

Mountain Bike World Championships – CM Val di Sole, Italy, June 17-22, 2008

Junior men and women downhill finals *By Sue George in Val di Sole, Italy*

France sweeps junior women's downhill

France went one-two-three in the junior women's downhill World Championships. Anais Pajot was the fastest with a time of 4'17"71. She was followed by compatriots Myriam Nicole and Melanie Pugin.

The steep, physical course was a challenge for the junior women, who kicked off the day's racing of the downhill finals. Melanie Pugin told *Cyclingnews* that the constant compression on the course's bumpy sections really worked her arms and shoulders.



Myriam Nicole, Anais Pajot & Melanie Pugin.
Photo ©: Rob Jones

Race note

New Zealander Matthew Walker crashed hard during his run in the finals of the junior men's race. After flying through the air, he first lay motionless on the ground. Fortunately, with a little support, he was up and moving again to take himself off the course, but not before marshals had a chance to warn some of the competitors coming down behind him. The entire competition was stopped while he was initially tended and three racers got a do-over run once it was restarted.

Results

Junior Women

1	Anais Pajot (France)	4.17.71 (56.97 km/h)
2	Myriam Nicole (France)	4.23.44
3	Melanie Pugin (France)	4.46.46
4	Miranda Miller (Canada)	4.56.38
5	Caroline Buchanan (Australia)	4.56.51
6	Aurea Agostinho (Portugal)	5.15.14
7	Diana Lorena Dromundo (Mexico)	5.55.91
8	Leoni-Caro. Dickerhoff (Germany)	6.06.24