FOUNDING SEASON 2026 · RULES FOR CLUBS

BATTLE OF THE GYMS

THE FINAL · SEASON FINALE

VORTEX HYBRID GAMES

Saturday 12 December 2026
Vila Real de Santo António, Algarve
Edition-based ranking

Battle of the Gyms transforms every VORTEX edition into a club competition. Clubs earn points **before the event** by growing the VORTEX community, and **on race day** through athlete participation and performance. **Performance. Participation. Community.** Every edition crowns the Top 3 clubs. Open to: gyms, running clubs, hybrid communities and PT collectives. The goal is not only to crown the fastest gym — Battle of the Gyms exists to **build stronger gyms, stronger communities and grow hybrid fitness together.**

THE FINAL — season finale of the Founding Season 2026. This rulebook is for the edition in **Vila Real de Santo António, Saturday 12 December 2026**. What is new for The Final: a **€500 cheque** for the Battle Champion, **FINAL heats count double**, a **VIP area on the grandstand** for the 2 biggest teams, and a **night at W Algarve** drawn among partner gyms. Beginning in 2027, Battle of the Gyms evolves into a season-long championship across all editions.

01 TWO WAYS TO SCORE

MAIN CONTRIBUTOR

RACE DAY PERFORMANCE

Earned on race day through athlete results and participation. **Every category counts** — full race, Sprint, Kids and Kid + Parent all score for your club. Race day remains by far the largest contributor to the final ranking.

UNCAPPED · MORE ATHLETES = MORE POINTS

GROW THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY IMPACT POINTS

Earned before the event by growing the VORTEX community. Capped, so that a smaller gym can close part of the gap on a larger one without needing the biggest team on race day.

MAX 750 PTS PER EDITION

02 CATEGORIES

EVERY CATEGORY SCORES

Every entry at VORTEX counts towards your club. VORTEX is a family event — the Kids race and the Kid + Parent combo score on exactly the same table as the full race.

CATEGORY	SPLITS	WHO RACES	SCORING ATHLETES
SOLO	Men · Women	Age 16+	**1**
DOUBLES	Men · Women · Mixed	Age 16+	**2**
RELAY	Men · Women · Mixed	Age 16+	**4**
SPRINT SOLO	Men · Women	Adult	**1**
SPRINT DOUBLES	Men · Women · Mixed	Adult	**2**
KIDS SOLO	8–10 · 11–13 · 14–15 G/B	Age 8–15	**1**
KIDS DOUBLES	By age group	Age 8–15	**2**
KID + PARENT	Combo	1 child + 1 adult	**2**

Sprint athletes race a shorter version of the same stations. Kids race the Kids course for their age group. All programmes run on the same day at the same venue.

03 RACE DAY PERFORMANCE POINTS

PER ATHLETE

Points are awarded to **each athlete** on the team. A team of 2 therefore earns 2× the points and a Relay team of 4 earns 4× the points — the same rule for every category on the list above.

POSITION	1 ATHLETE SOLO · SPRINT SOLO · KIDS SOLO	2 ATHLETES DOUBLES · SPRINT DOUBLES · KIDS DOUBLES · KID + PARENT	4 ATHLETES RELAY
1st	100	200	400
2nd	90	180	360
3rd	80	160	320
4th	70	140	280
5th	60	120	240
6th	50	100	200
7th	40	80	160
8th	30	60	120
9th	20	40	80
10th	10	20	40
Participation	**10**	**20**	**40**

AGE GROUP SCORING

Who scores where

The Top 10 of every ranking below earns points, using the table above. Far more athletes contribute to their gym's score — not only the fastest overall.

RACE	RANKED BY	RANKINGS
SOLO · 800 m race	**Age group**: 16–25 · 26–35 · 36–45 · 46–55 · 56+	Men · Women × 5 age groups
DOUBLES · 800 m race	**Age group**, by the **average age** of the pair: 16–25 · 26–35 · 36–45 · 46–55 · 56+	Men · Women · Mixed × 5 age groups
RELAY	Overall per category	Men · Women · Mixed
SPRINT SOLO · SPRINT DOUBLES	Overall per category	Solo: Men · Women Doubles: Men · Women · Mixed
KIDS SOLO · KIDS DOUBLES	Kids age group: 8–10 · 11–13 · 14–15	Girls · Boys per age group
KID + PARENT	Overall	One ranking

A gym with a strong youth programme or a strong masters group competes on equal terms with a gym built on young Solo athletes.

NEW FOR THE FINAL

FINAL HEATS COUNT DOUBLE

All race-day points count as normal. On top of that, the **FINAL heats** — the special heats for qualified athletes — count **double**.

- FINAL heats are held for **Solo and Doubles only** (Men, Women, Mixed where applicable). There is no FINAL for Sprint, Kids or Relay.

- Each FINAL heat is ranked as its own category. The Top 10 earn the ranking points from the table above, **× 2**.
- A finalist scores once: in the FINAL, not also in an age group.
- Participation points stay flat (10 per athlete). The fairness multiplier does not apply to FINAL heats — the × 2 replaces it.

04 FAIRNESS MULTIPLIER & CLUB SCORE

CATEGORY MULTIPLIER

Final = Base × Multiplier

To keep small and large categories weighted fairly, ranking points are adjusted based on category size. The multiplier applies to ranking points only — every athlete keeps flat participation points. It is applied to every category, including Sprint and Kids (FINAL heats: see section 03).

Category size is the number of athletes or teams registered in the whole category (for example Men Doubles, all age groups together) when entries close. The multiplier of the category applies to every age group in it. No-shows and withdrawals do not change the multiplier.

CATEGORY SIZE	MULTIPLIER
1–19 athletes / teams	× 0.8
20–59 athletes / teams	× 1.0
60+ athletes / teams	× 1.2

CLUB SCORE

Sum of every athlete's adjusted points

No top-10 limit. No averaging. No cap. More athletes = more potential points — and every athlete counts, from the 8-year-old in Kids Solo to the Relay team.

Total Club Score = Race Day Performance Points + Community Impact Points (max 750). Race day remains the largest contributor by design.

05 COMMUNITY IMPACT POINTS

BEFORE RACE DAY

Community Impact Points reward gyms that actively help grow the VORTEX community before race day. They are capped at 750 so that a smaller gym has a realistic route into the podium by building its local community — while race day performance remains the biggest contributor to the final club ranking.

EARNED	MAXIMUM PER EDITION	VERIFICATION
Activities held after 19 September 2026, until **Saturday 5 December 2026** (7 days before race day)	**750 pts**	Registered with & approved by VORTEX

ACTIVITY	REQUIREMENTS	POINTS	MAXIMUM PER EDITION
Official VORTEX Simulation Run the VORTEX race format inside your gym	Official partner gym, registered with VORTEX · min. 20 participants · VORTEX branding visible · photos / videos shared	20–29: 150 30–49: 200 50+: 250	1 simulation · 250
VORTEX Community Runs Public group run in VORTEX spirit	Registered beforehand · public event · min. 15 participants · photos shared	15–24: 40 25–49: 60 50+: 75	2 runs · 150
Introduction to VORTEX Official gym presentation for new athletes	Min. 10 attendees · official VORTEX presentation · min. 30 minutes	50 per session	2 sessions · 100
Social Media Support Official collaboration posts	Gym tags VORTEX · The Final promoted	20 per post	5 posts · 100

ACTIVITY	REQUIREMENTS	POINTS	MAXIMUM PER EDITION
Volunteer Support Helping organise VORTEX	Min. 2 volunteers · min. half-day shift	2: 50 4: 100 6+: 150	150
MAXIMUM COMMUNITY IMPACT POINTS			**750**

06 PRIZES · QUALIFICATION · JUDGES

PER EDITION

PLACE	PRIZE
1 · BATTLE CHAMPION	**€500 cheque** · podium recognition and social spotlight
2 · RUNNER-UP	Podium recognition and social spotlight
3 · THIRD	Podium recognition and social spotlight

BIGGEST TEAMS

VIP AREA ON THE GRANDSTAND

The **2 gyms with the most registered athletes** for The Final get their own **VIP area on the grandstand** on race day. Counted on registered athletes when entries close. This is separate from the Battle of the Gyms ranking: the biggest teams get the best seats, the best performers win the Battle.

PODIUM QUALIFICATION

To finish on the podium

- Min. **10 registered athletes** AND
- Min. **2 official volunteers** (minimum half-day shift)
- Gyms not meeting these requirements appear in the ranking but cannot finish on the podium — and cannot win the €500 cheque.

FAIR COMPETITION

2 judges per club

Each participating club provides 2 judges for The Final. Judges attend the official briefing, support movement validation, and ensure consistency across heats.

07 GYM OWNERS GIVEAWAY

A NIGHT AT W ALGARVE

FOR EVERY PARTNER GYM — NOT ONLY THE BIGGEST

ONE NIGHT AT W ALGARVE

- **Who enters:** every gym with **10+ athletes** registered for The Final **and the VORTEX poster on its wall**.
- **Proof:** a photo of the poster in your gym, sent by Instagram DM to **@hybrid.vortex**. Your members write their name on the poster when they register.
- **Entries:** 1 entry per 10 registered athletes (10 = 1, 20 = 2, 30 = 3, …).
- **Deadline:** Sunday 22 November 2026, 23:59. **Live draw:** Monday 23 November 2026, in the official gym owners WhatsApp group.

08 OFFICIAL GYM PARTNER ADVANTAGE

FREE ENTRIES

The more you bring, the more race free

ENTRIES	FREE
10 entries	+1 free
20 entries	+3 free
30 entries	+5 free
40 entries	+7 free
And onward	...

PARTNER PERKS

What every partner gym gets

- Free team photo every edition
- Official gym owners WhatsApp group with the latest updates
- Personal gym link on the Hybrid Vortex website
- Extra Algarve event element to attract new gym members

PERFORMANCE WINS RACES. COMMUNITY BUILDS VORTEX.

Fairness multipliers are assigned per category after registration closes and cover every category, Sprint and Kids included.