
**AKRON
MARATHON**

RACE SERIES

PRESENTED BY



Operational and Safety Guidelines

Updated: June 2, 2021

Summary

The Operational and Safety guidelines have been revised based on current guidance from both the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These guidelines were created with input from Summit County Public Health, Summa Health, Ohio Race Coalition, and the board, staff, and committee members of the Akron Marathon Charitable Corporation. Guidelines are subject to change as public health orders continue to evolve.

The Akron Marathon Charitable Corporation went through a detailed information gathering and benchmarking process and have established the following guidelines for returning to racing.

1. Enhanced Hygiene

- a. Hand sanitizer, hand washing stations will be readily available at various race venues. Cleaning of common venue areas/surfaces will be enhanced.

2. Masks

- a. If you are fully vaccinated, wearing a mask is optional.
- b. Attendees who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear face coverings throughout race areas unless actively running, eating, or drinking.
- c. Facial coverings do not apply to individuals under ten years of age or those individuals with a medical condition or disability.

3. Capacity

- a. National Interstate 8k & 1 Mile: 2,100 participants
- b. Goodyear Half Marathon & 10k: 2,500 participants
- c. FirstEnergy Akron Marathon, Half Marathon & Team Relay: 8,500 participants
- d. Kids Fun Run presented by Akron Children's Hospital: 1,000 participants
- e. Modification or elimination of non-essential race services and functions may occur.

4. Contactless Services / Social Distancing

- a. Reduced points of interaction between staff, participants, and volunteers without compromising event safety and security. Redesigned areas such as expo, packet pickup, merchandise, relay exchange zones and finish line to minimize person-to-person contact.
- b. Fluid stations will be reconfigured to minimize volunteer to participant contact.
- c. Social distancing is encouraged at all race venues.
- d. Attendees should be mindful and respectful of others personal space.

5. Risks

- a. Attending a mass event with people from across the country and the world poses a risk for possible exposure and infection of COVID-19.
- b. High Risk Individuals: The risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age, and for those with certain medical conditions. Severe illness means that the person with COVID-19 may require hospitalization, intensive care, or a ventilator to help them breathe, or they may even die. It is recommended that high risk individuals not participate.

6. Reducing Exposure

- a. Get vaccinated.
- b. Maintain a six-foot distance from other individuals.
- c. Wear a cloth face covering when out in public.
- d. Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow or sleeve, or a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands afterwards.
- e. Washing your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom or before eating. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- f. Avoid touching your face – especially your eyes, nose, and mouth – with unwashed hands.
- g. Stay home if you have cold- or flu-like symptoms and remain home until you have been fever-free (without fever reducing medicine) for 24 hours.
- h. Regularly clean any high touch areas.

7. Personal Responsibility

- a. Do not attend the event if you are ill or have been in contact with an individual with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis in the past 14-days.
- b. Anyone who becomes ill during the event should report to a medical volunteer. That individual may be sent for testing, if COVID-19 symptoms are present.
- c. Keep your distance from others.
- d. Utilize hand sanitizer stations regularly and before consuming any post-race foods.
- e. Not fully vaccinated attendees should wear a mask in all race areas, except while participating on the course.
- f. Cover your cough and sneezes.
- g. No spitting or snotting along the course route or when others are around.

Operational Changes by Area

1. Expo / Packet Pick-Up

- a. Contactless payment at vendor booths and in registration area encouraged.
- b. Maintain pre-selected packet pick-up times.
- c. More space available to promote social distancing.
- d. No registration at packet pick-up
- e. No race day bib pick-up
- f. Reduced contact points.
- g. Samples should be limited to sealed packages.
- h. Touchpoints and regularly used surface areas will be sanitized regularly.

2. Start Line

- a. Additional hand sanitizer units
- b. No race day bib pick-up
- c. No race day registration
- d. Runners will start in waves of 200-400 with 45 seconds between each wave.
- e. Start line will remain open 2-minutes after final wave for anyone that wants to maintain social distancing.

3. Course

- a. Fluid Stations
 - i. Participants are encouraged to bring and carry their own hydration unit.
 - ii. Fluid stations will be self-serve.
- b. Gel Stations
 - i. Gel will remain sealed.
 - ii. Gel stations will be self-serve.
- c. Medical Aid Stations
 - i. Summa medical volunteers will be equipped with PPE.
 - ii. Finish Line tent - Isolation area for treating sick participants.
 - iii. An ambulance will be called for anyone along the course in need of a ride who has or is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

4. Pace Team

- a. Pace teams will be eliminated to help promote distancing.

5. Exchange Zones

- a. Modified exchange zone protocols.
- b. Elimination of slap bracelet
- c. Relay participants receive post-race items at Exchange Zone.

6. Finish Line

- a. Additional hand sanitizer units
- b. Awards ceremony returns.
- c. Post-race Finisher Festival returns with live band, food, and beer.
- d. Self-serve medal and food distribution procedures

7. Awards

- a. Awards ceremony for overall open & masters
- b. Age group awards will be mailed out post-race.

8. Volunteers

- a. Safety kits will be distributed to all volunteers.
- b. Runners will follow self-serve approach at various distribution points.

9. Spectators

- a. No limits on spectators; spectator viewing areas vary by event.

10. Suspended Services

- a. COVID-19 screening
- b. Gear Check
- c. Pace Teams
- d. Elite Athlete Program

11. Kids Fun Run

- a. Additional spacing for corrals
- b. Wave start by age group.
- c. Modified medal and food distribution procedures.
- d. Modified activities to reduce contact time.
- e. Additional hand sanitizer units

Resources used in developing these guidelines include:

- IRONMAN Group – Safe Return to Racing
- Ohio Department of Health – Public Health Orders
- RRCA (Road Runner Club of America) – Looking Forward Guidelines for Races
- Summit County Public Health – Mass Gathering Guidelines
- The Outbreak Prevention Taskforce – Risk Assessment and Mitigation Tool for endurance event organizers
- USA Track & Field – COVID guidelines
- USA Triathlon – Return to Race Recommendations for Race Directors
- World Triathlon – COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines for Race Organizers