

2026 Xi'an Marathon Competition Rules

I、 Competition Events, Date and Venue

Event	Date	Time	Venue
Men's and Women's Marathon	Sunday, October 18, 2026	7:30	Xi'an, China
Men's and Women's Half Marathon	Sunday, October 18, 2026	7:30	Xi'an, China

II、 Race Route

(1) Marathon (42.195 km)

Route: East Side Ramp of Yongning Gate South Square (Start) → South Street → Bell Tower Roundabout → East Street → East Gate Roundabout → North Section of Huancheng East Road → Chaoyangmen Underpass Tunnel → North Section of Huancheng East Road → Taihua South Road → Taihua North Road → Yongshun Road → Yongshun East Road → Yujing Road → Yonglong Road → Chanba 3rd Road → Guangyun Avenue → Ouya Avenue → Bahe East Road → North Side Auxiliary Road of East Third Ring Road → Exhibition 1st Road → Ouya Avenue → Bahe East Road → Shangshan Lane → Shangshan Lane Turnaround (turn back) → Shangshan Lane → Bahe East Road → Turnaround at south side of Bahe East Road and HeDi Road (turn back) → Bahe East Road → South Side Road of Xi'an Olympic Sports Center West Square → Xi'an Olympic Sports Center Stadium (Finish)

(2) Half Marathon (21.0975 km)

Route: East Side Ramp of Yongning Gate South Square (Start) → South Street → Bell Tower Roundabout → East Street → East Gate Roundabout → North Section of Huancheng East Road → Chaoyangmen Underpass Tunnel → North Section of Huancheng East Road → Taihua South Road → Taihua North Road → Yongshun Road → Yongshun East Road → Yujing Road → Yonglong Road → Chanba 3rd Road → Guangyun Avenue → Ouya Avenue → Bahe East Road → North Side Auxiliary Road of East Third Ring Road → Exhibition 1st Road → Exhibition 1st Road (Xi'an International Convention and Exhibition Center) (Finish)

III. Competition Rules

(1) The competition shall be conducted in accordance with the Athletics Competition and Technical Rules 2025 approved by the Chinese Athletics Association, the latest amendments of World Athletics, the Chinese Athletics Association Road Race Event Management System Documents (latest version) and its latest amendments, and the competition regulations of this marathon.

(2) In accordance with the Chinese Athletics Association's Notice on the Participation of Athletes with Disabilities in National Marathons and Related Sports Events, disabled athletes who meet the competition requirements are permitted to participate in this event.

(3) Check-in Procedures

- 1.**Check-in by zones:** The start zones are assigned based on the best performance of the applicant in marathon or half-marathon events certified as "Class A Events" by the Chinese Athletics Association during the period from September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026, as recorded on the China Marathon Information Platform. Athletes must enter the designated assembly zone. After the zone assignment is announced, the Organizing Committee will open a zone appeal portal on the official website. Athletes may submit appeal materials within three calendar days by uploading valid race certificates from CAA-certified Class A events, World Athletics Label events, or AIMS-certified events held between September 1, 2024 and August 31, 2026. Failure to submit valid appeal materials within the prescribed period will be deemed as waiver of the appeal right, and the Organizing Committee will no longer accept such appeals; the relevant consequences shall be borne by the athlete.
- 2.Marathon elite and invited athletes have separate check-in and starting areas.
- 3.Wheelchair athletes shall undergo separate check-in and start procedures. A dedicated area will be set up at the rear of the last assembly zone for the competition events. Wheelchair athletes must complete pre-race check-in and start strictly within this area and are strictly prohibited from entering other athletes' assembly or start areas. Due to course constraints, no racing wheelchair category is offered, and racing wheelchair athletes are not permitted to participate.
- 4.The Organizing Committee will place check-in timing mats in front of each zone. Athletes must enter the race according to their assigned zone. After the start signal, a participant's time will only be valid if they first pass the check-in mat of their zone and then the start timing mat.
- 5.Participants must wear appropriate sports attire and ensure their bib numbers are clearly visible. Costumes or accessories that obscure identity (masks/head covers), have sharp or hard protrusions, are likely to fall off, are trailing and prone to entanglement, are oversized and obstruct passage or require stopping for performance, or are overly revealing, vulgar, bizarre, involve political, religious, or discriminatory/offensive content, are prohibited on the course. Those who fail to comply must make corrections before check-in; violators will be disqualified.
- 6.Except for the participants themselves, no other persons (including children or infants who do not meet the age requirement, and unaccredited accompanying persons) and no non-essential items (including but not limited to flags, banners, baby strollers,

skateboards, balance bikes, roller skates, pets, etc.) are allowed to enter the check-in area, assembly area, race course, or finish chute. Violators will be disqualified.

(4) Start and Gun Firing

A wave start system will be adopted, with gunfire at 7:30, 7:40, and 8:00 respectively. Athletes in each wave must start strictly at the designated time. If a participant makes an invalid start, the race will not be stopped; the referee will directly disqualify that participant.

(5) Timing Methods

1.This event uses transponder timing for both the marathon and half-marathon. Timing chips start when the participant crosses the start line (net time). The top eight male and female finishers in the marathon use gun time for ranking; other award winners use net time. Half-marathon award winners use net time.

2.Timing mats are placed at the start, every 5 km, at 21.0975 km (half-marathon), at turnarounds, and at the finish. Participants must pass over all timing mats on the course sequentially. Anyone who finishes within the official cut-off time but misses any timing mat point will have their final result disqualified and will not be ranked.

3.Timing chips will be distributed together with bib numbers and other race materials at the registration site. Disposable timing chips are used; no deposit is required and they will not be collected after the race.

(6) Cut-off Times and Distances

To ensure the safety of participants, traffic will be managed by rolling closures along the race route. Each section has a designated cut-off time. At the cut-off time, timing mats at the corresponding kilometre point stop working and traffic resumes. Participants who have not passed the corresponding distance within the cut-off time must immediately stop racing, withdraw from the course, and may take a sweeper bus to the finish or use public transport. The cut-off times are calculated by actual clock time as follows:

Event	Distance	Cut-off Time		
		1st gun (7:30)	2nd gun (7:40)	3rd gun (8:00)
Marathon & Half Marathon	5KM	8: 25	8: 35	8: 55
	10KM	9: 00	9: 10	9: 30
	15KM	9: 40	9: 50	10:10
	20KM	10: 20	10: 30	10:50
Half Marathon	21.0975KM	10: 30	10: 40	11: 00
Marathon	25KM	11: 15	11: 25	11: 45
	30KM	11: 45	11: 55	12: 15
	35KM	12: 30	12: 40	13: 00
	40KM	13: 05	13: 15	13: 45
	42.195KM	13: 30	13: 40	14: 00

Notes:

- 1.No participants will be allowed to enter the course after 20 minutes from the third gun.

2. After each cut-off time, traffic control will be lifted and vehicles may resume. Anyone who forcibly remains on the course beyond the cut-off time will bear all safety and legal liabilities.

(7) Refreshment and Drinking/Water Stations

No.	Kilometre	Drinking/Water	Water	Food/energy supply
1	5KM	√		
2	7.5KM	√	√	
3	10KM	√		
4	12.5KM	√	√	
5	15KM	√		√
6	17.5KM	√	√	
7	20KM	√		√
8	20KM (half)	√		√
9	22.5KM	√	√	√
10	25KM	√		√
11	27.5KM	√	√	√
12	30KM	√		√
13	32.5KM	√	√	√
14	35KM	√		√
15	37.5KM	√	√	√
16	40KM	√		

Note: Some stations along the course will have self-supply tables for elite and invited athletes, covered with red tablecloths and video-recorded throughout. Only the athlete him/herself may take their own supplies. Taking another athlete's self-supply without returning it promptly will result in disqualification; serious cases may lead to additional penalties.

(8) Toilets, Spraying, and Environmental Protection

1. The Organizing Committee will provide mobile toilets at the start, along the course (every 2.5 km from 2.5 km to the finish), and at the finish.
2. The Organizing Committee will set up spraying equipment according to weather conditions.
3. Participants must take care of the city environment; stepping on green belts, flower beds, or other landscaping is strictly prohibited. All waste (including packaging, bottles/cans, rainwear, thermal blankets, etc.) must be disposed of in designated collection points, waste bins, or public rubbish bins. Please compete in a civilised manner and keep the course clean.

(9) Baggage Deposit and Retrieval

1. Participants may deposit baggage at the designated area at the start according to their bib number segment, and collect the baggage at the corresponding finish area. Only the official race bag provided by the Organizing Committee may be used for deposit. The Organizing Committee will not inspect the contents of the deposited bags and

therefore will not accept any claims regarding the condition of items upon retrieval, nor will it be liable for loss or damage. It is recommended not to place valuables such as mobile phones, documents, or cash in the deposit bag.

2. On race day, baggage deposit services at the start will cease 20 minutes before each gun. Please arrange your time accordingly. Half-marathon participants must collect their deposited items by 11:45 on race day; marathon participants by 14:45. Items not collected by that time may be claimed from the Organizing Committee within 5 days after the race; shipping costs (if any) shall be borne by the participant. Items not claimed after the deadline will be treated as abandoned.

(10) Medical Aid

1. The Organizing Committee will set up fixed medical stations along the course and at each finish area.
2. The Organizing Committee will deploy mobile AED emergency medical services along the course.
3. First-aid volunteers will be stationed along the course to assist with medical care and maintain order; participants may seek help from them at any time.
4. During the race, if a participant loses consciousness, they shall be deemed to have automatically entrusted the medical staff and first-aid volunteers of the Organizing Committee to take all necessary emergency measures, including but not limited to CPR, AED defibrillation, hired vehicle transport, and other appropriate transport. All legal liabilities and associated costs shall be borne by the participant, and no legal or financial liability shall be sought against the medical personnel, first-aid volunteers, or the Organizing Committee.
5. Medical staff at stations, ambulances, and first-aid personnel have the authority to determine if a participant should stop racing and to order them to withdraw. Participants must obey the decisions of medical and first-aid personnel. Any participant who ignores such advice and continues racing assumes all resulting consequences and liabilities. Any medical staff on the course who requests a participant to withdraw must be obeyed immediately.

6. To safeguard participants' lives, the Organizing Committee's authorized referees and staff have the right to stop any participant who is clearly unable to continue the race.

(11) Elite Athletes

Elite athletes consist of international elite athletes and domestic elite athletes. International elite athletes are foreign athletes meeting the event's classification and qualification standards; domestic elite athletes are athletes currently on the National

Anti-Doping Agency's Registered Testing Pool and Testing Pool. The half-marathon does not have elite athletes.

- 1.**Check-in:** Elite athletes have separate check-in and warm-up areas. All elite athletes must present their original identification documents on race day for check-in and start in the elite area.
 - 2.**Start and Timing:** All elite athletes start with the first gun. Their race results are measured by gun time. If an elite athlete makes an invalid start, the race will not be stopped but the referee will disqualify them.
 - 3.**Self-supplied Drinks:** Self-supply drink stations are set up approximately every 5 km. Elite athletes may submit their own drinks at a designated time and place on the day before the race and retrieve them at the corresponding stations. Detailed arrangements will be announced at the technical meeting.
 - 4.**Competition Clothing and Shoes:** All elite athletes' competition clothing must comply with the World Athletics Clothing and Advertising Regulations, and their shoes must be listed on the World Athletics Approved Shoe List. Violations will result in disqualification.
 - 5.**Technical Meeting:** The technical meeting will be held one day before the race. All elite athletes must attend with their original ID, competition clothing, and shoes.
- (12) This event will conduct doping controls in accordance with the relevant regulations of World Athletics and the Chinese Athletics Association. Participants (including retired athletes) must strictly comply with the World Anti-Doping Code and the Anti-Doping Rules issued by the General Administration of Sport of China.
- (13) For other specific arrangements and requirements of the competition, please refer to the official Race Manual.

IV. Participation Requirements

(1) Age Requirements

- 1.Marathon: participants must be at least 20 years old in the year of the race (born on or before December 31, 2006).
- 2.Half-marathon: participants must be at least 18 years old in the year of the race (born on or before December 31, 2008).

Note: Participants aged 65 or above (born on or before December 31, 1961) are required to strengthen self-health assessment and submit a Participation Undertaking signed by themselves and at least one family member (including spouse, parents, adult children, or adult close relatives living together) before collecting race materials. Those who

fail to submit as required will not be issued race materials and will not be permitted to check in.

(2) Physical Condition Requirements

1. Marathon and related sports are challenging and carry certain risks. For safety, participants must be in good health and have adequate running training for the event they enter. The following conditions are not suitable for participation:

- (1) Congenital heart disease, rheumatic heart disease, myocarditis, or other heart diseases;
- (2) Hypertension and cerebrovascular diseases;
- (3) Coronary artery disease and severe arrhythmias;
- (4) Those who experience moderate chest pain during light activity or have severe coronary artery disease (angina);
- (5) Diabetes with excessively high or low blood sugar;
- (6) Those who have had a cold or abnormal temperature within two weeks before race day;
- (7) Those who consumed alcohol or had insufficient sleep the night before the race;
- (8) Pregnant women;
- (9) Other diseases or conditions not suitable for exercise.

2. Participants should undergo a medical examination at a Grade II or above hospital within 12 months before the race, including blood pressure, routine electrocardiogram (ECG), 24-hour dynamic ECG, or exercise treadmill test (any one of the three is sufficient). If blood pressure is too high or ECG shows obvious abnormalities (e.g., significant bradycardia), a cardiac ultrasound is required for further evaluation. ECG and cardiac ultrasound cannot substitute each other.

(3) Elite Athlete Registration

In accordance with the Chinese Athletics Association Road Race Event Management Measures, elite athletes and their agents must contact the Organizing Committee through official channels to register.

(4) General Athlete Registration

All others not classified as elite athletes register as general participants.

1. The marathon quota is 24,000 participants, and the half-marathon quota is 12,000. If registrations exceed the quota, a "lottery with waitlist" system will determine participation.

2. For specific registration methods, procedures, lottery rules, waitlist and withdrawal procedures, please refer to the Registration Guide on the official website.

3. Apart from elite athletes, the Organizing Committee may, based on actual event organization and promotion needs, invite pacers, sponsor representatives, and partner media personnel as special invitees.

(5) Performance Requirements for General Participants

For the marathon, participants must have at least one full marathon result or two half-marathon results within the 24 months prior to the registration deadline. For the half-marathon, participants must have at least two results from races of 10 km or longer within the same period. Completion certificates must include at least the race date, participant's real name, distance (or event name indicating distance), and finish time.

(6) Registration for Athletes with Disabilities

The registration procedures for disabled athletes refer to the relevant provisions of the Notice on the Participation of Athletes with Disabilities in National Marathons and Related Sports Events on the Chinese Athletics Association's official website:

1. Due to course constraints, no racing wheelchair category is offered, and racing wheelchair athletes are not permitted.
2. Disabled (including wheelchair) athletes must meet the age, health, and performance requirements for the event they enter and pay the entry fee as required.
3. At the start, visually impaired, hearing-impaired, intellectually disabled, and upper-limb-disabled athletes will assemble and check in with able-bodied athletes in their respective zones. For the safety of wheelchair athletes and others, wheelchair athletes for the marathon and half-marathon must assemble and check in at the rear of the last assembly zone and start with the corresponding gun.
4. During the race, for the safety of all participants, visually impaired athletes must have a guide runner accompanying them throughout. Visually impaired athletes must, during the preliminary registration phase, send their disability certificate and information of a pre-registered accompanying guide to the official email address. Other disabled athletes are also encouraged to bring a companion.

(7) Entry Fee

1. Marathon: RMB 200/person
2. Half-marathon: RMB 200/person

V. Prize Money and Awards

(1) Marathon Event Placement Prizes:

The top eight male and female finishers (by gun time) will receive the following cash prizes (RMB, in Yuan):

Men		Women	
Rank	Prize	Rank	Prize
1	80000	1	80000
2	60000	2	60000
3	50000	3	50000
4	40000	4	40000
5	30000	5	30000
6	20000	6	20000
7	10000	7	10000
8	6000	8	6000

(2) Half-Marathon Placement Prizes:

The top eight male and female finishers (by net time) will receive the following cash prizes (RMB, in Yuan):

Men		Women	
Rank	Prize	Rank	Prize
1	30000	1	30000
2	20000	2	20000
3	15000	3	15000
4	10000	4	10000
5	5000	5	5000
6	4000	6	4000
7	3000	7	3000
8	2000	8	2000

(3) Marathon Course Record Bonus: The first-place male and female marathon finishers, if their finish time breaks the course record (men under 02:10:41, women under 02:29:37), will each receive an additional RMB 20,000.

(4) Mass Fitness Award: Male and female finishers ranked 9th to 108th overall (by net time) in both the marathon and half-marathon will each receive RMB 200.

(5) Prize money will be paid to the winners within 30 days after the race (for those subject to doping control, payment will be made after results are confirmed). If a doping test is positive, the athlete's results, ranking, and prizes will be cancelled, and places will not be reassigned.

(6) All prize amounts are subject to a 20% individual income tax, to be withheld by the Organizing Committee.

(7) The top three male and female marathon finishers will be presented with trophies and medals on site; the half-marathon will not have an on-site award ceremony.

(8) The top three male and female finishers in each age group (by net time) in the marathon will receive a commemorative trophy, which will be mailed after the results announcement period. Age groups are determined by 2026 minus year of birth: ≤ 34 , 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, and ≥ 65 .

(9) All finishers within the cut-off time will receive finish gifts and a finisher medal upon presentation of their valid bib number and event wristband.

(10) Marathon finishers within the cut-off time may apply for a finisher's jacket via the official website after the race; details will be announced on the website.

(11) Participants who finish within the cut-off time can check their results on the official website 24 hours after the race. Runners ranked outside the top 108 in both events may download their result certificate immediately. The certificate includes gun time, net time, etc. If any timing mat point is missing, the participant will be disqualified in accordance with World Athletics rules.

(12) The top 108 results in both the marathon and half-marathon will be posted on the official website for a 10-day public display within 24 hours after the race. During the display period, any athlete with a query regarding their result should contact the Organizing Committee with valid evidence. The top 108 athletes may download their certificates only after the display period ends.

VI. Sportsmanship, Discipline, and Penalties

(1) Participants must comply with the Sports Law of the People's Republic of China, the Measures for the Management of Sportsmanship and Discipline in Sports Events issued by the General Administration of Sport of China, and the relevant provisions on sportsmanship and discipline in the Chinese Athletics Association's Detailed Rules for the Management of Sportsmanship and Discipline in National Athletics Events and the Chinese Athletics Association Road Race Discipline Management Regulations.

(2) Penalties

1. To strengthen discipline management, the Organizing Committee strictly prohibits the unauthorised transfer (sale) or acceptance (purchase) of race entries. Any form of bib swapping, bandit running, forged bib numbers, or use of unofficial bib numbers is forbidden. Any violator will be permanently banned from the Xi'an Marathon and reported to the Chinese Athletics Association for additional sanctions. All consequences arising from such violations shall be borne by the violator; the Organizing Committee reserves the right to pursue legal liability for any economic losses or serious impacts.
2. Video surveillance will be conducted at the start, along the entire route, and at the finish. The following violations will be penalised according to the competition rules and regulations, with measures ranging from criticism, internal reprimand, required written review, suspension, disqualification, result cancellation, public notice, warning, serious warning, restriction or prohibition from participating in this and/or future events, and in serious cases referral to the CAA for a ban of 1-3 years from national road race events and activities; particularly serious cases may result in a lifetime ban:

- (1) Registering with false age or identity;
- (2) Concealing health conditions;
- (3) Impersonation, forging/altering bib numbers and credentials;
- (4) Failure to wear required competition clothing and bib number correctly;
- (5) Carrying two or more timing chips;
- (6) Completing the race in relay format;
- (7) Starting in a non- assigned start zone;
- (8) False starting (jumping the gun);
- (9) Not following the prescribed route, taking shortcuts, entering the course after riding a vehicle, etc.;
- (10) Unsportsmanlike behaviour (e.g., urinating in public, littering);
- (11) Pushing, shoving, bumping, tripping, stepping on other participants;
- (12) General athletes taking self-supplied drinks from the red-table-cloth tables reserved for elite/invited athletes;
- (13) Negative racing or lack of effort to gain unfair advantage;
- (14) Passing the finish line repeatedly or passing without completing the race to claim finish items;
- (15) Smoking on the course;
- (16) Disobeying official instructions;
- (17) Insults, fighting, or causing disturbances during the event;
- (18) Making inappropriate remarks about the event that cause negative impact;
- (19) Any other acts contrary to sportsmanship and morality with negative impact;
- (20) Any other violations of competition rules and regulations.

VII. Insurance

The Organizing Committee provides insurance for all participants and staff. Coverage is based on the registration information; any incorrect information may result in failure to obtain insurance, and the registrant shall bear the responsibility.

Special notes:

- 1.The insurance purchased by the Organizing Committee is personal accident insurance. However, adverse effects caused by pre-existing diseases or physical conditions are not covered by accident insurance. Participants are advised to register with caution.
- 2.If a participant suffers injury or death due to doping or other prohibited substances during the race, the participant shall bear full responsibility.

VIII. Technical Delegates, Technical Officials, and Referees

Appointed by World Athletics, the Chinese Athletics Association, the Shaanxi Athletics Association, and the Xi'an Athletics Association.

IX. Race Cancellation/Mitigation Mechanism

In the event of natural disasters, accidents, public health incidents, social security incidents, or other circumstances that make it unsafe to continue the race, the Organizing Committee may, at its discretion, change the route, postpone the start, terminate the race early, or cancel the event. Regardless of the decision, all participants must comply with the Organizing Committee's arrangements.

X. Assumption of Risk

The Civil Code of the People's Republic of China contains a provision on "assumption of risk" in cultural and sports activities. Article 1176 states: A person who voluntarily participates in a cultural or sports activity with certain risks shall not seek tort liability from other participants for injuries caused by the actions of other participants, unless the other participant acted with intent or gross negligence.

The organiser of a mass activity that fails to fulfil its duty of safety and causes harm to others shall bear tort liability.