



Press Release - Chamonix (France) - Monday, 27 April 2026

UTMB Index strengthens precisions and transparency to support the continued growth of trail running

Conducted through working groups bringing together ten trail running stakeholders and professional athletes, this update is accompanied by the recalculation of scores from the past five years. As part of an ongoing commitment to transparency, the UTMB® World Series is also launching a dedicated campaign to explain how the UTMB Index works and to help runners better understand their performances.



A comprehensive effort carried out with trail running stakeholders and professional athletes to address the professionalisation and growth of the sport

Since 2010, the UTMB Index has provided a structured methodology for assessing performance in trail running. Recognised by more than 7,000 races worldwide, the tool enables comparisons across over 3 million runners, drawing on a database of more than 10 million recorded results.

Over the past fifteen years, the discipline has undergone significant transformation. The professionalisation of trail running has led to the emergence of a global elite capable of pushing performance boundaries ever further, while the sport's growing accessibility has driven a sharp increase in participation.

The widening gap between a rapidly advancing elite and a larger base of runners progressing more gradually has increasingly challenged the balance of the statistical model. At times, this has resulted in an attenuation of top-end performances, potentially limiting the visibility of progression among leading athletes.

In response to these structural developments, UTMB Group has undertaken an update of the UTMB Index to enhance its accuracy, fairness and representativeness. This project was carried out through working groups bringing together ten trail running stakeholders, professional athletes, and a panel of beta testers representative of the ecosystem.

The UTMB Index becomes more accurate to better reflect the diversity of races

The core principles remain unchanged. The calculation of the UTMB Index and race scores continues to rely on the same statistical model, which evaluates performances in a given race edition by analysing the past results of finishers in comparable events.

The model has, however, been enhanced with new parameters to better reflect the diversity of race profiles. The integration of factors such as gradient, maximum altitude and competitive dynamics at the front of the race enables a more accurate assessment of faster, more runnable courses, high-mountain formats, and performances delivered in highly competitive fields.

To ensure that all runners benefit immediately from these improvements — and to maintain consistency in performance tracking over time — all scores and UTMB Index values from the past five years have been recalculated using this updated framework. Adjustments remain marginal, with variations averaging around 2%.

“Trail running is a unique discipline, shaped by the diversity and unpredictability of natural environments, where each course and each edition are different. Translating this complexity into a single indicator is a genuine challenge. This evolution, the result of years of data science research, now leverages recent technological advances — particularly in artificial intelligence — to provide athletes with a tool that is both highly reliable and truly representative.” - **Adrian Vincent, Head of Athlete Services and Digital Operations at UTMB Group**

The UTMB Index becomes more transparent through an awareness campaign

“The UTMB Index has, at times, prompted questions and curiosity among the wider public. We are committed to strengthening the transparency of the model and enabling all athletes to better track and understand their performances.” - **Adrian Vincent, Head of Athlete Services and Digital Operations at UTMB Group**

The UTMB World Series is launching a dedicated communications campaign, developed in collaboration with athletes and partner organisations involved in this evolution. For the first time since 2010, a detailed explanatory note will also be published, providing informed audiences with greater insight into the core principles underpinning the UTMB Index statistical model.

How is the UTMB Index calculated?

The UTMB Index reflects an athlete's highest level of performance. It is calculated as a weighted average of a runner's best scores over the past three years. The higher and more recent a score, the greater its influence on the average.

A score represents an athlete's performance in a specific race. It is calculated using a statistical model that predicts each finisher's result based on their past performances in comparable races. The model then compares its predictions with actual results to assess each athlete's performance.

With sufficient historical data, this method provides a comprehensive and highly accurate picture of each athlete's performance, while also indirectly accounting for factors that may have influenced a given race, such as weather, time of day and terrain conditions.

[>> More information <<](#)

[To Deepen your knowledge of the UTMB Index:](#)

[Detailed breakdown of the UTMB Index](#)

[Case study of the CCC 2024](#)

Note to editors

About UTMB® World Series

UTMB® World Series is the trail running circuit that brings together the best athletes in the sport and amateur runners in top international events held in some of the most beautiful places on the planet. The UTMB® World Series is rooted in a passion for the mountains and respect for the environment and offers trail running enthusiasts the chance to experience the UTMB® adventure across the globe, with events taking place in Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa and the Americas. This is the way for everyone to start their quest towards the HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc, where the UTMB® World Series finals take place. Launched in May 2021 with the collaboration of UTMB Group and The IRONMAN Group, the UTMB® World Series circuit brings together 64 events in 29 countries. For more information, visit <https://utmb.world> | [Press Area & Photo](#)



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