



2027 Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon Elite Athlete Qualification Standards & Assistance Program

Be a part of one of the fastest and most scenic events in the country! Consideration for entry, lodging and travel assistance is based upon depth of the field and availability of budgeted funds at the time of inquiry.

Interested athletes should send a detailed running resume, including links to recent race results, to Zach Schneider at zach@grandmasmarathon.com.

Athlete inquiries are accepted **beginning January 11, 2027.**

Entry into the elite field is by invitation only, on a **first-come, first-served basis** and is entirely at the discretion of Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. Qualifying times must have been run on a certified racecourse **within 30 months prior to June 2027.**

Women's Qualifications

Sub 1:18:00 (or equivalent time in 10K or longer) – Complimentary Entry

Sub 1:17:00 – Up to 3 nights complimentary lodging in shared room

Sub 1:16:00 – \$100 Food Allowance

Sub 1:15:00 – \$100 Travel Allowance

Sub 1:14:00 – \$200 Travel Allowance

Sub 1:13:00 – \$300 Travel Allowance

Sub 1:12:00 – \$400 Travel Allowance

Sub 1:11:00 – \$500 Travel Allowance

Travel allowances are not cumulative.

Men's Qualifications

Sub 1:09:00 (or equivalent time in 10K or longer) – Complimentary Entry

Sub 1:08:00 – Up to 3 nights complimentary lodging in shared room

Sub 1:07:00 – \$100 Food Allowance

Sub 1:06:00 – \$100 Travel Allowance

Sub 1:05:00 – \$200 Travel Allowance

Sub 1:04:00 – \$300 Travel Allowance

Sub 1:03:00 – \$400 Travel Allowance

Sub 1:02:00 – \$500 Travel Allowance

Travel allowances are not cumulative.

Masters (40+) Qualifications for Complimentary Elite Entry

Women – Sub 1:23:00 (or equivalent time in 10K or longer)

Men – Sub 1:13:00 (or equivalent time in 10K or longer)

Other Benefits for Qualified & Invited Athletes

- Courtesy transfer/transportation from the Duluth Int'l Airport or Shuttle Stop to Grandma's Marathon host hotel
- Pre- and post-race elite athlete hospitality
- Access to elite shuttle buses to starting line (qualified athletes only)
- Private starting line tent and toilet facilities
- Private gear check
- Elite athlete credential allowing free access to the pre-race Michelina's All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner
- Invitation for athlete and a guest to the ASICS VIP Post-Race Reception

Semi-Elite and Debut Half Marathon Participants

As part of our ongoing effort to support up-and-coming American athletes, we welcome runners who may be competing for personal best times but are not necessarily top national competitors.

Consideration for a semi-elite entry is based on a case-by-case situation and is entirely at the discretion of Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. Qualifying times must have been run on a certified racecourse **within 30 months prior to June 2027**.

Each invited semi-elite athlete will receive a complimentary entry and access to the elite start line, but no other elite athlete amenities. Due to the limited number of entries available for the semi-elite category, we reserve the right to select among applicants for this benefit.

Interested athletes should send a detailed running resume, including links to recent race results, to Zach Schneider at zach@grandmasmarathon.com. Athlete inquiries are accepted **beginning January 11, 2027**.

Semi-Elite Athlete Qualifications for Complimentary Entry

Women – Sub 1:20:00 (or equivalent time in 10K or longer)

Men – Sub 1:11:00 (or equivalent time in 10K or longer)

Code of Ethics Statement

Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. supports the USATF Zero Tolerance Action Plan to catch cheating athletes and coaches that are using or supplying performance enhancing drugs. Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. will immediately disqualify any athlete that tests positive for using performance enhancing drugs. Prize money and incentive bonuses will not be awarded to athletes that have tested positive for performance enhancing drugs. Athletes returning from a drug suspension will not be recruited for future Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. races.

In addition, Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. will terminate any agreement that has been made between the race and an athlete regarding complimentary entries, food, lodging and/or travel assistance should the athlete be found guilty of using performance enhancing drugs after the agreement was made. Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. will also terminate said agreement(s) should race organizers gain knowledge of an athlete's prior drug use suspension after the agreement was made.

As a result of any of the above scenarios, Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. will immediately cease all business relationships with the athlete's coach and/or agent.