**Race Report: Swimrun World Championships Half Distance**

**Troia, Portugal - April 24**

**Introduction:** Our first participation in the World Championships on the half distance took place in Troia, Portugal. Dream beaches just 30 minutes from Lisbon, bright sunshine, 18-degree warm water, and a pleasant air temperature of 22 degrees provided perfect conditions for this competition.

**Day Before the Race:** The day before the race, the organizer Bruno Safara invited everyone to a casual get-together at the beach. There was an opportunity to get valuable tips from the world’s best SwimRunners, Matthieu Poullain and Yoann Perignon, as well as our head coach Martina Bolvary. The kids' race was particularly entertaining, with about 30 children competing in different classes, showing great promise for the future.

**Course Characteristics:** The course was flat but running on the sand made it challenging. This favored lighter runners with good sand-running technique. Since some of the planned sandbanks on the islands were not runnable, the course had to be changed, resulting in a shorter swimming section, which was a slight disadvantage for strong swimmers.

**Participants:** An impressive field of participants from 15 nations took part. For the first time, only qualified starters, who earned points or direct qualification as winners or with a wildcard, were allowed to compete. Top star Matthieu Poullain, initially listed with Yoann Perignon, had to withdraw due to overexertion, although he was present at the event.

**Race Day:** On race day, perfect conditions with plenty of sun and calm seas set the stage for exciting scenes. The planned marathon distance of nearly 26 km provided many thrilling moments. The leaders in the classes remained within sight of each other until the end, leading to exciting duels.

**Highlights and Results:**

* **French Mixed Duel:** A high class duel emerged between Eugénie Plane/Yoann Perignon and Marine Beaury/Remi Andrade, with Plane and Perignon ultimately emerging as winners and world champions. The third place went to the portuguese team of Ludens / Corticeiras(Rubina Gouveia/André Ferreira)
* **Men’s Team:** The men’s team race was won by SwimRun Algarve/Portugal with Sjoerd Drente (NL) and Hugo Torres, just 11 seconds ahead of Álvaro Tojinha/Paulo Henriques from Portugal, and the French team Nuteo with Olivier Bragard and Jean-François Vandewalle.
* **Women’s Teams:** The Lipstick Girls (Sabine Moret/Camille Bourjaillat) from France took first place, followed by Les Mémères (France) and the Czech team P&P (Pavla Musilová/Pavlina Micova).
* **Men’s Individual:** In the men’s individual race, the experienced Ignasi Gironès Pujadas from Spain won narrowly ahead of James Johnson from the UK, a young talent from Durham University, with Claudio Canavilhas from Portugal finishing third.
* **Women’s Individual:** Martina Bolvary from Germany secured a commanding victory in the women’s individual race, followed by the French athletes Halima Channag and the strong swimmer Caroline Christeaut.

**Conclusion:** The Swimrun World Championships Half Distance event in Troia was a great success. The perfect combination of stunning scenery, challenging courses, and thrilling competitions created unforgettable moments. The participants showed impressive performances and the spectators were treated to exciting duels. We are already looking forward to the next edition of this fantastic event!