



## *Race Day Instructions*

- **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.
- **Be aware of interstate bridge replacement construction and exit closures off I59/20** when making your plans to arrive in downtown Birmingham. Visit [http://rp.dot.state.al.us/I59\\_20](http://rp.dot.state.al.us/I59_20) for updated information.
- **Race starts at 7:02 a.m.** in front of Boutwell Auditorium and heads west. Wheelchair athletes will start at 6:58 a.m.
- **Fox 6 WBRC broadcasts live** beginning at 7 am.
- **Runner tracking available-** see our website for details
- **Portalets** will be available before the race one block behind the starting line on 22<sup>nd</sup> St. N.
- **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 of the 10 water stations along the course and at each Relay Exchange station.
- **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 and for race day photos.
- **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 to the right of the entrance to Boutwell Auditorium. 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. and any unclaimed bags will be left in the lost and found at Boutwell Auditorium. **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.** Our three medical stations are located at the following.
  1. Miles 2.5/15.5 just past the Relay Station Exchange on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N. and 17<sup>th</sup> St. N.
  2. Miles 5.5 /18.5 at the Glen Iris Elementary School water station on 11<sup>th</sup> St. S.
  3. Miles 9.5/22.5 at the Relay Exchange Station at Avondale Park on 40<sup>th</sup> St. S.
- **There are 10 water stations for the half marathon and 21 for the marathon** offering water and Lemon-Lime Powerade. Vanilla Bean and Strawberry Banana GU will be distributed at the water stations located near Miles 3.5, 7, 11.5, 16.5, 20 and 22.5.

- **THE SPLIT** – It is very important that you understand how the course has a "Split" so the full marathon and relay marathon participants can continue on the double loop course. The "Split" is at the intersection of 2nd Ave. S. and 20th St. S. Beginning at approximately mile 11 at 32nd St. S. and 2nd Ave. S. the street lanes will be coned off separating the half marathon runners from the full and relay marathon runners. The full marathon runners along with the relay participants should be in the left lane and the half marathoners are in the right lane for approximately 2 more miles until you reach The Split. The Full Marathon and relay runners will continue running to 19th St. S. then turn right on to 19th St. S. The Half marathoners will turn right on to 20<sup>th</sup> St. S. to begin their trek to the finish line. Please learn and know the course by checking out our course map on our website.
- **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 when the courses split. **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 and take a right onto 20<sup>th</sup> Street S. towards the finish line. NO EXCEPTIONS will be allowed.**
- **The Jim 'N Nick's Post-Race Party and Awards Ceremony** will take place just across from the finish line in Boutwell Auditorium. 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 Brewing Company** craft beer, Bud Light, Mich Ultra and delicious **Jim 'N Nick's Bar B Q**. Friends and family can purchase a Meal Ticket for \$10 at the Expo at the BJCC Legacy Arena and on race day at the Mercedes-Benz Marathon Merchandise booth located in Boutwell. 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. Half Marathon Age Group Awards will be scrolling on the big screen during this time. 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 1:03 p.m. The Marathon Age Group Awards will be scrolling on the big screen during this time. If you are an age group winner you will come to the stage to get your award.
- **Massage therapists will be available** at the post-race party upstairs at Boutwell Auditorium. The freight elevator will be available.
- **Overall Cash awards** will be presented at the Awards Ceremony. Overall winners will fill out a W-9 form and checks will be available at the Awards ceremony. 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 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Official results will be posted on our website as soon as possible.** [www.mercedesmarathon.com](http://www.mercedesmarathon.com). If you have any timing issues please email [results@besttimescct.com](mailto:results@besttimescct.com).
- **Thanks for running Birmingham!! We hope you have an enjoyable experience and a great race!**