

In the ongoing effort of UTMB to increase and encourage the participation of adaptive athletes in trail running, UTMB has implemented a new adaptive athlete policy across all UTMB World Series events.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

This policy will apply to athletes in the adaptive athlete open division. Participation in the Adaptive Athlete Open Division is available to athletes with the following disabilities:

**a) Visual Impairment:**

- Athletes with a medically verified visual impairment that meets the following criteria:
- Visual acuity of 20/200 (6/60 meters) or less in the better-seeing eye with best conventional correction.
- Visual field (the total area an individual can see without moving the eyes from side to side) of 20 degrees or less (also called tunnel vision) in the better-seeing eye.

**b) Intellectual Disability (ID):**

- Athletes with an intellectual disability (as defined by the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) that meets the following criteria:
- IQ below 70-75.
- Significant limitations in adaptive behaviour, including communication, social, and self-care skills.
- The condition originates before the age of 22.
- Athletes with an Intellectual Disability should be registered athletes with Special Olympics, a current registered athlete with a Virtus National Member Organization, or a similar organization.

**c) Physical or Neurological Movement Impairment:**

- Athletes with a medically verified physical or neurological movement impairment that substantially limits one or more major life daily activities.

Athletes with other miscellaneous medical conditions, such as intolerance to temperature extremes, organ transplants, joint replacements (endoprosthetics), kidney dialysis, hearing impairments, and cognitive impairments (except for individuals with an intellectual disability), are not eligible to participate in the Adaptive Athlete Open Division.

**Adaptive Athlete Open Division Registration:**

Athletes are required to fill out the "Adaptive athlete open division" form and send it to the race organizers for approval. This process is mandatory to benefit from the adaptive athlete policy.

**Guide Runner Policy:**

All adaptive athletes are allocated an extra bib number, free of charge, for a guide runner to accompany them on all or parts of their race.

Conditions and requirements:

- The adaptive athlete must be able to self-propel themselves the entire distance of the course within the official time limits.
- Guide runners do not have to be of the same gender as the adaptive athlete.
- Securing the guide is the responsibility of the adaptive athlete. You must contact the race organization prior to the end of the registration period to confirm your guide runner.
- Athletes that have a visual impairment or intellectual disability are required to have a guide for the duration of the event.
- An elbow lead tether is required during night for athletes that have a visual impairment.
- Guide runners must have a valid UTMB Index for races that require one to ensure sufficient performance level.
- The runner and their guide runner must each carry their own mandatory kit. The guide runner is only able to help carry extra equipment necessary for the athlete and morally support their athlete. No other outside help or assistance is tolerated. All other race regulations are applicable.
- Each adaptive athlete is allowed to have one guide runner. Athletes may contact the organization if they feel they need other support or help.
- The guide runner will not be awarded a UTMB Index or any running stones for their participation.
- For athletes with a physical impairment, their guide runner can only enter/exit the race at the start and finish line and aid stations. Athletes are required to inform the race organisation if their guide runner will not be running the entire race with them.

**Qualification system for the UTMB World Series finals:**

In our ongoing commitment to fostering inclusivity and equal access for adaptive athletes in the UTMB World Series, we have introduced a dedicated pathway to the finals. This pathway will enable a greater number of adaptive athletes to earn their spot in the finals of the Dacia UTMB Mont Blanc, including OCC, CCC, and UTMB.

To be eligible for this pathway, all athletes are required to meet the standard race requirements, possess a valid UTMB Index, and have earned a minimum of 1 running stone. Adaptive athletes who wish to participate in these races must pre-register through the UTMB website. Our aim is to ensure a fair and equitable allocation of these slots, and in cases where a significant number of adaptive athletes register, a specific lottery will be conducted to fairly award the available slots for adaptive athletes.



## **UTMB World Series Policy for Adaptive Athletes**



This policy is a first step in ensuring better opportunities for inclusion and equal access for all athletes. In addition to this policy, we are actively working to address the unique needs of our adaptive athletes during and around our events. We remain committed to reviewing and refining this policy over time, making necessary modifications or additions in consultation with the athlete community and our organization's stakeholders.