



PRESS RELEASE  
4<sup>th</sup> April 2018

## Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon Highlights

The twentieth jubilee Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon is upon us! On 7<sup>th</sup> April already, 11 500 runners will descend on Prague's historical streets to weave their way through its delightful course. Once again the very best world athletes will attempt to smash record times with the elite local runners keen to leave their mark in the history books too. Thousands of runners can look forward to a fast course, unforgettable atmosphere and running experience. Whether you're taking part as a runner, volunteer, fan or just planning to watch the live broadcast by Česká televize or online, make sure you don't miss out on the twentieth Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon

### Key information

- This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> jubilee race year.
- The Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon will be broadcast live on ČT Sport. The broadcast kicks off on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 9.50 CET. The live online broadcast will appear on [www.runczech.com](http://www.runczech.com) and the RunCzech Facebook page.
- The Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon is the first race in the RunCzech series, which comprises eight races in five cities around the Czech Republic. A record 82 883 runners took part in all RunCzech races last year.
- For the ninth time in a row now, the race has been awarded the Gold Label by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).
- The half marathon kicks off at 10 o'clock from Jan Palach Square. The race rose to fame thanks to the beautiful course which penetrates the heart of historical Prague, leading runners along the Vltava and over five Prague bridges. Long distance runners can look forward to views overlooking Prague Castle, Charles Bridge and a great many other sights.
- Race capacity (11 500 runners) was reached more than one month prior to the race.
- The race will be kicked off by Prague City Mayor Adriana Krnáčová.
- For the first time Prague half marathon runners will be able to have a go using the brand new RunCzech app. It features a virtual goodie bag, runner's start number, special benefits from our partners, live tracking of runners on the course and loads more. The app is available on both Android and iOS devices.
- The option of pre-registering runners is one of the most widely anticipated new features. In practice this means that if a runner can't take part in a race, s/he can transfer his/her start number to someone else.
- The Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon race course is incredibly fast; evidenced in the results from last year's event, at which Kenyan runner Joyciline Jepkosgei picked up four world records. She ran the 10 kilometres in 30:04, the 15 kilometres in 45:37, the 20 kilometres in 1:01:25 plus crossed the half marathon finish line in 1:04:52. Even though she went on to improve her half marathon best by one second half a year later in Valencia, the Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon will be forever remembered in the history of athletics.
- The men's race record of 58:47, broken by Atsedu Tsegay in 2012, also speaks volumes about the speed of the course since it has only been surpassed elsewhere on two occasions since. Tsegay's time also ranks as the sixth fastest half marathon of all time anywhere in the world.

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- Once again, we can expect to see a strong start line at this year's race – spectators can look forward to checking out a performance by race record holder **Atsedu Tsegay**, not to mention hot favourites **Justus Kangogo**, **James Rungaru**, **Geoffrey Ronoh**, **Josphat Tanui** and **Benard Kimeli**, last year's winner of the Prague Grand Prix. All six athletes are capable of completing the course in under an hour.
- It's clear that Joyciline Jepkosgei's compatriots from Kenya - **Caroline Chepkoech Kipkirui** and **Joan Melly** – will be keen for a slice of her world record action. 2015 winner and last year's runner-up **Worknesh Degefa** from Ethiopia will likely have a similar agenda, however.
- Czech fans will be keeping a close eye on local number one woman **Eva Vrabcová-Nývltová** plus other fast runners such as **Petra Kamínková** and **Barbora Jíšová**. When it comes to the men, we can expect to see a duel play out between **Jiří Homoláč**, **David Vaš** and **Ondřej Fejfar**.
- A number of well-known personalities will also be appearing in addition to the elite athletes. Gold Olympic medallist in the decathlon **Roman Šebrle** will appear at the half marathon start line along with cardiologist **Jan Pirk**, actor and presenter **Dalibor Gondík**, the journalist **Tomáš Poláček**, economist and former CNB governor **Zdeněk Tůma**, Karlovy Vary Mayor **Petr Kulhánek**, former politician **Kateřina Jacques**, the presenter **Petr Vágner**, blogger **Veronika Šimáčková** and presenter **Jana Havrdová**. Running for the Light for the World charity are presenter **Jan Tuna**, virtuoso pianist **Michal Rezek**, former boxer **Lukáš Konečný**, not to mention blind runners **Jan Hegr** and **Terezie Hřídellová**
- A **genuine, unadulterated** wedding will also take place along the course. Soňa Kotůlkova and Michal Hrabec from the Running2 blog will head out as bride and groom, take their vows beneath Letná steps and cross the finish line as newly weds.
- The Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon only offers spectators an interesting sporting spectacle but also a diverse accompanying programme. The **Running Expo Prague Sports Fair** is being held at the Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice all day on Thursday, Friday as well as Saturday! Following the race, runners can also look forward to letting their hair down at the **T-Roc after-race party**.
- The Running Expo Prague **accompanying programme** will also feature a number of opportunities to chat with some of those involved in the race including a session for children to meet and chat with elite runners (Friday at 10.30), the chance to listen to Jiří Homoláč share details of his experiences in Kenya (Saturday 15.40), meeting the pacemakers, learn about the race course and much more.
- A total of 24 bands and DJs will run along the course as part of the **Marathon Music Festival**.
- The **top level of medical care** will include four mobile AED cycle patrols furnished with an automatic external defibrillator linking up to Prague medical services. A sufficient number of Medical points (marked as such) will also be dotted around the course.
- The **Salvation Army** is the main charity partner at the Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon.
- **The greatest number of foreign runners** attending the half marathon hail from Slovakia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Great Britain, Poland, France, The Netherlands and Russia.
- The official race hashtag is **#PragueHalf**

## Interesting statistics

- Capacity at the Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon stands at **11 500 runners**.
- A total of **78 nationalities** will appear at the start line.
- **67 % of runners are men, 33% are women.**

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- The average age of **women taking part in the half marathon is 37,7 years**, the average age of **men is 40,9 years**.
- On average women complete the Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon in **2:04:34**, **men in 1:49:42**.
- A total of 26 men and 22 women will celebrate their **birthdays on race day**.
- Jan (438) **is the most common name** at the start line, followed by Martin (426), Petr (410), Jiří (276) and Pavel (275). The most popular names among the women are Jana (140), Petra (115), Lucie (111), Lenka (100) and Martina (98).
- **The most common race surname** is Černý (28), followed by Svoboda (25), Novák (22), Dvořák (21) and Novotný (18), for women it's Novotná (16), Nováková (15), Procházková (11), Veselá (10) and Králová (9).
- **The oldest man runner** is 84 years of age (Jiří Pejpal, CZE), the oldest woman runner is 71 (Rafael Ordoñas Gómez-Jordana, ESP).
- The vast majority of long-distance runners are **educated to university level** (58 %), with college educated individuals making up 34% and the remaining 8 % made up of those with high school education.
- **The most highly represented profession in the RunCzech Running League** are managers (1 176), admin workers (885), students (498), electrical engineers (350) and programmers (338).
- **The least represented RunCzech Running League professions** are couriers (3x), councillors and mayors (6), library and print workers (7), politicians (8) and brewers (8).
- A total of **1 210 volunteers will help out at the race**.
- Over seventy thousand people from all over the world will visit **www.runczech.com** on race day (71 247 in 2017).
- Messages from RunCzech channels on **social networks** (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) will reach over three hundred thousand users on race day (341 214 in 2017).

## Used during the race

- 391 traffic signs
- 47 240 safety pins
- 135 100 cups
- 61 200 water soaked sponges
- 12 500 thermal sheets
- 11 500 medals
- 3 11 metres of Johnny Servis fencing
- 211 Johnny Servis portable toilets
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## Drunk during the race

- 28 926 litres of Mattoni water
- 6 345 litres of Gatorade drink

## Eaten during the race

- 2 874 kg of Kaufland bananas
- 1 904 kg of Kaufland oranges
- 1 471 baguettes
- 19 kg of salt

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- 16 kg of sugar

## Records

- World record – men: 0:58:23 (2010) Zersenay Tadese (ERI), Lisbon
- World record – women: 1:04:51 (2017) Joyciline Jepkosgei (KEN), Valencia
  
- Race record – men: 0:58:47 (2012), Atsedu Tsegay (ETH)
- Race record – women: 1:04:52 (2017), Joyciline Jepkosgei (KEN)
  
- The fastest Czech man: 1:03:23 (2017), Jiří Homoláč
- The fastest Czech woman: 1:11:06 (2016), Eva Vrabcová

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**If you're interested in further information or print quality photography, please get in touch with:**

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**Note: The photos attached may only be used together with this press release and by citing RunCzech as the source.**

Notes for editors: <http://www.runczech.com/cs/pro-media/poznamky-pro-editory/index.shtml>

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