



**125<sup>TH</sup> BOSTON  
MARATHON®**

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## **Para Athletics Divisions Fact Sheet**

- The 2021 Boston Marathon will feature the first ever Para Athletics Divisions, offering prize money and awards to athletes with visual impairments, lower-limb impairments, and upper-limb impairments.
- The Boston Marathon is the first major marathon to offer prize money and awards for Para athletes in visual impairment, lower limb impairment, and upper limb impairment categories. A total prize purse of \$27,500 will be available for these athletes, including \$1,500 for first place in all three divisions for men and women.
- Among the 30 athletes competing for prize money and awards as part of the Para Athletics Divisions are Paralympians, world record holders, and ultramarathoners.
- The Boston Marathon aims to be a platform that showcases the athleticism, achievements, and competition of aspiring and elite Para athletes beyond the already established wheelchair division.
- The Para Athletics Divisions are offered in addition to the Boston Marathon's Adaptive Program, which offer athletes with eligible visual, physical, or intellectual impairments the opportunity to participate in the Boston Marathon.
- The Para Athletics Divisions will start at 8:50 a.m. in Hopkinton, with anticipated top finishers crossing the Boylston Street finish line around 11:25 a.m. There will not be a breaktape for top finishers, though they will be made available for interviews post-race.

## **Para Athletics Divisions Top Contenders**

### *VISION IMPAIRMENT*

Chaz Davis, USA/MA (T12)

A Grafton, Mass-native and 2016 Paralympian on the track, Davis holds the T12 American marathon record at 2:31:48. At the '16 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, Davis finished eighth in the 5,000-meters and tenth in the 1,500-meters. Davis was a state champion runner while at Grafton High and ran for the University of Hartford.

Misato Michishita, Japan (T12)

Michishita secured a gold medal in the marathon at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics for her native Japan, and won silver in the marathon at the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro. She also won the 2019 World Para Athletics Marathon championship (3:06:18), and is the T12 world record holder in the marathon with a lifetime best of 2:56:14.

Tayana Passos, Brazil (T13)

Passos placed second in the Visually Impaired Division at Boston in 2019 and is a perennial top contender. She ran 3:42:42 in 2019 and 3:22:27 for the Boston Marathon Virtual Experience last year – fastest among all T13 women.

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### LOWER-LIMB IMPAIRMENT

Marko Cheseto Lemtukei, USA/FL (T62)

Marko set a nearly five-minute personal best in Chicago in 2019 to establish a new T62 world best of 2:37:23. He was an All-American in track and cross country at Alaska-Anchorage, and ran 2:42:24 at the 2019 Boston Marathon.

Adam Popp, USA/VA (T63)

A Technical Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, ultramarathoner, and triathlete, Adam represented Team USA at the 2017 Invictus Games and has twice completed 100-mile ultras. He also owns the T63 marathon world best.

Liz Willis, USA/KS (T64)

A 2016 Paralympian for Team USA, Liz specialized in the sprints. She earned bronze in the 100m and 400m at the '16 Paralympic Trials, and silver in the 100m and 2000m at the 2015 national championships. Before becoming a sprinter, Liz was a distance runner in high school.

Danielle McLaughlin, USA/CA (T64)

Danielle ran 3:50:50 at the New York City Marathon in 2018. She's also an International Triathlon Union Championship Series gold medalist.

## **Para Classifications**

Para athletes are grouped by type of impairment and degree of functional limitation (called classifications), helping to create a level playing field for competition.

T11 = Blind, no light perception

T12 = Visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.50 to 2.60

T13 = Visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.40 to 1.0

T45/46 = Bilateral or unilateral arm impairment

T62 = Double below knee amputee

T63 = Single above knee amputee

T64 = Single below knee amputee

**For more information, [visit the Para Athletics Divisions section of baa.org](https://www.baa.org).**