

THE MASS HALF

Participant & Registration Policies

Get ready to join us at the starting line.

To help create a safe, welcoming, fair, and enjoyable experience for everyone, all participants are expected to review and follow the policies below. These policies apply to The Mass Half and related race-weekend activities unless otherwise noted. These policies apply to all events associated with The Mass Half unless otherwise noted. The Mass Half and United Way of Central Massachusetts reserve the right to modify these policies as needed with notice as reasonably possible. Participants are responsible for reviewing the most current policies and race communications before race day.

Before You Register

Registration

All participants must register through the official event registration platform. Registration is subject to availability and may close when event capacity is reached. Participants are responsible for providing accurate and complete registration information.

Registration benefits may include:

- Official race bib and timing
- Finisher medal for Half Marathon participants
- Official race shirt, subject to availability and registration deadlines

- On-course hydration and participant support
- Participant giveaways, when available

Specific registration inclusions may vary by event and registration type.

Participant Eligibility

Participants must meet the minimum age requirements established for each event. Participants are responsible for reviewing the age requirements before registering. Participants under the age of 18 may be required to provide parental or guardian consent. Additional eligibility requirements may apply to specific events, divisions, or race categories.

Pricing

Registration pricing, price increases, discounts, promotions, and applicable deadlines will be announced during the registration period. Registration fees are based on the price in effect at the time of registration and are subject to change as published.

Race Capacity & Waitlist

The Mass Half will initially be capped at 2,500 runners. Additional spots may open if it is determined that more participants can be safely accommodated. Once the race reaches capacity, a waitlist will be implemented. Joining the waitlist does not guarantee entry into the race, but it will provide individuals with priority access to register if additional spots become available. Waitlisted participants will be contacted in order as spots open, with registration offered on a first-come, first-served basis among those on the waitlist.

Refund Policy

Optional registration protection may be available through RunSignUp at the time of registration. The Mass Half and United Way of Central Massachusetts do not issue refunds for injury, illness, travel conflicts, scheduling conflicts, weather, or other personal circumstances. The Mass Half does not process or guarantee registration protection claims.

Registration Transfers

Participants may transfer their registration to another eligible individual through the official registration platform, subject to the published deadline and any applicable transfer fee. Transfers must be completed through the official registration process. Participants may not sell, transfer, or otherwise assign their registration outside of the approved process. Once a transfer is completed, the original participant may no longer participate using that registration.

Deferrals

Participants may request to defer their registration to a future event, subject to the published deadline and eligibility requirements. Deferrals are not guaranteed and may be subject to an administrative fee or other restrictions.

Charity Bib Program

The Mass Half also offers participants the opportunity to fundraise directly for United Way of Central Massachusetts. Separately, The Mass Half is proud to partner with local nonprofit organizations through the Charity Bib Program. Selected nonprofit partners receive designated race entries for participants who choose to fundraise on their behalf. Charity Bib participants are responsible for meeting the fundraising requirements established by their selected charity. Charity Bib participants are responsible for meeting all applicable fundraising requirements established by their selected charity. See the Charity Bib Program page to learn more.

Event Cancellation

If the event is canceled, postponed, shortened, or otherwise modified due to weather, emergency conditions, public safety concerns, government requirements, or other circumstances beyond the organizers' control, refunds, credits, deferrals, or other remedies are not guaranteed unless specifically announced by the event organizers. Participants should review official event communications for information regarding any changes to the event. Participants who purchase optional registration protection should review the terms and conditions of that protection directly through RunSignUp.

Preparing for Race Day

Race Time Limit

The Mass Half has a 3.5-hour time limit, which is approximately a 16:02-minute-per-mile pace. Participants of all abilities are welcome, provided they can complete the course within the designated timeframe. Participants who are unable to maintain the required pace may be directed to continue outside the official race course or transported to the finish area.

Race Bibs

Participants must wear their assigned race bib visibly on the front of their body at all times during the race. Race bibs may not be duplicated, altered, defaced, or reproduced. Lost, damaged, or stolen bibs should be reported to race staff as soon as possible. Replacement policies may apply. Bibs are non-transferable once distributed.

Packet Pickup

Participants must follow the published packet pickup schedule and procedures. Participants are responsible for obtaining their race materials before the applicable deadline unless race-day pickup is specifically offered. If another individual is permitted to pick up a participant's packet, the event may require the participant's confirmation and/or additional identification. Packet pickup policies and requirements will be communicated before race weekend. **There will be NO packet pickup on race day.**

Headphones

Headphones are permitted. Participants are responsible for remaining aware of their surroundings and must be able to hear race announcements, volunteers, emergency personnel, public safety officials, and other participants.

Hydration Equipment

The following hydration equipment is permitted:

- Handheld water bottles
- Hydration belts
- Hydration packs
- Glass containers are prohibited.

Participants are responsible for safely carrying and securing all personal hydration equipment throughout the race.

Strollers

As a USATF-sanctioned event, strollers are not permitted on the race course. Participants may not run or walk the race while pushing a stroller.

Dogs & Pets

Pets are not permitted on the race course or within restricted race areas. ADA service animals are permitted in accordance with applicable law.

Accessibility & Accommodations

The Mass Half is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience. Participants who require an accommodation should contact the race team as early as possible before race day so that reasonable accommodations can be discussed and arranged when possible. Participants using adaptive equipment should contact the race team no later than 30 days prior to race date so that reasonable accommodations can be discussed and arranged when possible.

Race Day

Course Conduct

Participants must remain on the designated race course and follow all course markings, signage, traffic-control instructions, and directions from race officials, volunteers, police, and public safety personnel. Participants may not intentionally obstruct, interfere with, or impede other participants, pedestrians, residents, businesses, or event operations. Unauthorized vehicles, bicycles, or other individuals may not accompany participants on the race course.

Sportsmanship & Conduct

Participants are expected to treat volunteers, staff, fellow participants, spectators, and public safety personnel with courtesy and respect. Harassment, threatening behavior, abusive language, discrimination, or other unsportsmanlike conduct may result in removal from the event, disqualification, or prohibition from future events.

Medical & Safety

Participants are expected to follow all instructions from race officials, medical personnel, police, volunteers, and other public safety personnel. Race officials may remove a participant from the course if they determine that continuing to participate presents a safety concern for the participant or others. If you require medical assistance during the race, notify a course volunteer, medical personnel, or race official as soon as possible.

Weather & Emergency Conditions

Race officials reserve the right to delay, modify, shorten, postpone, or cancel any portion of the event if weather, emergency conditions, public safety concerns, course conditions, or other circumstances create an unsafe environment. Decisions regarding race operations will be made by event organizers in consultation with appropriate public safety and emergency personnel. If the event is modified, postponed, or canceled, participants will be notified through official event communications whenever possible.

Prohibited Items

For the safety of participants, volunteers, staff, and spectators, the following items are prohibited on the race course:

- Bicycles
- Skateboards
- Scooters
- Roller skates/Rollerblades
- Hoverboards
- Motorized recreational devices

- Drones
- Pets, except permitted service animals
- Glass containers
- Any item deemed unsafe by race officials or public safety personnel

Additional restrictions may be announced based on security, public safety, or venue requirements.

Photography & Media

By participating in The Mass Half and related race-weekend activities, participants acknowledge that photographs, video, and other recordings may be taken by United Way of Central Massachusetts, event partners, sponsors, media, or authorized representatives.

By participating, you grant United Way of Central Massachusetts permission to use your image, likeness, voice, and participation in photographs, video, and other media for legitimate promotional, marketing, communications, and archival purposes without compensation.

Timing

Race times will be recorded using an official timing company. Participants must cross designated timing points to receive an official result. Participants must complete the designated course as marked. Cutting the course or intentionally missing a portion of the course may result in disqualification. Participants may not participate without an assigned race bib and valid registration.

After You Register

Confirmation & Race Communications

After registering, participants may receive:

- Registration confirmation
- Important race updates

- Participant Guide
- Packet pickup information
- Race-week communications
- Course and race-day information
- Emergency or operational updates, when necessary
- Participants are responsible for providing a valid email address and monitoring race communications leading up to the event.
- Participants should add The Mass Half race team email address to their contacts to help ensure important race communications are received.

Registration Changes

Any changes to registration information, race category, participant information, or other registration details must be completed through the official registration platform or by contacting the race team before the applicable deadline. Changes may not be available after published deadlines.

Policy Enforcement

The Mass Half reserves the right to disqualify, remove, or prohibit participation by any individual who violates these policies, fails to follow instructions from race officials or public safety personnel, or engages in conduct that may compromise the safety or experience of others.

Race officials have final authority regarding the enforcement of event policies and race-day decisions.

Fundraising

Participants may fundraise through The Mass Half in several ways. Participants may run on behalf of an approved Charity Partner through the Charity Bib Program and meet the fundraising

minimum established by that organization. See the Charity Bib page on the website for details. Participants who register through general registration may also choose to fundraise for United Way of Central Massachusetts with no required minimum. Through the Give Meaning to Miles program, participants may elect to set a \$1,000 fundraising minimum during registration; those who meet the minimum by the designated deadline will receive a reimbursement of their race registration fee. See below for more details.

Give Meaning to Miles Program

Participants who register through general registration may elect to set a \$1,000 fundraising minimum during registration and receive reimbursement on their registration fees.

To qualify for reimbursement, participants must raise at least \$1,000 for United Way of Central Massachusetts through their official The Mass Half fundraising page by the designated fundraising deadline. Registration processing fees, donations, merchandise, and other registration-related purchases are not eligible for reimbursement.

Participants who do not reach the \$1,000 minimum will not receive a registration reimbursement. There is no fundraising requirement for participants who do not opt into the program.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers may support The Mass Half during race weekend in a variety of roles, including the Pre-Race Expo, registration and runner check-in, course support, aid stations, start/finish areas, and other event operations. Volunteer opportunities will be available to individuals and groups, subject to event needs and availability.

Individuals interested in volunteering can sign up through the Volunteer Registration page on The Mass Half website. Specific roles, shifts, locations, and responsibilities will be provided to registered volunteers in advance of race weekend.

Questions?

For questions regarding registration, participant policies, accessibility, or race-day procedures, please contact The Mass Half race team at themasshalf@unitedwaycm.org. Additional race information, including course information, packet pickup details, and race-day instructions, will be provided as the event approaches.