

Press Release
Prague, 1 February 2024

Is running a marathon a team sport? If you are running the Prague International Marathon, the answer is YES.

Have you ever thought that running a marathon is a team sport? And have you ever considered that some of the world's best athletes could be part of that team? This is precisely the idea behind the Battle of the Team project that RunCzech started in 2022 as a part of the Prague International Marathon.

"For marathoners, Battle of the Teams is a total game changer. Compete as an individual or as a part of a team at the 2024 Prague International Marathon."

Runners can decide which team to join based on who has the best chances of winning, their favorite runner, the benefits of team partnerships, or the charitable organization associated with each team.

Last year, **Sisay Lemma, currently the fourth-fastest marathon runner in the world, was part of the Battle of the Teams and finished second with 2:06:26.**

You can run with them and be part of the Battle of the Teams, supporting a good cause together! The Battle of the Teams operates on a simple principle – five teams, each with four professional athletes, earn points based on their performance (measured according to the World Athletics Scoring Table system), adding the average points of all other runners in the team.

The stakes are high, with the winning team set to receive **30,000 euros**, divided among the professional athletes. Plus, there is a twist! The best hobby runners of the winning team will receive a financial reward. Running faster than the average time also grants a **3% point bonus**.

And in the end – a gala party at the Hilton for all marathon participants and the announcement of the BoT winners.

Last year, five teams were activated, and depending on the team you are part of, some of the prizes included (but were not limited to):



- **Mattoni team** - every 20th team member receives Mattoni water for a month. Each member got a Mattoni drink of their choice (water, juices, etc.), and the top 10 male and female runners got a free entry for one of the Mattoni half-marathons in the Czech Republic.
- **Generali Group team** (Generali Česká Pojišťovna) - two lucky winners won a training day with professional biathletes.
- **Prague Airport team** - one lucky winner will win 60 minutes of piloting a Boeing 737 aircraft in a certified simulator.

And these are just some of the benefits, with this year's partners yet to be announced.

"Why is this project so cool?" the organizer asks

"This is not just a new event. It's a whole new way to approach our sport. Turning the marathon into a team sport adds a ton of excitement to the race. One in which every runner matters. Every second matters. It prolongs the drama. It motivates every runner to reach for their best. And it makes the sport of running infinitely more watchable."

Interested? If so, now is the time to register! In addition, you will receive a FREE marathon training plan created by five-time Czech Olympian and European bronze medalist Eva Vrabcová Nyvltová. Think of it as a boost to your performance, which will up your chances of making your PB and possibly winning some fantastic prizes.

Sign up here and choose your team!



Note for editors

- Each of the five races are certified by AIMS, have been awarded a 5 Star Road Race standard by European Athletics or have hosted the IAAF (World Athletics) Half Marathon Championships.
- RunCzech races are awarded the quality mark by World Athletic and the Prague International Marathon, Prague Half Marathon and Birell 10k Race received the World Athletics Elite Label Road Race award.
- SuperHalves races have played host to World Record performances (2 in Lisbon, 2 in Prague, 1 in Copenhagen and 3 in Valencia).
- RunCzech organizes running events in cities across the Czech Republic and in Italy, with Napoli Running, and in Japan and China supported by local entities.
- Prague International Marathon spol. s.r.o. ("PIM")/RunCzech was established in 1995 by Carlo Capalbo, President of the Organizing Committee, with the aim of staging a world-class international marathon in Prague.
- Nearly 1.2 million runners have participated in RunCzech events since its inception. In 2019, we welcomed over 120 000 finishers from 101 different countries.
- ALL RUNNERS ARE BEAUTIFUL is our way of welcoming everyone to the world of running.
- Initiatives like RunCzech Running League and SuperHalves were created to motivate casual runners. To support elite European athletes, we created the EuroHeroes Challenge.
- RunCzech Racing is dedicated to the development of young athletes, community ties, and sporting excellence. Eight World records so far and over 150 podium finishes for our team!
- In 2021, RunCzech introduced the unique running invention called The Battle of the Teams. "Professional marathoners competing in teams, strategically drafted based on their collective personal bests, giving each team a serious chance to win gold".
- We host other events such as our Bambini Runs, Family Runs and Junior Marathon Championship to encourage youth participation.
- Our FreeRun courses form a network of running trails across the Czech Republic.
- Our Running Mall serves as the epicenter of the running world in Prague.
- All accompanying information regarding RunCzech can be found at this link: [Notes for editors](#)



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