

SWIMRUNMAN™ EMBRUN SERRE- PONÇON by HEAD

"In the heart of the Southern Alps, 3 000ha of turquoise water as far as the eye can see"

***Let's stay calm, united and passionate.
Our priority is you !***

**[OFFICIAL RELEASE – 2nd EDITION OF SWIMRUNMAN EMBRUN - SERRE-
PONÇON : Let's stay calm, unite and passionate. Our priority is you !]**

« The swimrun ? We go together, we come together »

"The values of sharing, adventure and solidarity that the swimrun has conveyed since its beginnings are now being put to the test. For those who still doubt it, organizers and participants we are one. If one of us is no longer able to play his or her role, the other can no longer move forward. Indissociable, like a pair. And the reality is there: even if people tend to want to oppose us, we are one and the same team that must remain united in good times and bad.

Our teams do a fantastic job to welcome you in the best conditions on each of our stages and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them warmly. If until now they have always been able to find solutions to natural elements; a too high water level, a persistent fog, a landslide at a water outlet, a heatwave, adverse currents..., the new and complex sanitary situation generated by COVID-19 is beyond our field of competence.

A member of the pair that we form (you + us) is stopped. As is often the case, the second will have to adapt.

To summarize the situation: to date you were nearly 500 registered to participate in a beautiful swimrun party in Embrun on June 28th. Among you, 12 nationalities and 85 French departments were represented. A thousand thanks to all of you for your trust.

Since March 5th our team has been working on a fallback solution. Although we were initially optimistic for a favourable outcome by the end of June, it has to be said that the current situation no longer gives cause for optimism.

In order to be transparent with you, here are the elements that make our decision making complex, and delay it unwillingly:

- The Ministerial Order of 14 April 2020 (published in JORF n°0091 of 14 April 2020 - text n° 3) stipulates "Any gathering, meeting or activity involving more than 100 people simultaneously in a closed or open environment is prohibited throughout the territory of the Republic until 11 May 2020". As a result, our event on 28 June is not "legally" concerned by this decree, which ends on 11 May, but it runs the risk of seeing this ban extended at any time.

- The Government plans, in connection with the start of deconfinement on 11 May, to authorize gatherings of 10 people while respecting hygiene measures, while prohibiting gatherings of more than 5,000 people until the end of August. What will happen between now and then for events such as ours, which are planning to gather 1,000 people (participants, spectators and volunteers combined)? What will happen to the 100km radius in the coming

weeks? And what about the colour distribution of the departments for the deconfinement? So many questions to which we do not have the answers.

- The cancellation policies we have taken out with our two insurers (MMA and FFTri) exclude health risks. In other words, our insurances will not work to reimburse you in case of cancellation in connection with COVID-19.

- Then comes the puzzle of finding a postponement date. Postponing the event by only one or two weeks would make no sense, but we need the lake to be filled to its optimal level for the swimming parts to be feasible and this is only possible from the end of June to mid-August... not to mention an overloaded (national and international) calendar... **we are simply not in a position to propose a deferral date to 2020.**

- Anticipate your hosting problems. We are currently surveying local accommodation providers to encourage them to reschedule your bookings for new dates or to cancel them free of charge (please do not hesitate to contact them by giving us their contact details in the form below). Unfortunately we are not able to help you with the transport part. If you haven't already done so, remember to check your deadlines and cancellation policy for all your reservations related to the June 28th event.

We are well aware that your current training is strongly impacted by the health crisis and that events such as our SWIMRUNMAN events, qualifying for ÖTILLÖ, require optimal preparation. Confinement, closure of sports facilities (swimming pools, clubs), physical activity reduced to a strict minimum, all these measures will have to be taken into account in our final decision. Even if, as of 11 May, in terms of sports practice, we should see a slight improvement, with the pools remaining closed and the beaches remaining inaccessible you are not all equal for swimming training and this is a concern for us in terms of ethics. Because here, it is you who are stopped - in your preparation - and it is us who have to adapt. Team spirit.

In this same team spirit, we do not want to impose only unilateral decisions on you, as is unfortunately too often the case. **Should the 2nd edition of the SWIMRUNMAN EMBRUN – SERRE-PONÇON be cancelled, it will not be postponed to a later date in 2020.** We have considered 4 solutions on which we would like to ask your opinion:

1. **Transfer your race number (possibility to change teammates) to the EMBRUN 2021 event at no cost.**
 - EMBRUN SERRE-PONÇON June 27, 2021
2. **Transfer your race number to another SWIMRUNMAN FRANCE 2020 event free of charge.**
 - LAFFREY GREAT LAKES August 23rd, 2020 [Continued on this date]
 - GORGES DU VERDON on November 1, 2020 [Continued on next date]
3. **Transfer your race number to another race SWIMRUNMAN FRANCE 2021 at no cost.**
 - GORGES DU VERDON May 2, 2021
 - GRANDS LACS DE LAFFREY on August 22nd 2021
4. **Refund of 50% of your registration fee, excluding options.**

As you will have understood, for insurance reasons beyond our control, we unfortunately cannot offer you a 100% refund and we are sincerely sorry for this. Please also take into account in your decision that sports and cultural events are strongly impacted by the current situation. Many other sectors are also affected and we are in solidarity with them, the aim is not to take the cover each one of us. That being said, let's keep in mind that if we wish to continue to want to participate in events of any kind, sporting or cultural, and in our particular case of swimrun races, our way of showing solidarity with these events is to postpone our tickets/registrations to new dates rather than asking for them to be refunded. Otherwise many of us will disappear from the calendar. The SWIMRUNMAN FRANCE circuit is 3 stages: currently in 2020 one stage has been postponed and the other cancelled, we need

you to survive this particular year in more than one way and continue to offer you quality events. Thank you.

[ANSWERS WANTED BEFORE MAY 13, 11:59 P.M. HELPED BY MAIL LINK]

We leave ourselves 8 days to collect your wishes while keeping us informed of the next government announcements. On Monday 18 May at the latest, we will officially inform you (1) whether or not the 2nd edition will be maintained or not on 28 June 2020 - and under what conditions - and (2) of the collegial decisions taken in the event of cancellation, and this in direct relation to your collected opinions. Where applicable, we will indicate the practical arrangements for managing your registration/race number. We sincerely wish to find the best possible compromises and find a solution for each of you because if nature is waiting for us, if nature takes back its rights, something tells us that its half-man, half-amphibian swimrunners are missing a little...

Our last thoughts and our last words will go to your loved ones, ours too, and all the medical staff who are doing an extraordinary job.

"The swimrun? We go together, we come together."

Florent and Bertrand - Race Directors