



ENGADIN SKIMARATHON

The story of the biggest cross-country event in
Switzerland

Teamwork for the Engadiner

Eleven Engadin ski clubs are responsible for the implementation of the Engadin Skimarathon. On marathon Sunday the whole valley is on its' feet. A member from almost every Engadin family helps out with the marathon.

Without the ski clubs of Maloja, Sils, Corvatsch/Silvaplana, Suvretta/Champfèr, Alpina/St. Moritz, Trais Fluors/Celerina, Bernina/Pontresina, Piz Ot/Samedan, and SC Zuoz/S-chanf there would never have been an "Engadiner". The ski club Sarsura/Zernez has been officially part of the marathon family since 2002, and in 2015 the ski club La Punt was added.

Until 1978, the organizing committee used the so-called "local principle": one to three ski clubs were responsible for the organization and had to provide the committee president and serve in the organizing committee for two years. This arrangement also meant that the marathon secretariat changed location at least every two years.

In 1979, the marathon office was established at the then Upper-Engadin tourism office in Pontresina. Also, the organizing committee was no longer run according to the "local principle", but composed of members from all participating ski clubs together. At the beginning of the Engadin Skimarathon, a secretary was only available from September to May. Since 1999, the marathon office has been occupied year-round.

After the accommodations in Pontresina became too tight, the Engadin Skimarathon was able to move into a new office space in the Swisscom building in Samedan in the year 2000. In 2011, the move to the current office location in a newly renovated building on the school grounds of the Academia Engiadina in Samedan followed.

After the marathon is before the marathon

The preparatory work for each Engadin Skimarathon begins in April: feedback from the organizing committee and participants is analyzed, statistics and contracts updated, communication tools developed and the website updated, start numbers ordered, and accommodations reserved.

In fact, there is a lot going on in the office in summer: in addition to the organization of the Engadin Skimarathon, the marathon office also runs the offices of the Engadin Summer Run and La Diagonela.

From mid-October and during the winter, tenders will be sent to around 20,000 potential participants. Although much of the work has been made easier by digitalization, through with the website and online registration, the administrative burden is becoming ever more complex and extensive. In addition to the full-time managing director, the marathon office today employs three people throughout the year and three additional people for four months of the year.

The members of the organizing committee work on an honorary basis. The committee only meets twice a year for a general meeting; most of the questions are discussed within the individual departments. This lean organization is made possible through the extensive experience within the involved parties and the fact that there are only a few personnel changes from one year.

Of course, there will be additional sessions within each department, because the whole event needs to be prepared very carefully so that there are no missteps.

After all, there is a lot to be done:

- bring 13,000 people to Maloja
- collect 13,000 bags sorted by number and transport them from the start to the finish
- supply 13,000 participants during and after the race with food and drinks
- carry 13'000 people away to their homeward destination
- run dozens of Samaritan, Wax and Repair services
- 11 track announcers to inform and entertain the thousands of spectators
- look after about 80 representatives of radio, TV, press, film and picture agencies and realize a live broadcast on the internet
- ensure a properly functioning road traffic service
- coordinate and cater for around 1,200 volunteers (Voluntari)