

London Marathon Club Entry Policy

The London Marathon traditionally has a policy of awarding EA-affiliated Clubs a number of places, based on the Club's size. Where the Club qualifies for a place, it will apply for the maximum number of places available.

All members (that are EA-affiliated through the club as their first or only claim) will be invited to apply for the London Marathon club entry places, with at least a two-week window for applications (where possible – i.e. it doesn't clash with other deadlines).

The window should not open until the general entry ballot results have been fully released, so that potential applicants can pursue that option first (and should be encouraged to do so). Applicants are welcome to remove themselves from the Club's selection process at any point before selection takes place to encourage applications (i.e., "Apply now and think later!"); however, this should be in writing to the Chair, such as an email.

The ballot

In the likely event that we have more applications than places, the Club's selected athlete will be decided by ballot.

The ballot itself can be done physically (i.e., names in a hat) or electronically (i.e., a random generator). However, it should be conducted with as many witnesses as possible.

This is good for a couple of reasons:

- To ensure the full transparency of the balloting process
- As a social event: the London Marathon club ballot should be celebrated, with as many club members and applicants invited to build the tension!

Transparency is absolutely critical here: At the time of the ballot, reasonable efforts should be made to demonstrate that all applicants had equal opportunity.

All applicants will have equal chance. In particular:

- No preference will be awarded due to expected finish time
- No preference will be awarded due to the number of marathons previously completed or booked for the future
- No preference will be awarded due to length of time as a member of the Club
- No preference will be awarded due to having 'won' or consistently 'lost' the ballot in previous years
- No preference will be awarded due to seniority in the club (e.g., part of the committee)
- No preference will be awarded based on whether they also applied for the general ballot, made 'Good for Age' or championship applications, charity places, or other forms of possible entry. (However, they should be encouraged to do so if possible, simply to maximise the number of members that can participate in the race.)

This is not an exhaustive list, but a good indication of our policy on equality of opportunity.

Expectations of the selected runner

However, there are a couple of rules. The club representative (runner) must:

- Be a full, paid-up member of the club at the time of the ballot and at the time of the marathon (these may be different years)
- Be EA-affiliated with Worthing Gazelles as their first/only claim
- Wear a club kit or club colours for the race, where possible and appropriate
- Make every effort to sign up and pay their entry fee within the timeframes set by London Marathon. (We don't want the instance where the club place is not used with other applicants having wanted the

place.) If paying for the club place in the appropriate timeframe is problematic, please consult the Discretionary Hardship Fund policy.

- Make reasonable efforts to run the race, stay fit and avoid deferring their place. (Of course, this can often not be helped, but every reasonable effort should be made to avoid it.)

Where these rules are not adhered to may lead to applicants being excluded from future London Marathon club entry ballots, in accordance with the appeals process in the club Complaints Policy.

Appeals

As many of us know, not being successful in the London Marathon ballot sucks. Really sucks. Applicants are welcome to appeal (please see the Complaints Policy) but, unless there is evidence of deliberate wrongdoing, it is likely to be unsuccessful.