

PRESS RELEASE

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The safety of runners and spectators is always the top priority at RunCzech races

In light of the unfortunate events during the Boston Marathon on Monday, organisers of the RunCzech races have formed a crisis team to discuss the possibility of increasing the level of security at its races.

Director of the RunCzech races, Václav Skřivánek made the following statement: *“As the oldest marathon in the world, the Boston Marathon ranks among one of the greatest symbols in world athletics and so Monday’s event has had a really big impact on us. We have a very close relationship with the organisers there and our hearts go out to the injured runners and the families mourning their loved ones.” He went on to say: “At this stage we are working on making modifications to the safety management model currently in place at our races, and will be revealing further details of this. We will be drawing inspiration from the forthcoming London Marathon which representatives of our organising team will be attending in addition to other international races with whom we have established longstanding cooperation.”*

The level of safety at RunCzech races is incredibly high. Over 600 security forces workers play a key role at the Volkswagen Prague Marathon - including the Police of the Czech Republic, the Municipal Police of the Capital City of Prague, the Čechymen Security Agency, the Health Rescue Service of the Capital City of Prague as well as the Czech Red Cross. More than 1 100 volunteers are also deployed to provide assistance on the course. In addition to this, races are monitored by the Department for Safety and Crisis Management from the City Hall of Prague whose job it is to monitor entire length of the course via security cameras and to mobilise security forces in the event of any issue arising.

Despite the fact that the security measures are already incredibly tight and efficient, organisers are getting underway with plans to make further modifications to security measures working in conjunction with the individual institutions concerned. One additional measure could involve checking the contents of rucksacks which runners leave behind in the storage area facility. Waste bins are a further critical point to be reviewed. Considering the sheer number of participants involved (approximately ten thousand), the idea of completely removing waste bins is out of the question and further discussions will be held on this matter.

Increased vigilance is always set up in areas where there a higher concentration of people. This refers to the area around the start and finish lines, the technical area for runners as well as the Expo. When it comes to the course, these areas include refreshment stands and hand-over points. A further important aspect of the security measures put in place is the towing away of any vehicles parked along the course.



Former Chief of the Military Reporting Service, Andor Šándor warned *“Events of this nature will always be a little exposed to danger due to the large expanse involved. That said, it makes no sense to turn the city into a jail-like setting if we want participants to enjoy the event. It is not possible to draw parallels with other races following the bomb attack carried out at the Boston Marathon. It most certainly isn’t about creating an event for enemies of large scale runs.”*

At last year’s Volkswagen Prague Marathon, a total of 125 members from the State Police Force and a total of 135 police officers from the Municipal Police of the City of Prague were put in charge of security. In addition to this, almost 200 guards from the Čechymen Security Agency were deployed to oversee security measures. On top of this, 90 health care workers from the Health Rescue Service of the City of Prague were brought in along 64 workers from the Czech Red Cross. In conjunction with the Organising Team and more than 1 100 volunteers, all those involved are committed to ensuring participants of the Volkswagen Prague Marathon and other races within the RunCzech Running League are able to look forward to the race and to make it to the start line without any worries.

Should you be interested in further information, please get in touch with:

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Notes for editors:

The RunCzech running league

The RunCzech running league brings together all the prestigious Prague races organized under the Prague International Marathon heading, along with races in selected regions of the Czech Republic organized by tempo team prague, and collectively known as the RunCzech races. This series of races spanning the whole Czech Republic allows all those involved to combine their passion for running with a love for travel.

During the course of 2012, 64,043 runners from all over the world took part in the RunCzech running league. This created a prestigious running ranking system for the 34,346 people participating in competitive runs allowing them to measure their results against other runners in categories according to sex, age, and the new grouping by professions.

In 2013 the RunCzech running league includes the following races:

Hervis Prague Half Marathon (April 6th)

Volkswagen Prague Marathon (May 12th)

Mattoni Karlovy Vary Half Marathon (May 25th) – a new race in 2013

Mattoni České Budějovice Half Marathon (June 8th)

Mattoni Olomouc Half Marathon (June 22nd)

Prague Grand Prix (September 7th)





Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon (September 15th)

And the host race the Košice International Peace Marathon (October 6th)

An eighth race will be added to the RunCzech running league in 2014, at which point capacity is expected to reach 81 000 runners, completing the project.

Boasting a total of five IAAF Road Race Label awards, organizers of the RunCzech running league have received more of these accolades than any other group in the world which attests to the first-rate standards of the organization.

These awards include:

The IAAF Road Race Gold Label for the Hervis Prague Half Marathon

The IAAF Road Race Gold Label for the Volkswagen Prague Marathon

The IAAF Road Race Silver Label for the 10 km Run featured as part of the Prague Grand Prix

The IAAF Road Race Silver Label for the Olomouc Half Marathon – **new in 2013**

The IAAF Road Race Silver Label for the Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon - **new in 2013**

Prague International Marathon, spol. s r.o.

Prague International Marathon spol. s r.o. ("PIM") was set up in 1995 by Carlo Capalbo, President of the Company with the aim of organizing a large-scale international marathon on the streets of Prague. A total of 958 runners made it to the start line of that first race. Since then, PIM's activities have burgeoned into a whole series of running events referred to as the RunCzech running league.

The Volkswagen Prague Marathon ranks among the top 10 world marathons taking place in one of the most beautiful locations. The 2012 race attracted 9 057 competing runners from all over the world. Since 1999 we have also been organizing the Prague Half Marathon along with the the Prague Grand Prix races over shorter courses. In 2012 the Hervis Prague Half Marathon became the year's fastest half-marathon in the world! The Ethiopian runner, Atsedu Tsegay completed it in the event record time of 58:47.

Races organised by PIM are sponsored by some of the largest companies in the Czech Republic; Volkswagen, adidas, Hervis and Mattoni. The whole organization and atmosphere of the races has drawn a number of renowned names in the athletic world to the Czech Republic (the likes of Haile Gebrselassie, Stefano Baldini, Paul Tergat, Moses Tanui, Antonio Pinto and Patrick Makau), as well as thousands of visitors.

In addition to the above events, PIM also organizes the Junior Marathon for high school students. A relay race comprised of ten member teams which initially participate in regional rounds, the winners will proceed to the final as part of the Volkswagen Prague Marathon, scheduled for Sunday May 12th 2013.

tempo team prague s.r.o.

tempo team is dedicated to developing marathon races along with other running events held in Europe. It was established in 2000 by a group of experts and sporting enthusiasts. The term "tempo" is derived from the name of the organization "The European Marathon Promotion Organization".

tempo team's activities entail concept creation, brand building, and marketing as well as the actual organization of sporting events. Right from the start, tempo team has played a key role in organizing the Prague marathon as well as developing the RunCzech Running series.

tempo team is the name of the main organizer of races taking place in various regions under the RunCzech running league heading comprising the České Budějovice Half Marathon, the Olomouc Half Marathon, the Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon and most recently the Karlovy Vary Half Marathon.

