

## Media release

Ultratriathlon in Buchs SG | 15-30 August 2021

### **Hoped until the end: Swissultra 2021 also postponed**

**Hopes were high for Swissultra 2021, but now it is clear: the fifth anniversary of Switzerland's only ultratriathlon has to be postponed again. Even with improvement of the Coronavirus situation and great support from the athletes, a staging in August is too uncertain.**

It was an extremely difficult decision that could not be averted despite promising improvement of the Coronavirus situation: Swissultra 2021 will be postponed to 2022. «It is too uncertain what restrictions will apply for sporting events in August and from an organisational point of view we had to make a decision», says OC president Jeff Lüscher.

The Federal Council's opening steps presented at the end of May, gave hope for a realisation. However, whether and how these could be realised for the Swissultra remained questionable. This especially in view of the restriction of persons or with an obligation to test. «If all athletes and helpers had to be tested regularly, we would have been faced with a huge logistical and financial effort.» This would end in the risk of not finding enough helpers. A postponement was therefore almost unavoidable.

#### **Great support from the athletes**

Many of the more than 50 registered athletes were hopeful that the event would take place. They were included in the decision by filling out an athlete form. Either they were able to deregister, although the original deadline had passed and were refunded their participation fees. Or they chose Swissultra to take place with the risk of a cancellation at short notice. The result was overwhelming. Two thirds of the athletes wanted to keep their participation. This makes the postponement even more painful for OC President Jeff Lüscher: «So many still wanted to be part of Swissultra 2021.»

Besides the great support of the athletes, a fear of the organising committee was confirmed: «Some athletes reported that the training possibilities in their home countries have been severely limited in recent months. Furthermore, with the travel restrictions in force, it will not be possible for some athletes to travel to Switzerland in August.» This made a fair World Championship seem impossible. A further signal in the direction of postponement.

#### **Planning for 2022 already started**

Despite great disappointment about the postponement, the organising committee has already started planning for Swissultra 2022. At the beginning of September the various competitions and the date will be communicated. «We hope that next year Swissultra will wake up from its three-year-long sleep and that we can finally celebrate the fifth anniversary with athletes and helpers from all over the world.»

---

**About the swissultra**

From the 15th to the 30th of August 2021, it was planned to host an ultratriathlon competition in Buchs (SG) for the fifth time. Under the name «Swissultra», four different competitions were offered this year: a Deca one per day (10-fold ultratriathlon - one ultratriathlon per day), a Deca continuous (10-fold ultratriathlon - each discipline in a row), a Quintuple one per day (5-fold ultratriathlon - one ultratriathlon per day) and a Quintuple continuous (5-fold ultratriathlon - each discipline in a row). All four events would have been part of the IUTA World Cup Series. The Deca continuous was also planned to be held as a world championship. More than 30 athletes from all over the world signed up to compete in Buchs for the title of world champion in ultratriathlon. The starting signal is usually given in the open-air swimming pool in Buchs SG. There, the athletes swim their distances in the 50-metre pool. The cycling will take place in 9km laps from the outdoor pool area on the Rhine dam in the direction of Sevelen and back. The last discipline is running, which the athletes complete on a circuit of about 1.2 kilometres. The Swissultra is organised by the Swiss Ultratriathlon Association.

---

**More Information:** [www.swissultra.ch](http://www.swissultra.ch)

**Mediacorner and Factsheet:** <https://www.swissultra.ch/de/medien>

**Swissultra Blog:** <https://www.swissultra.ch/de/blog-landingpage>

**Swissultra Pictures:** <https://swissultra.ch/de/galerie>

**Mediacontacts****Stephanie Brändle**

media swissultra

+41 76 468 05 57

[media@swissultra.ch](mailto:media@swissultra.ch)

**Jeff Lüscher**

OC-President swissultra

+41 78 662 89 21

[president@swissultra.ch](mailto:president@swissultra.ch)