



B.A.A. BOSTON MARATHON

RULES AND POLICIES

November 1, 2019

B.A.A. BOSTON MARATHON RULES AND POLICIES

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this document is to communicate the rules and policies of the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) Boston Marathon. These rules and policies are not an exhaustive list of all areas the B.A.A. governs; the B.A.A. retains the right to amend this document at its discretion. As a USA Track & Field (USATF) sanctioned event, the B.A.A. adopts USATF guidelines which apply unless otherwise stated. When USATF defers to individual races to decide how a particular issue should be addressed, such regulations are included herein. The Boston Marathon follows the rules and policies as set forth by the governing bodies of track and field and road racing. For additional information, visit [USATF](#), [World Athletics](#) (formerly, IAAF), [World Para Athletics](#) (WPA), and [Abbott World Marathon Majors](#) (AWMM).

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST:

- Be knowledgeable and abide by all race event rules and policies, procedures, and guidelines.
- Recognize and understand that they are subject to the jurisdiction of USA Track & Field (USATF), World Athletics (formerly IAAF), United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), and Abbott World Marathon Majors (AWMM), as applicable.
- Act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct toward fellow competitors, coaches, officials, event staff, volunteers, event sponsors, and the public.
- Avoid profane or abusive language and disruptive behavior.
- Refrain from possession or use of alcohol, tobacco products, or controlled substances while participating in competition.
- Not commit or aid or abet any individual in committing any doping offense as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), USADA, World Athletics, International Olympic Committee (IOC), IPC, USOPC, USATF, or AWMM rules and regulations.
- Abide by and adhere to all applicable state, federal, and international laws.

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Article I. RACE RULES

Section 1.01 BIB NUMBER

Every participant must run with the official bib number assigned to them that year and issued by the B.A.A. (henceforth, “official B.A.A. bib.”)

(a) BIB SWITCHING

Switching or selling an official B.A.A. bib is forbidden. Only the person assigned a bib is authorized to run with it, and no one else. If an official participant gives or sells their official B.A.A. bib to another individual for that individual’s participation, the person originally assigned the official B.A.A. bib will be disqualified from the race. The person identified as wearing the official B.A.A. bib is not an authorized participant and will not be eligible to be recorded or rewarded in any way. The B.A.A. reserves the right to refuse to accept either or both individuals as official participants in the Boston Marathon or any B.A.A. event going forward.

(b) ALTERING OR COVERING OR DUPLICATION OF OFFICIAL B.A.A. BIB

Participants are not allowed to cover, bend, fold, or cut their official B.A.A. bib in any way. No photo copying, duplication, manufacture, or replication of any official bib number is permitted under any circumstances. The participant assigned to a bib number who has been identified as having acted in violation of this rule will be subject to disqualification from the event in question and other B.A.A. events going forward.

Section 1.02 HEADSETS

Although the B.A.A. discourages the use of portable music devices and headphones in the Boston Marathon, they are allowed except for those participants who declare themselves eligible for prize money.

Section 1.03 PACING

No participant in the race can be paced by a person not officially entered in the race. This is unauthorized assistance and subject to disqualification. However, someone can be paced by another official participant provided that both participants abide by all race rules.

Section 1.04 MISSING AT CHECKPOINTS

If a participant fails to be recorded by the race timing systems at more than two consecutive timing mats along the course (electronically adjudicated), the participant will be sent a letter from the B.A.A. asking them to explain the reason they were missing from these checkpoints. If

the participant fails to reply, or if the response does not provide a satisfactory explanation for their failure to be recorded, the entrant will be removed from the results.

Section 1.05 CUT OFF TIME

If a participant finishes after the established cut off time, their results may not be recorded by the timing/chip system and the participant may not receive a medal or be considered an official finisher. If, at the time of the participant's finish, medal distribution is still operating and a supply of medals remains, the participant may be issued a medal, but this is not guaranteed or assured. Race management reserves the right to extend the cut off time in unusual or extreme circumstances. At the time race management closes the finish line, the finish area is a construction zone wherein equipment is broken down and vehicles are moved in order to return the streets for public use; at that time, the finish line timing is closed and finisher time recording will stop. Additionally, the timing system at the start will shut down once the last participant with the starting pack in the last wave crosses the starting line.

Section 1.06 MOVING AHEAD IN CORRALS/WAVE

Participants are allowed to move back in a corral and back in a wave (e.g. wave 1 to wave 2) but may not move into the first corral of that wave. No participant may move to an earlier wave or forward in the corral system.

Section 1.07 START TIME

All participants must start the race before the start mats are removed from the starting line but not prior to their assigned official start.

Section 1.08 PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE RULES

(a) APPLICABLE RULES

All applicable USATF, World Athletics, and AWMM competition rules apply for the elite portion of the event. Some rules of note include:

- (i) Use of any audio or video device is prohibited during the competition.*
- (ii) Uniforms must comply with World Athletics regulations.*
- (iii) Bib numbers must be worn on both front and back.*
- (iv) Gun time is used to determine finish place.*
- (v) Para Athletics Divisions follow World Para Athletics (WPA) Rules and Regulations.*

(b) DRUG TESTING AND ANTI-DOPING POLICY

Any participant in this competition shall be deemed, by entering, to have consented to such testing and disclosure of its results. Drug testing, and the adjudication of positive findings, will be carried out by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA). Athletes found to have committed a doping violation will be disciplined according to the USADA Protocol and suspended, if appropriate, according to applicable World Athletics rules. Such penalties may result in a period of ineligibility as well as disqualification from this and future events. Any substance taken by an athlete is at his/her own risk and may result in a positive sample; this includes cold medicines, prescription drugs, nutritional supplements, and over-the-counter medicines. Information on drugs and drug testing may be obtained by calling the USADA Drug Reference Hotline or by visiting the USADA website. Athletes who at any time have been found to have committed a criminal offense involving drugs or to have violated any rules or regulations (including drug and anti-doping policies) of USA Track & Field (USATF), United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the World Athletics (formerly IAAF), the Abbott World Marathon Majors (AWMM) or other athletics governing body, are not invited by the Boston Athletic Association to participate in the Boston Marathon.

(c) ELITE WOMEN'S START (EWS) AND ELITE MEN'S START (EMS) ELIGIBILITY

Prize money will be awarded only to participants who have been accepted and compete in the EWS or EMS. Open and master's division women and men who consider themselves eligible for prize money in the Boston Marathon must declare themselves as a contestant for the EWS and EMS starts, respectively. Such requests will be reviewed and a determination will be made as to selection. Notification of acceptance into the EWS or EMS will occur in March.

- (i) *Only women participants in the EWS and men participants in the EMS are eligible for prize money awards. Participants who do not start in the EWS or EMS waive the right to compete for prize money. Participants not in the EWS or EMS remain eligible for Boston Marathon non-financial age group awards—that is, awards for categories other than Open and Masters (“Age group awards”). Age group awards are determined by net time; while prize money is based solely on gun time.*
- (ii) *If a participant has been selected for the EWS or EMS but does not wish to exercise this option, she or he may choose to compete in the main race and will be seeded according to her or his qualifying performance. Any such participant must contact the B.A.A. by April 1st with notice of such a choice. After this date, the participant should advise the B.A.A. staff at Athlete Services in the Number Pick-up area at the Expo where a new number will be issued. The participant understands that she or he is no longer eligible for prize money and will no longer receive the benefits of EWS or EMS.*

(d) ON COURSE ASSISTANCE

No participant competing for prize money may receive outside assistance of any kind from anyone other than B.A.A. officials or B.A.A. volunteers and any such participant is subject to disqualification for violating this regulation. Refer to [World Para Athletics Rules and Regulations](#) for acceptable forms of assistance that may be provided to Para athletes.

(e) BREAK TAPE

A female participant may not break the male break tape and a male participant may not break the female break tape. To ensure the correct brake tape is broken athletes must follow the directions provided by the race officials.

Section 1.09 EQUIPMENT RULES

No participant shall use any equipment which is determined to be improper, including but not limited to equipment which might provide an unfair advantage or endanger other participants.

Section 1.10 SPORTSMANSHIP

Any participant who refuses to obey the directions of any event official, city official, or course marshal; conducts himself/herself in an unsportsmanlike manner; or is offensive by action or language to officials, volunteers, participants, or spectators may be disqualified by the event and future participation at the discretion of race officials.

Section 1.11 CARRYING BANNERS/FLAGS OR WEARING COSTUMES

For safety reasons, no participant in the Boston Marathon may carry a flag or banner or any such item larger than five inches by five inches. No participant may affix a flag other than a safety flag to his or her handcycle or wheelchair. Additionally, no participant may wear a mask or costume. Failure to follow these rules may result in removal or disqualification from the event.

Section 1.12 BABY JOGGERS

No participant may push a baby stroller or baby jogger in the Boston Marathon.

Section 1.13 ANIMALS

Running with any animal is prohibited without the explicit advance written approval of the B.A.A. Athletes who require a service animal as defined by the ADA in order to participate must contact the B.A.A. at paraathletes@baa.org no less than 8 weeks prior to race day.

Section 1.14 YOUNG CHILDREN

Running or participating with young children or any other person not registered as a Participant in the race on any portion of the course, including the final few hundred yards of the race, is prohibited.

Section 1.15 INDECENT EXPOSURE

Participants may not relieve themselves on private or public property, except in a public/portable toilet facility. If a public safety official identifies such individuals, these individuals are subject to legal action based on trespassing and/or indecent exposure laws and ordinances.

Article II. QUALIFICATION AND INVITATIONAL ENTRY REGULATIONS

Section 2.01 QUALIFYING TIME STANDARDS

To qualify for the Boston Marathon, participants must meet the designated time standard which corresponds to their gender and age group, or the qualifying time standard for the Para Athlete Division or Program for which they are eligible. Qualifying times must have been achieved within a designated time frame determined by the B.A.A.

Section 2.02 QUALIFYING RACES

Qualifying races must be on a marathon course that has been certified by USATF or an internationally equivalent organization.

(a) ELIGIBLE RACES

All qualifying races must be timed by race event management— not self-timed—and meet all relevant USATF standards or the standards of the relevant national or international standards-setting body. If a course is not chip timed, then written check sheets at each 5K checkpoint and at the finish would be accepted as official timed results. On loop courses, a video camera of participants passing the finish and outer turnaround after one loop will be accepted as official results. Time-handicapped marathons, treadmill marathons or marathons conducted indoors on tracks will not be accepted, regardless of certification. Marathons must have a minimum of three officially entered competitors to be accepted as a qualifying race. Time trial races are not accepted.

(b) RACE CERTIFICATION

Races that are considered Boston Marathon “qualifiers” must be held on a bona fide course according to USATF road race and competition interpretation and have a valid USA Track & Field (or foreign equivalent) certification. USATF course certification must attest to the exact 26.2 mile distance (i.e. multi-loop courses held on USATF certified distances not equivalent to the marathon distance would not be acceptable). A qualifying event must occur on a course with a current, non-expired USATF certification to attest to the exact 26.2 mile distance. If the course is altered, it must be recertified prior to the occurrence of the event. Races conducted outside of the United States must meet the equivalent standards for the national standards-setting athletics body for the nation. The marathon run time in an Ironman-distance triathlon will be accepted only if the marathon course is itself certified by the relevant national standards-setting body.

Section 2.03 MANNER OF PARTICIPATION

The qualifying race performance must align with the rules of participation of the Boston Marathon. Accepted applicants are expected to take part in the Boston Marathon in the same manner in which they qualified and vice versa.

Section 2.04 QUALIFYING WINDOW

All qualifying races must be within the predetermined qualifying window, as determined by the B.A.A. annually.

Section 2.05 DISTANCE AND COURSE SURFACES

Only times from full 26.2 mile (42.195K) certified distance races will be accepted. Distances within other outdoor events, only if separately certified and timed, will be accepted (e.g.

marathon within Ironman triathlon, marathon distances within ultra-races, track/trail courses). Personal GPS data is not an approved method of measuring and will not be accepted. Times obtained at marathon distances run within international military bases will be accepted. Indoor track races will not be accepted.

Section 2.06 QUALIFYING TIMES

Published qualifying times from certified courses will be accepted for each age category. The B.A.A. accepts net times from chip scoring systems. Applicants will be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance in a timely fashion.

Section 2.07 AGE RESTRICTIONS

An applicant's age on the date of the Boston Marathon determines required qualifying time. Age group on the day of the qualifying race may differ from the age group on race day (i.e., runner may be 44 years of age on the date of the qualifying race, but will be 45 years of age on the day of the Boston Marathon, thus can qualify in the 45-49 age group). All participants, including Duo Team riders, must be at least 18 years of age on the date of the Boston Marathon. No exceptions will be made.

Section 2.08 PROBLEMS AT QUALIFYING RACES

The B.A.A. will not accept adjusted times even in the event of unforeseen or unusual situations occurring at qualifying marathons, (e.g., severe weather conditions, mismarked course or incorrect course measurement, course hazards, timing problems, etc.). Times will not be accepted if the course is short. Times will be accepted if the runner runs longer than 26.2 miles, however, the runner must have run the entire, certified course. If they left the course, they must re-enter where they went off course.

Section 2.09 INVITATIONAL ENTRIES

The B.A.A. provides a limited number of invitational entries for the Boston Marathon. Recipients of invitational entries must abide by the specific entry procedures and requirements of their respective program.

Section 2.10 MILITARY

A limited number of U.S. military personnel who have recently been deployed (within 18 months of that year's marathon) and now serving stateside on active duty or selective reserves may request an exception from qualifying requirements. Proof of military service (i.e. DD214,

inclusive of deployment orders) must be provided. Applicant will be seeded according to recent performance or expected finish time at the discretion of the B.A.A.

Section 2.11 TRANSGENDER ATHLETES

All entrants must meet the qualifying time of their gender as of the qualifying race. A person will be timed and scored in the Boston Marathon as the gender that they self-identified at the time of their qualifying race, for example, a runner cannot qualify as a male and be scored as a female. The athlete must present a government-issued ID at bib number pickup, and the gender identity on that ID must match the gender identity on the bib number. If there is a mismatch, we will address those inquiries on a case-by-case basis. In regards to gender categorization in instances where an athlete may be eligible for prize money or age-group awards, the B.A.A. follows international and national athletics standards that allow transgender women to compete as women provided they have declared themselves so and meet certain standards for testosterone levels, and transgender men to compete as men with no restrictions.

Article III. ENTRY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Section 3.01 ENTRY PROCEDURE

Entries must be submitted online. Each participant must agree and accept the Participant's Agreement, Waiver, Release, and Acknowledgment on the race registration form.

Section 3.02 VERIFICATION OF QUALIFYING TIMES

All times submitted for entry are verified against official results provided by race directors. Results provided by race directors and/or timing companies are considered final and official. Official qualifying performances are verified based on their USATF requirement which states that USATF official times should always be rounded and reported to the next longer full second.

Section 3.03 ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION

Upon verification of qualifying time and processing of entry fee, accepted participants will be notified by email, US mail, and entry list posting on website.

Section 3.04 ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICIAL B.A.A. BIB

All entrants will be assigned an official B.A.A. bib and start seeding based on verified qualifying time and date of entry. Non-qualified, invitational athletes will be assigned an official B.A.A. bib and seeded based on the date their application is received. Non-qualified invitational athletes will be seeded behind all qualified entrants. Professional and other highly qualified athletes will

be seeded based on their anticipated finish time. Para athletes will be seeded based on their respective division or program.

Section 3.05 ENTRY FEES

Entry fees are established yearly. Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable and must be received before application will be processed. Complimentary entries are issued at the discretion of the B.A.A. A late fee will be incurred for all entries received after a pre-determined date.

Section 3.06 PREMIUM ENTRY FEES

At the discretion of the B.A.A., a premium fee may be imposed on certain groups prior to distribution of invitation entries. An invoice will be issued and payment is required prior to distribution of entries.

Section 3.07 DEFERMENTS

Individual deferments are not granted.

Section 3.08 FALSIFIED ENTRY DATA

(a) DISCREPANCY IN OFFICIAL TIME

Qualifying information is verified using the official finish times provided by race directors. If, after an applicant has been accepted based on these results, it is determined that there is a discrepancy in his/her performance at said race or that the participant provided inaccurate information, upon verification of said discrepancy by race officials, the B.A.A. will notify the applicant and remove him/her from race entry list. The entry fee is non-refundable.

(b) ACCURACY OF INFORMATION

Participants agree to provide true, accurate, current, and complete information on the race entry form. If the participant provides any information that is untrue, inaccurate, not current or incomplete, or if the B.A.A. has reason to believe that such information is untrue, inaccurate, not current or incomplete, the registration application will not be accepted. If the B.A.A. receives confirmation that an entrant falsified information after acceptance, the participant will be removed from the entry list.

Section 3.09 NAME USED AT REGISTRATION

A government issued photo ID is required by all participants in order to claim their Boston Marathon bib. The name on the ID must match the name used at the time of registration.

Section 3.10 BIB PICK UP POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The B.A.A. will provide a personalized digital pick-up pass four weeks prior to the event. A participant is required to present the pass with photo ID to claim bib with chip on race weekend. If the pass is lost or forgotten, a duplicate pass will be provided upon presentation of a photo ID on race weekend.

Section 3.11 CONSECUTIVE STREAKS

Active consecutive running streaks are considered official only upon verification by the B.A.A. of official finish times.

Article IV. MEDICAL POLICY

Section 4.01 PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL PROVIDERS

All participants should check with a professional health care provider prior to taking part in the Boston Marathon. The B.A.A. positions first aid and medical personnel at the start, along the course, and in Boston. The coverage that personnel can provide is limited based on the overall range and quantity of medical care being provided to other participants. Entrants must exercise personal responsibility in making decisions as it relates to one's health and participation in this strenuous event.

Section 4.02 MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The B.A.A. does not allow medical equipment that is non-compliant with other event rules and policies, such as oxygen tanks, or medical backpacks on the course.

Section 4.03 UNFIT FOR PARTICIPATION

All participants should understand that if a member of the medical team deems you unfit to continue participating, that decision is final.

Section 4.04 RESPONSIBILITY FOR MEDICAL COSTS

Responsibility for any medical costs incurred by a participant in connection with any element of his or her participation in the Boston Marathon, including, without limitation, any and all costs associated with the transport, care and treatment of the participant are the exclusive responsibility of the participant. Participants are responsible and assume liability for any and all medical expenses incurred as a result of training for and/or participation in the event, including

but not limited to ambulance transport, hospital stays, physician and pharmaceutical goods and services.

Section 4.05 PARTICIPATION AS REGISTERED

Notwithstanding accommodation or a modification on the basis of a disability pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), an athlete must participate in the same manner in which they qualified or disclosed to the B.A.A. upon registration. An athlete seeking to participate in an alternative manner to that in which they qualified must request accommodation following the designated protocol.

Section 4.06 REQUESTS FOR ACCOMODATION

Requests to participate with a modification on the basis of a disability pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) must be submitted in writing to paraathletes@baa.org no later than 8 weeks prior to race day in order for the B.A.A. to have adequate time to review such requests. Requests made less than 8 weeks prior to race day will not be considered.

Article V. PARA ATHLETICS DIVISIONS

The below rules pertain to participants in the Para Athletics Divisions of the Boston Marathon.

The Para Athletics Divisions of the Boston Marathon are competitive divisions that implement the principles of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code. The classification system provides structure with the goal to minimize the impact of impairments on sport performance and establish a level playing field for competition. Para Athletics Divisions of the Boston Marathon follow [World Para Athletics Rules and Regulations](#) of competition. The B.A.A. reserves the right and has the sole discretion to allow for exceptions to WPA Rules as deemed appropriate.

Section 5.01 WHEELCHAIR DIVISION

(a) ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to compete in the Wheelchair Division of the Boston Marathon, athletes must hold a national or WPA classification T33, T34 or T51 – T54 with a new, review, or confirmed status. Impairment documentation for non-elite wheelchair athletes may be accepted in lieu of classification at the B.A.A.'s discretion.

(b) QUALIFYING STANDARDS

Wheelchair athletes must achieve their respective qualifying time by age, gender, and classification on a certified marathon course and/or WPA recognized competition during the pre-established qualifying window.

(c) RULES OF COMPETITION

The Wheelchair Division of the Boston Marathon follows [World Para Athletics Rules and Regulations](#).

(d) RACING WHEELCHAIRS

Racing wheelchairs must meet the wheelchair requirements as defined by WPA Rules and Regulations and are subject to inspection by the IPC Technical Delegate prior to competition.

(e) RACING NUMBERS

Wheelchair competitors must adhere their official race bib, helmet stickers, and timing tag as directed by the B.A.A.

(f) NON-QUALIFIED ENTRANTS

For safety reasons, the B.A.A. reserves the right to establish, update, or revise a minimum performance standard of 4 hours (4:00:00) and/or require documentation of adequate fitness for non-qualified invitational entrants to ensure such participants can competently and safely complete the marathon distance in a racing wheelchair.

Section 5.02 PARA ATHLETICS DIVISION, VISION IMPAIRMENT

(a) ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to compete in the Para Athletics Division for athletes with vision impairment, the athlete must hold a national or WPA classification T11, T12, or T13 with a new, review, or confirmed status.

(b) QUALIFYING STANDARDS

Athletes with vision impairments must achieve their respective qualifying time by age, gender, and classification on a certified marathon course and/or WPA recognized competition during the pre-established qualifying window.

(c) NON-QUALIFIED ENTRANTS

As a competitive division of the Boston Marathon, the Para Athletics Division for classified athletes with vision impairments is reserved for qualified entrants only. The B.A.A. reserves the right and has the sole discretion to extend invitations to eligible classified athletes who have met a comparable performance standard at other race distances during the qualifying window.

(d) RULES OF COMPETITION

The Para Athletics Division for athletes with vision impairment of the Boston Marathon follows [World Para Athletics Rules and Regulations](#).

(e) TETHERS

Tethers must meet the tether requirements as defined by WPA Rules and Regulations. Tethers are subject to inspection by the IPC Technical Delegate prior to competition.

(f) GUIDE RUNNER

A Guide Runner is defined as a person who provides verbal cues and navigation support to an athlete with a vision impairment.

- (i) It is the athlete's responsibility to identify and select his or her own Guide Runner if a Guide Runner is needed.*
- (ii) Guide Runner selection may not include financial contingencies, including but not limited to the requirement or expectation that an individual will donate or fundraise for any organization in exchange for the opportunity to run as a Guide Runner in the Boston Marathon.*
- (iii) All Guide Runners must complete the Guide Runner Registration Form and agree to the Participant's Agreement, Waiver, Release, and Acknowledgement by the specified deadline in March.*
- (iv) There is no entry fee for a Guide Runner.*
- (v) The B.A.A. expects that athlete and Guide have trained together prior to race day.*
- (vi) A GUIDE bib is considered an official B.A.A. issued bib and is subject to all rules pertaining to B.A.A. issued bibs.*
- (vii) Guide Runners must wear the B.A.A. issued GUIDE bib as directed by the B.A.A.*

- (viii) Guide Runners will receive a finisher's medal but are not scored and do not receive an official finishing time. To be an official finisher of the Boston Marathon, a participant must enter and be accepted through one of two methods: (1) a qualified athlete entry method, or (2) an invitational entry method. Guide and Support Runners are permitted to participate in the Boston Marathon at no cost in order to support the access and participation of another registered participant with an eligible impairment.*
- (ix) Any participant wearing a manufactured GUIDE bib or personal guide apparel and who is not registered as a Guide Runner with the B.A.A. may be disqualified, and/or the athlete he/she is assisting may be disqualified.*
- (x) If a registered runner is selected to run as a Guide Runner, he or she must complete the Guide Runner Registration Form and wear both his/her runner's bib and the B.A.A. issued GUIDE bib.*

Section 5.03 PARA ATHLETICS DIVISION, PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT (UPPER/LOWER LIMB)

(a) ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to compete in the Para Athletics Division for athletes with upper or lower limb impairment, the athlete must hold a national or WPA classification T61 – T64, T45, or T46 with a new, review, or confirmed status.

(b) QUALIFYING STANDARDS

Athletes must achieve their respective qualifying time by classification category on a certified marathon course and/or WPA recognized competition during the pre-established qualifying window.

(c) NON-QUALIFIED ENTRANTS

As a competitive division of the Boston Marathon, the Para Athletics Division for classified athletes with upper or lower limb impairment is reserved for qualified entrants only. The B.A.A. reserves the right and has the sole discretion to extend invitations to eligible classified athletes who have met a comparable performance standard at other race distances during the qualifying window.

(d) RULES OF COMPETITION

The Para Athletics Division for athletes with upper or lower limb impairment of the Boston Marathon follows [World Para Athletics Rules and Regulations](#).

(e) PROSTHESES

Prostheses that result in an athletic performance being generated or affected by machines, engines, electronics, motors, robotic mechanisms or the like, or that are osteo-integrated are not permitted for use in this division.

(f) MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE STANDING HEIGHT

The maximum allowable standing height parameters as defined by [World Para Athletics Rules and Regulations](#) also apply.

Article VI. ADAPTIVE PROGRAMS

The below rules pertain to participants in the Adaptive Programs of the Boston Marathon.

Adaptive Programs provide a unique opportunity for athletes with eligible impairments to participate in and experience the Boston Marathon.

Section 6.01 RUNNERS

(a) ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the Adaptive Program for runners in the Boston Marathon, the athlete must:

- (i) Possess a permanent physical, intellectual, or visual impairment that aligns with the eligible impairment types defined by [World Para Athletics](#), and*
- (ii) the impairment must have a significant impact on the person's ability to ambulate and/or participate in the sport of running, and*
- (iii) athletes with visual impairments in this program must meet the criteria of legal blindness; visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the best possible correction, and/or a visual field of 20 degrees or less.*

(b) DOCUMENTATION

Athletes must provide documentation of their impairment at time of registration or have documentation already on file with the B.A.A. Para Athletics classification may be used in lieu of documentation but is not required for this program.

(c) QUALIFYING STANDARDS

Athletes must achieve their respective qualifying time by type of impairment on a certified marathon course and/or WPA recognized competition during the pre-established qualifying window.

(d) RULES OF PARTICIPATION

In accordance with USATF and World Athletics rules, runners in the Adaptive Program must be able to complete the entire marathon distance through self-propelled motion without assistance towards their forward progression.

(e) SUPPORT RUNNER

A Support Runner is defined as a person who provides verbal instructions, directions, and/or cues that support orientation and/or decision making for an athlete with a physical or intellectual impairment.

- (i) Runners in the Adaptive Program who possess a physical or intellectual impairment are permitted to be accompanied by one Support Runner during the race.*
- (ii) A Support Runner may not push, pull, or carry the athlete.*
- (iii) An athlete may not partake in sustained physical contact with his/her Support Runner during the race. The athlete may only bear weight on his or her Support Runner temporarily to regain balance if necessary.*
- (iv) A Support Runner may assist the athlete in obtaining fluids at a designated fluid station.*
- (v) A Support Runner may assist the athlete who has tripped or fallen to regain his or her footing and/or orientation as long as such assistance does not provide any advantage to the athlete towards his or her running direction.*
- (vi) Athlete and Support Runner may not be tethered.*
- (vii) A Support Runner may not block the forward progression of other race participants.*

- (viii) It is the athlete's responsibility to identify and select his or her own Support Runner if a Support Runner is needed.*
- (ix) Support Runner selection may not include financial contingencies, including but not limited to the requirement or expectation that an individual will donate or fundraise for any organization in exchange for the opportunity to run as a Support Runner in the Boston Marathon.*
- (x) All Support Runners must complete the Support Runner Registration Form and agree to the Participant's Agreement, Waiver, Release, and Acknowledgement by the specified deadline in March.*
- (xi) There is no entry fee for a Support Runner.*
- (xii) The B.A.A. expects that athlete and his/her Support Runner have trained together prior to race day.*
- (xiii) A SUPPORT bib is considered an official B.A.A. issued bib and is subject to all rules pertaining to B.A.A. issued bibs.*
- (xiv) Support Runners must wear the B.A.A. issued SUPPORT bib as directed by the B.A.A.*
- (xv) Support Runners will receive a finisher's medal but are not scored and do not receive an official finishing time. To be an official finisher of the Boston Marathon, a participant must enter and be accepted through one of two methods: (1) a qualified athlete entry method, or (2) an invitational entry method. Guide and Support Runners are permitted to participate in the Boston Marathon at no cost in order to support the access and participation of another registered participant with an eligible impairment.*
- (xvi) Any participant wearing a replicated or manufactured SUPPORT bib or like apparel and who is not registered as a Support Runner with the B.A.A. may be disqualified, and/or the athlete he/she is assisting may be disqualified.*
- (xvii) If a registered runner is selected to run as a Support Runner, he or she must complete the Support Runner Registration Form and wear both his/her runner's bib and the B.A.A. issued SUPPORT bib.*

(f) GUIDE RUNNER

A Guide Runner is defined as a person who provides verbal cues and navigation support to an athlete with a vision impairment.

- (i) Athletes with vision impairments in the Adaptive Program are permitted to use up to two Guide Runners on the marathon course. The athlete may only run abreast or be tethered to one Guide Runner at a time. The second Guide Runner, if applicable, must trail the pair and interchange with the other Guide Runner as needed throughout the race.*
- (ii) Athlete and Guide in the Adaptive Program may run using a tether no longer than twenty-four inches, run abreast untethered, or use an elbow lead.*
- (iii) It is the athlete's responsibility to identify and select his or her own Guide Runner if a Guide Runner is needed.*
- (iv) Guide Runner selection may not include financial contingencies, including but not limited to the requirement or expectation that an individual will donate or fundraise for any organization in exchange for the opportunity to run as a Guide Runner in the Boston Marathon.*
- (v) All Guide Runners must complete the Guide Runner Registration Form and agree to the Participant's Agreement, Waiver, Release, and Acknowledgement by the specified deadline in March.*
- (vi) There is no entry fee for a Guide Runner.*
- (vii) The B.A.A. expects that athlete and Guide have trained together prior to race day.*
- (viii) A GUIDE bib is considered an official B.A.A. issued bib and is subject to all rules pertaining to B.A.A. issued bibs.*
- (ix) Guide Runners must wear the B.A.A. issued GUIDE bib as directed by the B.A.A.*
- (x) Any participant wearing a replicated or manufactured GUIDE bib or guide apparel and who is not registered as a Guide Runner with the B.A.A. may be disqualified, and/or the athlete he/she is assisting may be disqualified.*

(xi) *If a registered runner is selected to run as a Guide Runner, he or she must complete the Guide Runner Registration Form and wear both his/her runner's bib and the B.A.A. issued GUIDE bib*

(xii) *Guide Runners will receive a finisher's medal but are not scored and do not receive an official finishing time. To be an official finisher of the Boston Marathon, a participant must enter and be accepted through one of two methods: (1) a qualified athlete entry method, or (2) an invitational entry method. Guide and Support Runners are permitted to participate in the Boston Marathon at no cost in order to support the access and participation of another registered participant with an eligible impairment.*

(g) SCORING

Runners in the Adaptive Program are not scored against runners in Para Athletics Divisions—even against those with like impairments—and are not eligible for awards or prize money, if applicable within Para Athletics Divisions.

Section 6.02 HANDCYCLE PROGRAM

(a) ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the Handcycle Program of the Boston Marathon, the athlete must:

- (i) *Possess a permanent physical impairment that aligns with the eligible physical impairment types defined by the [International Paralympic Committee](#) and recognized within the sport of Handcycle, a discipline of Para-Cycling, and*
- (ii) *the impairment must impact the person's ability to ambulate, and*
- (iii) *the athlete attests that he/she cannot use a racing wheelchair or run with prostheses.*

(b) DOCUMENTATION

The athlete must provide documentation of his/her impairment at time of registration or have current documentation on file with the B.A.A. A Para-Cycling classification (H1 – H5) may be used in lieu of documentation, but is not required.

(c) QUALIFYING STANDARDS

Handcycle athletes must achieve their respective qualifying time by age and gender on a certified marathon course during the pre-established qualifying window.

(d) HANDCYCLE REQUIREMENTS

Handcycles must meet current handcycle specifications defined by [UCI Para-Cycling](#).

(i) A handcycle is either an arm powered (AP), arm-trunk powered (ATP) or kneeling position (HK), three wheels vehicle with an open frame of tubular construction, which conforms to the general principles of UCI construction for bicycles, except that the chassis frame tubes need not be straight and that for the seat or backrest construction, the maximum frame tube diameter may exceed the maximum defined by the general principles of UCI. The single wheel may be of a different diameter to the double wheels. The front wheel, or wheels, shall be steerable; the single wheel, at the front either front or rear, shall be driven through a system comprising handgrips and a chain. The handcycle shall be propelled solely, through a chainset and conventional cycle drive train, of crank arms, chainwheels, chain and gears, with handgrips replacing foot pedals. It shall be propelled from the hands, arms and upper body mainly.

(e) EQUIPMENT

All other gear, crank, or pedaled equipment, including but not limited to foot/leg powered bicycles, recumbent bikes and tricycles are not permitted in the Boston Marathon.

(f) MOTORS

No motorized or electric powered equipment of any kind is permitted for use by participants in the Boston Marathon

(g) RULES OF PARTICIPATION

The Boston Marathon is a [USATE](#) sanctioned marathon course and a World Athletics Gold Label event. The rules of track & field and long distance running are governed in parallel by World Athletics and World Para Athletics. The Boston Marathon is not a sanctioned para-cycling event. The B.A.A. reserves the right, at any time and under any condition, to establish, update or revise rules of participation by handcycle entrants to ensure the safety of all race participants.

(h) HELMETS

All handcycle participants are required to wear a US CPSC helmet.

(i) SAFETY FLAG

The B.A.A. strongly encourages handcycle participants to affix a safety flag to the back of their handcycle to increase their visibility to race officials, bike spotters, and lead vehicles on the marathon course.

(j) START

Due to the steepness and curvature of the first quarter mile of the marathon course, the B.A.A. will implement a controlled start. All handcycle participants will be required to maintain a pace no faster than 12 mph and hold grid position for the first one-half mile.

(k) SPEED

All handcycle participants must control their speeds throughout the race to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Handcycle participants are required to abide by speed parameters established by the B.A.A. including, but not limited to, speed limits on sections of the course and/or final finishing time.

(l) RIGHT OF WAY

When racing in the proximity of runners, handcycle participants must have sufficient control of their handcycles and yield the right-of-way to the runners. In every case, the ultimate right-of-way belongs to runners. The failure of a handcycle participant to yield right-of-way may result in disqualification and/or suspension from future B.A.A. races. If approached by any official race vehicle, the handcycle participant must move to the safest side of the road at that time until the vehicles have passed.

(m) DRAFTING

Drafting is defined as seeking a performance advantage by following another athlete within a distance of less than 5 meters for one minute. Handcycle participants may not draft behind wheelchair athletes or any other outside source including lead vehicles, press vehicles, or bike spotters. Handcycle participants are only permitted to draft behind other handcycle participants.

(n) OVERTAKING

Any handcycle participant overtaking another participant must do so in a safe manner and only when there is sufficient clearance to do so. The B.A.A. reserves the right to prohibit the overtaking of men or women wheelchair leaders by a handcycle participant if deemed appropriate. In such an instance, the B.A.A. will communicate this rule to handcycle participants in advance of the race start.

(o) VISIBILITY

In the recumbent position, the athlete must have a clear vision of the road ahead.

(p) NON-QUALIFIED ENTRANTS

For safety reasons, the B.A.A. reserves the right to establish, update, or revise a minimum performance standard of 3 hours (3:00:00) and/or require documentation of adequate fitness and racing experience for non-qualified invitational entrants to ensure such participants can competently and safely complete the marathon distance in a handcycle.

Section 6.03 DUO TEAMS

(a) DEFINITIONS

A Duo Team is comprised of a runner pushing a non-ambulatory person with a permanent physical disability in a customized racing wheelchair. The runner of the Duo Team may not possess a physical or sensory impairment, injury, or health condition that limits or compromises the individual's running performance.

(b) ELIGIBILITY

Both members of a duo team must be at least 18 years of age on race day. The duo rider must be non-ambulatory as the result of a permanent physical impairment that aligns with the eligible impairment types defined by World Para Athletics.

(c) DOCUMENTATION

Documentation of the duo rider's impairment must be provided at time of registration or must be on file with the B.A.A.

(d) QUALIFYING STANDARDS

The Duo Team must run together as a team and achieve the Boston Marathon qualifying standard for the able-bodied participant's age and gender on a certified marathon course within the pre-established qualifying window. The duo team's qualifying race performance must be achieved in accordance with B.A.A. participation rules. Only those duo teams that qualify and register as a team may participate as a duo team; duo riders and duo runners may not "switch" teammates.

(e) RULES OF PARTICIPATION

For all duo teams, the below rules apply:

- (i) The rider must be securely fastened and remain in the customized racing wheelchair throughout the duration of the race.*
- (ii) Only the registered duo runner may push the rider during the race; no relay teams are permitted.*
- (iii) No racing chairs with gears, chains, cranks, motors, or pedals are permitted.*
- (iv) Both the duo runner and duo rider must submit a race registration and agree to the Participant Agreement, Waiver, Release, and Acknowledgment.*

(f) NON-QUALIFIED ENTRANTS

For safety reasons, the B.A.A. requires that non-qualified duo teams interested in applying for entry through an official charity program or other invitational entry method must have

completed a marathon as a team in six hours or better (6:00:00) during the pre-established qualifying window to be eligible to apply for entry. Field size limits apply.

(g) SCORING

The Duo Team Program is a separate event group. Duo teams are scored among other duo teams in the race. Duo runners will not be scored against the open field and are not eligible for age group awards. Both the duo runner's and duo rider's names will appear in the results as a team.

Article VII. PENALTIES

The B.A.A. reserves the right and has the sole discretion to determine and carry out any penalty deemed appropriate should a participant violate any rule or policy herein. Penalties may include, but are not limited to, a warning notice, disqualification, removal from official race results, and/or ineligibility in future B.A.A. events.