



Wednesday, 16 september

Day 2

Stopwatches at the ready!

This Wednesday morning, the curtain rose on the 16th edition of the Défi Azimut. In line with tradition in this Lorient-based event, the focus is on the speed runs and which boat will be the fastest to cover the one-mile racetrack. Verdict from 5:30 pm local time, following a series of showstopping sprints against the clock.



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Out on the water this Wednesday, a prevailing W'ly wind is setting the tempo in what is a fun yet technical exercise, relished by the skippers, their team members and their guests. A helmet and lifejacket are compulsory for those in the thick of the action as they sample the delights of IMOCA racing. The very light conditions at the start of the afternoon are set to build over the next few hours, with the prospect of some wonderful images and some supercharged speed runs by the foilers, whose teams will have some time to warm up before they really put pedal to the metal.

The fleet of 17 boats, including the surprise participation of DMG Mori Global One (Kojiro Shiraishi) and United by The Ocean (Paul Meilhat), which has just completed The Ocean Race Atlantic, are doing battle to the east of the island of Groix, offshore of the Gâvres peninsula. As the action gets under way on this protected body of water, it is sure to be a feast for the eyes with today's flat seas favouring acceleration.

With regards the Race Committee, everything is in place to organise this IMOCA ballet, but vigilance will be key to avoiding bottlenecks and guaranteeing safety down the highly coveted racetrack. *“The most important part of our work revolves around managing the starts according to when the boats call us up. Speed runs aren’t that simple to control,”* explains Carole Jaouen, from the Race Committee, alongside Gilles Bricout. *“Rule number one for the crews is that they must announce their arrival one minute beforehand, at which point it’s down to us to handle the traffic according to the speed potential of the different boats,”* says the person in charge of the stopwatch at the start.



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The low-down on the runs:

- 17 participating boats, grouped into a single pool, which are invited to set sail between 2:30 and 5:30 pm
- 1 mile: length of the racetrack
- 30.2 knots: average speed of the best run set in 2023 by Jérémie Beyou aboard Charal
- 56 people: the number of guests aboard the IMOCAs, RIBs and Bag Hatoup, the eco-friendly catamaran linking up Groix and Lorient for the occasion
- Watch the action live on the race website, YouTube and France TV Sport
- Cartography updated in real time with live chat commentary by Tanguy Leglatin

PROGRAM

Monday, September 14

- From 10:00 AM: Teams and media registration, at the Maison des Skippers
- 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM: "Tech'Afternoon" workshop: "Shipyard hazards and mast climbing", organized by 507 Works, at the Karré (Cité de la Voile Éric Tabarly)

Tuesday, September 15

- 8:45 AM - 4:30 PM: Materials & Mobility Day
- 2:00 PM: Free afternoon - Collective tribute organized by Charlie Dalin's family and loved ones in Concarneau
- From 8:30 PM: Welcoming the IMOCA's back from the sea - Défi Azimut, at the Maison des Skippers

Wednesday, September 16

- 11:00 AM: General briefing and Speed Runs schedule at the Cité de la Voile Éric Tabarly, open to the media (zone, course, weather)
- 1:30 PM: IMOCA's dock-out / leaving the harbor
- 2:30 PM: Start line open for the Speed Runs
- 5:30 PM: Speed Runs start line closed
- 8:00 PM: Opening night and Speed Runs Prize Giving, in the Muséo area of the Cité de la Voile Éric Tabarly

Thursday, September 17

- 1:30 PM: IMOCA's dock-out / leaving the harbor
- 3:30 PM: Start of the 48h AZIMUT
- 2:00 PM: Press Tour focused on sustainable innovation in ocean racing
- 6:00 PM: "Apéro pro Azimut" (B2B networking drink) in partnership with the Bretagne brand, at the Comptoir Groix et Nature

Friday, September 18

- 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM: Conferences: Architecture, Innovation, and Business Model Changes, with Bretagne Next, Audélor, and the UBS (University of Southern Brittany)
- 5:00 PM: "Apéro pro" (B2B networking drink) for Breton networks with the Bretagne brand, at the Comptoir Groix et Nature

Saturday, September 19

- 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM: IMOCA arrivals / finishes
- 8:00 PM: Crew party and 48H AZIMUT Prize Giving

Sunday, September 20

- 11:00 AM: IMOCA's dock-out / leaving the harbor
- 12:30 PM: Start of the Tour de Groix
- 5:30 PM: Skippers & OBR photo/video contest Prize Giving (Lorient La Base dock)

MÉDIAS



Live stream link for the RUNS

The runs will be commentated by **Louis Duc**, who finished 26th in the last Vendée Globe.



Live stream link for the 48H race

The start of the 48h will be commentated by **Jacques Caraës**, team manager of DMG MORI Global One, and **Tanguy Leglatin**, coach and skipper.

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