

Larking Gowen City of Norwich Half Marathon 2020

Frequently Asked Questions – UPDATED FOR COVID-19

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About the organisers

Q: Who organises this race?

A: This race is organised and staged by the members and friends of City of Norwich AC. Most of the work behind the scenes in the weeks leading up to race day is undertaken by the race management team.

All the members of the race management team have full-time day jobs to attend to and give their time voluntarily to this event. This means that all enquires are dealt with outside of normal office hours and on some occasions it may take a day or two for us to get back to you with the answers to any questions you may have.

As we approach race day, club members, friends and other volunteers step forward to deliver 1,500 leaflets by hand to advise local residents and businesses of the road closures in place on race day.

When the weekend of the race arrives, over 100 members and friends of City of Norwich AC are on hand to set up the race, welcome the runners to the Norfolk Showground and then pack everything away afterwards.

Without the unpaid efforts of our club members and friends, there would be no City of Norwich Half Marathon for everyone to enjoy - please contact manpower@cityofnorwichhalfmarathon.com if you would like to give us a hand on race day - thank you.

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About the race

Q: Why is this race called the City of Norwich Half Marathon when it clearly doesn't go anywhere near the centre of Norwich?

A: When this race first got going in 1985, it was based in the centre of Norwich and in the early years this was the perfect place to hold it. However, with the advent of Sunday trading and a growth in the popularity of this race it soon became evident that Norwich city centre did not have the infrastructure to cope with a half marathon like ours. And so we decided to move to the Norfolk Showground in 1993 and we've been there ever since.

Q: Where does the course go? Not just round and round the Showground, surely?

A: The Start and Finish are both located within the Showground and the race follows a fast single lap course through the parishes of Easton, Honingham, Colton, Barnham Broom, Marlingford and close to Easton College. The course will be clearly marked at every mile and also at half-way.

There will be digital clocks showing the official (gun) time on the lead vehicle, at half-way and at the Finish. Please visit the Race Day Info page of our race website at <https://cityofnorwichhalfmarathon.com/race-day-info/> for more details.

Q: Are the roads going to be closed to through traffic during the race?

A: Yes, they are - but you will still need to be vigilant while running as residents and those wishing to visit local businesses and Easton College are entitled to vehicular access at all times during the road closures.

Entering the race

Q: Is there a minimum age for this race?

*A: Yes, you must be at least **17 years old on 13 June 2021** to take part. This age limit is set by UK Athletics who are our governing body and providers of our road race licence.*

Q: Where can I get hold of a paper entry form?

A: This race is online entry only - please visit [the website](#) to register.

Q: How will I be able to enter this race after the online entry system has closed?

*A: After the online registration system has closed - that's when all regular places have been sold or at midnight on **21 May 2021**, whichever comes first - a limited number of charity places may be available in return for a pledge of at least £100 to our official charity.*

These charity places are "first come first served" - please visit [the website](#) for more details.

Q: I'm sure I've entered - how can I check that my entry has been accepted?

A: You should receive a confirmation email when you enter showing all your details. Please check your Junk/spam folder for this. You can also check on the My Dashboard option at the top of the entry page:

<https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/NorwichHalf2020>

If you can't find your entry on My Dashboard, please send an email to helpdesk@cityofnorwichhalfmarathon.com stating your full name, date of birth and the date when you think you entered. We'll check our database and then get back to you.

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Q: If you sell out, will I be able to join your waiting list please?

*A: Yes, if we sell out before entry closes on **21 May 2021**, we will operate a Waiting List.*

Q: I'm an elite runner. May I have a complimentary place please?

A: Sorry but no - we offer complimentary places to last year's winners and a few others but we don't just dish out free places because someone tells us that they're a fast runner.

Q: I know registration has closed but I'm an elite runner, surely you want someone of my quality up at the front so may I have a free place please?

A: Sorry but no - you had your chance to register along with everyone else before registration closed.

Time limit

Q: I'm not a particularly fast runner - is there a time limit?

A: Yes there is - it's three hours. You will be directed to retire if you have not reached the half-way marker within 90 minutes. In addition, if your pace is not sufficient for you to clear the public roads within the road closure time limit you will be directed to retire at an appropriate point. This is a legal requirement to comply with our road closure order and our commitment to local residents, churches, businesses and parish councils.

Race packs

Q: I've just entered this race - when do you think I will receive my race pack?

A: Your race pack which includes your race number and timing chip will be sent to you in the week prior to the race.

Race numbers & timing chips

Q: So what's this about our timing chips being attached to our race numbers?

A: Your timing chip is already attached to the reverse of your race number and that's where it must stay please. You must not try to remove it or worse still wear it on your shoe - please leave it where it is for a trouble-free race. And please take care when attaching your race number to the front of your running top - use a safety pin in each corner, please.

Q: Is it true that timing chips on race numbers don't work very well if you cover them up with an outer layer of clothing?

A: Yes it is! You must wear your race number on the outside of your top layer of clothing, please.

Q: Will you be taking my race number off me after I've crossed the Finish Line?

A: No we won't - the timing chips used in our race are "one time use" only and we don't want them back, thanks.

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At the Finish

Q: What happens after I cross the Finish line?

A: Your finish time will automatically be recorded as you cross the Finish line. You will be able to collect your medal and a bottle of water from the water station, however you must keep moving and return directly to your vehicle or bike. You must not gather with other runners and must observe social distancing at all times.

Q: Will you be taking my timing chip off me after I've crossed the Finish line?

A: No we won't - the timing chips used in our race are "one time use" only and we don't need them back, thanks.

Q: Will it be ok if I wait at the Finish line to see my friend complete the race?

A: Sorry but no - we need to keep the area immediately beyond the Finish line clear in case of emergencies so you will be directed to return to your vehicle or bike and we'd welcome your co-operation with this please.

Withdrawal

Q: I entered this race but now find that I can't do it after all - may I have a refund please?

A: Sorry, but no - the Race Rules state that we don't give refunds. You can however, defer your entry, see below.

Q: I entered this race but now find that I can't do it after all - do I need to inform anyone that I won't be running?

A: No, that's not necessary but thanks for asking.

Q: I won't be able to do the race myself but my friend says he's now interested so will it be alright if I give him my race number so he can run in my place?

A: Certainly not! The transferring of race numbers is strictly forbidden by the Race Rules. Your race number has been issued to you on the basis of the details you provided to us when you entered and must not be given to anyone else. Imagine the anguish and grief that would ensue if your friend had a serious accident or worse during the race and we had to break some terrible news to the wrong next of kin.

Q: Ok, so you don't want my friend to run wearing my race number - fair enough. But if I contact you before the race and give you all his details, then surely you can just update your database and everything will be fine?

A: Sorry, but it's not as simple as that. We just don't have the time or resources to deal with additional bits of administration in the weeks leading up to the race. So we have a "no refunds and no substitutions" policy that's written into the Race Rules and we bring these Rules to the attention of everyone during the entry process. And we're no different from the vast majority of other road races who have operated the same policy for many years.

Q: I can't run the race after all. May I transfer my place to next year's race please?

*A: Yes, you will be able to defer your place, one time only, to the next City of Norwich Half marathon. However, please note, the deadline for deferrals is **21 May 2021** when the race closes.*

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Race charity

Q: Am I obliged to raise money for the official race charity?

*A: No, not at all. While our official charity partner, **East Anglian Air Ambulance**, will be delighted if you do decide to raise money for them, if you prefer to raise money for another worthy cause then that's fine. And if you don't want to raise money for anyone at all, then that's fine as well.*

Dogs, cycles, coaches and pushchairs

Q: Can I bring dogs into the Showground with me on race day?

A: No, you cannot run the race with your dog and there are no spectators allowed at the event as part of the Covid rules, so there would be no-one to look after your dog whilst you run.

Q: Can I have someone cycle with me while I'm running?

A: No. Not unless you're the back-marker and then we'll provide the cyclist.

Q: Can my running coach join in during the second lap to spur me on to the finish?

A: No. Everyone who takes part in the race must have registered in the normal way and wear an official race number.

Q: Can I push my buggy when I'm running? I'm allowed to do that at my local parkrun.

A: No. We're not a parkrun.

Getting there on race day

Q: What's the best route to take if I want to avoid the queues for the car parks?

A: You should try to avoid the A1074 Dereham Road out of Norwich and the Longwater interchange in particular as it usually gets very busy here both before and after the race. Our advice is to take the A47 to the Ringland Hills roundabout on the western outskirts of Easton and then follow the yellow car park signs from there.

Q: Where can I leave my bike?

A: Designated bicycle parking will be available within the Showground - please follow the signs from the pedestrian gates. Please lock your bike carefully and make sure that you don't lock it to someone else's bike by mistake.

Q: If I'm being dropped off and / or collected afterwards, where should my driver aim for?

A: When leaving the Longwater interchange, you will find the drop off point signposted from close to the Premier Inn. Please follow the directions of the stewards at all times.

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Q: If I'm coming to Norwich by train, what's the best way of getting from the station to the Norfolk Showground?

A: The local bus service is infrequent on race day so a taxi is probably your best bet. A typical one-way taxi ride from the train station to the Showground will probably cost around £15 and you should allow 30 minutes for your journey. Ask your driver to head for the drop off point, signposted from the Premier Inn on Dereham Road.

Hotels & accommodation

Q: Where can I find details of suitable hotels and accommodation in the Norwich area?

A: We recommend you use a website like Booking.com (other sites are available) to find a hotel.

Devices with headphones or earbuds

Q: Are you really going to disqualify anyone you see using a device with headphones or earbuds?

A: Yes we are. We disqualified two runners for doing this during last year's event. As race organisers we take the associated duty of care to our customers very seriously. There are several thousands of people involved in or affected by this event and we simply can't have runners wearing headphones or earbuds and drifting off into a world of their own when there are dozens of other runners around them or perhaps a car coming up from behind. So please don't do it.

Q: But if the roads are closed during the race, then what's the problem - there won't be any traffic around, surely?

A: Yes there will. While the road closure order will prohibit "through traffic" from driving along the course, those who live and work on the race route have a legitimate right to vehicular access to their properties at all times during the race. So we need you to be vigilant throughout the race for your own safety and that of others. And we also want you to hear the instructions of the race marshals and police officers who will be on duty on race day

Q: I like to track my runs using an app on my iPhone (other similar devices are available). I won't be wearing headphones or earbuds during the race - is that ok?

A: Yes that's fine. Please just don't use a device with headphones or earbuds and then we'll all be happy.

Facilities at the Norfolk Showground

Q: I would like to bring my family to watch while I'm running. What facilities will there be for them at the Norfolk Showground?

A: We are sorry, but there are strictly no spectators allowed at this event due to the Covid restrictions.

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T-shirts

Q: I ordered one of those commemorative t-shirts when I entered this race - when do I get to collect it please?

A: Please pick it up on race day, preferably before the start of the race please. We will be open from 8am; please show your race number when collecting.

Q: I didn't order a commemorative t-shirt when I entered - how do I go about getting one now please?

A: Unfortunately due to the Covid restrictions we are unable to sell current or prior year t-shirts at this event.

Bad weather

Q: If the weather's bad on race day, how can I check if the race is still going ahead before I set off?

A: Please check [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Race website](#) for any weather news affecting the race.

Departure

Q: Are there any special arrangements for getting out of the car parks?

A: When lots of people try to leave the Showground car parks at the same time, some delays are inevitable. Please be patient and follow the directions of our car park staff as you depart - they are fully accredited to carry out traffic management duties and regularly engaged to manage the Showground car parks at other events. They will get you on your way as quickly as they can.

You can help yourself by planning a route home which avoids the Longwater interchange if at all possible:

- *When leaving the Showground car park, vehicles will be directed to turn left through the village of Easton to join the A47 at the Ringland Hills roundabout. From there, if you are heading for Norwich we recommend that you follow the A47 Southern bypass and then the A1108 or A11 or A140 or A146.*
- *When leaving the Costessey Park & Ride car park, at peak times our car park staff will direct some vehicles to turn left and follow a signed route through the village of Bawburgh to the A47 Southern bypass.*