

TCS London Marathon 2024 FAQs



What is a ballot place?

The London Marathon runs an online public ballot, which is open to the general public for one week after the previous year's event. Successful places in the ballot are usually announced in May but this year it will be at the end of June. If you receive a place in the ballot, the entry fee is set by organisers and there is no minimum sponsorship target – you can just fundraise as much as you can. Find out more information about the London Marathon Official Ballot: www.tcslondonmarathon.com/enter/how-to-enter/ballot-entry

I have a ballot place – can I still join the team?

Yes you can! We'd love to have you on board. Click here to complete our 'I have my own place' form and we'll be in touch.

I applied for a ballot place and haven't had a response – what now?

The ballot places are allocated by TCS London Marathon directly so, sadly, we can't help you with this query. We'd suggest contacting TCS London Marathon directly, after the ballot announcement has been made at the end of June.

What is a charity place?

We are allocated a limited number of charity places for the Marathon. These places cost us money, which is why we have a minimum fundraising requirement of £2,000, to cover our costs and make sure we raise as much as possible to support people with osteoporosis.

When is the deadline for applications, and what happens if I miss it?

The deadline for applications is Thursday 7th March, and are unable to accept applications after the closing date as our charity portal closes on this date.

How long will it take to submit an application?

The application form asks a series of questions to help us understand a bit more about you, what your connection is with the ROS, or osteoporosis, and how you plan to fundraise the minimum sponsorship. We'd encourage you to add as much detail as possible on this application form, as the more detail you add to the form, the more information we will have to inform our decision.

How much is the registration fee if I am successful?

If you are successful in getting a charity place, there's a registration fee of £50 to confirm your place. You are then committed to raise a minimum of £2,000 in sponsorship in addition to this.

When will I find out if I have a charity place for the ROS?

We'll announce who has been allocated a place in early July (after the ballot announcement.) Our announcement is subject to change based on the ballot announcement. Successful applicants will receive a call or email to confirm their place at the end of June, and to talk about next steps. Unsuccessful applicants will be emailed as well. If we have any spaces left to allocate, these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, if your application form is accepted.

How does the ROS decide who gets the places?

The decision is made based on information from the application forms we receive. Factors considered are your connection to osteoporosis, previous events and fundraising you've done for us, and how you will meet the £2,000 minimum sponsorship target. The more information you include the better.

Is there a waiting list?

Once unsuccessful applicants have been notified, they can ask to be added to the waiting list. If anyone who has been allocated a place can no longer take part, due to injury or other personal circumstances, people on the waiting list, who fill the above parameters, will be contacted and offered any available places.

If I have a link to osteoporosis, will I get a place?

The ROS cannot guarantee a place if you have a connection to someone with osteoporosis, most people who apply have a link and unfortunately, we only have a limited number of places.

If I had a charity place for the London Marathon before, will I get a place?

Places will be allocated based on the strength of your application, regardless of whether you have had a charity place for the Marathon before. You may be unsuccessful if our spaces are full, but in this case we can add you to our waitlist. If you have ran the Marathon in previous years, you could see if you are eligible for a Good for Age place or a place from your local running club.

Can my friend/family and I get charity places together?

We understand it is great fun to train and fundraise as part of a team, however we cannot guarantee you will all get a place due to our charity places being so limited. Please mention on your application form if you know of anyone else who has applied and what your collective fundraising plans would be. We will review team applications on a case-by-case basis.

If I change my mind or if I am injured, can I give my place to a family member or friend?

If you are unable to take part, we can't automatically transfer your place to a family member or friend. First your place would be offered to someone on the waiting list – if there is no one on the waiting list then the place could be offered to family or friends if they can provide a strong fundraising plan to raise the £2000 themselves. If any friends or family members want to participate in the London Marathon, please encourage them to enter the official ballot and apply for a charity place themselves.

What if I can't raise £2,000?

All Team ROS London Marathon runners are given lots of support to help reach the minimum sponsorship target, including a runner's pack with fundraising inspiration and ideas, support from our fundraising teams and access to fundraising materials, such as collection tins, posters, and t-Shirts. You can be part of an exclusive community group of runners on Facebook, where you can share tips, hints, and fundraising advice. You have up to two months after the event to raise the total sponsorship pledge. If you don't raise the total amount, this may restrict you from being given a charity place for any event in the future. Each charity place costs the ROS money, so we ask that you have a realistic plan of how you will reach the £2,000 target before you accept the place.

What is matched funding?

Matched funding is when your employer (for example) agrees to match, or partially match, your fundraising. For example, if you raise £1,000 your employer would match your fundraising with a donation of another £1,000. Banks and building societies, insurance companies, supermarkets, utilities, phone companies and car manufacturers are also known to offer matched-funding schemes. We recommend checking with your manager or HR team to find out if your organisation does matched funding.

Have a question we haven't answered? Get in touch on events@theros.org.uk and we'll get back to you.

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