

VORTEX RACE



2026 EDITION · 6TH EDITION

the runner's guide

saturday 17 october 2026

CAMPUS UNIL · VORTEX · LAUSANNE

this year, we run on saturday

Thanks for signing up. We can't wait to see you spiral.

This year, the Vortex Race shifts. No more Thursday evening: the sixth edition is run on **saturday 17 october 2026**. More runners, more spectators, and an after run in the middle of the Vortex to close the day. Everything ends at 22:00.

This guide has everything you need to be ready: the full schedule, the races in detail, the course, how to get here, the logistics and the rules of the ramp. Read it once and you'll save time on race day.

The Vortex Race organising committee

what changes in 2026

- Saturday, not Thursday evening — the whole day is yours.
- The **unified by Swiss Inclusive Sport** label: a race open to everyone.



the schedule

15:00	bib collection	from 15:00 · village
16:00	bag drop opens	dedicated tent
16:30	7 km warm-up	
17:00	7 km	
17:00	Block 1	
17:02	Block 2	
17:04	Block 3	
17:06	Block 4	
18:00	7 km podium	until 18:20
18:20	exhibition relay race	the show
18:30	3 km warm-up	
18:40	3 km - race	5 runners / 15 s
19:15	3 km - team	1 team / 15 s
20:00	3 km - any pace	Run & Groove · no ranking
20:50	prize ceremony	
21:00	end of racing · after run	open to everyone
21:30	bag drop closes	
22:00	end of the event	

Schedule indicative at the time of printing. The final schedule is published on vortexrace.ch and in your runner account.

four races, one spiral

7 km - campus

17:00

UNIL CAMPUS · RANKING OPTIONAL

The long format. A loop through the UNIL campus, then the Vortex ramp. Successive waves of 270 runners, every two minutes.

3 km - race

18:40

THE RAMP · TIMED

Eight laps of the ramp, solo. Starts in groups of 5 runners every 15 seconds.

3 km - team

19:15

TEAMS OF 3 TO 5 · TIMED

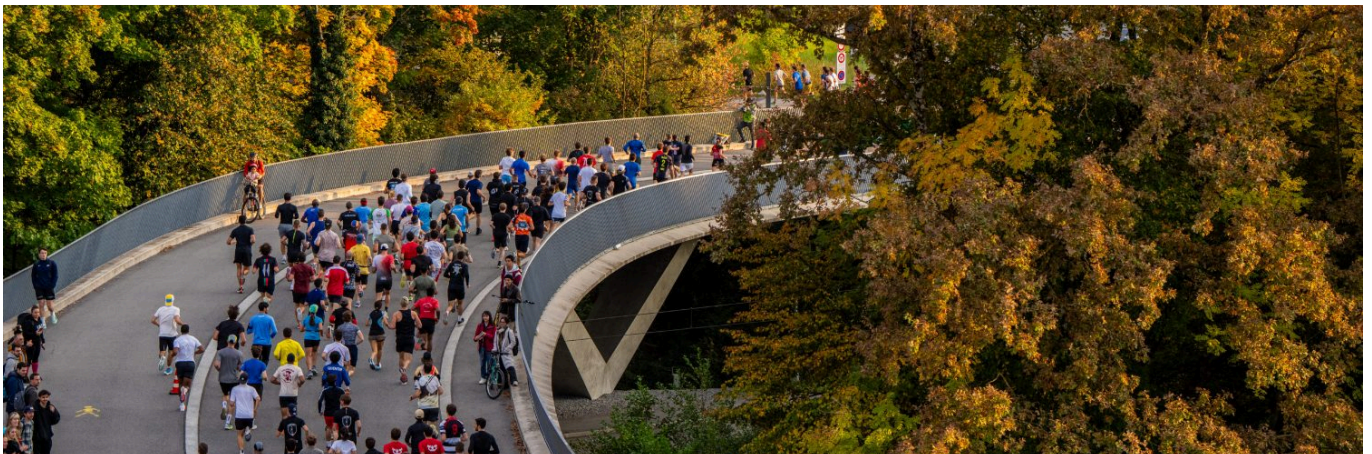
You build your team and start side by side. Everyone runs at their own pace: the team's average time is what counts in the ranking. One team every 15 seconds.

3 km - any pace

20:00

WITH RUN & GROOVE · NO RANKING

The relaxed race that closes the evening. No clock, no ranking: Run & Groove (a DJ set on a cargo bike) climbs the ramp with you. Come as you are.



the exhibition relay

Between the 7 km campus and the evening races, two teams go head to head on the ramp.

Two teams of four, one relay, one ramp. No ranking, one thing at stake: bragging rights. How fast can they climb it?

18:20

RELAY START

2

TEAMS

4

RUNNERS PER TEAM

2

LAPS EACH

two teams, two speakers

- Each team is put together and coached by its speaker.
- Both speakers commentate the duel live on the mic, from the first handover to the last.



eight laps, zero flat

8

LAPS OF THE RAMP

337 m

PER LAP

2,6 km

OF RAMP

27 m

OF ELEVATION

1% average gradient. One helical ramp, one direction of travel: you never meet a runner coming the other way.

The 7 km - Campus adds a loop through the UNIL campus before taking on the spiral.



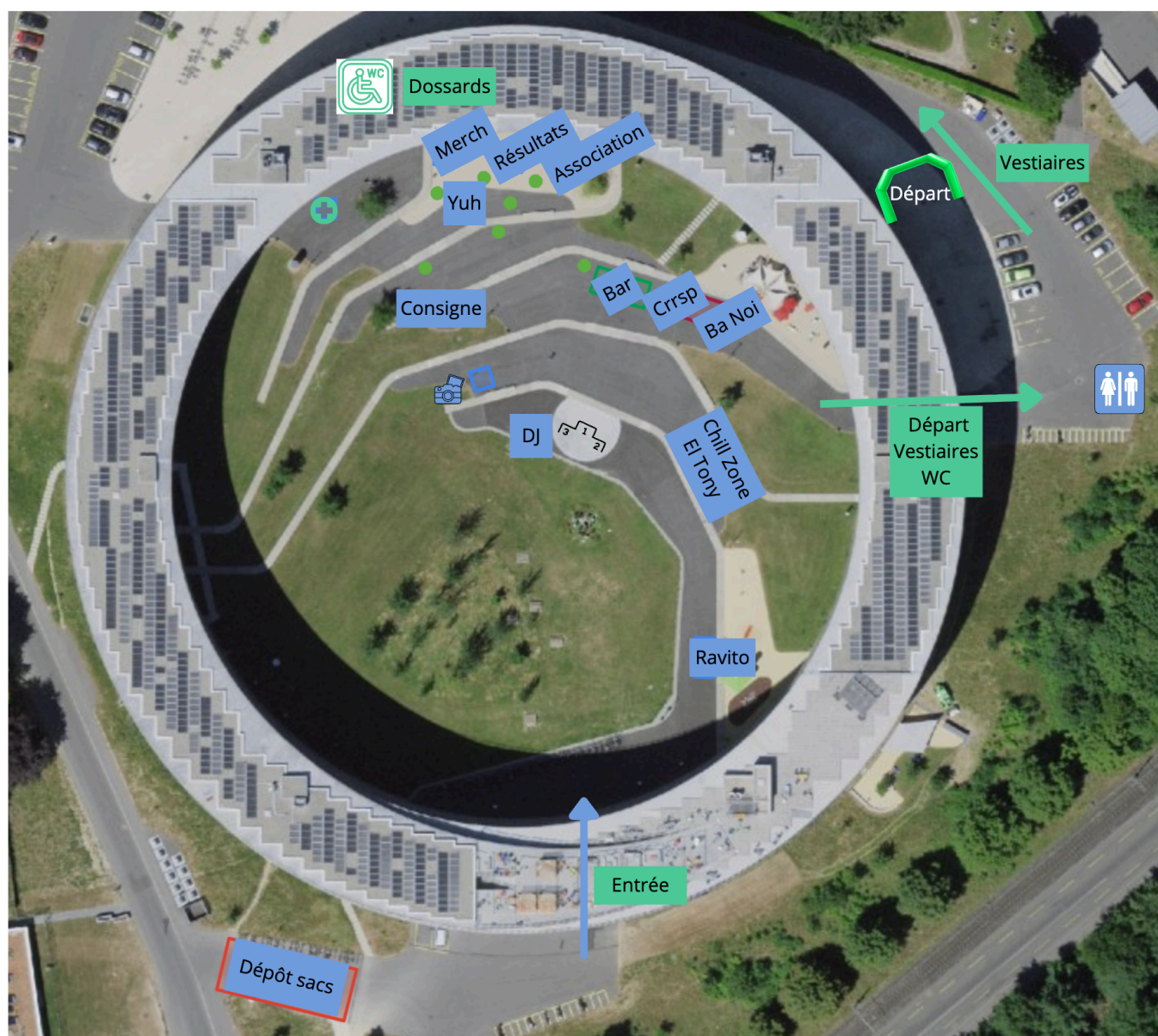
on the ramp

- I run on the inside of the bend, close to the railing.
- I overtake on the right.
- Headphones are not allowed.
- If I feel unwell, I stop and move immediately to the right. If I can, I speak to a volunteer.

access & site map

We strongly recommend soft mobility. The Vortex is a **5-minute walk from the M1 metro stop Sorge**, and plenty of bike parking is available on site.

No car parking will be provided.



Map labels are in French — Dossards: bibs · Départ: start · Entrée: entrance · Vestiaires: changing rooms · Dépôt sacs: bag drop · Consigne: left luggage · Résultats: results · Ravito: water point

START
at the foot of the ramp

FINISH
rooftop

VILLAGE
inner courtyard

BAGS
dedicated tent

bibs & bag drop

bib collection

- From 15:00 at the village, in the centre of the Vortex.
- Bring photo ID.
- Your bib is your ticket: without it, no start and no bag back.

bag drop

- From 16:00, in the tent set aside for it (exact location signposted on site). Closes at 21:30.
- We give you a tag: write your bib number on it and hand over your bag.
- Avoid bringing valuables — leave your laptop at home if you can.
- The area is supervised. We accept no liability for theft or loss.



You will need your bib to collect your bag.



the reusable bib

Two chips per bib. Thousands of bibs. The bin, every year.

A race bib is laminated paper and two electronic chips. On race night, most of them end up in a bin. It is the most absurd waste a sports event produces, and the easiest to eliminate.

So we take it back. Your bib leaves with us, gets cleaned, re-encoded, and returns to the start line next year. All you have to do is hand it in.

handing it back

- After your race, in the tent set aside for it, next to the bag drop.
- Or in direct exchange for your bag.
- Missing bibs are invoiced — thanks for understanding.

want to keep it?

- Choose the **personalised bib** when you register.
- Your first name is printed on it: the crowd shouts your name on the ramp.
- It is yours to keep — and you show it to collect your bag.

*i'm reusable,
don't bin me.*



the fmel challenge



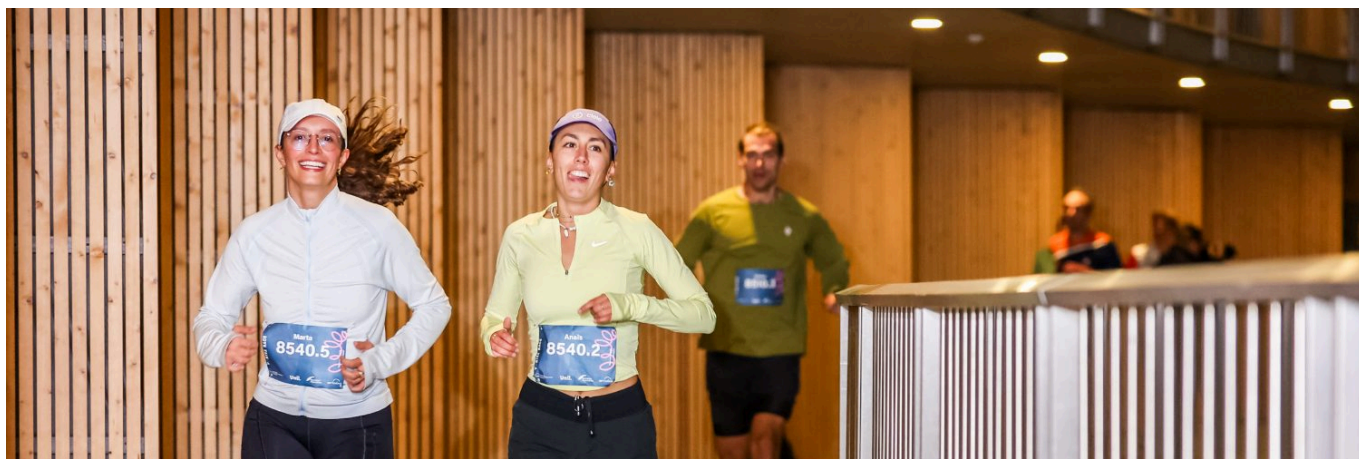
A race within the race. You rent with FMEL? You like to run?

The FMEL challenge is run **at the same time as the 3 km - team**, in the same wave, on the same ramp: a ranking within the ranking, reserved for FMEL tenants. Build your team, register for the **Vortex Race 3 km - team** and you are automatically entered in the fourth inter-site FMEL challenge.

Up for grabs: a total of **CHF 1,000.— off your rent**, split between the best women's, men's and mixed teams, plus many other prizes.

FIRST START

19:15 · with the 3 km - team

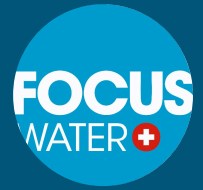


no teammates yet?

Join the FMEL Forum via the QR code and find your future teammates to take on the Vortex.



the last lap by focus water



The fastest lap of the day. Across all races.

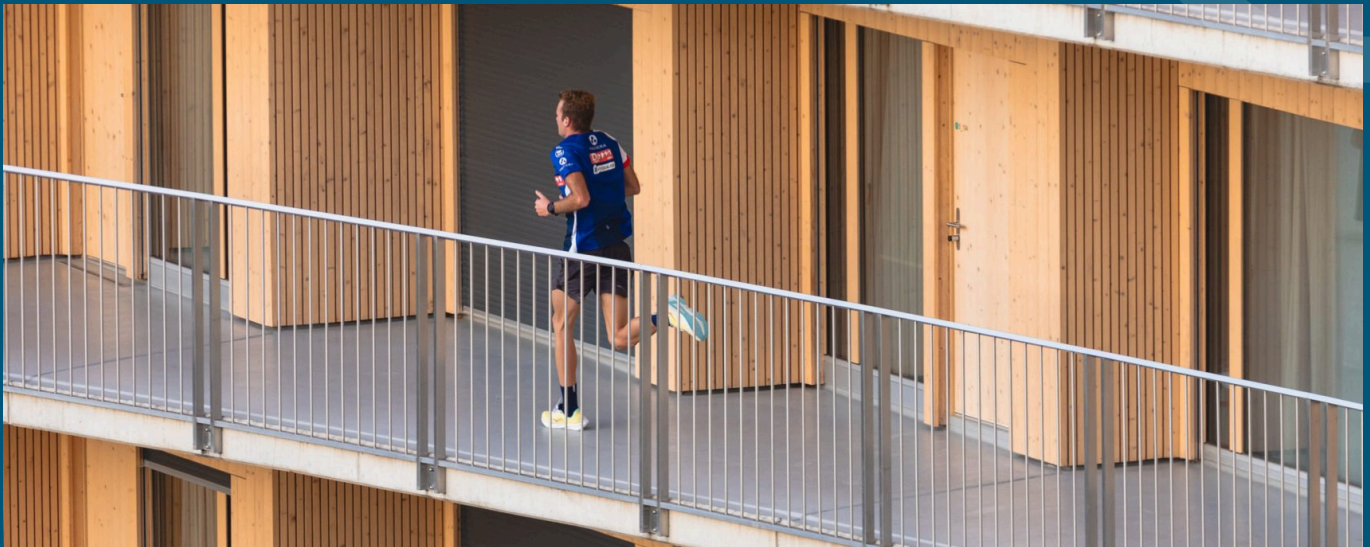
The last lap of the ramp is timed. Whether you run the 7 km, the 3 km - race, the 3 km - team or even the 3 km - any pace, that lap counts, and a single lap can be enough.

PRIZE 1

***fastest lap
women***

PRIZE 2

***fastest lap
men***



Winners announced at the prize
ceremony, 20:50.

the rooftop, then the after run

Once at the top of the Vortex, take a moment to enjoy the view from the **Rooftop**. We just ask you to clear the finish area quickly enough to make room for the runners behind you.

Then head back down the stairs, pick up your things and join the inner courtyard for the after-party.

the after run · 21:00 → 22:00

- In the centre of the Vortex, open air.
- DJ set.
- Bar.
- **Crrsp** and **Chez Ba Noi**, our two food partners.

At 21:00 the racing is over, the after run is not: you have a full hour left, until 22:00, when the event ends. Open to everyone — runners, friends and family, spectators, neighbours. No bib needed.



spectators & supporters

The Vortex ramp is a natural grandstand: from the inner courtyard you can watch the runners spiral from the first floor to the last. It is the best vantage point of the day, and it is free.

- **Inner courtyard** — a view of the whole spiral, bar and food on site.
- **Finish line** — access reserved for runners and organisers.
- **Podiums** — 18:00 for the 7 km, 20:50 for the main prize ceremony.
- **After run** — in the centre of the Vortex, open to everyone until 22:00, when the event ends.



The best time to come with family: between 18:00 and 20:00, when starts follow every 15 seconds.

medical & safety

- A **first aid post** is set up at the village, in the centre of the Vortex, and marked on the site map.
- **Volunteers** are posted along the full length of the ramp. They are clearly identifiable and authorised to stop your race.
- If you feel unwell: **stop, move immediately to the right** against the wall and flag down a volunteer.
- If you drop out, **you must tell a volunteer or the first aid post**: otherwise we will go looking for you.
- In a life-threatening emergency, call **144**, then inform the organisers.

before you start

You run at your own risk. If you have any medical doubt, talk to your doctor before 17 October. Headphones are banned on the ramp: we need to be able to warn you.

what i bring

in the bag

- ☐ Warm, dry clothes for after the race
- ☐ A windproof jacket
- ☐ A spare pair of shoes
- ☐ A reusable water bottle
- ☐ A way to pay at the bar (card or cash)
- ☐ Your phone, charged

on me

- ☐ Your bib, visible on the front
- ☐ Running shoes with good grip
- ☐ Kit suited to October weather
- ☐ No headphones

October in Lausanne: it can be 18° at the start and 8° after dark. Pack generously for after the race.

the runner's charter

We rely on everyone's respect and goodwill for the event to run smoothly.

- **Smoking is prohibited** inside the Vortex.
- **Sort your waste** and drop nothing on the ground. This is a home: students live here.
- Follow the **volunteers' instructions**, no argument. They are there for your safety.
- On the ramp: **hug the inside, overtake on the right, no headphones**.
- **Clear the finish area** quickly and head down the stairs.
- Return your **reusable bib** if you chose that option.
- Bring **warm enough clothes** for after the race.

faq

Can I run more than one race?

Yes. Some people do the 7 km and one of the evening races. Just check the schedule leaves you time to recover.

How do I find out my start time?

Start lists are published in your runner account and displayed at the village on race day.

Is the course lit?

Yes. The Vortex and the ramp are lit, and the evening races run under permanent lighting.

Is there an aid station?

Water is available at the village. The race formats do not require aid stations on the course.

Can I run with a pushchair, a dog, or on skates?

No. Only running is allowed on the ramp, for reasons of safety and width.

I registered but can no longer come.

Email us at hello@vortexrace.ch as early as you can: we will try to reassign your bib.

Are there changing rooms and showers?

A supervised bag drop and a changing area are provided. Bring a change of clothes rather than counting on a shower.

CHARITY PARTNER

running in tandem with paires



Part of the proceeds of the 2026 edition goes to **PAIRES** — Projet pour l'Aide à l'Inclusion des Réfugié-es En Suisse, founded in Lausanne in 2017. The association pairs a person settled in Switzerland, the **binôme d'ici**, with an asylum seeker or refugee, the **binôme d'ailleurs**. More than 900 tandems have been formed since.

Two ways to run in tandem: **an existing PAIRES tandem** registers together for the 3 km - team; or you say at registration that you would like to run with a refugee, and we form the pair with PAIRES. Details are in the form, or contact us at iten@swissinclusive.ch.

paires.ch



LABEL

unified by swiss inclusive sport



The Vortex Race has signed the **Charter for Inclusive Sport**. The label recognises sports organisations that actively commit to inclusion. Our vision is a sport accessible to everyone, whatever their abilities, needs or life circumstances.

- We create programmes everyone can take part in, according to their needs and abilities.
- We build inclusive structures and framework conditions that make lasting participation possible.

- We are guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Swiss Sport Ethics Charter.
- We see diversity as an asset and move forward alongside our partners.

Any particular need in order to run? Write to us before race day and we will find a solution.

inclusivesport.ch

our partners

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

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LAUSANNE

Retraites
Populaires

OFFICIAL PARTNERS

FOCUS
WATER

yuh
Ton app.
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es

OFFICIAL TIMING

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VOLUNTEER PROVIDER

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VOS BÉNÉVOLES, VOS HÉROS.

SAFETY PARTNER

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LOGISTICS PARTNERS

CAPTAIN

1M³

SELORA

Service de l'eau
VILLE DE LAUSANNE

FORD

COLAS

plein air Cid
HALLES DE FÊTES

tms

technique pour la musique et le spectacle

a question?

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