

PRESS RELEASE

Sierre, 2 October 2026

SIERRE-ZINAL 2026: ANTI-DOPING TESTS CONDUCTED AT THE FINISH RETURN NEGATIVE RESULTS

The 2026 edition also confirmed an exceptional standard and depth of performance, while the WMRA and the Athletics Integrity Unit brought athletes and their support teams together in Zinal to discuss sporting integrity.

The final results of the ten anti-doping tests conducted on five women and five men, including the podium finishers, at the finish of the 53rd edition of Sierre-Zinal are now available: no positive analytical results were reported.

The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) also used the event to carry out pre-race testing as part of a programme organised by the Golden Trail World Series (GTWS). This press release concerns the ten tests conducted at the finish, for which the final results have been officially communicated to the organisers.

These tests complement the monitoring programmes that certain top-level athletes undergo throughout the year, both in and out of competition.

« We are pleased with these results, while continuing to pay close attention. Our role as organisers is to help uphold high standards that apply fairly across the entire elite field. »

Vincent Theytaz, Co-Director of Sierre-Zinal

AN EXCEPTIONAL STANDARD AND DEPTH OF PERFORMANCE

The 2026 edition confirmed a marked increase in the depth of the field, among both men and women.

Category	Finish time	2026	2025	2016
Men	Under 2 h 35	13	7	2
Men	Under 3 h	102	77	40
Women	Under 3 h 05	12	7	2
Women	Under 3 h 30	44	36	19

Number of athletes finishing below each time threshold. These figures show that the improvement is no longer limited to a handful of performances at the front of the race, but extends to a growing proportion of the high-level field.

« What stands out about this edition is the depth of the field. The number of athletes capable of achieving top-level times has increased significantly. This development strengthens our commitment to upholding the same integrity

Valentin Genoud, Co-Director of Sierre-Zinal and Elite Athlete Coordinator

WORLD MOUNTAIN RUNNING ASSOCIATION AND ATHLETICS INTEGRITY UNIT MEET IN ZINAL

On the eve of the race, Zinal hosted the first in-person sessions of an anti-doping education initiative launched in 2026 by the World Mountain Running Association (WMRA) and the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), specifically for mountain and trail running.

On 7 August, athletes, coaches and managers had the opportunity to speak directly with the AIU about testing procedures, prohibited substances, medications, dietary supplements, and their rights and responsibilities.

The Golden Trail World Series' involvement in organising pre-race testing complements this approach to prevention and testing, supporting fairness in sport and confidence in performances.

AN ANALYSIS PROCESS INDEPENDENT OF THE RACE

Once collected, samples are transported through a secure chain of custody to an accredited laboratory. Sierre-Zinal has no involvement in the analysis, its validation or the official communication of results.

Depending on the type of analysis, additional checks or examinations may be required. The time between the race and the communication of results is therefore part of the normal operation of an independent and rigorous anti-doping system.

Sierre-Zinal intends to continue its work in collaboration with the WMRA, the Athletics Integrity Unit, the Golden Trail World Series, anti-doping organisations and the relevant federations, respecting their independence and procedures.

ABOUT SIERRE-ZINAL

Founded in 1974, Sierre-Zinal is one of the world's most iconic mountain races. Its historic 31-kilometre course, with 2,200 metres of elevation gain, connects Sierre to Zinal in the heart of the Valais Alps.

Next edition: Sierre-Zinal 2027 - Saturday 7 August 2027

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