

runbritain COVID-19 FAQs

FAQ's in support of runbritain 'Principles for Staging Road and MT Running Events During Covid-19'

Q. Why do I need to appoint a COVID-19 Event Officer and do they need to be qualified?

A. The COVID-19 Event Officer needs to be an integral part of your event management structure. The appointed person needs to be familiar with the current COVID-19 requirements and must ensure that these requirements are adhered to and maintained throughout, build, event, and de-rig. The race organiser must write a job role like any other role. It is important to cover social distancing, hygiene, PPE, and environment (waste disposal) and ensure that risk mitigation is being maintained. The COVID-19 Event Officer does not have to be formally qualified but should have a good understanding of risk management.

Q. Will the role of my medical provider change?

A. Organisers must work with their medical advisors to ensure that medical arrangements and treatment plans take into account COVID-19 protocols and industry standards, both in terms of mitigating the risk of transmission and treatment of individuals during the course of the event.

Q. Do I need to collect personal data of contractors, staff and volunteers during event build up and event take down?

A. Yes you do – name, contact telephone number, date and time of arrival and departure. Organisers should support the NHS Test & Trace system by providing a venue QR code for the NHS test & trace app. For more information please visit - <https://covid19.nhs.uk/venue-check-in-businesses.html>

Q. Why do you recommend that organisers should consider whether facilities (e.g., baggage drop) and pre-race activities (e.g., group warmups) are necessary at the event?

A. Removing facilities from the event helps to ;

1. Minimise queuing, therefore better dispersal, and conformity to social distancing.
2. Minimise face to face time periods.
3. Minimise viral transmission through touching.
4. Reduce potential impact on volunteers.

Note: Most race starts/finishes are within a short distance from street parking or designated car parking. (Most participants still attend events using their own vehicles).

Q. Why do you recommend removing touch points such (e.g., handing out medals) from the finish area?

A. Removing touch points from the finish area helps to.

1. Minimise queuing, therefore better dispersal, and conformity to social distancing.
2. Minimise face to face time periods.
3. Minimise viral transmission through touching.
4. Reduce potential impact on volunteers.

Events which intend to include these in the finish area need to demonstrate how they intend to do this in a safe way, through the event risk assessment

Q. How will I start the race?

A. Organisers must ensure that areas are designed so that participants assemble in a manner which complies with social distancing guidelines, maximising the space available at the start line and the time available for participants to cross the start line, and minimising contact time between participants.

Q. What are the recommendations for water / aid stations?

The use of feed and drinks stations by participants should be minimised where possible and participants encouraged to bring their own hydration and nutrition to the event using runners' bottles, bottle belts and hydration backpacks etc. Any drinks stations which are used, should be configured to minimise contact with event staff and wait times and should be correctly cleansed. The general recommendations for course water stations are as follows.

For races 10 miles or less: water station on course is non-mandatory, any additional requirements left to the discretion of the Race Organiser whilst undertaking a risk assessment. Considering, course profile, time of race, weather variances.

Half Marathons: one water station, any additional requirements left to the discretion of the Race Organiser whilst undertaking a risk assessment. Considering, course profile, time of race, weather variances.

Marathons and above: two water stations, any additional requirements left to the discretion of the Race Organiser whilst undertaking a risk assessment. Considering, course profile, time of race, weather variances.

At the finish line: water provision at the finish for races ten miles and above.

Q. Are spectators allowed?

Spectators are allowed to attend organised sport participation events and should adhere to gathering limits in groups of six, or two households. This doesn't apply for people with disabilities, or adults needed to supervise under-18s in a safeguarding role. Where it's necessary for them to be present, supervising adults shouldn't mix with others from outside their household or support bubble and observe social distancing.

Q. Crowd flow modelling tools are mentioned in the guidelines. Where can details be found on these?

A. The following organisations provide this service: -

Start Right - <https://www.start-right.run>

Movement Strategies <https://www.movementstrategies.com/movement-strategies/contact-us>