

# **ATHENS GA HALF MARATHON** OCTOBER 22-23, 2011

## **RULES AND RACE INSTRUCTIONS**

### **DIRECTIONS TO PACKET PICK-UP & HEALTH FITNESS EXPO**

The Holiday Inn Express is the location of the Expo and Packet Pickup. The Holiday Inn Express is located at 513 West Broad Street in Downtown Athens. The front desk phone number is (706) 546-8122. Please do not confuse this hotel with the Holiday Inn Athens (also located in Broad Street).

Packet pick up will be held at the Half Marathon Health and Fitness Expo on Saturday, October 22nd between 12pm and 6pm. If you are unavailable to pick up your packet at that time, your packet will be reserved behind the front desk for you. Please be prepared to show a photo ID.

### **STARTING LINE AND FINISH LINE**

The starting line for the course is on North Campus of UGA at 215 South Thomas Street. This is an easy walk from all downtown hotels. Participants and spectators that can walk to the start and finish are strongly encouraged to do so. Participants should stage themselves behind the line based on their estimated finish times. Labeled pace groups, pace team leaders, and event organizers will assist in staging.

The Finish Line for the race is located on the 100 block of West Clayton Street in Downtown Athens. Beverages and food will be provided to all participants. Additional food and beverages will be available from local vendors in the courtyard adjacent to the Finish Line. The Finish Line will also be the location of the primary medical assistance station for the race.

### **PARKING**

We highly recommend parking in the North Campus Deck on the UGA campus located at 231 South Jackson Street. We have permission to use it. It is free Sunday mornings, and it will hold 1200 cars. The Start Line is located directly behind the deck at 215 South Thomas St. This is an amazingly convenient place to park. This Deck is about 6 or 8 blocks downhill from the Finish Line, so it should be a short, easy walk back after the race..

If you or your family and friends need to park at the Finish Line, you can park in the brand new Washington Street Parking Deck. It is free to park there on Sunday mornings and it holds over 500 cars. You will need to enter and exit from the Washington Street side (125 West Washington Street) because the Finish Line is literally on the back side of the Deck on Clayton Street and that entrance will be closed for the race.

### **BIBS AND RACE TIMING**

Each participant will be provided with a race bib that must be affixed with safety pins (provided) to the FRONT of the participant's clothing in a manner that is clearly readable to course officials. Each bib is imbedded with a "bib-tag" that will properly record the participant's race time. The tag self-activates when the participant crosses the starting line. Several mats will be positioned along the racecourse - each participant must cross every mat to receive an official time. Bibs and the embedded chip do not need to be returned.

Participants will be corralled at the start based on estimated finish times; however timing for each individual does not start until that participant crosses the starting line. Participants must position themselves in the proper corral.

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## **RACE**

Open winners will be determined by “gun time.” It is the responsibility of participants to position themselves accordingly at the starting line. Age division winners will be determined by “chip time.” The timing decisions of Event Technical Services, Inc. are final.

## **GEAR CHECK**

A gear check is provided at the start of the race. Gear bags will be available for pick up near the Finish Line. If a participant would like to shed clothing during the race (such as a sweatshirt), it is requested that this be done at or near a hydration station.

## **DISCARDED ITEMS**

Clothing (sweatshirts, etc.) discarded on the racecourse will not be returned. Items will be collected and donated to a local homeless shelter.

## **RESTROOMS AND HYDRATION STATIONS**

There will be ample portable toilets at the race start – the line to portable toilets will move fast. There will also be additional portable toilets at each hydration station and at the race finish. There will be both Gatorade and water provided at the race start and at the finish along with 6 on-course hydration stations spaced (roughly) every 2 miles. Energy gels will also be provided at the 2nd and 3rd hydration stations.

## **IMPORTANT TIMES**

- 5:00 AM      Volunteers arrive at Start at 215 South Thomas. South Thomas Street between South Street and Mitchell Streets will be closed from 6:00 until 7:30 AM.
  
- 6:00 AM      Volunteers arrive at Finish Line on the 100 block of Clayton Street. Entire block including Clayton Street side of Washington Street Parking Deck will be closed.
  
- 6:50 AM      Runners should position themselves at the start. Your bib will be color coded for your assigned corral. Starts for different corrals will be staggered by 30 seconds.
  
- 7:00 AM      Race Begins!
  
- 10:00 AM     Awards Ceremony at Finish Line
  
- 11:00 AM     Timing Company stops recording finish times and course will be closed. Participants that are still on the course should move to the sidewalk. Race organizers will circulate with a vehicle to transport anyone who would like a ride to the finish area.

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## WHEELED VEHICLES AND PETS

As acknowledged in the liability waiver, no skates, skateboards, bicycles, baby strollers, children carried by participants in any manner, or animals are permitted in the Half Marathon. Bona-fide disabled athletes who wish to hand-cycle / wheelchair the course must notify the race director at (or prior to) the Health and Fitness Expo.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

The race will be run rain or shine. In the event of serious or dangerous weather, race officials reserve the right to cancel the race. The Athens Half Marathon and AthFest, Inc. reserves the right to change the details of the race at their discretion at any time.

If you are on the racecourse and lightning and or high winds move into the area, you should take the following measures: Find Shelter in a storefront, porch, or well covered area. Avoid being the tallest object so do not stand in the middle of a field or near a lone tree – sitting under a tree that is shorter than others in the area is much safer. Crouching down is safer than standing. Please use common sense and follow the instructions of race and public safety officials

## COURSE PROTOCOL

Race bibs must be worn by the participant to whom they were issued. Unauthorized transfer or sharing of race bibs is not allowed. Relays are not allowed. Bibs must be oriented flat, right side up and facing forward. Runners should stay on the RIGHT SHOULDER of the road and pass slower runners on the left when possible. Please be courteous and respectful of other runners. The racecourse will be coned and marked by event organizers. Volunteers and course officials will also assist runners at turns and at intersections. Participants must stay on the course at all times with the exception of moving to the side as appropriate at hydration stations or in case of emergency.

Participants should organize at the start near pace team leaders running nearest their expected finish time. Please reserve spaces at the actual starting line for experienced athletes who are certain to run a sub 1:30 race (at or under 7 minutes per mile). Timing for each individual does not start until that participant crosses the starting line. Participants must position themselves in the proper corral.

The use of headphones is allowed but volume must be kept low such that participants can clearly hear instructions and other communication - anyone running with headphones accepts all risks involved including the inability to hear instructions from course officials, law enforcement, and other communication. Public safety officials and volunteers will endeavor to keep vehicular traffic separated from runners – participants should, however be mindful that some vehicle traffic may exist on the race course and to use proper caution. Shoes are encouraged but are optional. Barefoot runners accept all liability from any injury associated with this activity whatsoever.

There is a four (4) hour course limit. Those remaining on the course should move to the sidewalks or take the shuttle to the finish area.

## MEDICAL CARE AND POST RACE FOOD

There will be on course medical stations as well as one at the race finish. If you are experiencing medical problems please notify an on course volunteer immediately.

There will be post race food and beverages for participants and beer (for those of age) provided at the race finish. There will also be food for purchase for spectators.

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## **DISQUALIFICATION**

The Athens GA Half Marathon reserves the right to reject any entry and to disqualify and bar any individual from the Half Marathon. This rejection/disqualification may be based on, but is not limited to: violation of the aforementioned rules; unsportsmanlike conduct; non-payment of race fees; competing with an unofficial number; competing with an official number and bib tag assigned to another person; transferring or attempting to transfer an official number or bib tag to, or to obtain such number or bib tag from, another person; being paced during the race by a person not entered in the Half Marathon; accepting assistance from non-race participants (other than official on-course volunteers); accepting hydration or nutrition from any outside party (other than an official course hydration station); crossing the Finish Line without having completed the entire course; and providing false information on the race entry form. Individuals disqualified from the Half Marathon will be removed from the race results and may be barred from future events.

## **CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION**

As a condition of participation all participants certify that they are in appropriate physical and mental condition to participate in this event. All participants agree to fully indemnify and hold harmless AthFest, The Athens GA Half Marathon, race organizers, sponsors, sub-contractors, law enforcement, medical personnel, and volunteers from any and all liability whatsoever associated with this race.

Participants must complete race application properly and to the best of their ability prior to the race. Participants **MAY NOT** give their bib to another person or transfer the bib without explicit and official authorization from the race director prior to the race.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION – ENJOY THE HALF MARATHON!**