster trail races. But right from the start it didn't feel easy, even though the pace wasn't particularly high. I had some breathing issues that kept me deep in the red for almost the entire race.*

*I kept believing until the very end, telling myself I was here to suffer, so I just kept grinding from start to finish. It was difficult to move beyond that suffering and really enjoy the race, but I tried to look up, take in the scenery and admire Mont Blanc. Even though I come from what I think is the most beautiful place in the world, les Vosges, I have to admit it's pretty spectacular here too.*

*I tried to find enjoyment in the challenge. And when it ends like this, with a victory and such incredible support from the spectators all along the course, it's an amazing feeling. It really means a lot."*

### Men's podium :

**1st Benjamin POLIN (FRA) - 02:06:17**

**2nd Lluís PUIGVERT PALACIOS (ESP) - 02:07:15 (+0:58)**

**3rd Nathan WANNER (SUI) - 02:07:24 (+01:07)**

## Oria Liaci takes the women's victory

Switzerland's Oria Liaci produced a composed and controlled performance to claim victory in the 23 km du Mont-Blanc. **Well positioned from the start, she quickly moved to the front in a**

**race that remained closely contested with France's Tiphaine Bazile for much of the course.** After the first aid station, on the main climb, Liaci gradually increased the pace and succeeded in opening a gap over her closest challengers. She then managed the closing kilometres perfectly to cross the finish line first and secure the 2026 23 km du Mont-Blanc title. Tiphaine Bazile finished second after what she described as a race where she *"gave everything, carried by the volunteers and the support from the spectators."* She stayed in contention with Liaci throughout much of the race, even taking the lead at Montroc before the climb to La Flégère proved decisive. Great Britain's **Kristy Skye Dickson** completed the podium in third.

## Winner's reaction

### Oria LIACI (SUI), 1st

*"I was definitely a little nervous. There's always some tension before the start. But I tried not to think about it too much and simply enjoy the course, which was absolutely incredible. I took the lead early on, then it became a two-runner race. At one point I was behind, but I was feeling strong, so I decided to increase the pace a little to get back in front. I hardly looked up throughout the race, but in the final kilometres, once I realised I was almost there and had the win within reach, I finally took the time to enjoy the scenery."*

### Women's podium:

**1st** Oria LIACI (SUI) - 02:26:21

**2nd** Tiphaine BAZILE (FRA) - 02:27:43 (+01:22)

**3rd** Kristy Skye DICKSON (BRI) - 02:27:43 (+05:50)

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## 10 km du Mont-Blanc 2026 : Pure Speed on the Shortest Course of the Weekend

The 10 km du Mont-Blanc is the shortest race of the weekend, delivering the fastest average speeds across the event. With nearly 1,900 runners on the start line, including many athletes from road and track running backgrounds, the 2026 edition was made even more demanding by soaring temperatures from the very first kilometres, forcing competitors to carefully manage their effort throughout this explosive race.

### Lukas Ehrle dominates the men's race

**Lukas Ehrle took control of the race from the opening metres and never looked back.** Maintaining a relentless pace throughout, the German crossed the finish line in **37:15**, averaging **16.3 km/h** and improving last year's winning time by almost two minutes. Behind him, **France's Romain Champenois secured an impressive second place in 38:31** after executing a

perfectly judged race. *"I wasn't very confident at the start when I saw the level of the field. I told myself I'd aim for a top five, maybe even a top ten finish."* Having trained extensively in hot conditions over the past few weeks, Champenois managed his effort wisely, resisting the temptation to follow the leader too early. *"In the end, I had really good legs and that allowed me to hold on to second place all the way to the finish."*

**Austria's Andreas Vojta completed the podium after an intelligent race on his very first trail-running appearance.** Starting conservatively, he gradually found his rhythm and felt particularly comfortable on the steep climbs. Less confident on the technical descents, he briefly lost a few positions before taking advantage of the faster final three kilometres to launch a strong comeback. Running fifth at one stage, he eventually fought his way onto the podium. *"I'm really happy. It's a great result for me. A 10 km race like this was the perfect way to discover trail running."*

### Grace Whelan triumphs in the women's race

Once again, the women's field was exceptionally strong. **Grace Whelan and Elodie Alexandre ran shoulder to shoulder through the opening three kilometres** before the British athlete pulled away to claim victory in 47:42, averaging 12.7 km/h. **Elodie, meanwhile, had to adjust her pace as temperatures climbed.** *"I stayed with the leader for the first three kilometres. After the first climb, I had to ease off the pace. It was hot really, really hot!"* Competing in the 10 km du Mont-Blanc for the fourth time, the French runner claimed second place in 48:34, while Axelle Tirefort rounded out the podium.



### Men's podium:

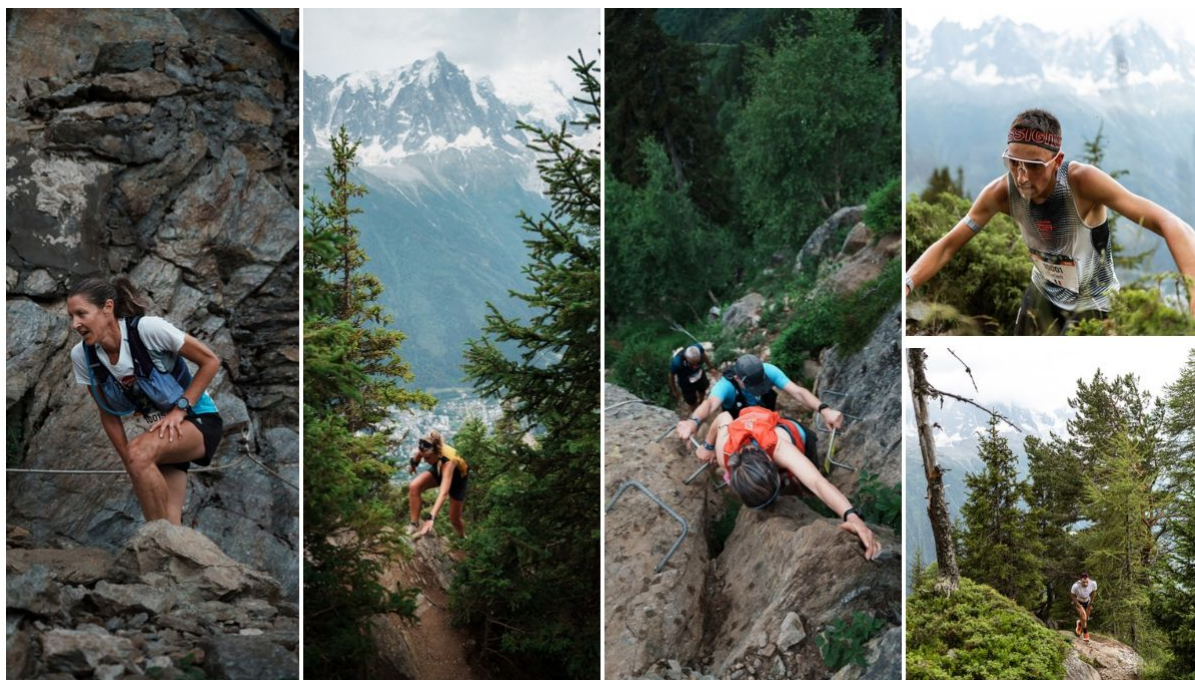
- 1st** Lukas ERHLE (ALL) - 37:15
- 2nd** Romain CHAMPENOIS (FRA) - 38:31 (+01:16)
- 3rd** Andreas VOJTA (AUT) - 38:56 (+01:41)

**Women's podium:****1st** Grace WHELAN (BRI) - 47:42**2nd** Elodie ALEXANDRE (FRA) - 48:34 (+00:52)**3rd** Axelle TIREFORT (FRA) - 49:01 (+01:19)[View full results](#)**French athletes dominate the Vertical Kilometer**

French athletes swept the podiums at the Marathon du Mont-Blanc Vertical Kilometer on Friday evening. Although only 3.8 km long, this individual time trial is one of the event's most demanding races, featuring 1,000 metres of elevation gain to Planpraz at nearly 2,000 metres above sea level. After a relatively runnable opening section, the final third of the course becomes extremely steep and exposed, with fixed cables, steps, footholds and handrails assisting runners through the most technical terrain. Trekking poles are prohibited due to the technical nature of the final section.

In the men's race, **Romain Discher delivered a world-class climb to take victory in 36:59.** He finished ahead of Lucien Mermillon, runner-up in last year's edition, and Vincent Loustau, a regular podium finisher in this event. Remarkably, Mermillon and Loustau crossed the finish line together in 37:46, despite starting 1 minute and 30 seconds apart.

In the women's race, **Christel Dewalle once again confirmed her status as one of the world's leading Vertical Kilometer specialists, claiming victory in 44:06.** Already a five-time winner of the event before this edition, the French athlete quickly moved ahead of the reference split times and steadily extended her advantage all the way to the finish. Fellow French runner Lucille Germain claimed second place, while Jeanne Richard, a member of the French biathlon team, completed the podium in third.



### Men's podium:

- 1rd Romain Discher (FRA) - 36:59
- 2nd Lucien Mermillon (FRA) - 37:46 (+ 00:47)
- 3rd Vincent Loustau (FRA) - 37:46 (+ 00:47)

### Women's podium:

- 1rd Christel Dewalle (FRA) - 44:06
- 2nd Lucille Germain (FRA) - 45:23 (+01:17)
- 3rd Jeanne Richard (FRA) - 45:42 (+01:36)

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## Mini Cross: Following in the Footsteps of the Champions

The Mini Cross once again delivered one of the most heartwarming moments of the Marathon du Mont-Blanc weekend. Originally scheduled for 2:00 p.m., the start was brought forward to 8:30 a.m. to protect the young runners from the forecast heat. **From the very first moments, excitement filled the air. Organisers even had to calm some of the children, eager to sprint off the start line just like their sporting heroes.** Across the three age-group courses, 639 young trail runners gave everything they had, showing **determination and enthusiasm every bit as impressive as the adults.** For many, the Mini Cross was an opportunity to experience the same adventure as their parents, who were themselves competing in the Marathon du Mont-Blanc's various races. Every child crossed the finish line to receive a finisher's medal in front of

cheering families. Smiles, hugs and souvenir photos once again showed that the Mini Cross is far more than a children's race: **it's one of the weekend's defining moments, celebrating the spirit of trail running as it is shared from one generation to the next.**



## Coming Up at the Marathon du Mont-Blanc

Thursday, June 25 - Saturday, June 27 : Trail Camp Expo / Race bib collection

### Saturday, June 27 :

- 23 km du Mont-Blanc - **starts from 7:00 am** (schedule updated; originally scheduled for 8:00 am) - Aire des Parapentes
- Mini Cross - **from 8:30 am** (schedule updated; originally scheduled for 2:00 pm) – Aire des Parapentes
- 10 km du Mont-Blanc - **starts from 10:30 am** - Aire des Parapentes
- Young Race Marathon - **starts at 7:00 pm** (schedule updated: originally scheduled for 3:00 pm) - Place du Triangle de l'Amitié
- Duo Étoilé - **starts at 7:30 pm** - Place du Triangle de l'Amitié

### Sunday, June 28 :

- 42 km du Mont-Blanc : Women's elite start: 6:45 am - Place du Triangle de l'Amitié Men's elite and general field start: 7:15 am - Place du Triangle de l'Amitié

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