

27th Inferno Triathlon

198 of the 204 registered athletes put in hellish performances today.

With the water temperature at around 24°C, the compulsory wetsuit rule was lifted for the first time. It was a wet day: after the warm waters of Lake Thun, the athletes were drenched in their own sweat, followed by torrential rain as evening fell. For safety reasons, due to the persistent heavy rain, the finish line was moved from the Schilthorn to Birg shortly before 7.00 pm. Petra Eggenschwiler remains the serial winner, whilst Sébastien Carabin is surprised by his success in his first Inferno.

The turning point on the running leg

The Swiss rider, Patrick Cometta, led the race comfortably all the way to Stechelberg. From the running leg onwards, Sébastien Carabin from Belgium took the lead. He crossed the finish line after 08:50:17, absolutely delighted. There, he told our partner newspaper, Plattform J, that he'd managed to eat well because he knew it was going to be tough. Even though mountain biking is his speciality, he had to make sure he maintained a good pace after the road cycling section. Ultimately, it really is a hellish ordeal, so you have to be able to draw on the energy in your head. Andreas Lenz from Germany secured second place by improving on last year's time by eight minutes, followed by Cometta.

A hard-fought victory

Petra Eggenschwiler's results this season had already suggested that she would achieve another outstanding result at the Inferno. Nevertheless, it is admirable that she crossed the finish line as the winner on the Schilthorn for the sixth time, in a time of 10:05:31. She laid the foundations for victory on her road bike, although her rival challenged her on the mountain bike section and at the start of the running section. Second place went to the Swiss athlete Andrea Rösch, who finished just two minutes behind the winner. Bianca Morvillo from Italy completed the podium.

Couples

Women – an all-Swiss podium

Throughout the race, the couple 'Mamma Mia', consisting of Nicole Habegger-Wyss and Stéphanie Fuchs, battled it out with 'Sputnik Bike-Shop Kette rechts', namely Jacqueline Zbären and Jolanda Tschanz. After 9:43:28, it was clear that 'Mamma Mia' had taken first place and 'Sputnik...' second. A further 26 minutes behind in second place were Eliane Lisibach and Marina Schilter, competing under the name 'Schilter-Lisibach Sprint'.

Men

The 'Höhenranke Holländer' repeated their success from last year. Felix and Florian Den Hollander from the Netherlands finished in 7:21:15. Behind them, Till Heusser and Sam Müller once again took second place as the 'Imboden Bike Racing Team'. Third place went to the 'Ypsomed Couple', Peter Stettler and Frank Schiffmann.

Mixed

A start-to-finish victory in 08:21:07 for 'Team Vatlach' from Germany. Mignon Vatlach and Flo Eitel were able to extend their lead right from the start. Timo Böhm and Stefanie Meile, competing as 'Team Duxsports', went head-to-head with 'Kuunis', namely Alina Herger and Patrice Steinacher. Second place went to 'Team Duxsports', and third to 'Kuunis'.

Teams

Women

'Nordic Dynamite' from Denmark and Finland finished in second place. The team consisted of Mille Stage Hansen (swim), Maja Lindbjerg (road bike), Ida Rungø Hilligsøe (mountain bike) and Oili Holopainen (run). They settled into position on the road cycling leg between the two Swiss teams, 'TRI-licious' and 'Thuner Golden Age Gladiators', and held that position right to the finish.

'Tri-licious' – Desirée Knecht (swim), Jessica Schuler (road bike), Eve Schaffer (mountain bike) and Sarina Heusser (run) – put in a solid performance and crossed the finish line in Mürren in a time of 09:05:50. Third place went to Laura Riemer (swim), Sandra Graf (road bike), Chantal Schouwey (mountain bike) and Nicole Steiner (run).

Men

The 'Plantage' team from the Netherlands completed the triathlon in 07:44:35. Bart De Vos (swim), Tim Rootliep (road bike), Wander Van Der Wal (mountain bike) and Nathan Looye (run) dominated the Men's Team category. They were followed by the Swiss team 'Team Birchli', comprising Tim Hiestand (swim), Justin Moser (road bike), Robin Moser (mountain bike) and Luca Boggia (run). They were locked in a close battle with the other Swiss team for second place all the way to Stechelberg. On the running leg, 'Team Birchli' pulled well clear of the 'DRSD United 2.0' comprising Daniel Ducret (swim), Robin Mohr (road bike), Simon Jeremias (mountain bike) and David Gosteli (run).

Mixed – another all-Swiss podium

Patricia Rauber (swim), Sven Reber (road bike), Brian Brog (mountain bike) and Fabian Fahner (run), competing as 'SC Wetterhorn 2.0', secured the best overall team result in a time of 07:36:32. On the mixed team podium they were followed by 'Hultegg Stafette 1' with Rosanna Bösch (swim), Fabian Breitenmoser (road bike), Marco Gisler (mountain

bike) and Xenia Braun (run). They put the winning team under pressure, particularly on the road bike leg, and were in the lead at the start of the mountain bike leg. The first of the podium teams out of the water was 'Four Weddings and a Funeral', who ultimately secured third place. The team consists of Jürg Schmid (swim), Michael Schmid (road bike), Marc Zibung (mountain bike) and Lauren Amor (run).

Regional roots, international field of competitors

Unlike many other triathlons, the diverse range of events during the Inferno weekend is not organised by a major international event organiser, but by a local organising committee with regional sponsors and countless hard-working volunteers from the region. As such, the field of participants is traditionally regional to national in scope. However, thanks to social media, the spectacular images of the athletes against the magnificent backdrop of the Jungfrau region are attracting ever greater attention abroad.

Behind the scenes

Between Thun and the Schilthorn, over 800 volunteers were on duty from 14 to 16 August 2026, as well as during the set-up and dismantling phases. Some of them worked for 12 hours or more. A magnificent, invaluable contribution! Without the 'staff', it would not be possible to stage INFERNO. Time and again, the organisers are praised for the fantastic work of the volunteers, who put their heart and soul into their roles.

Captions

Image 1: Start of the swim, photo: Manuel Lopez

Image 2: Race officials at the start of the swim, photo: Manuel Lopez

Image 3: Staff, photo: Manuel Lopez

Images 4+5: Sébastien Carabin, photo: Manuel Lopez

Image 6: Andreas Lenz, photo: Manuel Lopez

Image 7: Patrick Cometta, photo: Manuel Lopez

Image 8: Petra Eggenschwiler, photo: Manuel Lopez

Image 9: from left to right: Andrea Rösch, Petra Eggenschwiler, Bianca Morvillo, photo: Manuel Lopez

Image 10: SC Wetterhorn 2.0 mixed team, photo: Damiano Moser

Image 11: Heavy rain, photo: Manuel Lopez