

## The Army Marathon Wheelchair Division Guidelines

The Army Marathon welcomes athletes of all abilities to participate in the event.

It should be noted that the event's course topography and traffic control plan make this event particularly challenging for athletes in general, and disabled athletes in particular. The race route includes several areas with long uphill and downhill sections with sharp turns and uneven road surfaces, including speed bumps.

It is imperative for all participants to complete the event within the designated running lanes, and within the allotted course closure time of Seven (7) hours in the Marathon (26.2 mile) race.

Participants not maintaining the pace to finish within this time will be directed to move onto the sidewalk by a race official or picked up in a SAG vehicle and transported to the finish line. The finish line will not remain open beyond these finishing times.

In order to provide for participant, volunteer and spectator safety, the following rules will apply to disabled athletes who wish to participate in these events using self-propelled wheelchairs.

All self-propelled wheelchair athletes must wear a protective helmet. Only helmets that are ANSI, CEN, ASTM, CPSC, Australian, Canadian or SNELL certified, without modification, will be accepted. The helmet must be worn for the duration of the race with the chin-strap fastened.

All wheelchairs must be structurally sound (i.e., no cracks in the frame or welds, no loose or missing spokes, etc.). The athlete must be securely seated in the wheelchair and remain so while racing.

Because of the nature of the race course, with many sharp turns, only rigid-frame wheelchairs will be permitted. Self-propelled wheelchairs that are collapsible ('hospital-style') will not be allowed to participate in the event.

All wheelchair athletes competing in the event must check-in with the Start Line Coordinator with the wheelchair they will use in the race **no later than one-half hour before the start of the race** on the morning of the event to ensure that the chair meets the event safety requirements. The decision of the Start Line Coordinator is final.

In accordance with International Paralympic Committee (IPC) rules, hand-cycles, hand-bikes, hand-cranks, or other gear- or lever- driven devices will be permitted in the event who are ambulatory disabled **and** who contact the race director directly with a request and proof of disability.

Participants participating in the hand-cycle and hand-crank division are not eligible for age group or over-all awards.

All wheelchair participants must be able to maintain control of their wheelchair at all times. Race officials may immediately and without warning disqualify from the event and remove from the course any participant whose racing style is considered by such official to be dangerous, to interfere with other participants, or to fail to yield the right of way to other participants or volunteers.

Strollers or baby-joggers with children are not allowed in the Marathon, Half Marathon, or 5k races.

Disabled participants in a wheelchair who are being pushed by an able-bodied participant must both be officially registered, and must start at the back of the field. Disabled participants in a wheelchair being pushed by an able-bodied participant are urged to wear a protective helmet and must at all times yield the right of way to other participants.

Disabled participants being pushed by an able-bodied participant must use a rigid-frame wheelchair.

Collapsible 'Hospital Style' wheelchairs will NOT be allowed to start the event.

Disabled participants being pushed by an able-bodied participant are not eligible for awards. Able-bodied participants are not eligible to compete in the wheelchair division.