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From 14th to 20th November Valencia will be brimming with sport

The city of Valencia will become the very epicentre of sport for one week between 14th and 20th November, when in just seven days it will be holding the Divina Pastora (Divine Shepherdess) Valencia Marathon, the meeting of the Association of International Marathons, the Technical Committee of the European Capitals of Sport Association, the 1st European Conference on Volunteering and the Expo Deporte Valencia sports fair.

The Divina Pastora Valencia Marathon will take centre stage, providing an ideal circuit (completely flat) and the perfect temperature (between 12 and 17 degrees) to break records. November is the perfect time of year for long-distance running. Together with the unique setting accompanying the event, the Divina Pastora Valencia Marathon is one of the most important events in the Spanish calendar.

Running a few meters from the sea and passing through parts of the city where the Formula 1 Grand Prix and America's Cup have been held are just some of the privileged features provided by the Divina Pastora Valencia Marathon.

The City of Arts and Sciences will be at the heart of an event that intends to be a celebration of sport. Both the starting and finishing line, as well as activities held along with the race, will be found in an architectural enclave that is without a doubt one of the most spectacular of this century. Athletes will reach their goal running literally over the water by the Príncipe Felipe Museum on a platform over 150 meters long and 8 wide marking the end of one of the most fascinating marathons ever seen.

A fair for the sports industry

Furthermore, starting two days before the big athletics event, the incomparable backdrop will be hosting Expo Deporte Valencia. This is to be held in the City of Arts and Sciences at the Príncipe Felipe museum on 18th and 19th November. There will be a privileged exhibition area of 3,600 m² that is expected to host 20,000 visitors.

Expo Deporte Valencia stems from the aim of becoming the meeting point for the industry and sports associations in the city, a forum where professionals, amateurs and the general public will gather at the same time as the celebration of the 31st Divina Pastora event in Valencia.

Expo Deporte Valencia will also be where the shirt numbers are given out and participants register for the next Divina Pastora Marathon in Valencia and for the Divina Pastora 10 km Race in Valencia, thereby ensuring a large number of visitors to the fair with all of those registered.

<http://maratondivinapastoravalencia.com/feria-del-corredor-3/>

European Capitals of Sport Association Meeting

Also on these dates, European sport will focus on Valencia since our city will be hosting the meeting of the Technical Committee of the European Capitals of Sport Association (ACES). This has recently been formed and includes sports trainers with a university degree in the Science of Physical Activity and Sport from cities in ACES and other highly qualified professionals with extensive experience in the management of municipal sports, who are beginning this first European Network of Municipal Sports Management.



The main objectives of the ATC are to create an exemplary collection of good practices in European municipal sport while fostering an ongoing discussion and developing working guidelines with technical content and professional advice.

1st European Congress of Volunteering

Another event this week will be the 1st European Congress of Sports Volunteers, which will be held in the Principe Felipe Science Museum on 17th and 18th November 2011. The purpose of this first conference is to reflect on the position of “Volunteers” in the field of sport, considering that this is one of the features that sustains this system and encourages progress. Moreover, in recent years we have seen this become regulated by public authorities (EU, the state and the autonomous community region). The congress will feature three distinct areas: the sports volunteers’ organizational context in the European Union, Spain and the Valencia region, the figure of the volunteer in sporting events and the figure of the volunteer in sports associations.



For more information, please consult the official website of the 1st European Congress of Volunteering: www.voluntariadodeportivo.com

Meeting of the Association of International Marathons

These same two days, and also during the Divina Pastora Valencia Marathon, there will be one of the two meetings held every year by the Board of Directors of the Association of International Marathons and Long Distance Races (AIMS). AIMS, which includes 314 international races (mainly marathons) in 97 different countries, is the body that manages these long-distance races jointly with the IAAF.

All members of this Board are elected at the congress (50% of the members at each one) that the Association holds every two years. The last election was held in Athens in October 2010 where Francisco Borao (the representative of the Marathon and Half-Marathon in Valencia) was also elected as president of AIMS.

The board meetings and these congresses are organized at the AIMS race headquarters. A congress was held in Valencia in 2005 and it is now host to a meeting of the board. The meetings of this group of specialists deal with administrative, economic and social management of the association, as well as the activities related to fostering and promoting such distance races around the world.

Formula 1 is coming to Valencia on the weekend of 24th, 25th and 26th June

The countdown to the fourth European Formula 1 Grand Prix in Valencia that takes place around the Juan Carlos I Royal Marina has already begun. Next 24th, 25th and 26th June, our city will see Fernando Alonso, Sebastian Vettel and Louis Hamilton race by at 300 kilometres per hour on the Street Circuit.

Ticket sales are going well, as confirmed by the organization, and 83,000 tickets are expected to be sold. Fernando Alonso's improvement in the last race in Monaco will encourage the Spanish fans, who will be able to return to enjoy themselves in our city for a weekend of true motor-racing excitement.

The sale of moorings in the Royal Marina, from where you can also follow the race on board boats at different parts of the circuit, is another major attraction of the Grand Prix for the public.

One again this year in the Beach Park, where admission is free, the whole family can enjoy leisure activities and entertainment aimed at all audiences next to the Formula 1 Street Circuit.



The Ibercaja Valencia Triathlon GP continues to break records three months before it is held

After the great success of last year, when the Valencia Triathlon changed its image and was held in the Juan Carlos I Royal Marina, in this new edition to be held on 11th September the sports day has been extended to two days in which 2,500 people will take part in different categories around the Juan Carlos I Marina, the Valencia Street Circuit and the City of Arts and Sciences. For the Olympic and sprint distances, the triathletes will go inside this architectural complex for the cycling part.



There is also a new category being introduced - the FLASH distance. Together with the supersprint and women's triathlon, this will allow anybody beginning in the sport to take part in a triathlon. The usual Olympic and sprint distances will also take place, including relay teams, and other races such as paratriathlon and children's duathlon.

Last year's success with the Valencia Triathlon coupled with other aspects that set it apart (the attractiveness of the city, the spectacular circuit and the attention paid to the triathletes) compared to other renowned sporting events such as those in London and Hamburg, have meant that the Valencian event has been included in the 2011 European TrigrandPrix.

This circuit is made up of six events in Europe (England, Ireland, France and two other areas in Spain - Zarauz and Pamplona) and big elite triathletes take part in it.

It is especially worth noting that tourism promotion agencies like Turismo Valencia, the Regional Department for Tourism and Turespaña have set up an international campaign to promote the event in order to attract a large number of foreign fans to the event in Valencia.

The campaign "Your Challenge, Your Dream," with a promotional video, advertisements, reports and agreements with specialist sports tour operators, will announce the Valencian event abroad. It is also worth mentioning the launch of the Valencia Triathlon team, composed of a group of renowned athletes from the Valencia region who will represent this event on a tour of different international events.

Social Commitment from the 2011 IberCaja Valencia Grand Prix Triathlon

In this second edition, the social commitment of the Valencia Triathlon goes to three charitable causes: Unicef, the Welfare Association for Aid to Disabled Athletes with Disabilities TRI WWW (World Winners Way) and Fundación Pequeño Deseo, to whom all the proceeds from the registrations for the child duathlon will go.

Valencia Triathlon categories:

The IberCaja Valencia Grand Prix Triathlon categories include male and female classifications as well as age groups. The women's triathlon, sprint and Olympic distances allow for the participation of relay teams.

- Olympic Distance: 1.5 km swimming, 40 km cycling and 10 km running.
- Sprint Distance: 0.75 km swimming, 20 km cycling and 5 km running.
- Women's Triathlon and Supersprint Distance: 0.3 km swimming, 8 km cycling and 2.5 km running.
- Flash Category: 0.2 km swimming, 4 km cycling and 1 km running.
- Children's duathlon: this will be held on a circuit depending on the age of the participants. It varies between 250 and 2,000 meters running, 1 to 8 km cycling, 125 to 1,000 meters cycling and then a running race again.
- Paratriathlon: details of the event will be announced soon.

You can register through the official website: www.valenciatriathlon.com

Sport at school age, debated in a conference in Valencia

The 1st School Age Sports Congress was held in October 2005 in Valencia. This event had great repercussions in our city. Over 500 people participated from all over the country and the different reflections that arose from the debate shaped the final “conclusions” document that has served as an example to guide the strategies and activities in Valencian sport in recent years.

The 2nd School Age Sports Congress is included in the Valencian 2011 European Capital of Sport programme and is one of the most significant educational activities. It is of a participatory and informative nature. On organising this from 26th to 28th October 2011, the intention is to help spread the aims and values involved in promoting sport that are proclaimed by ACES, “the value of health, education and fair play.” These are aims that are closely linked to sport at school age.

Furthermore, it intends to continue the work begun in the first congress and to continue analysing the real situation around us, looking back to see the track record, analysing the effectiveness of proposals made in the past, getting to know and informing about new initiatives and activities geared towards achieving a common goal: “Promoting sports at school age in general, and specifically improving the educational conditions as regards the activities provided.”

Formoreinformation, visittheofficialwebsiteofthe2ndCongress of Sports at School Age: www.deporteescolarvalencia.com

