

Applications available for 101st Boston Marathon

Applications for the 101st Boston Marathon on Monday, April 21 are now available. To qualify, athletes must meet the Boston Athletic Association's qualifying standards by running a marathon certified by USA Track & Field (or foreign equivalent) between Jan. 1, 1996 and Feb. 1, 1997.

The 1997 edition of the marathon will be limited to 15,000 athletes. It is the first time since the B.A.A. instituted qualifying standards in the 1970s that the field size for the Boston Marathon will have a pre-determined maximum number of entrants. Entries from athletes meeting the qualifying times will be accepted until Feb. 1, 1997 or until the maximum field size of 15,000 is reached, whatever comes first.

"The celebration of the 100th B.A.A. Marathon brought increased participation, and while our intention is to allow more athletes to enter, we have made a commitment to those communities along the course — particularly Hopkinton and Boston — that we would return to a more reasonable field size," said race director Guy Morse. "Our intention is to ensure that the supporting communities and race participants receive from the B.A.A. a top-quality marathon and that Boston will continue to be the event toward which athletes world-wide aspire to race."

Qualifying standards in all divisions remain unchanged.

Boston Marathon qualifying standards

Age group	Men	Women
18-34	3:10	3:40
35-39	3:15	3:45
40-44	3:20	3:50
45-49	3:25	3:55
50-54	3:30	4:00
55-59	3:35	4:05
60-64	3:40	4:10
65-69	3:45	4:15
70-over	3:50	4:20

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