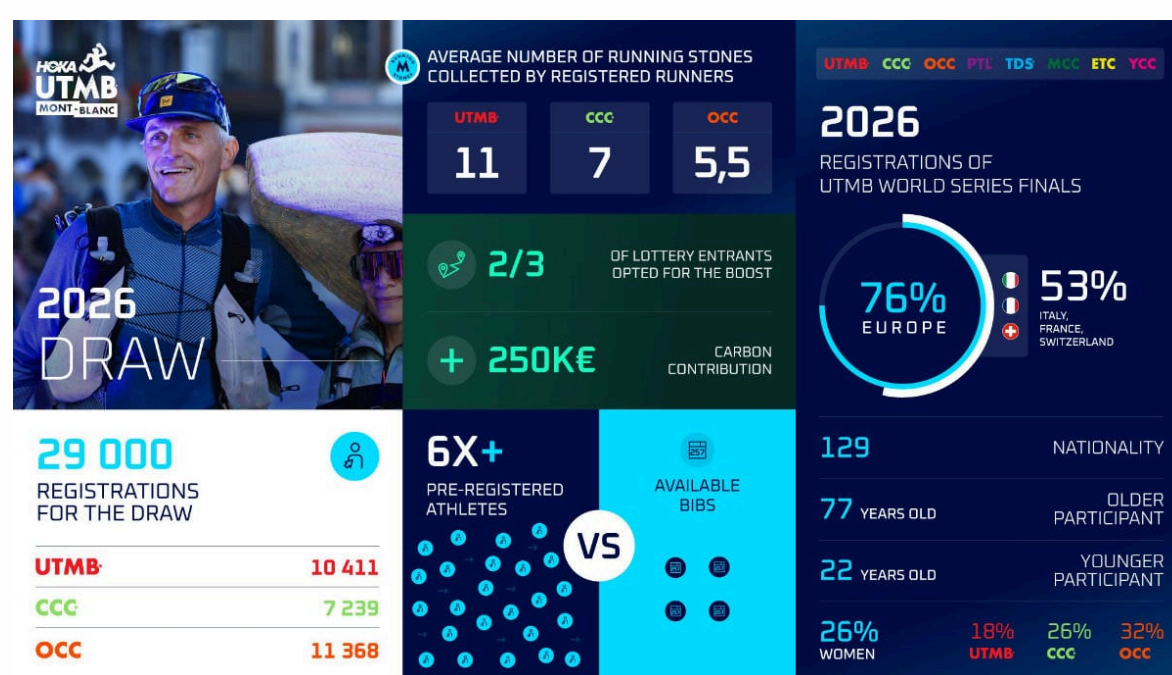


Press release - Chamonix (France), Tuesday 17 February 2026

HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc 2026 UTMB World Series Finals: Two-thirds of runners commit to more responsible mobility

Following the draw for the 2026 UTMB World Series Finals (24–30 August), HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc reveals the key figures for this new edition. They reflect steadily growing appeal, within entry quotas that have deliberately remained unchanged for more than ten years.

The organisation confirms its commitment to ensuring the event's development follows a responsible and sustainable trajectory, notably through concrete measures to reduce its carbon footprint, including the boost mechanism linked to runners' mobility choices.



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29,000

29,000 applications were registered for the UTMB World Series Finals draw, confirming **ever-growing enthusiasm**. Demand has risen across all races, with pre-registrations up **16% for the UTMB** (nearly 10,400), **14% for the CCC** (nearly 7,200) and **16% for the OCC** (nearly 11,400) compared with 2025.

While this rising interest reflects the strong appeal of the Finals, the organisation recognises that it inevitably leaves an **increasing number of runners disappointed** each year. Remaining true to its commitments, **HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc** has maintained **the same number of race bibs since 2006** in order to preserve the landscapes and communities along the course and safeguard the quality of the runner experience.

“Each year, HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc inspires the same dream among thousands of runners around the world, and we are proud to see so many passionate athletes wishing to join the adventure. The draw unfortunately leaves many runners without a bib, and we recognise how legitimate that disappointment is, given the time, energy and hope invested.

We sincerely regret this. For regulatory reasons and out of responsibility towards runners, volunteers and the region, the number of race bibs must remain strictly limited and cannot be increased. To those not selected, we extend our support and consideration, with the hope of welcoming them very soon to one of our start lines.”

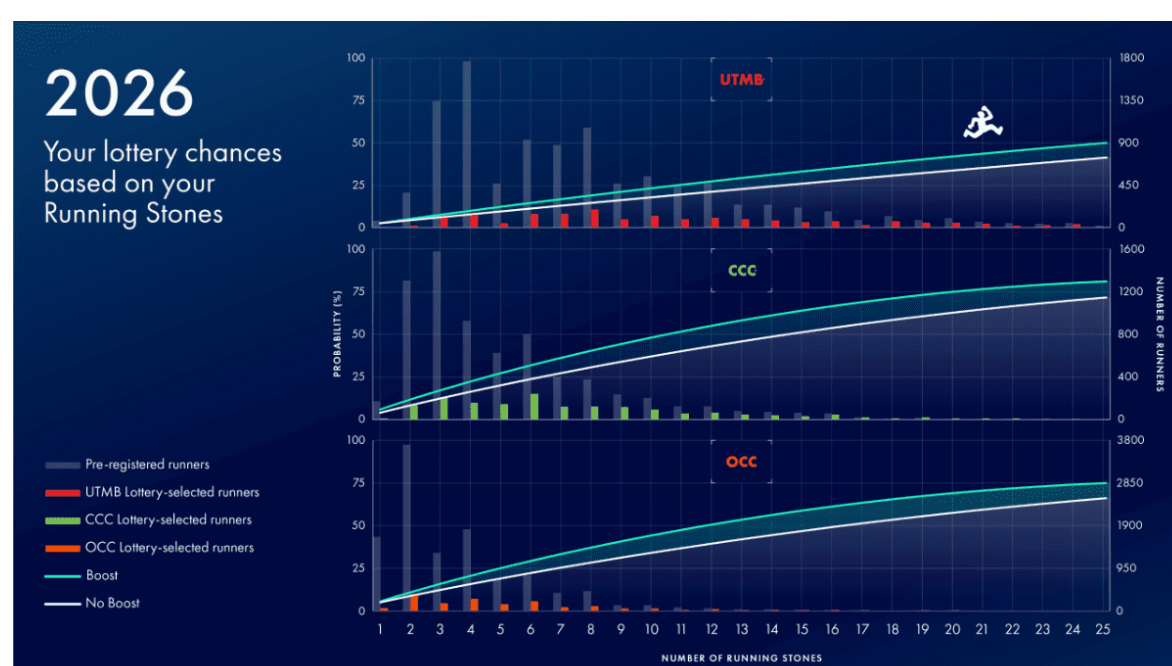
— **Isabelle Viseux-Poletti, UTMB France Director**

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This is the **average number of Running Stones held by runners drawn for the UTMB**, compared with **7 for the CCC** and **5.5 for the OCC**.

Since 2022, the expansion of the UTMB World Series circuit has enabled more runners to experience a UTMB World Series event close to home, while also collecting Running Stones that may one day allow them to compete at the UTMB World Series Finals. A global circuit offering local experiences for every community.

In 2025, **73%** of registered participants came from the host country or neighbouring countries, and more than **90%** were from the same continent.



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€630,100

This is the **amount raised through Charity Bibs**, with **285 race bibs allocated** in support of **15 associations** working in the fields of **health, environment, solidarity and inclusion**. The scheme enables runners to link their participation in the UTMB World Series Finals with a tangible charitable commitment.

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Two-thirds of runners registered for the draw selected the boost, committing to travel to the Mont-Blanc valleys **via a lower-carbon route, without using a car**.

Introduced as part of the **HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc Responsible Mobility Policy**, this mechanism granted eligible participants **a 30% increase in their chances in the draw**. The figure signals strong community support for an approach designed to encourage more sustainable travel and reduce the event's carbon footprint by 20% by 2030.

€250,000

This **amount reflects the collective carbon contribution generated by runners**, corresponding to emissions for their **return journey between home and the event**. **All participants contributed** as part of the HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc Responsible Mobility Policy.

This contribution will be complemented by those of the **organisation, non-running partners and exhibitors**, in order to cover the majority of the event's emissions. All funds collected are channelled **in full through an independent body** responsible for identifying and auditing projects, ensuring their quality and impact.

76% of participants are European

Across the **eight races** of HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc 2026, **76.3% of runners are European**, with strong representation from **France, Italy and Switzerland**, which together account for nearly **53% of the field**.

This distribution remains broadly stable compared with previous editions, confirming the event's strong European foundations while maintaining a clear international outlook. This year, **129 nationalities** are represented — **eight more than last year** (121) — illustrating the continued global growth of the UTMB World Series community.

Overall, **women account for 26% of the field**, reflecting steady progress in female participation across all race formats.

The 2026 edition also marks a first with the integration of the **MCC** and **ETC** into the draw, a decision that has met with **strong uptake**. The **TDS** once again confirmed its appeal, with race bibs allocated **within just a few hours**, demonstrating sustained enthusiasm across the programme. Finally, the **YCC** highlights the growing interest of young runners in the UTMB universe.

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>.

About UTMB Group

Since the creation of HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc in 2003 by a group of passionate friends, UTMB Group has been the driving force behind the development of trail running. The HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc is the sports pinnacle event, and every year, 10,000 runners earn their place on the start line. UTMB Group also pioneered the LiveTrail® technology, an innovative digital service that supports the management of endurance races. Revered by hundreds of thousands of athletes, UTMB® has become a global, premium, and leading brand. In May 2021, UTMB Group partnered with The IRONMAN Group to launch the UTMB® World Series, which brings together many of the best international events on the planet to provide exclusive access to the sport's pinnacle event, HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc. The UTMB® World Series is built on the founding principles of HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc: surpassing oneself; fair-play; respect for people and the environment; and solidarity. Find out more at <https://utmb.world>.

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