



Press release – May 2019

## ASICS joins the ITRA QUARTZ Program

*The ITRA QUARTZ Program offers a unique and innovative health monitoring that contributes to a doping-free sport while protecting the health of runners. It is operated by the Athletes For Transparency association and its financial transparency is guaranteed by the Ultra Sports Science Foundation.*

*It is intended for all those involved in trail running who wish to act for the health of runners and participate in the preservation of a clean sport through a transparent, community approach, without any financial interest.*

ITRA has chosen to offer the QUARTZ Elite Program each year to the best athletes in the world, who are more prone to pathologies inherent to trail running, because of the intensity and pace of training and competitions. In 2019, the following athletes are concerned :

- the top 10 men and top 10 women of the ITRA Performance Index
- the top 3 men and top 3 women of each trail running category (XXS, XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL), according to the Performance Index by category
- athletes returning from suspension, following a positive anti-doping test on a trail running race

A total of 70 athletes in 2019. The list of the elites concerned is available here:

[https://itra.run/documents/Presse/CP\\_03\\_quartz\\_Elite\\_EN.pdf](https://itra.run/documents/Presse/CP_03_quartz_Elite_EN.pdf)

ITRA needs the support of the brands to expand the program and continue to offer this follow-up to as many athletes as possible.

This is why **ASICS supports the QUARTZ Program in 2019** by joining the 4 historical brands that have enabled the best athletes to benefit from QUARTZ Elite follow-up since 2017: Columbia, Hoka One One, Salomon and The North Face.

### Two ASICS team trailers join QUARTZ Elite in 2019

**Sylvaine CUSSOT** and **Benoît GIRONDEL** have also been added to the long list of athletes monitored in 2019. Together with **Xavier THEVENARD**, the three top runners of the **ASICS Trail Team** are embarking on the QUARTZ Elite adventure together and for the first time!

#### ABOUT ITRA

Created in July 2013, the ITRA (International Trail Running Association) aims to give a voice to the world of trail running in order to promote a strong ethical code, diversity, race safety and the health of the runners, to contribute to the development of trail running, and to foster discussion with national or international institutions having an interest in the sport.

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