



## Elite Athlete Program 2025

### Elite Athlete Benefits

- Complimentary entry into the Akron Marathon / Half Marathon
- VIP Packet Pickup
- Special “Elite Athlete” bib number
- Access to the Elite Athlete corral
- Personal gear bag handling from the start to the finish
- Private area and VIP experience at the Start Line
- Private area at the Finish Line equipped with fluids, food, gear bag delivery, and massage therapy.

### Seeded Athlete Benefits

- Access to the Seeded Athlete Corral located directly behind the Elite Athlete Corral and ahead of the general field of runners.

### Awards and Prize Money

Marathon				
	Open Men	Open Women	Masters Men	Masters Women
1st Place	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$500	\$500
2nd Place	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$375	\$375
3rd Place	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$250	\$250

  

Ohio Resident		
This prize money is awarded to the first 3 men and women to finish the marathon who are residents of the state of Ohio at the time of the race regardless of age.		
	Open Men	Open Women
1st Place	\$750	\$750
2nd Place	\$500	\$500
3rd Place	\$250	\$250

  

Half Marathon				
	Open Men	Open Women	Masters Men	Masters Women
1st Place	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$400	\$400
2nd Place	\$750	\$750	\$300	\$300
3rd Place	\$500	\$500	\$200	\$200

  

Event Record Incentives				
	Open Men	Open Women	Masters Men	Masters Women
Full Marathon	\$500 [2:15:59]	\$500 [2:39:09]	\$500 [2:23:44]	\$500 [2:49:52]
Half Marathon	\$500 [1:03:58]	\$500 [1:14:18]	\$500 [1:05:16]	\$500 [1:23:02]

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- Men's/women's overall and masters awards and prize money:
  - a. An individual is only eligible to win awards and prize money in the event in which you are registered.
  - b. Based on gun time.
  - c. Awarded for the place achieved in the race.
  - d. Prize money awarded only to citizens of the United States of America at the time of the race.
  - e. For the Marathon and Half Marathon division, where prize money is involved, participants are eligible to win both overall and masters division prize monies.
  - f. For events where no prize money is involved, participants can only win one award. Overall placements are weighted more heavily than masters placements.
  - g. Participants may be removed from awards, prize money, and event records if that participant violates one of the Elite Athlete Rules. This includes the visible possession or use of video, audio, or communications devices along the course route.
  - h. Prize money is available for events once division size, i.e. Women's Marathon Division, reaches 500 or more participants.
- Non-binary overall awards
  - a. An individual is only eligible to win awards in the event in which you are registered.
  - b. Based on chip time.
  - c. Prize money is available for events once division size reaches 500 or more participants.
- Event record Incentives:
  - a. Open records are based on gun time.
  - b. Masters records are based on chip time.
  - c. Non-binary records are based on chip time.
  - d. An individual is only eligible to set an event record in the event in which you are registered.
  - e. Must finish first in the overall or masters category to set an event record.
  - f. Event Record Incentives are available for events once division size, i.e. Women's Marathon Division, reaches 500 or more participants.
  - g. Event Record monies are awarded only to citizens of the United States of America at the time of the race.
- Age group awards:
  - a. Top three male and female Marathon finishers in all age categories will receive recognition awards: 19 and under, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69 and 70+. You can win only one award.
  - b. Based off age on race day
  - c. Based on chip time



- d. Top 3 overall and masters are removed from age group awards
- e. Mailed 6-8 weeks post-race, after results have been finalized
- f. Awards are available for events once division size, i.e. Women’s Marathon Division, reaches 500 or more participants.
- To be eligible for prize money and/or awards, transgender athletes must meet the eligibility regulations as defined by World Athletics. [World Athletics Book of Rules](#). See Book C3.5.
- Any disputes in conduct and placement should be sent to [Info@AkronMarathon.org](mailto:Info@AkronMarathon.org) within 24 hours of results being posted.
- It is the responsibility of the participant to determine if they are able to accept prize money or awards and how that prize may be spent to maintain high school and/or collegiate eligibility.

Elite and Seeded Athlete Qualification

- Qualification times

<b>Event</b>	<b>A Standard</b>	<b>B Standard</b>	<b>Seeded Standard</b>
Men’s Marathon	2:30	2:50	3:00
Women’s Marathon	2:55	3:15	3:35
Men’s Masters Marathon	2:45	3:05	3:20
Women’s Masters Marathon	3:05	3:40	3:55
Men’s Half Marathon	1:10	1:15	1:25
Women’s Half Marathon	1:20	1:30	1:35
Men’s Masters Half Marathon	1:15	1:25	1:30
Women’s Masters Half Marathon	1:25	1:35	1:40

\*Standards are based on Akron Marathon record times, finishing times, and historical data.

- a. Reach the qualifying time standards based on sex given at birth.
- b. Qualifying standards must be met within the qualifying period, within 3 years of the start of the year you plan to race. For 2025, the qualifying race must be on or after January 1, 2022.
- c. Achieving a qualifying time does not guarantee entry into the Elite Athlete program. Once applications are received and reviewed, athletes will be notified of acceptance.
- d. Half Marathon qualifying time can be used to apply for the Full Marathon or vice versa.
- e. Qualifying standards must be achieved on a certified USATF course during an organized race with published times. All given times will be verified against the official results.



- Timeline
  - a. Elite Athlete applications are due on July 1, 2025. Applications received after this deadline will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.
  - b. The athletes who will be accepted into the Elite Athlete Program will be announced on or before July 9, 2025
    - Up to 7 athletes per event category will be invited to the program
  - c. All Elite Athletes need to register for the race through the registration platform by July 31, 2025. Failure to do so may result in removal from the Elite Athlete Program.
  - d. Seeded Athlete applications are due on July 31, 2025. Applications received after this deadline will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

## Rules

- a. Agree to follow USATF Anti-Doping Rules.
- b. As a sanctioned USATF race, all USATF rules are in effect. Below common rules that come into question are listed. Please reference the USATF Competition Rule book for the full list.
  - i. RULE 144 (Below was copied from USATF Competition Rule Book. Rule numbering was maintained as a reference aid)
    - 3. The following shall be considered examples of assistance:
      - (a) Pacing in running or walking events by persons not participating in the event, by competitors lapped or about to be lapped, or by any kind of technical device other than those permitted under Rule 144.4(f) and Rule 144.4(h).
      - (b) The visible possession or use by athletes of video, audio, or communications devices in the competition area.
      - (f) Receiving physical support from another (other than from another competitor in the event helping to recover to a standing position) that assists in making forward progress in the race.
    - 4. The following shall NOT be considered assistance:
      - (a) Verbal or other communication, without the use of any technical device, from an individual who is not in the competition area to a competitor who is in the competition area.
      - (b) Physiotherapy and/or medical treatment necessary to enable an athlete to participate, or continue participation once in the competition area, may be provided by members of the official medical staff appointed by the Games Committee and clearly identified as such.
      - (d) Receiving physical support from an official or other person designated by the Games Committee to recover to a standing position or to access medical assistance.

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(f) Pace setting by an officially designated person entered in an event for that purpose is permitted, provided such pacesetters start in the event.

(g) Personally carrying or wearing articles of equipment such as wrist chronometers, heart rate monitors, speed distance monitors, stride sensors or similar devices during a race provided that such device cannot be used to communicate with any other person

7. No attendant or competitor who is not actually taking part in the competition shall accompany any competitor on the mark or in the competition, nor shall any competitor be allowed, without the permission of the Referee or Judges, to receive assistance or refreshment from anyone during the progress of the competition, except as provided by Rules 144.3(b), 145.5, 232, or 241.

8. A competitor may, at any time, carry water or refreshment by hand or attached to his/her body provided it was carried from the start or collected or received at an official station.

9.(c) A competitor who receives or collects refreshment or water from a place other than the official stations, except where provided for medical reasons from or under the direction of race officials, or takes the refreshment of another competitor, should, for a first such offense, be warned by the Referee normally by showing a yellow card. For a second offense, the Referee shall disqualify the competitor, normally by showing a red card. The competitor shall then immediately leave the course.

NOTE: A competitor may receive from or pass to another competitor refreshment, water or sponges provided it was carried from the start or collected or received at an official station. However, any continuous support from a competitor to one or more others in such a way may be regarded as unfair assistance and warnings and/or disqualifications as outlined above may be applied.