



# BELLE ETOILE

2026 edition

**RACE RULES**

Version 1 as of 30 October 2025

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## 1. PREAMBLE

These rules define the regulations applicable to "LA BELLE ETOILE", a team ski mountaineering competition and French Youth Ski Mountaineering Championship included in the FFME's national ski mountaineering competition calendar.

By confirming their registration for the event, competitors declare that they have read and accepted these rules. The FFME rules can be consulted here: <https://www.ffme.fr/ski-alpinisme/competition-ski-alpinisme/textes-et-reglements/>. They shall apply in the same way as this document.

## Article 2: Organisers

Team Isère Montagne and Dauphiné Ski Alpinisme are the co-organisers of the race. A Local Organising Committee has been set up set up to oversee the event. Its members are as follows:

- Julien Brottet, LOC President and Race Director
- Guillaume Bonneton, deputy race director on Saturday
- Hervé Monnet, deputy race director on Sunday
- Céline Martin, volunteer coordinator
- Pascale Marietta, registration manager

## Article 3: Event and route

The La Belle Étoile race is a ski mountaineering event for teams of two competitors organised in the 7 Laux ski area (Belledonne Massif - Isère) in the form of several races with the following approximate elevation gains:

- Route A: 2 stages of 2,500 m elevation gain
- Route B: 2 stages of 1,900 m elevation gain
- Route C: one stage with 1,100 m elevation gain

The meeting point is located at 1,550 m at the foot of the Pipay resort (Les 7 Laux).

The routes will be marked and marshals will be in place to ensure the safety of participants.

The organising committee reserves the right to cancel the race or modify the routes for reasons of weather conditions and safety.

## WARM-UP AND RECOVERY:

The recovery track can be used to warm up before the start and recover after the race.

This track will be set up specifically for the race weekend and must be used to the exclusion of all other areas.

**It is strictly forbidden to use the uphill tracks once the finish line has been crossed.**

Any runner who fails to comply with these requirements will be automatically disqualified.

## Article 4: Conditions of participation

Registration is open to all teams of two people, male, female or mixed<sup>1</sup>, of all nationalities from the U16 category onwards. Only certain categories of pairs will be eligible for the "French championship" ranking (see article Ranking).

### NEW – selection of entries for course A

Course A is reserved for experienced ski mountaineers.

This course is only for participants with solid mountain experience, excellent technical skills and high physical fitness.

The route includes several exposed and technical sections: climbing steps on mixed terrain (snow, ice, rock), descents in steep couloirs that may be covered in hard or crusty snow, as well as aerial sections requiring control and composure.

Competitors must also be able to maintain a sustained ascent speed (at least 600 m/h, to be confirmed) in order to meet the time limits.

Specific registration procedures: see Article 5.2.

👉 If you are unsure about your level or preparation, we strongly recommend that you choose route B, which is as technical as route A but with less elevation gain, or route C.

To participate in La Belle Étoile, you must provide:

If you are a member of an FFCAM or FFME club for the 2025/26 season:

- Either an FFME competition licence
- Either an FFME leisure licence OR an FFCAM licence + a medical certificate stating that there are no contraindications to participating in competitive ski mountaineering, issued less than one year before the date of the event.

For foreign competitors, a medical certificate is mandatory even with a competition licence issued by a federation affiliated to the IMSF and must be written in French or submitted with a certified translation.

If you do not have a licence, you must:

- take out a **FFME discovery licence** (€6 per day of racing)
- provide a medical certificate stating that there are "no contraindications to participating in competitive ski mountaineering", issued less than one year before the date of the event.

Incomplete applications must be completed as soon as possible, and no later than 26 January.

### **NEW:** For course A

When registering, each team member will be asked to detail their previous experience and results. The organising committee will use this information to select teams that meet the necessary requirements. Other teams will be redirected to routes B or C. Any false declaration will result in the cancellation of the team's registration.

## Article 5: Registration

### 5.1 General information

Registration will take place online at <https://www.belleetoileski.fr>.

Registration is open from 12:00 noon on 15 November 2025 to 11:59 p.m. on 25 January 2025.

The registration deadline may be changed at a later date if the organising committee deems it necessary.

**There will be no on-site registration on the day of the race.**

Teams must be formed at the time of registration, so that runners

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<sup>1</sup> It is not permitted to register as a mixed team in the youth categories.

can register and pay as a single team.

**Changes to teammates** will be subject to approval by the organising committee. Changes can be made until midnight on 25/01/2026.

Registration is limited to:

- 175 teams of two runners for course A.
- 30 teams of two runners for course B.
- 20 teams of two riders for route C.

The organiser reserves the right to accept additional teams according to its own criteria and if it deems it has the capacity to do so (both in terms of safety guarantees and the quality of the event). These teams will not receive welcome packs.

### 5.2 Specific conditions for Course A

So many changes! We promise, it'll be fine☺

Registration for Course A is a three-step process.

5.2.1: Pre-registration: Each team registers on the website by filling in all the fields and adding the required documents (see above).

Once your application has been validated as "complete", you will have to wait for the organising committee to let you know whether your team has been selected.

5.2.2 Application review: Applications are reviewed within 15 days. You will receive an email indicating the status of your application: accepted or rejected. Teams that are rejected may choose to apply for Course B or C.

5.2.3: Payment: Selected teams will receive an online payment link (credit card only), valid for 10 days. Payment completes the registration process.

Registration will be confirmed subject to the validity of the documents submitted, after verification by the organising committee.

### 5.3 Registration fees

In order to participate, each runner must pay the registration fee. The registration fee includes:

- The costs of organising and securing the race
- Lunch on Saturday at the Theys gymnasium
- Lunch on Sunday at the Theys gymnasium
- Welcome packs for the first 200 teams to register.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Payment of the fee does not constitute confirmation of registration. Registration will be confirmed subject to the validity of the documents submitted, after verification by the organising committee.

The amount of the fees is indicated on the website: [https://www. belleetoileski.fr](https://www.belleetoileski.fr).

### **Article 6: Parking at the Pipay – Les 7 Laux resort**

The sustainability of La Belle Étoile means that we have to limit vehicle parking at the Pipay site.

We kindly ask you to carpool and to respect the local parking regulations.

### **ARTICLE 7: Competition details, changes & cancellations**

#### 7.1 Characteristics

Details of the race (elevation, route, timetable and cut-off times) will be communicated to runners prior to the event for information purposes only.

Runners undertake to cover the planned distance and route, although the final routes will not be published.

## 7.2 Changes and cancellation

At any time, depending on weather and/or snow conditions and safety considerations, the organiser reserves the right to:

- stop the race, stop runners, modify the routes and/or time limits or any other feature of the race as indicated in the programme.
- cancel the race for any reason that could endanger the life of the runner, the organising team or third parties, or in the event of a lack of snow.

## **ARTICLE 8: Refunds and compensation**

### 8.1: Modification and cancellation at the initiative of the organiser:

Modification of any aspect of the race shall not give rise to any compensation or refund for runners.

Cancellation of the race shall not give rise to a full refund of registration fees.

The organisers will consider the possibility of partial refunds, which will take into account the costs incurred and to be incurred despite the cancellation of the race.

### 8.2: Cancellation by the runner:

Once registration has closed, or at the latest on 26 January 2026, any request for a full refund following withdrawal (for medical or other reasons) cannot be considered by the organisers.

The administrative costs associated with registrations/cancellations and our Njuko platform will not be refunded (approximately £10 per runner).

Withdrawal during the race does not entitle the runner to a refund or compensation.

## **Article 9: Rankings and awards at the end of the race**

### 9.1 Race jury & complaints

The composition of the jury has not yet been decided and will be updated in these rules.

Any complaints regarding the running of the race must be submitted in writing to the Race Jury within one hour of the publication of the final results. All complaints will be decided upon with reference to the French version of the rules and in accordance with FFME regulations.

### 9.2 Classification

The ranking is by team. Only teams arriving together will be ranked.

#### **On course A:**

The top five teams in the **men's and women's scratch** races will receive prizes.

The **mixed scratch** race will feature a prize-giving ceremony for the top three teams.

Prize money will be awarded to the top three teams in the overall men's and women's rankings in race A at the end of the two days of racing **AND present at the awards ceremony**: 1st: €1,000 - 2nd: €500 - 3rd: €250

**On course B**, the top three teams in the scratch and U20 categories will receive prizes.

**On course C**, the top three U20 Women's and U16/18 (M/W) teams will be rewarded.

In addition, the rankings for the three courses will be used to award prizes to the top three teams in each category, provided that the team in question has not already received a prize (and provided that there are at least three teams ranked in the category at the end of the two days of racing).

The **Nolio Challenge** will reward the five winning teams of the game, which will be revealed shortly before the day of the race.

A "**French Youth Championship**" ranking will be established according to the rules of the FFME, as well as an overall ranking. The title of French champion is awarded according to the rules of Article 18 of the FFME regulations.

### 9.3 Penalties and disqualifications

Runners may be penalised or disqualified in accordance with the rules and conditions of the FFME regulations in force. Penalties and disqualifications may be applied in particular for the following reasons: absence of a race number or wearing it in the wrong place, falsification of a race number, late start to the race, absence or non-compliance of mandatory equipment, failure to check in at control points, exceeding the maximum time allowed, deliberate pollution or damage to the sites crossed (littering, etc.), refusal to be examined by a doctor, refusal to have equipment checked by race officials, failure to assist a person in difficulty, disrespect towards staff/volunteers, refuelling outside the designated areas. (...)

### **Article 10: Refuelling and transport of equipment to the finish line**

Refreshments will be available at the Pipay snow front. All competitors' change bags will be stored near the start. Any refreshments thrown on the ground by a competitor will result in the team being disqualified.

### **Article 11: Equipment and semi-autonomy**

The event is semi-autonomous: competitors must be able to carry everything they need between two refreshment points, both in terms of food and clothing.

For the list and specifications of compulsory equipment, please refer to the FFME regulations: <https://www.ffme.fr/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/regle-jeu2024.pdf> and the pre-race briefing.

The list of compulsory equipment is subject to change until the pre-race briefing, depending on any adjustments to the route and safety measures determined by the organiser for the safety of those involved in the organisation, runners and third parties.

Runners will be checked (equipment + race number + avalanche transceiver) before the start. An equipment check will also be carried out at the finish.

The replacement of equipment in the event of breakage complies with FFME rules.

### **Article 12: Safety**

#### 12.1 General information

A pre-race briefing will be posted online at <https://www.belleetoileski.fr>. Rescue teams will be stationed at several points along the course.

Runners are the first line of defence when it comes to safety and undertake to take the usual precautions in the mountains. In the event of an accident involving a competitor, each participant undertakes to provide assistance and to contact the race control centre or a member of the organisation as quickly as possible.

Given the characteristics of the course, it is essential to respect each other and contribute to your own safety by avoiding creating bottlenecks and leaving the trail to faster teams.

If weather conditions, physical condition or poor behaviour on the part of a competitor so require, the tail runners and/or the race committee have full authority to force a competitor to withdraw.

#### 12.2 Time limits

The maximum time allowed for the race and time barriers are set by the organiser.

Runners will be informed of these cut-off times during the race briefing.

Any participant who exceeds the time limit will not be allowed to resume the race and will be considered as having abandoned the race and will not be eligible for classification.

As a guide, the time barriers for course A correspond to a pace of approximately 600m/h.

Unless injured, participants must then make their own way to the finish area as quickly as possible.

#### 12.3 Withdrawals

In the event of withdrawal, the runner must notify the person in charge of the nearest checkpoint. The checkpoint manager will then collect the race number and note the reason for withdrawal. If the runner's state of health does not require urgent medical attention, they must make their own way to the finish area as quickly as possible. If one of the two runners withdraws, their teammate will not be allowed to finish the race and the team will not be classified.

If a runner withdraws of their own accord, they must notify a checkpoint and hand in their race number at the finish line. If a competitor decides to withdraw without notifying the organisers and the organisers have to search for them, legal proceedings may be brought against them to recover the costs incurred.

#### **Article 13: Insurance**

The DSA has taken out insurance policy no. 47 064 589 04 with AXA France I.A.R.D., the FFCAM's insurer.

The TIM has done the same with Allianz via the FFME.

This insurance does not cover competitors. Each competitor must take out a licence insurance policy covering them for ski mountaineering competitions & options at their discretion (possible rescue, search and transport costs for accidents or equipment breakage, etc.).

Licence holders benefit from the cover provided by the insurance linked to their licence. It is the responsibility of other competitors to take out personal insurance and to check their cover.

#### **Article 14: Image rights and drone flights**

By accepting these rules, competitors authorise the organisers to use any photos or images of the event for promotional purposes without any time limit. By registering, competitors agree to be filmed by drones. In the event of a foreseeable incident

, it is their duty to stop, crouch down or protect their head as soon as the remote pilot issues a "crash" warning and to move as far away from the aircraft as possible once it has landed.

#### **FINAL ARTICLE:**

Marvel, push yourself, sweat!

If you have read the rules up to this point, you are ready and all that remains is to enjoy the event. Thank you!