



London Marathon 2019 – FAQs

Q- Will applying for a charity place affect my chances in the ballot (or vice versa)?

A- No, applying for both a ballot place and a charity place will not affect your chances of gaining either one. If you have applied for both, please let us know if you are successful in the ballot – you can still run as part of our team without having a minimum sponsorship target, and it will free up one of our charity places for another runner.

Q- What is the minimum sponsorship target?

A- The minimum sponsorship target for charity place runners is £2,000. There is no minimum sponsorship target for own place runners, please just fundraise as much as you can.

Q- When is the fundraising deadline?

A- We ask that you send all the money you have raised to us by no later than two months after race day, 28 June 2019.

Q- How old do I have to be to take part?

A- You must be 18 or over on the day of the marathon in order to participate.

Q- What is the difference between an Own Place and a Charity Place?

A- -Charity Places are the places that the MS Society has available – they are secured via an application process with us, and you pay a £50 registration fee directly to us upon acceptance of a place. We ask for a commitment to fundraise at least £2000 in return for one of our charity places.

-Own Places are the places secured directly from the event organisers via the public ballot, open from 30 April – 4 May 2018, and announced in October 2018. A registration fee is paid directly to the event organisers for your place. There is no minimum fundraising commitment, but you can run as part of our team and fundraise for the MS Society as much as you are able to.

Q- What is the process for allocating your Charity Places?

A- As we are lucky enough to have more people enquiring about running the London Marathon than we have places available, we offer our Charity Places based on the strength of individual applications. In particular, we look for applicants who have a strong fundraising plan to ensure they will meet the £2000 target, and applicants who have a connection to our cause.

Q- When is the application deadline?



A- We will offer our charity places by no later than the end of October. However, we will operate a waiting list until the final registration deadline in January (tbc). We welcome applications until January, as we may have drop-outs due to injury or illness.

Q- Why is there a non-refundable registration fee for your Charity Places?

A- There is a cost incurred by the charity for our London Marathon places, so we ask for a £50 registration fee against this. We also have an obligation to ensure our runners share our commitment to raising money to stop MS. Please note the registration fee does not count towards your minimum sponsorship target.

Q- Why is there a minimum sponsorship target for your Charity Place runners?

A- Having a minimum sponsorship target for each runner helps us to ensure that we are maximising the fundraising potential of the London Marathon – we have an obligation to do so and ensure that we can support the MS Society’s vital work, funding research into new treatments and providing support to people living with and affected by MS.

Q- Does Gift Aid count towards my sponsorship total?

A- No, Gift Aid does not count towards your sponsorship total. This is because the way it is claimed means that the final amount can differ from what may have been expected. However, please do collect Gift Aid information where possible, as it is a fantastic bonus for the charity where we can claim it.

Q- Can I collect sponsorship online?

A- Absolutely, we recommend using JustGiving as the most user friendly online donation platform. However, you could also use Virgin Money Giving.

Q- Can I collect sponsorship offline?

A- Yes, you can collect sponsorship offline. Please pay any cash donations into your own account and send to us as either a card payment or a cheque. You will receive a fundraising pack that contains a sponsor form to help you collect any offline donations.

Q- What if I cannot meet the minimum sponsorship target?

A- If you do not meet the minimum target it may have a significant impact on the MS Society and our ability to carry out our work, so we ask that all applicants think carefully about whether they are able to meet the £2000 minimum target before applying for a place. We have other fantastic events with a much lower fundraising target, which we would encourage you to consider participating in.

We carefully offer our charity places to those applicants who we believe are able to meet the minimum sponsorship requirements. If you find that you are struggling with fundraising, we ask that you stay in touch with us so that we can support you as best we can. Ultimately,



if there is a shortfall in your fundraising, we may not offer you a charity place in one of our events in future.

Q- What if I am unable to take part after I have registered for my place?

A- If you are forced to withdraw from the event please let us know as soon as possible, as we may be able to reallocate your place up until the final registration deadline in January.

Q- Can I defer my place to the following year?

A- If you would like to discuss deferral to next year's London Marathon please get in touch; whether or not we are able to do this will depend on individual circumstances.

Q- What support will the MS Society provide?

A- We will provide a dedicated staff member to be your main contact – they will be on hand to answer all your queries. Our whole team will help to support you with your fundraising by giving advice and sending out any materials you may need. In addition, you will receive an MS Society branded technical running top, and invites to our exclusive training day, and post-race party with refreshments and massages.