



Non Stadia Labelling REGULATIONS
(In force from 1 January 2025)



1.0 INTRODUCTION BY PRESIDENT

It is my pleasure to send you the revised regulations for the Label Road races which were recently approved by the Athletics Malta council. The revised label road races system introduces an entry level 'Standard label' to cater for road races that do not hold a valid International Course Measurement Certificate and build on the regulations which were put in place in 2022. Therefore from 2025, an international measurement certificate will be required for a road race to be eligible for a Bronze, Silver or Gold label. Otherwise, the guiding principles for these regulations remain the same.

A valuable governing tool - Through an Athletics Malta Label, the event denotes high standards in event organisation, safety, participation experience, besides the application of the World Athletics Competition Rules and the support from public authorities to the event. We hope to increase the local level of road running from an organisational point of view as well as a technical point of view and ultimately the overall enjoyability of all involved.

Encourages investment - As Athletics Malta hopes to continue growing in stature and credibility amongst stakeholders. We hope that with such a system in place, we will be upholding a high level of quality-control. We believe that for many operations an Athletics Malta Label is a valuable marketing tool (with sponsors, media, and governmental entities) which contributes to the drawing of money into our sport.

Forward thinking - By increasing the general level of our road running structure. In tandem, we will be creating a platform where local organizers will be encouraged to continue raising their game, by bringing over international athletes and possibly in the hope of someday staging World and European Athletics accredited events locally.

The application window for 2025 road running calendar will run from 1st July up until the 10th August 2024. A date for a meeting to finalise the 2025 road running calendar will be communicated in due course following the application window closing date.

Kind Regards,



Aldrin Cassar

President
Athletics Malta

2.0 OVERVIEW

Athletics Malta needs to re-affirm that as the sole body entitled to regulate and sanction non-Stadia competitions in Malta and Rules and Regulations need to be determined prior to the issue of any License for organized competitions. World Athletics Regulations and European Athletics Guidelines shall form the basis for AM to structure the issue of official Permits, under Labels that respect basic requirements and structured to reflect the qualities of the respective competition.

3.0 APPLICATION PROCEDURES

3.1. The following categories of Races can apply for a Label:

- a. 'Classic races' - races over the following official distances for which World Records are recognised (see World Athletics Rule 32 of the Competition Rules) ie. 5km – 10km – Half Marathon – Marathon.
- b. 'Non-Classic races' over non-standard distances and terrains ie. Mountain running – Trail - cross country.

3.2. There shall be 4 Labels in 2025:

- a. Athletics Malta Standard Label
- b. Athletics Malta Bronze Label
- c. Athletics Malta Silver Label
- d. Athletics Malta Gold Label

3.3. The application procedure will be the following

- a. 'Pre-application Form' for an Athletics Malta Non-Stadia Permit, shall be submitted via the Athletics Malta website by the 10th August 2024.
- b. The complete and final 2025 road running calendar will be confirmed during an official calendar meeting which will be held at a date to be communicated at a later stage.
- c. The Race Director must submit all necessary information at least 15 days prior to the event;
 - i. Including a clear route map with basic route information (including distance markers),
 - ii. A pre-approved basic budget
 - iii. Any document which might assist in the strengthening of the application (endorsement letters, Permits, proof of insurance, etc.

No Application shall be considered if the organizer fails to provide the necessary documentation or does not meet the minimum requirements set out in these Regulations. **Although the competition date would have been applied for (clause 3.3 above), the official go ahead must be approved by AM in order to confirm date.**

3.4. Applications for permit will only be accepted for the date stated.

3.5. The acceptance or rejection of an application is at the sole discretion of Athletics Malta

3.6 The Bronze, Silver and Gold Label Races are the only “International Competitions” recognised by AM.

Any exceptional event interested in the inclusion of an event within the Calendar, will only be permissible upon an official request by the Organizer submitted at least 60 days before the competition, providing all necessary documentation as indicated further on in this document. No alteration in the approved calendar will be made to suit the need of the organiser.

4.0 FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

4.1 i. A condition of securing your calendar date and receiving an Athletics Malta Label is that Race Organisers are required to pay a “Licence Fee”, to contribute to the funding of the dedicated Races Observers programme. This licence fee must be received within 30 days of AM confirmation.

The Licence Fees for 2025 are as follows:

	Standard	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Marathons	€50	€75	€100	€125
Any other distances	€25	€50	€75	€100

4.2 In order to make sure that no extra dates have been booked in advance to accommodate the organiser, AM is requesting that upon sending final documentation to AM 15 days prior to the event, the organiser is the forward at least 50% registered athletes fees as appropriate

ii. Athletics Malta will charge €0.50c per registered athlete over distances up to 10k. Events above that distance will incur a fee of €0.75c per registered athlete.

4.3. Prize money offered to competitors, including bonuses for times achieved shall be equal for all competitors regardless of their nationality or gender – in other words prizes / prize money for places should be equal for men and women and for nationals of the host country and athletes of other nationalities. Races may offer specific incentive prizes to nationals of the host country to encourage national participation and development.

4.4. If any, travel costs & prize money/appearance fees offered to competitors must be settled in full 90 days from the date of the event organised.

5.0 APPENDIX A - MINIMUM STANDARDS for ORGANISATION

5.1 Overview

The observation and respect of the applicable World Athletics Rules and Regulations shall always be one of the minimum requirements. Should a meeting not satisfy the minimum requirements, AM retains the right not to deliver a permit and to downgrade the event to a fun run (and shall not be held under the auspices of Athletics Malta). Furthermore, impose penalties for the following edition.

All basic permits granted will carry a Standard label, with higher quality labels incorporating the basic requirements but meeting other conditions that elevate the labels to Bronze, Silver or Gold respectively.

AM will consider whether new rules & regulations approved are to be 'enforced' immediately or to set a future date when they come into force.

5.2 General Facilities

5.2.1 *Timing and start lists*

Organizers shall issue Bibs fitted with an electronic chip, or Transponders, to all participants for timing by a qualified Timing Operator.

To provide all start lists via website / social media event, up to the day before and the results within two hours after the conclusion of the meeting onto an online platform of their choosing.

Where available, split times shall be properly recorded and made available for statistics, records and judging purposes.

Races organizer shall email the official results of the competition (at least for the top 20 male and top 20 female finishers) to president@athleticsmalta.com and treasurer@athleticsmalta.com immediately following the completion of the competition. As per the Note of Rule 19.24 of the Technical Rules (previously Rule 165.24 of the Competition Rules) with "official time" it is meant "...the time elapsed between the firing of the starting gun (...) and the athlete reaching the finish line...".

5.2.2 *Measurement of the Route/Course*

The route measurement of Gold, Silver and Bronze labeled races must be done by a JONES counter conducted by a certified World Athletics/AIMS course measurer. AM may also appoint designated measurement officials to carry out the task according to measurement practices and issue a certification that must be published by the organisers. In this respect, measurement is ideally done weeks before the event and up-dated at least every two years, but not more than five years after initial certification. Irrespectively, any alteration of route would require fresh measurements.

The original course measurer or other suitably qualified official designated by the Course measurer with a copy of the documentation detailing the officially measured course shall ride in the lead vehicle during the competition to validate that the course run by the athletes conforms to the course measured and documented by the official course measurer. In the case of separate men and women races, a certified measurer or other suitably qualified person should be in the lead vehicle for each race. All intermediate timing points shall be measured and marked by the Course Measurer.

5.2.3 *Toilet facilities*

Depending on the number of entrants, portable toilets, at least five, should be made available at the Start/Finish. If it is a Mixed Gender competition, the ratio of mobile toilets available should be in 2/3; that is for every two for males there needs to be another three for others.

5.2.4 Water & Refreshments

Sufficient water is to be provided at least every fifth kilometre and at the Finish. In Dry, Hot/Humid weather conditions, water refreshment is to be provided at every third kilometre with sponging stations in between.

Drinking/Sponging and Refreshment stations adequately staffed by competent personnel shall be available on the course in accordance with Rule 55.8 of the Technical Rules (previously Rule 240 of the Competition Rules).

Umpires or other suitably qualified officials designated by the Referee shall be present at all refreshment stations, to ensure the treatment provided to all international elite athletes is fair, and to report any violations.

5.3 Traffic Arrangements / Permits

The Organizer is responsible to acquire all necessary Permits from relevant Authorities, including Local Councils, Area Police, Transport and/or any other applicable Authority. Moreover, the presence of at least 2 Traffic Policemen/Local Wardens on motorcycles, two Officers/Local Wardens on foot and any other officers as necessary.

5.3.1 Officials/Marshals

Routes are to be well marshalled with informed persons at all strategic points ideally in view of one another. At least two AM officials are to be present at the Start which should also be the Finish. The AM route measurer shall be in the Lead Car and one of the Local Wardens (motorized or on another form of mechanized transport) is to be at the head of the chasing group).

The Referee, or designated race official, shall have the possibility to follow the leading groups of a road race closely, on a motorbike or bicycle, if he or she so determines. The Referee can give warnings in case of rule violations and, for particularly serious cases, disqualify athletes.

Gold, Silver and Bronze labelled road races must have the following minimum race marshals:

Race Type	Race Marshals	Race Referee (holder of at least a World Athletics Level 1 Officiating Certificate)
5K	10	1
10K	20	1
Half-Marathon	40	1
Full-Marathon	80	1

5.4 Route Marking

5.4.1 Lead vehicle and Route Marking

The route is to be marked with frequent adequate markings, showing all turns and straight stretches clearly. Each kilometre is to be displaced on the floor or by a low billboard.

There shall be a lead vehicle preceding the lead runners to direct the runners around the course and, wherever possible, that shall also include a time clock indicating the time elapsed since the start of the race. This vehicle is to be at the head of the leading group, be fitted with a flashing roof light. One passenger should be the AM Route Measurement official having all plans and route observations at hand to guide as necessary the vehicle driver.

5.5 Medical Provision

Dependant on the number of participants, a medical doctor, two paramedics and an ambulance are to be on site some time before the event and on hand till an adequate time from the last athlete finishing the competition.

5.6 Third-Party Liability Insurance

All race organisers (irrespective of the label) shall subscribe to an appropriate third-party liability insurance policy to cover the risks for which the race organisation may be held liable, including any accident which might occur to athletes and officials.

5.7 Media and Website

All Race Organisers are asked to:

Display the relevant Road Race Label logo on the homepage of the race website or social media event page. Include the relevant Road Race Label logo all promotional printed and digital material (examples may include marketing campaigns, posters, brochures, leaflets, official programme, start lists, results, press and victory ceremony backdrops social media, etc.).

Allow a full-page advert in any official programme made available to spectators or media artwork provided by Athletics Malta in line with specifications provided by the Race Organiser.

5.8 Anti- doping - For Bronze, Silver and Gold label races

Four weeks prior to race day, Race Organisers shall submit to the National anti-doping Agency (NADO) by email on ignatius.zammit@gov.mt their most up-to-date provisional entry lists, as well as details on the official hotel where the international elite athletes are to be accommodated, if applicable.

All tests shall be conducted in accordance with the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules and Regulations.

5.9 Elite Athletes Participation – For Silver and Gold label races

Race Organisers wishing to apply for a Silver or Gold label in 2025 must have at the start of their 2025 Race edition at least 2 athletes per sex (irrespective of their Country or Territory representation) who recorded in 2023, 2024 or 2025 at least one World Athletics legal performance within the standards as set out in the below tables in the distances stated in the table that apply to Race Organisers Race:

Silver Label	5km	10km	Half Marathon	Marathon
Male	14:35	30:18	1:06:40	2:23:30
Female	17:25	35:59	1:20:20	2:53:30

Gold Label	5km	10km	Half Marathon	Marathon
Male	14:20	30:03	1:06:10	2:22:30
Female	16:56	35:44	1:18:30	2:49:20

5.10 Others

5.10.1 Pacers

Pacemakers are authorised and should be clearly identifiable through a distinctive uniform or similar. To better promote the image of all international elite athletes, a pacemaker’s main bib shall include their name. If a pacemaker has no distinctive uniform, it is allowed to have the word “PACE” together with their name on the bib, or on a second bib to be placed either on the chest or on the back of the pacing athlete.

Athletes employed by Race Organisers as pacers are bona-fide competitors. They must start the competition together with all other international elite athletes, must be recorded in the race start list, timed like other international elite athletes, and if they complete the race they must be officially ranked.

5.10.2 Cleaning

Race organisers will be held accountable for the cleanliness of the area. Race directors are bound by their licence to make sure the entire area is clean of any waste (ex. water bottles, fruit remains, sport gels, plastics etc.). The failure to carry out the cleaning of the area could result in the financial penalizing of the organiser and/or the demotion of the event in the future.

6.0 APPENDIX B – OBSERVERS, EVALUATION and REPORTING (for Bronze, Silver and Gold label races)

6.1. Race Organisers must engage an Athletics Malta approved Race Observer. The Race Observer will ensure compliance with all applicable AM Rules and Regulations as well as World Athletics Road Race Regulations and may also be available to assist the Race Organiser if such assistance is requested by the Race Director. The observer could use the below members, to form an evaluation panel.

- An athlete representative
- An Event & Competition Commission member
- other appointed experts

Within four weeks from the end of the Competition the Organizer shall present a detailed report to AM to include all proceedings relating to the event.

6.2. The Race Organiser will provide all necessary passes/ accreditation and assistance to give to Observers access to the requested operational areas and pre- race meetings, and generally facilitate their work.

6.3. Athletics' Malta Observer, will send a copy of the report to the Race Director as well as to secretary@athleticsmalta.com and president@athleticsmalta.com

6.4. A Race Organiser can apply one season in advance for an upgrading of its meeting status (according to Appendix A).

6.5 The final decision for an upgrading / downgrading will be made by Athletics Malta following the Evaluation Panel recommendation. For serious shortcomings in a meeting's performance, this can be downgraded with immediate effect at the Evaluation Panel's discretion and final approval of Athletics Malta.

6.6 Meetings will be evaluated on factors that are within their control. For example, no meeting will be penalised for poor athlete performances if it is clear that weather conditions were difficult. The following criteria might be will be used and integrated in the evaluation:

- Mandatory events/Programme
- Liability Insurance
- Medical services
- Quality of food
- Quality of accommodation
- Quality of transport services
- Technical Facilities (equipment)
- Technical Conduct
- Amount of participating countries
- Spectators
- Time schedule
- Event presentation
- Advertising and promotion
- TV Production & coverage/ live streaming
- Video screens
- Media services (web & results)
- Budget
- Prize money structure

6.7 Records set during a Gold, Silver or Bronze Athletics Malta labelled road race, and which has been conducted under and in compliance with the World Athletics Competition Rules, will be ratified subject to the conditions laid out in Article 28 of the European Athletics Records Regulations as of November 2023.