

2025 WORLD ATHLETICS ROAD RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS DRAFT SCHEDULE

Friday – Sunday, September 26-28, 2025

Balboa Park, San Diego

Free Public Access for all Viewing / Spectators

Updated: June 9, 2024

Note: The following start times and course details may be adjusted per the requests of World Athletics or San Diego City or County

Friday on west side of Balboa Park – Junior San Diego

- The chosen course for the Mile begins on 6th Avenue at Nutmeg and turns into Balboa Park at Upas and Balboa Drive and finishes on Balboa Drive across the Park from Nutmeg. (Map My Run copy available entitled WARRC – Balboa Park – 1 Mile – Nutmeg Start)
- 10:00am Junior San Diego School Races (12 & Under races per age and sex). Takes 2 1/2 hours.
- 10 min per mile race (ages 7-12), 6 min per 1/2 mile race (ages 5-6) and 4 min per 1/4 mile race (age 4)
 - Includes a Challenged Athletes / Paralympic / Wheelchair / Handcycle(?) race

Friday on west side of Balboa Park – 1 Mile Championship

- The chosen course for the Mile begins on 6th Avenue at Nutmeg and turns into Balboa Park at Upas and Balboa Drive and finishes on Balboa Drive across the Park from Nutmeg. (Map My Run copy available entitled WARRC – Balboa Park – 1 Mile – Nutmeg Start)
- 1:30pm Champions Mile – Non-competitive celebratory run for past Olympians and Paralympians from all sports
- 1:45pm 1 Mile Run / Walk for all men & women with projected finish times of slower than 8 minutes
- 2:10pm Military Mile (Men & Women)
- 2:20pm USATF Age Group / Junior Olympic Mile 14 & Under – Girls
- 2:30pm USATF Age Group / Junior Olympic Mile 14 & Under – Boys
- 2:40pm High School Mile – Girls
- 2:50pm High School Mile – Boys
- 3:00pm Open Mile (19-34 years old) – Women
- 3:10pm Open Mile (19-34 years old) – Men
- 3:20pm Wheelchair, Paralympic & Challenged Athletes Mile – Men & Women
- 3:35pm Race Walk Mile – Men & Women
- 3:50pm Masters World Championship Mile (35 & Over) – Women (A separate race for 50 or 60 & overs?)
- 4:05pm Masters World Championship Mile (35 & Over) – Men (A separate race for 50 or 60 & overs?)
- 4:20pm World Championship Mile – Women
- 4:35pm World Championship Mile – Men
- 4:50pm Post-Race Headliner Concert & Awards

Saturday finishing on the west side of Balboa Park – 5K Championship

- For all but one of the 5K age group and Mass Participation People's Races, we will be using a course that is entirely on the west side of Balboa Park, starting on 6th Avenue near Quince, utilizing both road loops above and below Laurel St., and finishing going south on Balboa Drive at the common finish line for all the races across from Nutmeg. (Map My Run copy available entitled WARRC-SD – 5K People's w/o Bridge)
- The one Mass participation Race that will be run on a different course is the Run / Walk for all able-bodied men and women with projected finish times of over 25 minutes. Using a slightly different starting line as the other age group races, but still on 6th Avenue near Quince; after running north on 6th Avenue to the

intersection of Upas & Balboa Dr. they will all turn back south on 6th Ave to just before Elm St., and then turn back north on 6th Avenue and to a right onto Balboa Dr. to the common finish line. (Map My Run copy available entitled WARRC-SD 25 MIN + 5K)

- The course for the culminating World Championship Men's and Women's Championship 5K Races begins on 6th Avenue at about Quince and finishes at the common finish line on Balboa Drive after encircling all the 10,000+ citizen runners enjoying their post-event party. The course will go over and back across the El Prado Bridge in the 2nd mile of the race, making an iconic view for the national and international television audience. (Map My Run copy available entitled WARRC-SD 5K #10)

7:00am	Military 5km (Men & Women)
7:02am	5km Run / Walk for all men & women with projected finish times of slower than 25 minutes
7:25am	High School 5km – Girls
7:50am	High School 5km – Boys
8:15am	Open 5km (13-34) – Women
8:40am	Open 5km (13-34) – Men
9:05am	Wheelchair, Paralympic, Challenged Athletes & Race Walk 5km – Men & Women
9:30am	World Masters Championship 5km (35 & Over) – Women (Possibly on Championship Loop Course)
9:55am	World Masters Championship 5km (35 & Over) – Men (Possibly on Championship Loop Course)
10:20am	World Championship 5km – Women
10:45am	World Championship 5km – Men
11:15am	Post-race Headliner Concert & Awards

Sunday starting and finishing on west side of Balboa Park - ½ Marathon Championship

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| 6:30am | World Championship Half Marathon – World Championship, World Masters Athletics Championships, and USATF National Masters Championships, all disability, and mass participation races together |
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- * Wheelchairs start first
 - * Women's Championship starts second, about 3 minutes after the wheelchairs and approximately 12 minutes before the men and masters and mass waves
 - After consultation with all stakeholders, we will be using a new course (Map My Run copy available entitled WARRC-SD – Broadway 1/2), which starts on 6th Avenue at about Quince going south to a left on Laurel and across the El Prado Bridge, exiting Balboa Park on Park Blvd. going south to Broadway and then making an 11 mile counter-clockwise loop, returning to the Park going south on 6th Avenue to the common finish line on Balboa Drive. Appropriate changes can and will be made to selected city streets after consultation with the Police Department consistent with our overall goal and mandate to create a course which is both runner and community-friendly and shows off the City as best as possible.
 - The last runner will turn onto Broadway from Park Blvd just after 2 miles, meaning that the last runner will be off of Park Blvd no later than 8:46am. Using a "Traffic Valve" north-south traffic on Park Blvd is never stopped even when the race is on it from about Mile 1.5 to 2.0.
 - Total time required: 5 3/4 hours from start of the race to the last runner crossing the finish line due to the wave start taking as long as 90 minutes in order to ensure every runner has an ideal, comfortable, uncrowded run.
 - Prior to the first runner arriving and after the last runner passes, the roads are open to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic across the race course. A time limit of 4 hours (18:20 per mile pace) is in place for the Half Marathon, and a fleet of trailing vehicles follows the last runner picking up all race and traffic equipment, allowing the roads to reopen within minutes of the last runner passing.
 - Awards & Post-race Headliner Concert will start at about 9:30am

2025 WORLD ATHLETICS ROAD RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS
BALBOA PARK FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

The below information is what has been proposed to the Balboa Park Institutions -

Looking to offset any potential impact on their businesses, we also committed to pay each of the museums and cultural Institutions a total of 45% of their total revenues for the last Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of September 2019, 2023, or 2024 - **whichever** is the greatest. Note: this financial commitment does not include the Zoo or Old Globe Theatre as the Zoo is not near the race activities and the Globe's hours do not conflict with the race schedules.

We're committed to working individually with each of the Park's Institutions – including the Zoo and Old Globe – to provide them with proactive marketing and promotions to our runners on our Championship website and registration platform ... in participant emails and goodie-bags ... at the Expo ... on course ... and in the pre- and post-race venue.

Additionally, as part of the Championship's effort to be the most sustainable mass participation race ever held in North America, we are working with Andy Field, the Director of the Parks Department, to direct fundraising dollars from green initiatives to Balboa Park restoration projects and the San Diego promise zone.

WORLD ATHLETICS ROAD RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS -

SAN DIEGO 25 OVERVIEW

September 26-28, 2025

Updated: June 9, 2024

- San Diego bid for the World Athletics Road Running Championships in either 2025 or 2026, and on Monday, August 14, 2023, San Diego was awarded the 2025 Championships.
- Due in large part to anticipated hotel capacity and the various availabilities of the Convention Center, Waterfront Park, and Balboa Park, and after a number of conversations with involved parties, including the world's best athletes, the dates proposed to and approved by World Athletics were September 26-28, the weekend after the World Track & Field Championships in Tokyo end.
 - The LOC is currently working with the San Diego City Special Events Department and the Balboa Park museums and institutions to finalize the courses and race day schedule specifics in the best interests of all concerned with a goal of creating a Championships with the greatest positive impact to the sport and the City, with the least possible disruption to the involved local communities.
- The Championship events are the Men's & Women's Road 1 Mile, Road 5km, and Half Marathon
- In addition to the World Championship races, there is for the second time ever a Mass Participant aspect to every race.
 - In Riga, Latvia this past October 1 was the first time that this Road Championship, which was formerly contested at just the Marathon (at first) and then the Half Marathon distance, had all 3 races and had the masses / citizen runners compete in all 3. In recent years this Championship has been held every other year. Beginning in 2025, it will be an annual event with 2026 being held in Copenhagen, DEN.
 - We are hoping for about 50,000 entries from about 35,000 runners over the 3 events, expecting 67% of the participants to be from outside San Diego, mirroring past (2019 and earlier) Rock 'n' Roll Marathon demographics.
 - Achieving the following entry numbers is a reasonable goal based upon precedence and Tracy Sundlun's personal experience (44 Rock 'n' Roll's in 9 cities in his tenure with over 25,000 combined half and full marathoners, 7 Carlsbad 5000's with 8,000 – 9,500 entrants, and over 8,000 entrants annually in the New York Road Runners' 5th Avenue Mile).
 - Goals / Expectations: 1 Mile: 7,500-10,000; 5K: 9,000-12,500, Half Marathon: 25,000-35,000.
 - Given that there will be 3 days of competition and many of the citizen runners will run multiple races, the direct economic impact to both the City and the County should well be a record for a running event in California.
 - Based upon the Economic Impact Report of the 2019 Rock 'n Roll San Diego Marathon & ½ Marathon with just a total of 23,567 registrants, 22,109 room nights, \$25,716,897 of direct spending, and \$48,784,954 of total economic impact, it would be surprising if the numbers weren't at least double that.
- The 1 Mile races will be conducted similarly to New York City's 5th Avenue Mile (the world's premier road mile), with a series of age group, Masters, and other unique division races about every 10 minutes culminating with the World Championship Women's and Men's Miles last.
- The 5K Races will be conducted similarly to the Carlsbad (CA) 5000 (the world's original major 5 km road race, where since 1986, 16 World and 8 American Records, and 11 world wheelchair bests have been set), with a series of age group, Masters and other unique division races about every 25 minutes culminating with the World Championship Women's and Men's races last.

- The Half Marathon will be conducted as one mass race started in waves of 500-750 separated by 30 seconds to 2:30, based upon the athletes' seed times or unique competitive division, with the World Championship athletes starting first.
- The Championships' competition venue will be centered around Balboa Park.
 - The west side of Balboa Park between 6th Avenue and Balboa Drive will be the location of all post-race activities, including the Headliner Post-race Concerts, Awards Ceremonies, beer garden, food and souvenir concessions, and hospitality venues, etc.
- As a part of the Mass Races, there will be a number of unique divisions, including the World Masters Athletics (35 & over) Championships, military, race walk, wheelchair, and several paralympic / challenged athletes divisions. In the 5K there will also be a high school division, and in the Mile there will also be both a high school division and Junior Olympian (14 & under) age group sections.
 - USA Track & Field (USATF) has designated the Half Marathon as their 2025 Masters (40 & Over) National Championship and the Mile and 5K as a part of their 2025 USATF Masters Grand Prix.
 - World Masters Athletics (WMA), the international Federation for all masters (35 & Over) Track & Field, Long Distance Running, and Race Walking, has in their first collaboration with World Athletics (WA) designated all 3 races – the Mile, 5K, and 1/2 Marathon – as their World Masters Championships.
- As an entirely separate event, outside of the Championships but held on Day 1 of the Championships just before they begin, will be held *Junior San Diego*, a free event for all junior high and elementary school kids, which will consist of a series of age-group miles, half-miles and quarter-miles (depending upon their age). This will be a part of a fitness program conducted through the schools and other local youth organizations, geared at improving children's health and fitness and introducing them to running in a fun and supportive atmosphere. Numerous local Olympians and National Team members will be involved, and the goal would be to have as many as 10,000 children take part.
- In an effort to promote health and fitness both locally and world-wide, two additional features are included.
 - A Health Walk / Run section of each race, which would be supported by online "Couch to the Finish Line" training programs.
 - A Virtual component of each race, which will allow for a unique year-long promotion of San Diego and increase the number of runners world-wide who can take part. The countries with the greatest number of virtual participants will win the "Federation Cup".
- There will be prize money provided not only in the World Championship races (at least \$321,000 between the 3 Championships), but also in the Mass Participation Divisions / Races.
 - Consistent with all major road races world-wide, in an effort to both draw the deepest and best fields in all the age-groups emblematic of these World Championships, \$141,000 in prize money will be evenly spread over all the open and masters age-groups in the 1 Mile, 5K, and ½ Marathon races.
 - Currently budgeted: Age-graded (1st - \$1,500, 2nd - \$1,000, 3rd - \$500), Overall (1st - \$3,000, 2nd - \$2,000, 3rd - \$1,000), Individual 5-year age-groups (35-39 -- 90+, 1st - \$500, 2nd - \$300, 3rd - \$200), Team 10-year age-groups (40's - 80's, 1st - \$500), Men & Women, All 3 races
 - An additional \$8,000 in prize money will also be awarded to the male and female winners of the USATF National Masters (40 & Over) Half Marathon Championships.
 - Currently budgeted: Age-graded (1st - \$500, 2nd - \$400, 3rd - \$300, 4th - \$200, 5th - \$100), Overall (1st - \$300, 2nd - \$250, 3rd - \$200), Individual 5-year age-groups (40-44 -- 90+, 1st - \$100), Team 10-year age-groups (40's - 80's, 1st - \$150), Men & Women
 - At least another \$30,000 will be spent on both prize money and travel assistance for our wheelchair and paralympic athletes in all 3 distances (\$60,000 total).
 - And finally, an additional \$60,000 total will be spent on prize money and travel assistance for the race walk division in all 3 races. This will allow all three of the races to become World Athletics Race Walking Tour Gold Label events making the World Championship weekend very desirable to the world's best walkers.

- San Diego has long been the hub of U.S. race walking, including having been the home at one time or another of most of the U.S. Olympic race walk team in this century, as well as the host of 4 of the last 5 U.S. Olympic 50k / 35k Race Walk Trials, the 2024 U.S. Olympic Team Selection Event for the new Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay, and at least one USATF National Championship in each of the last 11 years.
 - With the race walkers competing side-by-side with the runners – and at the same distances - these World Road Running Championships will provide the perfect venue to show all the world’s runners - from the front of the pack to the back of the pack - just how remarkable and fast race walkers are and elevate their status within the sport.
- All the Championship races will have a live international broadcast feed. The Championships will be a national and international infomercial for San Diego.
- All the races will be staged as the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon Series was designed, with live bands at every mile, cheerleaders at every mile, themed water stations, and a different Headliner Concert at the post-race party every day. The courses will also feature promotions / exhibits from major San Diego attractions, including but not limited to, the Zoo, Sea World, the Balboa Park museums, San Diego Padres, San Diego Wave Women’s Football Club, Del Mar Racetrack, and the new MLS San Diego Football Club.
- There will be a 3-4 day running expo held at the San Diego Convention Center to support the Championships, where in addition to all manner of sales booths and interactive exhibits, all the participants will pick up their bib numbers and souvenir T-shirts.
- There will be a major Global Road Running Symposium involving race directors from all over the world conducted by World Athletics in the days prior to the Championships, as well as an International Marathon Medical Symposium.
- There will be several Hospitality functions and dinners held for the World Athletics Family and Championship participants throughout the week. They will be held at unique San Diego venues such as on the USS Midway Museum and a Hornblower Cruise ship.
- There will be a charity component to the Championships as well, with citizen runners encouraged to raise money for charities of their choice as started here in San Diego with the original Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon in 1998, and is now done in road races all over the U.S. Our goal is to raise at least \$1,000,000.
- Consistent with World Athletics’ commitment to sustainability and protecting our planet for future generations, San Diego 25 is committed to conducting the most sustainability-focused and eco-friendly championship road race in history and has engaged Tina Muir of *Running For Real* to lead that effort. Fundraising dollars from green initiatives will be directed to Balboa Park restoration projects and the San Diego Promise Zone.
- Whatever proceeds there are from the Championships will go to support track and field, road running, cross country running, and race walking in the San Diego area.
- Leading the effort locally are *Sports San Diego* (the local public / private organization tasked with bringing sports events to the region) and Tracy Sundlun, co-founder of the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon Series, supported by many of the local San Diego road running event organizers. Also in a leadership role is John Palmer, an Australian native who is the Co-Founder and Director Kirra of Sports & Entertainment and formerly involved with the Los Angeles Marathon as well as numerous major Australian international events. A 501-c-3 not-for-profit entity called World Athletics Road Running Championships – San Diego 25, led by Tracy Sundlun has been established to run the Championships.
- The current budget for the Championships is \$8,300,000 supported mostly by registration fees and corporate sponsorships. We have already begun soliciting sponsorships locally, nationally, and internationally at all levels in numerous sponsor categories.
- 5 “Event Ambassadors” with local ties were enlisted to help promote both our bid and then – if we won them - the Championships ... Des Linden, OLY (Boston Marathon Champion), Meb Keflezighi, OLY (Boston & New York Marathon Champion and Olympic Silver Medalist), and Steve Scott, OLY (American mile record-holder, world

road 5k record-holder, and Co-founder Carlsbad 5,000), who all lived much of their lives in San Diego County, and Deena Kastor, OLY (Chicago & London Marathon Champion and Olympic Bronze Medalist) and Eliud Kipchoge, OLY, 2x Olympic Marathon Champion and World Record holder, who have both run multiple times in San Diego and are good friends of Tracy Sundlun. Other Event Ambassadors could also be enlisted.

- Part of the motivation and the hope for this bid effort, is that San Diego will be able to create an on-going major, economic-impact-generating, world-class running event, as a legacy result of hosting these World Road Running Championships.

- **Please, contact Tracy Sundlun with any questions or ideas. Both are welcome.**

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