

Ariane Cross Program 2026



Ariane Cross Program 2026

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1. WELCOME IN MILAN

After months of preparation, we are pleased to welcome you to the vibrant city of **Milan** on **Saturday, October 10th** for the Ariane Cross. But where is Milan located?

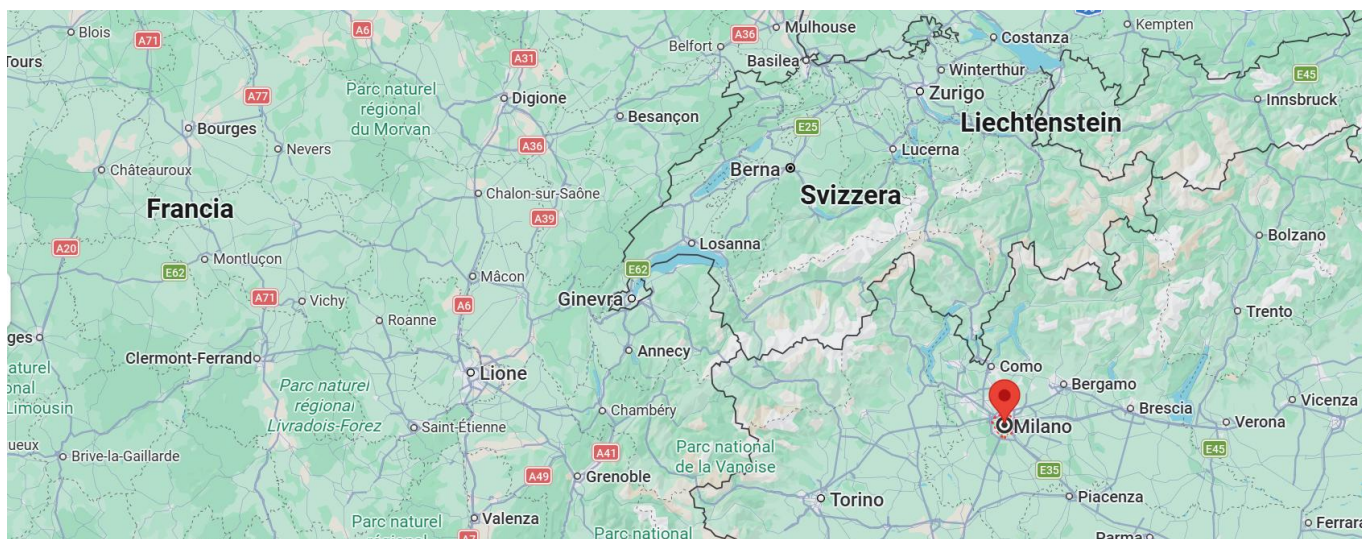


Figure 1 : Milan - Where is it ?

Milan is located in northern Italy, at the heart of the **Lombardy region**. It is Italy's second-largest city, with a population of around 1.4 million inhabitants (and over 3 million in its metropolitan area).

It is strategically positioned close to iconic destinations like Lake Como (50 km), Turin (140 km), and Genoa (120 km), as well as key international hubs near Switzerland.



The Lombardy region and Milan are world-famous for their rich history, fashion, and culinary traditions. You can enjoy iconic local specialties such as **Risotto alla Milanese** (saffron risotto), **Cotoletta alla Milanese** (breaded veal cutlet), and traditional pastries like **Panettone**.



2. THE EVENT

The **Ariane Cross** has been an international event for decades, gathering hundreds of runners from all over Europe. The common denominator of all these running enthusiasts is that they all belong, directly or indirectly, to the **industrial community and companies** participating in the **European Ariane launcher space program**.

Last year, we had the pleasure of being hosted by Mulhouse, the year before, it was the city of Seville in Spain, etc... Just to say that the challenge is exciting for **Milan**!

This year, the event will attract around **720 participants** across **30 teams** - male and female, beginner or high-graded runners alike!

Over the years, a successful format has been established: the event will start on **Friday 9th of October evening** with the **team captains' meeting**, continue with the **running events** on **Saturday 10th of October morning**, a **big group picnic** on Saturday lunchtime, **tourist visits** around Milan on Saturday afternoon, and a **gala dinner** on Saturday night.

The event concludes on Saturday evening after the gala dinner, with teams departing on Sunday 11th of October.

3. THE ENVIRONMENT

The races will take place in **Parco Nord Milano**:

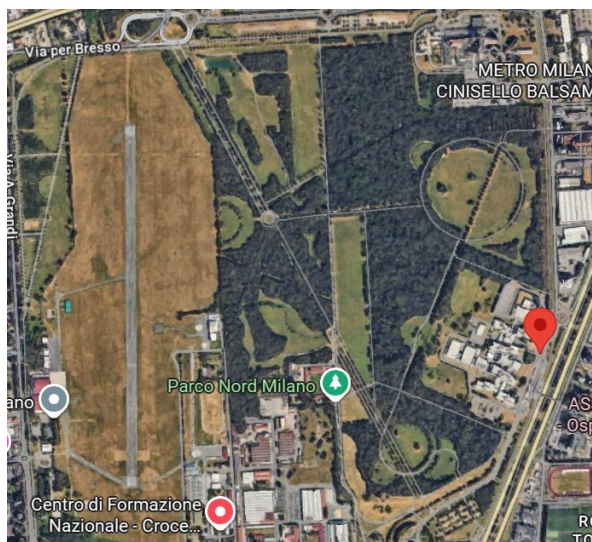


Figure 2 : PARCO NORD

Google maps link : <https://maps.app.goo.gl/k5Kn8kcC8wuegBJx6>

Parco Nord Milano is one of Milan's largest urban green spaces, spanning over 632 hectares of parkland stretching between Milan, Sesto San Giovanni, and Cinisello Balsamo. Created through extensive reforestation and the redevelopment of former industrial areas, it today offers a rich mix of natural, recreational, and cultural features.

Start Location & Practical Information

- **Start Location:** Via Massimo Gorki, 100, 20092 Cinisello Balsamo (MI). This is the official meeting and race start point inside the northern section of the park, featuring extensive green spaces, trails, and recreational areas.
- Once you have entered through the gate, simply follow the indicated route to the car park adjacent to the school building, which will be available to participants for **restrooms, changing rooms, the gym, and bag storage**.

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- **On-Site Facilities:** Within the Parco Nord school/sports complex, participants will have access to public toilets, including accessible self-cleaning facilities, separate men's and women's changing rooms, and preparation spaces. A **dedicated storage area** will also be available in the gymnasium, clearly marked with red tape and a "UNATTENDED AREA" sign, where participants can leave their personal belongings. Drinking fountains and shaded green areas for warm-up and cool-down are also available throughout the park.

Transport & access

Parco Nord Milano is well-connected to Milan and surrounding towns by public transport:

Tram

- Line **31** stops at *Parco Nord (Ist. Tecnico)* — about a 5-minute walk from Via Massimo Gorki.

Bus

- Lines **702**, **727**, **728** and **Z222** serve stops within a short walking distance of the start point (e.g., *Parco Nord (Osp. Bassini)*, *Via Gorki / Via Testi*).

Metro access with connections

- **M1 (red line)** – Sesto FS or Sesto Rondò stations (then bus connection).
- **M5 (purple line)** – Bignami station (then bus or tram).

Train option

Regional trains (e.g., lines **S8 / S9 / R14**) serve nearby stations, which are a short bus or tram ride away.

Car & parking

There are park-adjacent street parking areas and nearby paid lots. The park can also be reached by car via Viale Fulvio Testi and local roads.

4. THE RACES

Four distances are proposed

- 2'500 m
- 5'000 m
- 10'000 m
- A 6'000 m relay split into 4 legs of 1'500 m each.

As this is a cross-country race, there may be some minor difficulties with gradients. The 2'500 m and the relay courses are fast.

Only runners who have taken part in one of the individual races may take part in the relay.

All the races will take place at Parco Nord.

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Figure 3 : The basic circuit (yellow – 1.5 km relay, green – 2.5 km, red – 5 km)

4.1. THE 2'500 M RACE

The shortest race starts at the start/finish arch and finishes at the same point

4.2. THE 5'000 M RACE

The 5'000 m race consist of one clearly marked 5km loop, starting and finishing at the start/finish arch

4.3. THE 10'000 M RACE

And the 10'000 m race will consist of the same circuit but running it two times.

4.4. THE RELAY

The relay is a different circuit. The 4 runners will browse a specific circuit on the same location, each of them running 1'500 m in full speed.

5. THE AGENDA OF THE EVENT

The overall agenda of the event combines **briefings and instructions** on Friday, **sports activities** on Saturday morning, **leisure and sightseeing** on Saturday afternoon, and **celebrations and fun** on Saturday evening, before concluding on Sunday.

5.1. FRIDAY

The teams Captains are invited to a briefing **meeting at 18:30** at **Palazzo del Ghiaccio**, Via Giovanni Battista Piranesi, 14, 20137 Milano

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Google maps link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/BNWtKrQUN1gPv78MA>

The **briefing meeting** will cover:

- **The detailed event program**, with a clear reminder of all cut-off times
- **Transportation and meeting points**
- **Race routes**, highlighting key terrain details and difficulty levels
- **Venues**, including race areas, guided visits, and evening event
- **Useful maps**
- **Essential contact numbers** and the event **WhatsApp group**

At the end of the briefing, each participant will receive their **race bib**, **event T-shirt** and **event bag**.

Inside the event bag, participants will also find a **wristband**, which will be provided in one of two colours:

-  **Blue wristband** – for participants following a standard diet
-  **Orange wristband** – for participants who have reported **allergies, food intolerances, or a vegetarian/vegan diet**

Don't forget to **put on your bracelet before the race!** You'll also need it to collect your lunch box.

Please remind all team members to keep and bring their wristband with them for the evening event at the Palazzo del Ghiaccio. The wristband will be used as an **access control system** and will be essential for identifying participants and ensuring access to the evening event.

For participants who have indicated an allergy, food intolerance, or dietary restriction, remember to place your ORANGE wristband visibly in front of you on the table during the gala dinner. This will help our staff quickly identify guests with specific dietary requirements and ensure that they receive the appropriate meal. 

⇒ IMPORTANT: please allow time and material for last-minute distance changes.

At the end of the meeting, we will be pleased to invite you to join us for a friendly moment over a **light aperitif**, right here at the Palazzo del Ghiaccio 😊

5.2. SATURDAY MORNING

Arrival of runners between 60 and 30 minutes prior the chosen race at Parco Nord.

Google maps link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/VbAzv2f4kBUDLAr36>

09:00 – 10:30	10'000 m individual race
10:30 – 11:30	5'000 m individual race
11:30 – 12:00	2'500 m individual race
12:00 – 12:30	Relay race

After the races, comfort! A **big picnic** is proposed between 12:30 and 14:00.

5.3. SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Saturday afternoon is free, giving you maximum flexibility to spend your time exactly as you wish. Whether you want to rest and have a nap at the hotel, visit Italy's largest science museum, or explore Milan using our recommended guide apps, the city is yours to discover!

MUSEO NAZIONALE DELLA SCIENZA E DELLA TECNOLOGIA LEONARDO DA VINCI

Welcome to Italy's largest science and technology museum, located in the heart of Milan. Dedicated to the genius of Leonardo da Vinci, the museum offers an extraordinary collection spanning science, technology, and industrial history. Visitors can explore historic ships, trains, aircraft, scientific instruments, and interactive exhibits. Highlights include the reconstruction of **Leonardo da Vinci's machines**, historic steam engines, hands-on workshops, and,

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of special interest for our community, the full-scale model of the **VEGA launcher**.

- **Address:** Via San Vittore 21, 20123 Milano - Italy
- **Opening Hours:** 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM (last entry at 4:30 PM). Visits can be planned for both Saturday and Sunday.
- **Tickets:** If you select the museum visit, your entrance ticket will be included in the **goodie bag** handed out by your team captain.

CITY TOUR

If you prefer to explore the city at **your own pace**, you can discover Milan using dedicated mobile apps. These tools offer detailed insights, suggested itineraries, and fully customizable routes tailored to your schedule. Whether you want to visit iconic landmarks, admire architectural masterpieces, or discover hidden local gems, they give you complete freedom to experience the city according to your own interests and timing.

- **YesMilano Pass (Official City App - Free):** Offers official insights, events, and city guides to explore Milan effortlessly. 📲 [Download on App Store](#) | [Download on Google Play Store](#)
- **GPSmyCity (Free):** Features self-guided walking tours and allows you to create customized itineraries based on your available time and specific interests. 📲 [Download on App Store](#) | [Download on Google Play Store](#)
- **SmartGuide (Free):** Turns your smartphone into a personal GPS tour guide with ready-to-use self-guided walking routes and offline maps. 📲 [Download on App Store](#) | [Download on Google Play Store](#)

USEFUL APPS TO GET AROUND & EXPLORE MILAN

- **ATM Milano Official App (Public Transport - Free):** The official app of Milan's public transport network. Perfect for buying digital metro/bus tickets, checking schedules in real-time, and calculating routes. 📲 [Download on App Store](#) | [Download on Google Play Store](#)
- **BikeMi (Official Bike Sharing - Free App):** Easily unlock e-bikes at hundreds of stations across the city. 📲 [Download on App Store](#) | [Download on Google Play Store](#)

5.4. SATURDAY NIGHT

New event, new location! We are pleased to host you at [Palazzo del Ghiaccio](#) for the Gala Dinner.

Address: Via Giovanni Battista Piranesi, 14, 20137 Milano (MI), Italy

Google Maps link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/JVV5mxnHs9DyCN6E8>

Originally built in 1923 as the largest covered ice rink in Europe, this historic venue has been masterfully restored into an elegant, multifunctional space. Combining Liberty-style architecture with modern design, it offers a grand and unforgettable setting for our Gala Dinner.

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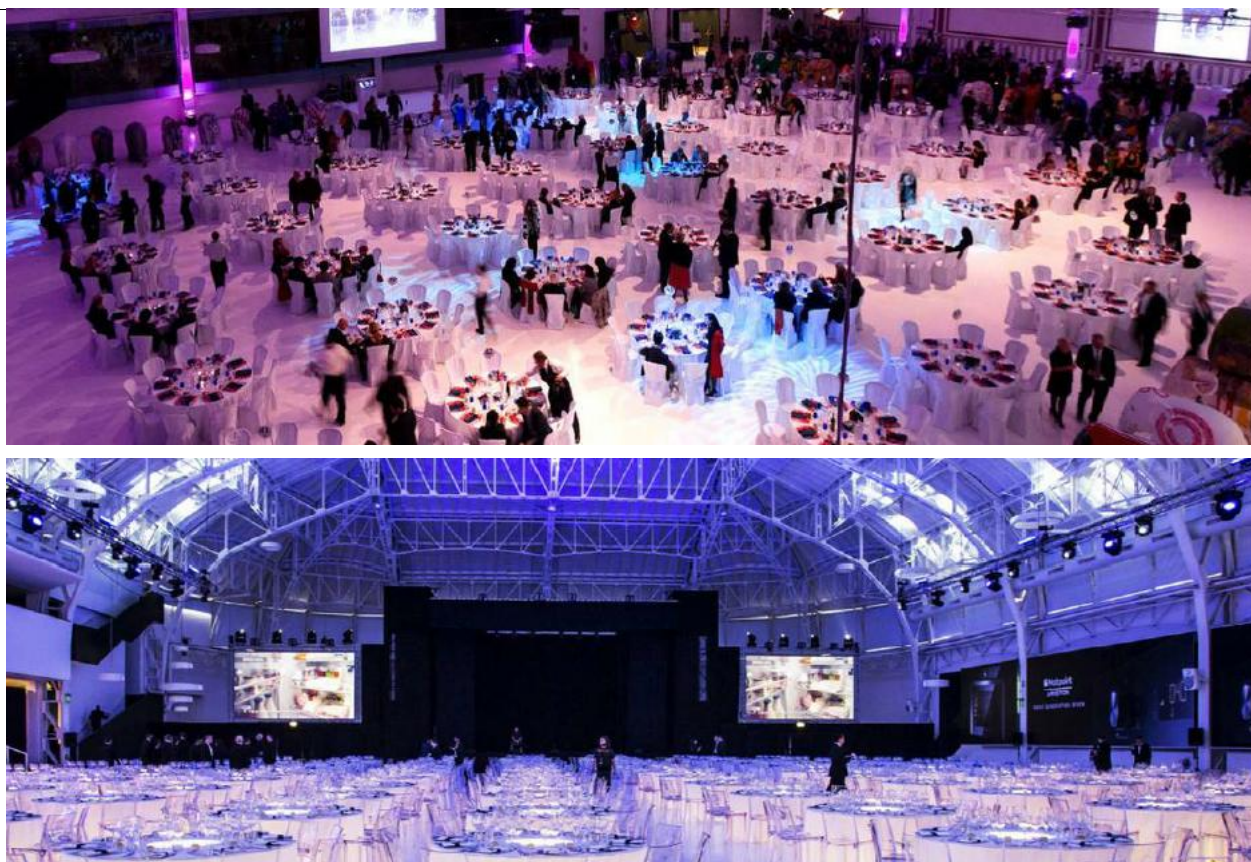


Photo 4 : Palazzo del Ghiaccio

5.4.1. How to reach Palazzo del Ghiaccio?

Palazzo del Ghiaccio can easily be reached by train, metro, bus, tram, or on foot depending on your starting point in Milan.

Nearest Public Transport:

- **Train:** Milano Porta Vittoria (S1, S2, S5, S6, S12, S13) – about a 2 to 5-minute walk. Porta Vittoria is the closest train station and extremely convenient.
- **Metro M4:** Susa station – about a 10 to 12-minute walk.
- **Metro M1:** Porta Venezia station – about a 10 to 12-minute walk.
- **Bus:** Lines 90, 91, 93, and 54.
- **Tram / Trolleybus:** Lines 12, 27, 90, 91, and 93.

Getting There Tip: Porta Vittoria is your best option if you arrive by suburban rail. If you prefer the underground, both Metro M4 (Susa) and Metro M1 (Porta Venezia) are a short 10–12 minute walk away, while local buses and trams offer flexible connections from all over the city.

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Figure 6 : Metro Map - Milan

5.4.2. Program of the night

The night will be organized as follows:

- **18:30** Arrival at Palazzo del Ghiaccio
- **18:30 – 20:00** Welcome Aperitif
- **20:00 – 23:00** Gala Dinner & Award Ceremony
- **23:00 – 23:15** Announcement of the Winning Team & Reveal of the **Ariane Cross 2027** Host Location
- **23:15 – 02:00** Dance Party & DJ Set

Return to Hotels

No shuttle service is provided at the end of the evening; we recommend choosing a hotel near the Palazzo del Ghiaccio. Those staying elsewhere will need to arrange their return independently after the gala dinner.

Getting a Taxi in Milan

There are several ways to book a taxi in Milan:

1. By Phone:

Call one of the main taxi companies:

- **Radio Taxi Milano:** +39 02 8585
- **Taxi Blu:** +39 02 4040
- **Samaracanda Taxi:** +39 02 6969

2. Via Mobile Apps:

- **Free Now** – widely used, allows you to book in advance, track your driver, and pay by card.
- **ItTaxi** – official app connecting to licensed taxis in Milan.
- **Uber** – only operates with Uber Black or Uber Comfort (licensed cars, slightly higher fares).

5.5. SUNDAY Do as you please!

6. THE ORGANISATION TEAM

The organisation team is composed of two teams:

- A long-lasting association called "Comité Ariane Cross" gathering the best knowledge of Ariane Cross organisation since years. They are all highly experienced runners and have participated to the Ariane Cross since decades.



Sylvain LEROY
President



Laurent VALLET
Deputy President



Pascal DESBARATS
Treasurer



Amaya ESPINOSA
Deputy Treasurer



David DELORME
Secretary



Stéphane DUSSY
Deputy Secretary



Michèle MENOU
Olympic Flame



Jean-Claude BOURDAIS
Retired



- The Telematic Solutions team, led by **Lucrezia MURRALI** and **Liliana ALBANO**, responsible for coordinating the organisation and operational management of the 2026 edition.



Lucrezia MURRALI
Managing Director



Liliana ALBANO
Communication Manager



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WHATSAPP GROUP: All team captains using Whatsapp have received an invitation to a WhatsApp group.

In addition to this WhatsApp group, in case of questions / issues during the weekend, feel free to contact the organizers by phone:

Contact		Phone number
Liliana ALBANO	Local organization team – Telematic Solutions	+39 388 122 4668
Pascal DESBARATS	Comité Ariane Cross (General organisation)	+33 6 85 66 90 62
Jean Claude BOURDAIS	Comité Ariane Cross (General organisation)	+33 7 70 26 47 57

7. PHOTOGRAPHS / VIDEOS

A professional photography and videography team will be present throughout the event. Captured highlights will be showcased on the big screens during the Gala Dinner.

All participants are welcome to take photos! Team captains are kindly invited to share their team's top moments in the official event WhatsApp group (up to 10 photos per captain).

Please note: Media collection and sharing comply with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) under Article 17 of our General Rules (see Section 8, Article 17).

8. RULES

Article 1 – Organization

Telematic Solutions and the Ariane Cross Committee are organizing the 47th edition of the ARIANE CROSS competition on 10th October 2026 in Milano, Italy.

Article 2 – Races

The ARIANE CROSS meeting includes both individual races and a 4 X 1.500 m relay. Three optional distances are offered for the individual races: 2.500 m, 5.000 m and 10.000 m. *Note: All distances are indications only.*

Article 3 – Participants

The event is opened to employees from European companies engaged in the European launchers programs, as well as the employees' partners.

Article 4 – Closing date

The entry deadline (individual events and relay) as the final date for applications to participate in ARIANE CROSS 2026 is 15th May 2026.

Article 5 – Team

Team captain

- Each team must appoint a captain who will be the contact point with the organizers.

Company Team composition

- Except for the organization team, each team shall be composed of participants up to 70 runners.

Article 6 – Medical Certification

In accordance with the recommendations of the French Athletics Federation and Law No. 2022-296 of March 2, 2022, a medical certificate is not required any more. Nevertheless, each team captain will check that all runners in his team have health conditions to practice running in competition. The Organizing Committee cannot be held responsible for any medical issues.

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Article 7 – Age categories (individual races)

Age categories for this cross-country event are only defined with the year of birth. The following categories have been defined:

WOMEN'S CATEGORIES

RACE	2008-1987*	1977-1986*	1976* and before
2'500 m	A1	A2	A3
5'000 m	B1	B2	B3
10'000 m	C1	C2	C3

MEN'S CATEGORIES

RACE	2008-1987*	1977-1986*	1976* and before
2'500 m	A4	A5	A6
5'000 m	B4	B5	B6
10'000 m	C4	C5	C6

Article 8 – Individual race

A competitor can enter only one individual race.

Article 9 – Relay race

A relay team consists of 4 runners from a team who have all participated in an individual race. The relay team must be composed as follows :

Relay	Runner1	Runner2	Runner3	Runner4
Gender	Female	Male	Female	Male
Birth Date	2008-1987*	2008-1987*	1986* and before	1986* and before

Any relay team not respecting the above-mentioned composition, shall not be allowed to participate the relay race. A relay competitor can enter only one relay team.

Article 10 – Team points from individual races

The ranking will be established according to the order in which the runners pass under the finish arch. For each of the 3 individual races: 2500m, 5000m and 10000m, the points awarded are determined based on the ranking of the best runner on the team, in each of the following 4 categories:

- Women born in 1987 or later (under 40 years old)
- + Women born in 1986 or earlier (over 40 years old)
- + Men born in 1987 or later (under 40 years old)
- + Men born in 1986 or earlier (over 40 years old)

For each race, the points awarded to a team are equal to the sum of the points scored by its best athletes in these four categories.

This total score is then divided by 12, giving the average of the individual points scored for the team.

Example:

in the 2500m race, a team including

The best woman (under 40 years old) finishes 1st (in her category)

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The best woman (over 40 years old) finishes 1st (in her category)

The best man (under 40 years old) finishes 2nd (in his category)

The best man (over 40 years old) finishes 14th (in his category)

The team will receive $1 + 1 + 2 + 14 = 18$ points for the 2500m race

Special case:

Any team with no representatives in a given race will be awarded points equal to the number of athletes classified in that category plus one.

Example:

In the 10.000 m women's race for example, if 25 female athletes finish, teams that have no representatives in that race will be allocated 26 points.

Article 11 – Team points from relay race

The ranking will be based on the finishing order of the four best runners, not on time. All teams participating in the relay will be ranked according to their finishing order, and this ranking will be used to calculate the final ranking.

In the relay race, the following will be recorded:

The number of points scored by a given team in a relay race corresponds to the best team's relay team finishing place (1 point for the relay team finishing first ...).

A team that does not finish the relay race will be allocated the number of points awarded to the team finishing last, plus 1.

Note:

Teams are allowed to participate in the relay race with multiple teams

The results of all relay teams will be taken into account for the relay race ranking and for the final ranking.

Article 12 – Final ranking

The final ranking is obtained by adding the number of points scored in the relay race to the average of the individual points scored by the team.

The ranking is established by the representatives of the Ariane Cross Committee.

Example calculation:

	2,5 km				5 km				10 km				Average individual races	Relay race standings	Final points
	F-40	F+40	H-40	H+40	F-40	F+40	H-40	H+40	F-40	F+40	H-40	H+40			
Team X	1	1	1	6	3	5	1	7	2	3	1	2	2,8	1	3,8
Team Y	2	5	2	3	5	3	2	2	1	5	3	5	3,2	3	6,2
Team Z	4	6	7	8	1	4	5	12	3	4	2	11	5,6	2	7,6

For Team X

2500m Race:

The best female under 40 years old finished 1st in her category = 1 point

The best female over 40 years old finished 1st in her category = 1 point

The best male under 40 years old finished 1st in his category = 1 point

The best male over 40 years old finished 6th in his category = 6 points

2500m race: Team X scores 9 points

5000m race: Team X scores 16 points

10000m race: Team X scores 8 points

- The average number of individual points scored by the team = $(9 + 16 + 8) / 12 = 2.8$ points
- The final score = $2.8 + 1$ (relay points) = 3.8 points

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Final ranking

Team X, with the fewest points (3.8), is ranked first and wins the Ariane Cross Cup.
Team Y will be ranked second (6.2).
Team Z will be ranked third (7.6).

Article 13 – Trophies

The first three finishers in each category, for each race, will be awarded a trophy.
The first three teams in the relay will be awarded a trophy.
The final team ranking shall be announced during the trophy awards ceremony.
The Ariane Cross challenge cup will be awarded to the team that finishes in first place.
This cup is put back in competition at each edition.

Article 14 – Timings

The schedules below are given for informational purposes; they may be changed if necessary.

The individual races will start at the following times:

- 10.000 m, categories C1 to C6: start 09.00 am
- 5.000 m, categories B1 to B6: start 10.30 am
- 2.500 m, categories A1 to A6 start 11.30 am
- The relay race will start at 12:00 am.

Competitors are to assemble at the start line 10 minutes before the published start of each event.

Article 15 – General arrangements

Numbers must be worn on the chest. The use of spiked shoes is not allowed. Failure to respect the rules or directions given by an official or route marshal may result in disqualification.

Article 16

All participants agree to abide by these rules; failure to do so may result in disqualification.

Article 17

All participants agree that photos, video material, and interviews made in connection with his/her participation in the event can be broadcasted and published on TV, the internet, radios, in printed material, books, photo copies (video footage, video tapes, etc.) without fees. Moreover, participants agree that personal data, such as name, year of birth and company can be provided in starting lists and results.