

**PRESS RELEASE - DAY 3
11/10/18**

The three rivers are in sight

Today is a water day on this world championship. As the back teams were still moving forward in the trek section and especially in the Piton des Neiges; the front teams embarked upon the packraft section early this morning.

The guest stars of this packraft section are the three rivers of the East. The racers will have to go up and down along a 45-km-long packraft section which includes 710m of elevation gain and 1.370m of elevation loss. This section will force the teams to switch between the water and the trek progression but it will also offer them astonishing abseils, such as the waterfall of the Bassin des Aigrettes.

As far as the night navigation regulations are concerned, the rules are consistent with what had been announced during the pre-race briefing: the Mât river section will be closed from 7 pm till 5.15am and a portion of the Marsouins river from 5 pm till 2 am. The middle and back teams will mainly be the ones concerned by those regulations and they will have to take a mandatory break.

The atmosphere was nice this morning when the front teams left the transition area (TA) between the trek and the packraft. "At exactly 5:15 am, they all rushed in the river" said Gilles Lelièvre, one of the white water official and renowned kayaker. "After encountering bottlenecks at the rapids, things got back to normal. Now we are heading to the river of Marsouins where rapids call for particular vigilance. To me, front teams are looking good. The following up program teased them, especially the Dudu ravine. The organization put ropes on that very spot to allow access to the river. This leg will for sure be remembered."

In the afternoon, the front teams were strutting around at the top of the ranking, especially the New Zealander Avaya and Yealands, the French teams 400Team Naturex and DSN74-Hoka as well as the Swedish team Haglöfs Sylva. They had almost arrived at the end of this second section of packraft in Saint-Benoît where they will start a 41km long mountain bike section leading to Anse des Cascades.

At the end of the day, all the back teams had passed the CP6 and were heading to AT1 where they will embark on the three rivers tomorrow at dawn.

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