

2025 Guangzhou Marathon Rules and Regulations

I. Race Date and Start Time

(1) Race Date: Sunday, December 21, 2025

(2) Start Time

Elite Athletes and Athletes in Zone A/B/C: 07:30 AM

Athletes in Zone D/E/F: 07:50 AM

II. Event and Field Size

(1) Event and Category: Men's Marathon and Women's Marathon (42.195km)

(2) Field Size: 26,000

III. Race Course

(1) Start: Tianhe Sport Center

(2) Finish: Haixinsha

(3) Race Course

South Plaza of Tianhe Sports Center (Start) — Tianhe Road (reverse lane, eastbound) — Tiyu East Road (southbound) — Xiancun Road (southbound) — Linjiang Avenue (westbound) — Linjiang Avenue (U-turn) — Linjiang Avenue (eastbound) — Pazhou Bridge (U-turn) — Linjiang Avenue (westbound) — Liede Avenue side road (northbound) — Above Huacheng Avenue Tunnel (U-turn) — Liede Avenue side road (southbound) — Liede Bridge (southbound) — Shuangta Road intersection (U-turn) — Modiesha Road (northbound) — Yuejiang West Road (eastbound) — Modiesha Tunnel (eastbound) — Yuejiang Middle Road (eastbound) — Pazhou Bridge (U-turn) — Yuejiang Middle Road (westbound) — Modiesha Tunnel (westbound) — Binjiang East Road (westbound) — Yiyuan Road (southbound) — Yizhou Road (westbound) — Binjiang Road (westbound) — Hongde Road (southbound) — Renmin Bridge (northbound) — Xidi 2nd Road (southbound) — Yanjiang Road (eastbound) — Datong Road (eastbound) — Tanyue Street (southbound) — Qingbo Road (eastbound) — Qinglan Road (eastbound) — Haixinsha No. 4 Bridge — Haixinsha internal road (eastbound) — Haixinsha (Finish).

IV. Rules and Regulations

(1) The event shall be conducted in accordance with the World Athletics Competition and Technical Rules, the World Athletics Label Road Races Regulations, the Disciplinary Management Regulations for Road Running Events and the Compilation of Road Running Management Documents issued by CAA, as well as the Rules and Regulations of the GAC TOYOTA·Guangzhou Marathon 2025.

(2) All athletes shall wear their race bibs correctly during the event. Elite athletes shall wear official bibs on both the front and back, while general athletes shall wear one bib on the chest only. Bib numbers must not be covered by clothing, waist bags, or other items. Any conduct that causes a race bib to be folded, covered, torn, or damaged will result in immediate disqualification. Disqualified athletes will be excluded from the roll-call and ineligible to obtain race results and the finisher package. Any unauthorized alteration, fabrication, transfer, or sale of race bibs will be subject to penalties as stipulated in the Rules and Regulations of GAC TOYOTA • Guangzhou Marathon 2025.

(3) Start Order

In the sequence of elite athletes, general athletes (in separate zones A/B/C/D/E/F) are divided with 10 meters in-between. Athletes are required to assemble and start in the zone corresponding to their bib number.

(4) Roll-Call

① Roll-Call Time

Zone A/B/C : 05:30 AM – 07:15 AM

Zone D/E/F : 05:30 AM – 07:35 AM

② Please spare sufficient time for arriving and roll-call at the starting area (60 minutes prior to the race start is suggested). Upon arrival, general athletes must complete both the bib number verification and either face recognition or ID verification before entering their corresponding assembly zone. Elite athletes are required to bring a valid personal ID and report to the designated roll-call area at least 40 minutes before the race start.

③ For safety considerations, strollers are prohibited from entering the start/finish area and the race course.

(5) Start

A staggered (wave) gun start will be used.

① Elite Athletes and Athletes in Zone A/B/C: 07:30 AM

② Athletes in Zone D/E/F: 07:50 AM

(6) Timing Method

① A chip-timing system will be employed. Timing chips will be distributed alongside bibs at Guangzhou Marathon Expo.

② Timing carpets are placed at the start line, every 5 km mark, at the 21.0975 km mark, at turning points, and at the finish line. The timing chip will be activated when the athlete crosses the start line timing carpet. Athletes must pass through all timing carpets during the race. Athletes who finish within the cut-off time but fail to record a time at any timing point will be ineligible for official ranking. Final rankings for non-prize athletes will be determined by net (chip) time.

(7) Cut-off Distance and Time

To ensure the safety of all athletes, public roads along the course will be temporarily closed at designated times. Cut-off times will be set at each kilometer mark along the course. Once the cut-off time at a given kilometer mark is reached, the timing carpets at that mark will be deactivated, and the corresponding section of the road will reopen to public traffic. Athletes who fail to reach the respective kilometer mark within the cut-off time must immediately stop racing and exit the course to avoid potential danger. Any accidents resulting from failure to comply with this rule shall be the sole responsibility of the athlete, including any legal or financial consequences. Athletes who exit the course may take the nearest event shuttle or public transportation to the finish area to collect their belongings.

Cut-off Times:

Distance	Based on gun time of each wave
5 km	1 hour
10 km	1 hour 40 minutes
15 km	2 hours 15 minutes
20 km	3 hours
21.0975 km	3 hours 15 minutes
25 km	3 hours 40 minutes
30 km	4 hours 25 minutes
35 km	5 hours 10 minutes
40 km	5 hours 55 minutes
42.195 km	6 hours 15 minutes

(8) Bag Storage and Pick-up

① Bag Storage and Pick-up Procedure

On event day, athletes shall deposit their personal belongings in the transparent storage bag at the designated area according to their bib number. Do not leave valuables in the storage bag (e.g., mobile phones, identity documents, cash, keys, credit cards and electronic devices). Athletes shall be solely responsible for any loss or damage to personal belongings. Hazardous or prohibited items, liquids (including bottles and cans), folding trolleys, strollers and other restricted items are prohibited in the start area.

Bag storage services will close at 7:15 AM for Zones A/B/C and 7:35 AM for Zones D/E/F. Please plan your time accordingly. Athletes who fail to deposit their belongings in accordance with the specified time, location, and procedure will be responsible for any resulting loss.

Baggage collection at the finish area is available until 3:00 PM on event day. Please collect your bag at the designated area after the race. Uncollected items may be claimed within one week after the race upon presentation of the race bib. Items unclaimed after that period will be disposed of by the Organizing Committee.

② Procedure for Athletes Not Using Bag Storage

On event day, athletes who do not use the bag storage service may enter the assembly area via the express lane at Tianhe Sports Center North Entrance.

The Organizing Committee recommends wearing used clothing rather than raincoats for warmth. Please discard these items in the “Used Clothing Recycling Zone” before the start.

At the finish area, the Organizing Committee will provide items for warmth to athletes who do not use the bag storage service.

Note: Please refer to the Registration Notice for details.

(9) Refreshment Stations, Drinking/Sponging Stations

Along the course, a total of 8 Refreshment Stations and 7 Drinking/Sponging Stations are set up.

Kilometer	Refreshment Station	Drinking/Sponging Station	Food Supply
5km	√		
7.5km		√	
10km	√		
12.5km		√	√
15km	√		
17.5km		√	√
20km	√		
22.5km		√	√
25km	√		
27.5km		√	√
30km	√		
32.5km		√	√
35km	√		√
37.5km		√	√
40km	√		

Note: Elite athletes may collect their self-prepared beverages from the self-service supply stations set up for the race.

(10) Temporary Toilets and Environmental Protection

- ① Waste and raincoat disposal zones with clear signage are set at the start area, en-route, and at the finish area.
- ② Temporary toilets are set at the start area, along the course (at every 1 km from the 2 km to 4 km mark, and at every 2.5 km from the 5 km mark to the finish), and at the finish area.
- ③ Athletes are responsible for protecting the environment and must not litter raincoats, insulation blankets, bottles, or other waste, nor urinate or defecate in public areas. All trash and disposable items must be disposed of in the official bins or recycling stations provided by the Organizing Committee.
- ④ In support of event sustainability, the Organizing Committee encourages reducing the use of disposable items, choosing public transportation, and using the bag storage service only when necessary.

(11) Medical Aid

① Medical Aid Stations are placed at the start area, en-route, and at the finish area. In addition, mobile AED (Automated External Defibrillator) first aid teams and medical volunteers will be stationed along the course to assist with medical emergencies and help maintain race order. Athletes may request medical support as needed.

② On-site medical staff reserves the right to remove an athlete from the race in the best interest of the athlete's health and welfare. Athletes shall comply with medical instructions; failure to do so will make the athlete solely responsible for any resulting consequences or medical costs.

③ In the event that an athlete loses consciousness during the race, they automatically authorize the Organizing Committee to administer all necessary emergency measures, including but not limited to CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), AED, and rapid ambulance transportation. The athlete shall bear sole responsibility for any consequences or legal liabilities arising from such emergency treatment. This responsibility shall not extend to medical personnel, volunteers, or the Organizing Committee involved in the rescue efforts, except in cases of intentional misconduct or gross negligence.

(12) All athletes (including retired athletes) shall strictly comply with the relevant requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC) and the Anti-Doping Rules issued by the General Administration of Sport of China. Doping control for the GAC TOYOTA • Guangzhou Marathon 2025 shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the World Athletics Label Road Races Regulations 2025, the Compilation of Road Running Management Documents and the Road Running Anti-Doping Regulations issued by CAA, for the purpose of authorizing anti-doping testing for athletes.

(13) For more information regarding the race, please refer to the Official Program.

V. Registration

(1) Registration Eligibility

① Age Requirements

Athletes must be at least 20 years old in the year of the race (born on or before December 31, 2005, inclusive).

Note: Athletes aged 65 or above shall carefully assess their health status. They must submit a co-signed Declaration of Participation and Commitment to Health and Safety Responsibilities, signed by themselves and their family members (including spouse, parents, adult children, and other adult relatives living together).

② Performance Requirements

Athletes must have completed a full marathon or half marathon between January 1, 2023 (inclusive) and September 21, 2025 (inclusive). Proof of completion shall be submitted during registration. Results from virtual or online marathons will not be accepted.

③ Health Requirements

The Organizing Committee recommends that all athletes undergo a medical examination at a Grade 2A hospital or above before the race. Recommended tests include blood pressure measurement, a standard electrocardiogram (ECG), and either

a 24-hour Holter ECG or a treadmill exercise test (any one of these three is acceptable). If an athlete has hypertension or significant ECG abnormalities (e.g., significant bradycardia), a cardiac ultrasound test must be added. Please note that an ECG and a cardiac ultrasound cannot represent each other. Athletes should assess their health status based on the examination reports to ensure they are physically fit for long-distance running before registering for the race. Any personal injury or property loss resulting from an athlete's own health status during the race shall be the sole responsibility of the athlete.

Marathon is a high-intensity, high-load sport with inherent risks. Improper participation may result in varying degrees of physical injury, and in extreme cases, may even be life-threatening. Therefore, athletes must be in good health and have experience in running or have received necessary training.

Participation is not recommended for individuals with any of the following conditions:

- Congenital heart diseases, rheumatic heart diseases, myocarditis, or other heart diseases.
- Hypertension or cerebrovascular diseases.
- Coronary artery disease or severe arrhythmia.
- Experiencing moderate chest pain or severe coronary artery disease (angina) during mild activity.
- Diabetes, especially those with hyperglycemia or hypoglycemia.
- Having contracted a cold or other infectious disease within two weeks prior to the race, or having symptoms such as fever, dry cough, fatigue, decreased sense of smell and taste, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat, conjunctivitis, muscle pain, and diarrhea.
- Heavy drinking or insufficient sleep the night before the race.
- Suffering from respiratory or contact infectious diseases.
- Psychiatric patients or taking/using psychotropic drugs.
- Suffering from renal insufficiency.
- Epilepsy.
- Pregnancy.
- Other conditions not suitable for sports.

Note: Athletes are primarily responsible for their own health and should conduct thorough self-assessment prior to participation. They must monitor their physical condition before the race, particularly for sudden illnesses such as colds, fevers, or viral infections. Athletes should also review their medical history, including coronary artery disease (especially myocardial infarction), hypertension, and any family history of sudden death.

(2)Registration Method

① General Athletes

Registration for general athletes is available via the official GAC TOYOTA • Guangzhou Marathon 2025 website or through official partner apps ("MARAMARA" or "SHUZIXINDONG"). Group registrations are not accepted. If the number of

applicants exceeds the event capacity, entries will be determined by a lottery. Guaranteed entries are also offered to eligible athletes, including Guangzhou Marathon Loyal Runners, Guangzhou Marathon Elite Runners, Bank

For registration methods, procedures, and refund policies, please refer to the Registration Notice published on the official website or the WeChat official account.

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②Invitational Athletes

International Elite Athletes: The Organizing Committee will invite international elite athletes in a fair, just, and transparent manner, in accordance with the relevant requirements for athlete invitation and management as stipulated in the World Athletics Label Road Races Regulations 2025 and the Compilation of Road Running Management Documents issued by CAA.

Other Invitational Athletes: The event has designated invitational athletes, including pacers, medical aid runners, sponsor-guaranteed entrants, and partner media personnel. All such participants must meet the event's registration requirements.

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③Athletes with Disabilities

In accordance with the relevant requirements of the Notice on the Participation of Athletes with Disabilities in National Marathons and Related Sports Events issued by CAA, the rules for athletes with disabilities in this event are as follows:

Athletes with disabilities must meet registration eligibility and complete registration through the official website or official partner apps of the GAC TOYOTA • Guangzhou Marathon 2025. If the number of applicants exceeds the race capacity, a lottery will be conducted. Athletes with disabilities will participate in the lottery together with general athletes to determine eligibility for entry.

There will be no wheelchair racing division in this event, and racing wheelchairs are not permitted on the course. No exclusive assembly area will be set up for non-racing wheelchair athletes; they are required to start at the back of their assigned wave. Athletes must follow the instructions of referees and volunteers and start in an orderly manner.

Athletes with visual impairments, hearing impairments, intellectual disabilities, or upper limb disabilities will assemble and start together with general participants in their respective start areas.

For safety reasons, non-racing wheelchair athletes and visually impaired athletes must, after completing registration, submit their athlete information in accordance with the requirements on the official GAC TOYOTA • 2025 Guangzhou Marathon website. Visually impaired athletes must be accompanied by a chaperone throughout the race. Chaperone must be registered athletes and complete the information registration together with the athlete. (Please refer to the Registration Notice for details)

(3) Registration Fee: ¥160/Person.

Note: Entry quotas are not transferable under any circumstances. Athletes who have submitted their registration information and completed the payment can apply for a refund within the withdrawal service period. For more information, please refer to the Registration Notice and updates published on the official website and WeChat official account of the event.

(4) Race Package Pick-up

① Athletes will be notified by the Organizing Committee to check their official bib number after obtaining race qualification.

② Competition clothing, official bib number, timing chip and Participant's Guide (pocketbook) will be provided by the Organizing Committee. Athletes must bring a valid original ID and relevant certificates, and sign the Participation Commitment on site to collect the race package in person. The race package cannot be collected by proxy.

③ If athletes are unable to participate due to personal reasons and fail to apply for withdrawal within the designated withdrawal period, and also fail to collect their race package on time, the Organizing Committee will not provide race package delivery service.

④ Facial recognition and ID verification (valid ID provided during registration) will be used during race package collection. Athletes who choose facial recognition must complete facial biometrics collection at the package collection. This facial data will be used for ID verification during event-day roll-call and at the finish area. Athletes who choose ID verification must carry their original ID at all times on the event day for roll-call and the Finish verification. Please keep your ID secure. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to deny package pickup to any athlete whose identity does not match the information provided during registration.

VI. Awarding Method

(1) Ranking Prize (ranked by gun time)

The top 8 overall finishers in the Men's and Women's Marathon will be awarded as follows, respectively.

Men's Marathon			Women's Marathon		
Rank	Prize(USD)	Performance Requirements	Rank	Prize(USD)	Performance Requirements
1st	55000	under 2:07:30 (exclusive)	1st	55000	under 2:22:30 (exclusive)
	50000	over 2:07:30 (inclusive)		50000	over 2:22:30 (inclusive)
2nd	20000		2nd	20000	
3rd	10000		3rd	10000	
4th	5000		4th	5000	
5th	4000		5th	4000	
6th	3000		6th	3000	
7th	2000		7th	2000	
8th	1000		8th	1000	

(2) Record-Breaking Prize (ranked by gun time)

Men and women athletes who finish in first place in the marathon event and break the Guangzhou Marathon course record will be awarded as follows:

Men: under 2:06:28 (exclusive), \$20,000(USD).

Women: under 2:23:50 (exclusive), \$20,000(USD).

Note: The record-breaking prize can be awarded cumulatively with the ranking prize. Chinese athletes will receive the equivalent amount in CNY.

(3) Special Awards for Chinese Athletes (ranked by gun time)

Winning the first place in the Men's and Women's Marathon of Chinese athletes will each receive a reward of ¥30,000 (CNY).

Note: If an athlete qualifies for both the ranking prize and the special awards for Chinese athletes, only the higher of the two will be granted. Prize money will not be issued cumulatively.

(4) Ranking and Awarding Rules

All awards for this event will be ranked by gun time. If an athlete fails a doping test or is officially found to have violated race rules by the Organizing Committee, their ranking and award will be revoked. The ranking will be adjusted accordingly. Shoes worn by elite athletes and awarded athletes shall comply with the relevant regulations of World Athletics. Their competition clothing shall also comply with regulations regarding clothing advertisements. Failure to comply with these regulations will result in cancellation of the race results. For more details, please refer to the official website of World Athletics.

(5) All prize money is subject to a 20% personal income tax deduction in accordance with relevant regulations. In addition, according to the World Athletics Label Road Races Regulations 2025, a 2% levy will be applied to the prize money of the top 8 men and women finishers. This levy represents the elite athletes' contribution to the anti-doping fund. The Organizing Committee will deduct this contribution from the prize money and pay it directly to World Athletics.

(6) The top 3 overall finishers in the Men's and Women's Marathon (recipients of the Ranking Prize) will each receive a trophy and a medal.

(7) Athletes who finish within the cut-off time will receive post-race packages and medals upon presentation of their official race bib. Race results and certificates will be available for self-printing on the GAC TOYOTA •Guangzhou Marathon 2025 official website and official partner apps after the race. Split time, gun time, and net time will be listed on the certificate. Athletes who miss any split time point will be ineligible for ranking.

VII. Sportsmanship and Discipline

(1) All athletes shall comply with the relevant sportsmanship and discipline regulations as stipulated in the Sports Law of the People's Republic of China, the Administrative Measures for Sportsmanship and Discipline in Sports Events issued by the General Administration of Sport of China, and the Implementation Guidelines on Sportsmanship and Discipline in National Athletics Competitions and the Disciplinary Management Regulations for Road Running Events, both issued by CAA.

(2) Punishment

Video recording will be set at the start, every 5 km split point, the farthest turning point, and the finish line. Referees have the authority to remove athletes from the race, confiscate their bib on the spot, and disqualify them if they commit any of the following violations or any actions described in Chapter 4, Article 10 of the Implementation Guidelines on Sportsmanship and Discipline in National Athletics Competitions. After the race, if the Organizing Committee officially confirms a violation, penalties will be applied based on the severity of the offense, including cancellation of results for the GAC TOYOTA • Guangzhou Marathon 2025, a ban of 1–5 years, or a lifetime ban. The Chinese Athletics Association will also be notified for any additional penalties:

1. Registering with false age or identity, or having another person compete on one's behalf.
2. Concealing medical conditions when participating.
3. Altering, forging, transferring, or selling race bibs, forging documents, or using others' documents to commit fraud.
4. Not wearing the designated race apparel or not displaying the bib in accordance with event regulations.
5. Starting in the wrong assembly zone or wave.
6. Starting before the official start signal.
7. Entering the course in any vehicle.
8. Cutting the course, taking shortcuts, entering the course without starting from the official start line, or using transportation to re-enter the course.
9. Engaging in foul behaviors, including pushing, shoving, bumping, or tripping other participants.
10. Re-crossing the finish line to collect additional finisher items;
11. Collecting finisher items without completing the full course.
12. Disregarding instructions from race officials.
13. Verbal abuse, fighting, causing disturbances, and disrupting the event order.
14. Engaging in uncivil behavior on the course, including public urination, littering, or smoking.
15. Competing passively or not competing in earnest.
16. Violating anti-doping regulations.
17. Making inappropriate comments about the event that cause a negative impact.
18. Engaging in any other conduct contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship or ethical standards.
19. Committing any other violation of competition rules or regulations.

Anyone who obtains entry through improper means (including but not limited to transferring, stealing, or reselling race entries), uses a race bib not issued for this event, or engages in other violations, shall bear full responsibility for any consequences arising during the race. Once such violations are confirmed by the Organizing Committee, the individuals involved will be banned from participating in the Guangzhou Marathon for life. For serious violations or those that cause a negative social impact, the Organizing Committee will report the matter to the relevant

authorities for legal action.

VIII. Insurance

(1) Insurance coverage will be provided for all athletes and staff members, based on the registration information submitted. If false information results in failure to obtain insurance coverage, the individual involved will bear full responsibility for any consequences arising during the race. Those who engage in bib swapping, unauthorized running, reselling entries, or using a race bib not issued for this event will not be eligible for insurance coverage.

(2) Athletes agree and acknowledge that they are solely responsible for any costs incurred for non-race-related and/or non-emergency medical treatment, care, or first aid due to personal health reasons. After settling such expenses directly with hospitals or other relevant parties, athletes must handle insurance claims with the insurance company themselves, following all applicable procedures and requirements. All documents, receipts, and supporting materials needed for insurance claims must be kept by the athlete and provided to the insurance company.

(3) Details of the Personal Insurance Policy can be found on the official website of the GAC TOYOTA • Guangzhou Marathon 2025 prior to the event.