



Race Day Instructions

RACE LOCATION HAS CHANGED!

THE START AND FINISH AREA WILL BE IN RAILROAD PARK.

- **Race will take place rain, snow or shine!** If weather conditions are dangerous we will evaluate the situation. Follow us on Face Book and Twitter or check our website for updates.
- **Please dress accordingly.** Layer if necessary. Discarded clothing will be picked up by local homeless charities.
- **Race starts at 7:02 AM** on 14th Street S between Regions Field and Good People Brewing Company. Wheelchair athletes will start at 6:58 AM.
- **Parking-** Reserve and pay for your parking space by downloading the app, Clutch! Look for Mercedes-Benz Marathon Weekend.
- **Fox 6 WBRC broadcasts live** beginning at 7 am.
- **Runner tracking available-** see our website for details.
- **Portalets** will be available in the side alley next to the EDPA building.
- **What's Not Allowed on the Course** - unregistered runners, unauthorized vehicles, bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, strollers, baby joggers and other wheeled devices and animals are prohibited. You may run with headphones just don't listen with them so loudly you wouldn't be able to hear emergency announcements or vehicles. Please remove your headphones if you see someone trying to instruct you about something.
- **Portalets** will be available at each water station along the course. (8 locations on half marathon and 17 on the full marathon)
- **Your timing device is attached to your bib. Do not take the strips off your bib!** If your bib is altered it will effect your time. Your bib must be worn above your waist to capture your time.
- **Pin race bib to the front of your outermost layer of clothes** and wear it above your waist.
- **You must have on your bib when you cross the finish line** in order to get a medal and finisher's amenity.
- **Pace groups leaders** will be available for a 3:30, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 4:45 and 5:00 hour finish. Signs will be up in the starting chute for you to line up accordingly with faster runners in the front and walkers in the back.
- **Bag Check** is located in Railroad Park, quadrant #2 on 14th Street S. Use the bag check tag issued with your bib #. *Please do not place anything valuable in your checked bag.* Bag Check closes at 2 p.m. **Due to heightened security you must use your clear race bag or any other type of clear bag for your bag check bag. You will not be allowed to put a non-clear bag inside of the clear bag used for bag check. You will have to empty all contents in to the clear bag.**
- **Please write any pertinent medical information and race day contact information on the back of your race number.** Medical stations are located at Avondale Park near miles 7/20, The Civil Rights Institute at miles 12/25 and the finish line.
- **There will be 8 water stations for the half marathon and 17 for the marathon** offering water and Lemon-Lime Powerade. Vanilla Bean and Strawberry Banana energy gel will be distributed at the water stations located close to Miles 4, 8, 11, 17, 21 and 24.

- **Our famous “Balloon Lady”** will be sweeping the back of the pack as the designated last finisher of the marathon walking at a 6-hour pace. She’ll have balloons tied to her waist, so you can’t miss her. The Birmingham Police will be following along removing anyone from the course that falls behind her after the courses split at Mile 13. **NO ONE will be allowed to be behind the Balloon Lady once she starts her second loop of the course! If you’re walking the marathon and fall behind her before the courses split, you will be directed to continue on the half-marathon course on the right side of 19th Street S towards the finish line. NO EXCEPTIONS will be allowed.**
- **The Jim ‘N Nick’s Post-Race Block Party and Awards Ceremony** will take place just across from the finish line in the EDPA Parking Garage. Each participant has a meal ticket attached to the bottom of his/her bib. We’ve got two live bands, multiple kegs of **Good People** and Bud Light, and delicious **Jim ‘N Nick’s Bar B Q**. Friends and family can purchase a Meal Ticket for \$10 at the Expo. Quantities are limited so don’t delay in purchasing your meal tickets.
- **We’ll start the Awards Ceremony** for the Overall Winners of the Marathon and Half-Marathon at 11:15 a.m. If you are an age group winner, you will come to the stage to get your award. Marathon Relay and Marathon Age Group Awards will take place as soon as possible after the race finishes at approximately 1:03 p.m. If you are an age group winner, you will come to the stage to get your award.
- **Massage therapists will be available** throughout the post-race block party.
- **Overall Cash awards** will be presented at the Awards Ceremony. Overall winners will fill out a W-9 form and checks will be mailed the week after the event. Age group winners will not be announced during the awards ceremony; they will be posted on the huge screen on the stage. If you see your name listed as an age group winner you can come to the stage to get your trophy. We will not mail age group awards so you **MUST** be present at the awards ceremony to receive your award. All local awards will be left at The Trak Shak store in Homewood beginning Wednesday, February 13th.
- **Official results will be posted on our website as soon as possible.** www.mercedesmarathon.com. If you have any timing issues, please email results@besttimescct.com.
- **Thanks for running Birmingham!! We hope you have an enjoyable experience and a great race!**
- [Link to Course Map](#)
- [Layout of Railroad Park](#)