Okehampton Running Club – London Marathon Club Place FAQ

Last updated: 20th Nov 2019

**Can I get a London Marathon place through the club?**

If you fulfil the ORC eligibility criteria and are lucky enough to be successful in the club draw, then yes!

Okehampton Running Club (ORC) is affiliated with England Athletics and as a result benefits from being eligible to receive a Club Places/s at the London Marathon each year.

ORC allocates this place to a member/s that meet the eligibility criteria (described below) using a club ballot.

If you are eligible and apply, then a draw is made each year in which names are put in a hat and drawn. If your name is drawn out, then you get the Club Place.

**What if the member who gets a club place gets injured and can’t run?**

Once the member has registered details with the London Marathon via the website and paid the place is theirs. If they get injured then they can defer until the following year.

If they are injured on decide to turn down the place prior to registering, then the draw will be re-run.

**What are the Eligibility Criteria to get my name in the draw?**

To be eligible for the draw a member must:

* Have applied for a London Marathon place through the public ballot – proof is required in the form of a letter, e mail or screen shot stating that you have been unsuccessful in the public ballot
* Be a first claim, affiliated ORC member – if you think you may want to be included in the ORC ballot, please take out the affiliated membership option when joining or renewing your membership
* Over the age of 18
* Have either:
  + volunteered at one of the 4 ORC Summer Series Fell Races (see [www.okeyraces.com](http://www.okeyraces.com)) – please speak to the ORC Race Director to volunteer
  + be an active coach (coaching 16 sessions or more between January and October)
  + volunteered regularly (4 events or more in the year) at the club’s monthly Run In The Park event

**What are the reasons for the eligibility criteria?**

The reasons for the Eligibility criteria are:

* If a member is able to get a place through the public ballot then they should take that opportunity - that way other, less lucky, members have a better chance through the Club Place ballot
* ORC is assigned its number of Club Place/s in the London Marathon based on the number of “first claim members over the age of 18” it has registered with England Athletics”. It was decided at the 2018 ORC AGM that only the members who were affiliated (i.e. registered with England Athletics) should, therefore, be eligible.
* London Marathon doesn’t let under 18s run in the event
* ORC wants to acknowledge that without the brilliant volunteering contributions of its members the club would not exist

**How many places does ORC get?**

The rules allocate places based on a club’s number of “registered, first claim members”.

Whilst subject to change the rules currently allocate places as follows:

* Clubs with between 10 and 150 members receive 1 place.
* Clubs with 151-250 members receive 2 places.

At the time of writing ORC has 156 qualifying members, so receives 2 places – though this may change in future.

Further information can be found on the London Marathon web site here:

<https://www.virginmoneylondonmarathon.com/en-gb/how-to-enter/british-athletics-club-entry/>

**What are my odds like?**

Whilst each year will be different, in 2019 there were 9 names in the hat; in 2019 there were 6.

**What is the process and timetable?**

The process is currently as follows:

Early October

* Applicants for London Marathon Public Ballot are informed whether they have a place.
* ORC Membership Secretary (Deborah Cuningham) ensures membership details are up to date on the England Athletics portal and encourages all potential members to process their applications prior to the end of the month (so we maximise our membership and therefore marathon places)

Mid to Late November

* London Marathon Club Place applications open
* Membership counted for purposes of allocating places
* Committee member responsible for London Marathon Place (Hugh Robinson) applies for places.
* ORC Club Secretary (Ruth Bushell) e mails members reminding them of eligibility criteria and asking which members want to go into the club ballot.
* Hugh Robinson creates Facebook post on ORC Facebook page reminding them of eligibility criteria and asking which members want to go into the club ballot.
* Rob Richards includes in announcements prior to a club run asking who wants to go in the draw

November/Early December

* London Marathon allocates Club Places
* On a club night shortly following the allocation confirmation, ORC club ballot draw takes place and the lucky runner/s informed
* London Marathon provided with details of the Club Place runner/s who they then e mail
* Club place runner completes registration and receives confirmation of place and bib number

Dec – April

* Hard but intelligent training in the wind, rain and cold!
* Eating clean!
* Sleeping well!

Late April

* London Marathon day!

**Who on the committee is responsible for managing the Club Place?**

Hugh Robinson, ORC Race Director, is responsible. Speak to Hugh if you have any questions.

**Where can I find more information?**

2020 London Marathon application page

<https://www.virginmoneylondonmarathon.com/en-gb/how-to-enter/british-athletics-club-entry/>

**I don’t fancy my chances. How else can I get a place?**

You can run for charity! Google ‘London Marathon charity places’ and you’ll get a whole host of organisations keen for you to raise money for them and details of how to apply (and how much they’d like you to try and raise).

Alternatively - Run fast!!! You can qualify for a good for age place by running another official marathon within your stipulated Good for Age time. Pick a flat, fast one (not the Cornish or Eden!). Follow this link to see your target times <https://www.virginmoneylondonmarathon.com/en-gb/how-to-enter/good-age-entry/> (though note that in 2019 the good for age place entries were over-subscribed. This led to the London Marathon organisers reducing the qualification times despite the previously advertised targets).