Non-Stadia Labelling REGULATIONS
(In force from 1st August 2026)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

It is my pleasure to present the **Athletics Malta Label Road Race Regulations** for the 2027–2028 seasons. These regulations build upon the strong foundations established in recent years and reaffirm our commitment to raising standards across road running events in Malta.

The **Label Road Race System** has become an important framework that recognises and rewards excellence in event organisation, athlete welfare, safety, technical standards, and compliance with World Athletics Competition Rules. The introduction of the Ordinary Label category and the requirement for an International Course Measurement Certificate for Bronze, Silver, and Gold Labels have further strengthened the credibility and integrity of our road running calendar.

An **Athletics Malta Label** serves as a mark of quality and assurance. It reflects high standards in event organisation, participant experience, safety management, technical officiating, and collaboration with public authorities. Through these regulations, Athletics Malta aims to provide a clear and transparent governance framework that promotes consistency, accountability, and continuous improvement across all labelled events.

As road running continues to grow in popularity, it is essential that the quality of our events grows alongside it. The Label system provides organisers with a valuable platform through which they can demonstrate professionalism and excellence to participants, sponsors, media partners, and public institutions, while contributing to the sustainable development of the sport.

Mass participation running is also one of the fundamental pillars of the global athletics movement. World Athletics and European Athletics recognise road running as a key vehicle for encouraging participation, promoting healthy lifestyles, and fostering lifelong engagement in sport. Through the Label Road Race system, Athletics Malta seeks not only to uphold organisational excellence but also to encourage wider participation in safe, accessible, and enjoyable events for runners of all ages and abilities.

Looking ahead, Athletics Malta remains committed to fostering a culture of innovation and continuous improvement. By supporting organisers in raising standards and developing their events, we aim to further enhance Malta's reputation as a destination for quality road running events while creating opportunities for greater local and international participation.

The continued success of our road running calendar is the result of the dedication and collaboration of organisers, officials, volunteers, athletes, sponsors, public authorities, and participants. I thank all those who contribute to the growth of our sport and look forward to working together throughout the coming seasons as we continue to strengthen and develop road running in Malta for the benefit of all.

Mario Bonello
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, 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:
   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 31st July 2026.
   b. The final 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, including;
      i. 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 Organiser 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. 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 shall be as follows:

	Standard Label	Bronze Label	Silver Label	Gold Label
Marathons	€75	€75	€100	€150
Any other distances	€25	€50	€75	€100

4.2.i 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 to forward at least 50% registered athletes fees as appropriate.

4.2.ii Furthermore, as from 1st January 2027, Athletics Malta will charge:

A: a flat rate for all affiliated clubs (Affiliated clubs must be duly registered with Athletics Malta and comply with all requirements necessary to remain in good standing with the National Association) for all distances as follows:

- €50 for 1 – 200 registered athletes
- €100 for 201 – 400 registered athletes
- €150 for 400+ registered athletes

B: a rate of €1.00 per finisher athlete for all non-affiliated clubs and/or race organisers (for all distances).

C: Athletics Malta reserves the right to grant a full or partial waiver of fees for events organised by voluntary organisations for charitable, awareness-raising, or community purposes. Any such waiver shall be considered on a case-by-case basis following a written request by the organiser and may be subject to conditions determined by Athletics Malta.

4.2.iii Any dues payable to Athletics Malta must be settled within thirty (30) days from the date of the invoice issued by Athletics Malta. Failure to settle outstanding dues within this period will result in the club and/or race organiser being excluded from the official Road Running Calendar until all outstanding amounts have been paid. In addition, any overdue payments shall be subject to a late payment penalty of one percent (1%) per month, calculated on the outstanding balance, until full settlement is received.

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 an Ordinary 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

Organisers 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.

Race organisers 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...".

Gold and Silver labelled road races must have a live tracking app showing the progress and speed of each athlete during the race, based on the chip on the bib. The App must also show the live (unofficial) positions during the race. Once the race has ended, the app must give direct access to the race results and classifications of the race event.

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 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 Organiser 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 two Traffic Policemen/Local Wardens on motorcycles, two Officers/Local Wardens on foot and any other officers as necessary.

In agreement with the relevant authorities, Gold and Silver labelled road races, should strive to have the whole course closed off to vehicular traffic, with the exclusion of official vehicles, in the sections where athletes are still actively competing in the race and / or until the published cut-off time. The start will be traffic free until the last runner has started and the finish will be traffic free until the last runner finishes or the cut-off time is reached. In the case of dual carriageways, only the carriageway on which the participants will run needs be closed to vehicular traffic. Whenever possible, for safety reasons, all carriageways should be closed to vehicular traffic. Police and/or traffic controllers must be present at all intersections.

5.3.1 Officials/Marshalls

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 certified EA/WA officials:

Race Type	**Race Marshals**	**Race Referee**
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

A minimum of 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. This minimum requirement might need to be increased dependant on the number of participants. Additionally, a medical doctor might also be requested.

5.6 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 info.aims@aims.org.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.

5.7 Media and Website – For Bronze, Silver and Gold label races

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 Others

5.8.1 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.

5.8.2 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. Athletics Malta may nominate at least one Observer. The 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 Organiser 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 Race Observer will send a copy of the report to alan.camilleri@athleticsmalta.com as well as to secretary@athleticsmalta.com and president@athleticsmalta.com

6.4. A Member Federation 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 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 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