**Race Report: SwimRun Costa Azahar**
**June 1st, 2025 – Oropesa del Mar, Spain**

Perfect conditions welcomed the athletes at the first **My SwimRun Championships Sprint** at Costa Azahar, near Valencia. The air was 25°C, the water 22°C, and although there were some waves, they were manageable. The finish line offered a great view of the beautiful landscape.

A big **thank you to the organizing team** for creating such a great event and making the day truly special.

### A Demanding and Exciting Course

The course was **challenging**, with everything needed to test a true champion. The race began with a jump from a boat into open water, followed by strong waves, rocky swim exits, and even a 4-meter cliff jump. On land, athletes faced steep climbs, technical trails, 150 stairs, and a final uphill push of 80 meters.

130 athletes started in the Sprint Championships (limited by boat capacity). Many of last year's winners returned to defend their titles. The competition was especially intense in the **mixed teams** category, with tight battles for the podium all the way to the finish line.

### Unique Race Experience

For the longer distances, the experience began with a **bus ride to the harbor**. Athletes were welcomed with **coffee and croissants** before boarding the boat at sunrise. The longer distance race started first, followed an hour later by the sprint. The sea was already wavy in the morning, building tension before the start signal sounded.

In the long distance race, **Ignasi Girones Pujada** was the clear favorite. The world-class athlete, who just became Super Sprint World Champion in Stockholm last week, lived up to expectations and won with ease.

### Focus on the My SwimRun Sprint World Championships

The Sprint race was 10.5 km in total: 2.75 km swimming and 7.8 km running. The course demanded everything from the athletes. Even in the morning, it was already warm: 24°C outside and 23°C in the water. Due to the rough waves, the first swim exit was changed for safety reasons — a smart and necessary move. Still, all swim exits had many rocks and stones to watch out for. As usual in SwimRun, some minor scratches occurred, but there were no major injuries.

The **technical trails**, especially downhill, required full focus. The athletes also had to climb four hills, including a steep section to a TV tower followed by a tricky descent and hundreds of stairs. The final climb led to a stunning finish line beautifully set around a large roundabout.

### Exciting Finishes Across All Categories

Thanks to well-planned start times, athletes from all distances arrived at the finish line steadily. In the **men’s elite**, it was a close race. Defending champion **Unai Nieto Marijuan** from Spain was eventually overtaken by **Emeryc Gennesson** from France, who took the lead after the first swim and held on to win in **1:19:17**. Another Frenchman, **Allan Manuguerra**, finished third.

The **men’s masters title** went to **Juan Antonio García Martínez** in **1:29:18** ahead of JUAN Antonio Herandez Alonso and Joan Bernat.

In the **women’s race**, **Celia Jentzsch** from Germany won confidently in **1:37:11**, ahead of **Virginia Monge Nager** and **Ana Ribes Pallares**. The women’s **masters title** went to **Juana Núñez García** from Spain, followed by Yolanda Vidagan Garcia and Jan Rigby from UK.

### Team Races Full of Drama and Action

The team races were especially exciting. Lead positions changed several times depending on swim or run strength.

* Men

In the end, **Team CD VAS** (Daniel Muñoz Segura & Germán Rodríguez García) won in **1:17:12**, just ahead of **Team Vulcano Masters** from the Canary Islands (Sergio Curbelo Guerra & Sergio Hernández Rodríguez) and VALERO TAMARIT CARRETERO/ RUBEN MOLLA NAVARRO.

JOSÉ IGNACIO VAZQUEZ GARCIA and FERNANDO RUIZ PUENTE overall 3rd men won the masters title men team in1.43.33

* The **Mixed Teams** had one of the most thrilling finishes. In a sprint to the line, **Triathlon Team Castellón** (Pilar Abella Moles & Juanri Catala) just edged out the defending champions **Eric Macoviak & Valérie Bourgis** from France. They still claimed the **Mixed Masters title**. Third overall and second in the Masters category was the experienced UK team **Richard Stannard & Sarah Richardson**.
* The **Women’s Team title** was won by **Noemi Loma Mendoza & Celia Gonzalez Blasco**, who celebrated a strong performance. The masters title went to VIRGINIA MIRANDA LLERENA/ EVA BELTRÁN CHABRERA

### A True Fiesta at the Finish Line

At the finish, a big meal awaited the athletes — including a giant paella pan and of course, beer. Many photographers and videographers captured the action, sharing beautiful images on social media that showed the amazing atmosphere and the stunning scenery.

### **DISCOVER more than a race**

**DISCOVER adventure, ancient towers, and a Spanish fiesta**
**See you again next year!**

👉 Full results here:
<https://geminacronos.es/competiciones/swimrun-oropesa-del-mar/#SPRINT>