

# SPACE COAST MARATHON & HALF MARATHON 2020 COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

## **Overview**

We are excited about this year's Space Coast Marathon & Half Marathon. This document outlines detailed plans based on industry best practices on how Running Zone Foundation will support and provide a safe environment for participants, spectators, volunteers and staff during this year's Space Coast Marathon & Half Marathon.

## **Location of Event and Course Design:**

Both the Cocoa Riverfront Park and Lee Wenner Park are large outdoor facilities that we can easily spread out before and after the race so safe social distancing guidelines can be maintained.

## **Bus Service to/from Host Hotels:**

We will be providing bus service from the host hotels and the Merritt Square Mall (off-site parking) on race morning. **Masks will be required** if you are utilizing the bus service and we encourage anyone traveling with family to sit together on the bus.

**New Start Line Approach:** Our event was originally scheduled to start at 6:00 am. Instead of having our standard start at 6:00 am as a mass start, we will implement a "rolling" start at 6:00 am and will have separate waves. The full marathoners and the north half marathoners will be in the first wave start designated 1 through 4. The 4 start times designated in 5-minute waves from 6:00 am until 6:20 am. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> waves should line up along Brevard Ave. (the start) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> wave should be in the staging area on Delannoy Ave. in front of the Cocoa Civic Center. The south half marathoners will be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave start. There will also be 4 start times designated 5 through 8, in 5-minute waves from 6:21 am until 6:40 am. All 4 waves should be in the south course staging area along Harrison Ave. We have an online link to the Participant Lookup in RunSignUp, our registration platform, to look up your race number as well as your start corral. Your start time will also be printed on the back of your race number. Your start corral will be assigned based on your expected finish time submitted during registration. All results will be based on net time so your time doesn't start until you cross the start timing equipment.

**Packet Pickup & Registration:** Packet pickup will be offered at Running Zone from Monday through Friday the week prior to the race (except Thanksgiving). Saturday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, packet pickup will only be available at the Health & Fitness Expo at the race site (Cocoa Civic Center) on from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. **Masks will be required during packet pickup. No packet pickup or registration will be allowed on race morning.** This eliminates a touch point between volunteers and participants as well as congregating in these two areas on race morning.

**Protective Face Coverings:** We will require a face covering or mask at the **start of the race and at the race site after finishing**. We encourage everyone to bring their own mask but we will also provide masks during packet pickup and at the finish line after the race.

**Aid / Fluid Stations:**

We encourage everyone to bring their own fluids/gels during the event. We will only hand out bottled water/sports drink at aid stations on the course and at the race site finish line and volunteers will wear gloves/masks. We will have aid stations every **2 miles** for all events. This is different from years' past.

**Spectator Guidelines:** Spectators are a highlight of race day, but also create an additional opportunity for crowding. Our plan is to limit areas that allow spectators and to make certain areas for participants only- such as the start corral and food and drink areas. We will have volunteers and staff assigned to help enforce the social distancing guidelines throughout the morning for both participants and spectators.

**Finish Line Flow:** Racers tend to want to STOP at the end of a race...but moving quickly through the finish area will help eliminate slow-downs. We will have volunteers/staff at the finish line to help facilitate moving quickly through the finish line area into the race site areas. We will also eliminate handing out finisher medals at the finish line and will provide the finisher medals in the race packets. Any other amenities will be offered away from the immediate finish line to help spread things out.

**Awards / Results:** We will only post results electronically on our website during and after the race and we will not have an awards presentation at the race site. Award winners can pick up their awards at the Award Tent in front of the stage. Any awards not picked up on race day may be shipped after the race if it is requested by email.

**Food & Drink Handling:** All food provided after the race will be distributed in sealed packaging when applicable (i.e.fruit). Drinks will be distributed in trailers as in past years in sealed containers. Beer will be distributed by volunteers on tables after being poured to reduce any touch points. **Everything will be distributed via volunteers wearing gloves and protective face coverings.**

**Summary:** The above safety protocols and precautions will minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19. With these additional safety measures in place, we feel we can safely hold this year's Space Coast Marathon & Half Marathon. We ask your cooperation in following all of the above safety protocols and hope you elect to join us at this year's Space Coast Marathon & Half Marathon on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.