



## INFORMATION COVID-19

Samoëns, 03, April, 2020

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Dear Runner Friends,

For almost 3 weeks now, our country has been dealing with the Covid19 epidemic, which has already claimed far too many lives. Obviously, our first thoughts are with those lost, their loved ones and all those who—at all levels—are working to limit the impact of this epidemic on our daily lives.

As well as these tragic consequences, this epidemic and the social isolation measures that have been put in place in response to it are having major impacts on sport: many competitions, both minor and major, have been postponed or cancelled, and many training plans have been greatly disrupted.

In this context, many of you are asking us, quite legitimately, about our plans for the Ultra-Trail du Haut-Giffre. This newsletter tries to make an exhaustive tour (sorry, it's a bit long) of the most frequently asked questions and the answers we are able to give at the moment.

### **Why haven't you decided to cancel yet, given that many other events have done so, including some events that are taking place later?**

To understand this, it is important to note that we are an association, composed of a limited number of members, absolutely all of whom are volunteers. We are simply passionate about the idea of offering you the best of our trails. Our decisions are therefore motivated only by the objective of offering you the best possible event, and in no case by the objective of "making money". This means we can be much more agile in our decisions. Finally, we are not under the same sort of pressure from financial partners that a more traditional structure can be subject to, nor do we have to take responsibility for employees.

We are also runners. We are realistic about finding the right balance between the weighty decision of keeping or cancelling a major event, the difficulty of preparing it properly, and the logistical constraints linked to transport and accommodation, etc.

Finally, we are working with a network of local suppliers and service providers, who are often of modest size, and for whom the hasty cancellation of this event may unnecessarily aggravate a situation already made difficult by the current economic downturn.

This is why we are monitoring the situation on a daily basis. We are regularly updating the various scenarios, and trying to look at things in a factual manner and without following the crowd. On that basis we make the following observation: on the basis of the facts before us, we think there is no objective reason, at the moment, to cancel this event.

**Association Samoëns Trail Evénements**

**Ultra-Trail® du Haut-Giffre - KMV du Criou**

Siret : 81999461700010

947 route des Esserts – Le Châtelard

Le Hameau des Neiges, Appt.2504

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**OK, but when is your deadline for a decision?**

We've set May 15th as the last date to make a decision on whether to cancel. By this day, we should have a better sense of when the lockdown might be lifted, and there would still be plenty of time for everyone to cancel their trip and accommodation (though, that said, even if the race was cancelled, please do come and stay in our valley where you will be very welcome !!), and there will still be time to deal with our various suppliers.

**And if you decide to cancel the event, what will be the consequences?**

At the moment the scenario for the moment would be to offer you a choice between carrying your registration over to the following year, or giving you a refund.

For those who choose to be reimbursed, our rules provide for a 10% deduction for costs already incurred by the organisation (purchase of equipment, deposit to the various service providers, operating and communication costs, etc). To be transparent, when writing these rules, we weren't imagining the current situation, and this 10% will certainly not be enough to cover all costs. This is why, similar to other association organized events, we are thinking of proposing to those who wish to do so to waive their reimbursement. That registration fee would thus become a donation to the association, which will be in great need of it.

This is our working plan for the moment - nothing is set in stone.

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**And if you continue with the event, will there be any adjustments?**

Obviously, we'll have to consider the impact of the lockdown period on training plans. We well understand that training is more difficult but nor is it impossible. Clearly, not being able to do spring races, thereby gradually increasing the running load, is a real handicap when running longer distances. This is why, in the event of the race continuing as planned, we anticipate at least 3 adjustments:

- Extended time barriers. By how much? This will depend on the lockdown. The longer and stricter the lockdown is, the longer the extensions will be.
- An option for those registered on the 3 longest races to change their registration to a shorter course, to take into account the impossibility of carrying out "climbing" races in the spring. In this case, which would be a personal choice, there would be no reimbursement of the difference in the registration fees, as the costs specific to these races have already been largely incurred. The runners concerned would obviously benefit from the "pack" provided for the distance corresponding to their initial registration, the batches of which are already being manufactured.
- Depending on the number of runners choosing to postpone, staggered starts could be set up on the "short" courses to avoid "traffic jams".

As for the consequences of cancellation, this is a working hypothesis that is still subject to change.

What can we learn from all this? First of all, that decisions concerning the event will largely depend on the lockdown, which itself depends to a great degree on our individual behaviour: Respecting the rules is the best way to keep the event as close as possible to its original format. Secondly, that we wish to be as flexible as possible, by offering you, whatever our decision regarding the event, the choice to arrange the event in the way that suits you best.

Good luck to all of you, thank you for your support and see you soon for more information!

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