



Adaptive Athlete / Athlete with Disabilities Event Guidelines

The San Antonio Marathon is dedicated to providing adaptive athletes with a race experience that is safe, supportive, and accessible from start to finish. We are proud to welcome adaptive athletes and official guides to the event and to offer accommodations designed to help you feel prepared and confident throughout race weekend.

The San Antonio Marathon complies with all applicable **USA Track & Field (USATF)** and **International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)** regulations related to participant performance records and event liability. The guidelines outlined here are informed by **World Para Athletics (WPA)** standards to help ensure fairness, safety, and consistency for all participants.

Here you'll find key information on registration, adaptive athlete / athlete with disabilities divisions, and event guidelines to help you prepare for race day. If you have questions along the way, please reach out to marathon@sanantoniomarathon.org.

Adaptive Athlete / Athlete with Disabilities (AWD) Divisions

All participants should be prepared to complete the full race distance within the event's established time limits. To help ensure a safe experience, the use of radios, music players, earphones, or similar devices is not permitted.

Wheelchair Division

The Wheelchair Division is an exhibition division for athletes using *rac*ing wheelchairs or handcycles.

- **Award Categories:**
 - Marathon: Top 3 Finishers
 - Half Marathon: Top 3 Finishers
 - 5K: Top 3 Finishers

Awards are determined by chip time.

Adaptive Athletes and Duo Team Divisions

The Adaptive Athletes Division includes **Adaptive Runners, Push Rim (non-racing) Wheelchairs, and Duo Teams**. These divisions are for athletes who are **not** opting into the racing Wheelchair/Handcycle exhibition division.

- No awards or prize money will be issued for these divisions.
- Results will be posted for informational purposes only.

Wheelchair & Handcycle Rules

To support a safe and well-managed race environment, the San Antonio Marathon reserves the right to establish a maximum speed limit for wheelchair and handcycle participants.

Wheelchair and handcycle athletes will be paced by a designated lead vehicle. For safety reasons, participants may not pass the lead vehicle at any time. The lead vehicle may adjust speed as needed to maintain a safe course environment.

A **handcycle** is defined as an arm-powered, arm-trunk powered, or kneeling three-wheel device with an open tubular frame.

The following equipment is **not permitted**:

- Motorized wheelchairs, trikes, or any device that cannot be self-propelled by the participant
- Any device powered by the participant's legs, which is considered a bicycle or tricycle

Equipment Requirements

- Front wheel(s) must be steerable
- The drive system must include handgrips, crank arms, chainwheels, chain, and gears
- In the recumbent position, the participant's eyeline must be above the crank housing when seated properly
- In the kneeling position, legs and feet must be fully supported and protected from the ground
- Wheelchairs must be equipped with two independent braking systems
- Maximum dimensions: 250 cm in length and 70 cm in width
- Chain rings must be properly guarded
- Leg and footrests must protect static lower limbs from moving parts

Foot Protection & Helmets

- Hand cyclists must wear shoes or stiff foot protection unless the handcycle shell fully secures the feet
- Feet must be secured to prevent slipping from the footrests

- All participants are required to wear an approved, undamaged helmet that meets **CPSC** standards or approved international equivalents
- Helmets must be properly worn and always fastened while on the course
- Helmet violations may result in disqualification unless a strap becomes unintentionally detached and is immediately fixed while fully stopped

Bike Guides

- Handcycle participants requesting a bike guide must receive prior approval from the Race Director
 - Bike guides must be provided by the participant, complete all registration requirements, and sign event waivers
 - Only one bike guide is permitted per participant
 - Bike guides must remain in front of and to the side of the participant and follow all road safety rules
 - The guide's role is limited to identifying hazards and helping maintain course safety
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Adaptive Athletes Division Rules

(Adaptive Runners, Push Rim Wheelchairs, Duo Teams)

Push Rim Wheelchairs

- Push rim wheelchairs may have two large wheels and up to two small wheels positioned at the front
- At least one functional braking system is required
- No part of the wheelchair body may extend beyond the front wheel hub or behind the rear wheels
- The maximum height of the wheelchair body from the ground is 50 cm
- Maximum wheel sizes are:
 - Large wheels: 70 cm in diameter
 - Small wheels: 50 cm in diameter
- Only plain, round push rims are permitted; mechanical gears or levers are not allowed
- Aerodynamic fairings or devices designed to enhance performance are not permitted

Duo Teams

- Participants using a wheelchair must be secured with a lap belt at a minimum
- A maximum of three runner guides is permitted per participant, one may receive a complimentary race entry
- Guides should remain to the right, clearly announce passes, and alert others when approaching to help maintain a safe course environment

Helmets

- All participants using a wheelchair are required to wear an approved helmet that meets the same safety standards outlined above.
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Registering Official Guides

- Eligible adaptive athletes may receive one (1) complimentary entry for an official guide, pending approval from the event team.
- After the athlete has completed their registration, they should email **marathon@sanantoniomarathon.org** and copy the guide who will be registering. Once approved, a registration code will be provided for the guide to complete their entry.
- Official guides must pick up their bibs at the Expo during regular hours.
- Official guides must start and finish with the athlete they are supporting.
- Official guides are not eligible for awards.

Event Authority

To help ensure a safe and fair race experience for everyone, the San Antonio Marathon reserves the right to delay a participant's start or remove them from the course if they do not meet the standards outlined in these Event Rules.