



Okehampton Running Club – London Marathon Club Place FAQ

Last updated: 29th Jan 2021

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.

For the 2021 race ORC will allocate the first of any places available to a paid member using a club draw. 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.

In the event that ORC is allocated more than one place, one of these extra places will be allocated via a reduced ballot that only paid club members who volunteer in Club Roles will be eligible for (though the other eligibility criteria set out below still also apply). Club Roles include coaches, committee members and non-committee volunteers (e.g. website administrators and welfare officers) who will have been in post for a minimum of 3 months at the time of the draw.

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 and 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

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

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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

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 over 150 qualifying members, so receives 2 places – though this may change in 2021 given the postponement of the 2020 race.

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 2018 there were 9 names in the hat; in 2019 there were 6.

What is the process and timetable?

The process is currently unclear as the race organisers grapple with the impact of the 2020 race's postponement and the deferment of those places alongside the decision to hold the 2021 race in October rather than April.

In a "normal year" the process is as follows:

Early October

- Applicants for London Marathon Public Ballot are informed whether they have a place.
- ORC Membership Secretary (Graham Bryant) 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 (Jo-Anne Turner) 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.

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- Robert 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/s 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).