

Abbott World Marathon Majors

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About the Abbott World Marathon Majors

For runners across the globe, competing in an Abbott World Marathon Majors (AbbottWMM) race is a significant accomplishment. Six of the largest and most renowned road races in the world—the Tokyo, Boston, Virgin Money London, BMW BERLIN, Bank of America Chicago, and TCS New York City marathons—make up the AbbottWMM. The organization delivers several unique benefits to runners:

- Unparalleled experiences: Operational excellence at each race ensures a premium race-day journey for runners.
- A professional series: the best professional athletes in the world competing for points with the top three in the elite and wheelchair categories taking a share of the USD\$820,000 every year
- Promotion of marathon running: AbbottWMM organizers aggressively champion anti-doping protocols and make many other efforts to move the sport forward.

History

Organizers of the Boston, London, Berlin, Chicago, and New York City marathons joined together in 2006 to create Abbott World Marathon Majors (AbbottWMM) with a mission of providing global leadership in elite and mass participation marathons. The Tokyo Marathon entered the collective in 2013. These industry-leading organizations are now united in their effort to advance the sport, raise awareness of marathons' elite athletes and increase the level of interest in elite racing among running enthusiasts.

In October 2014, Abbott, a global healthcare company, and the World Marathon Majors announced a new partnership. Abbott became the race series' first-ever title sponsor, effective at the 2015 Tokyo Marathon. Tim Hadzima was appointed as the Executive Director of the Abbott World Marathon Majors in December 2014.

A new series format—a one-year cycle of qualifying races—was announced in February 2015, beginning at the 2015 Tokyo Marathon, replacing the previous two-year series format. In April 2015, it was also announced that the series would expand to include wheelchair athletes, starting at the 2016 Boston Marathon.

In 2017, AbbottWMM announced an agreement with Dalian Wanda Group Co., Ltd to develop a ten-year strategic partnership aimed at expanding the Series in new regions such as Asia (outside Japan) and Africa. The organization is now on an ongoing process identifying candidate races that will be required to meet AbbottWMM's stringent criteria before selection for the Series. The Chengdu and Sanlam Cape Town Marathons are currently in the candidate process.

AbbottWMM Wanda Age Group World Rankings

The Abbott World Marathon Majors (AbbottWMM) Wanda Age Group World Rankings officially launched on September 16, 2018 at the 45th BMW BERLIN-MARATHON, marking the start of the one-year qualification period. The second year of the Age Group World Rankings began at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon 2019 and ended December 31, 2020.

The inaugural AbbottWMM Wanda Age Group World Championships was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was held for both first and second edition qualifiers as part of the Virgin Money London Marathon on October 3, 2021.

Participants in an AbbottWMM Wanda Age Group World Ranking qualifying race earn points according

to their age, time and gender, aligned with the following age groups for men and women: 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80+.

Six Star Finishers

The Six Star system was launched at the 2016 Tokyo Marathon with more than 6,600 runners having completed the milestone (as the end of the 2020 Tokyo Marathon) and received the much sought-after medal.

AbbottWMM Global Run Club

The AbbottWMM Global Run Club launched in August 2020 and aims to bring together the global community of marathon runners on a virtual platform. It kicked off with a series of autumn challenges to run alongside the virtual offerings of the Majors.

For more information, visit www.abbottwmmglobalrunclub.com

Series Format

The champions of the Abbott World Marathon Majors (AbbottWMM) are determined through a one-year cycle of Qualifying Races featuring unprecedented anti-doping protocols. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Series XIII began at the Bank of America 2019 and will conclude at the TCS New York City Marathon 2021. The Abbott World Marathon Majors Series cycle consists of the six Majors along with the Olympic/Paralympic Marathon and the World Athletics/World Para Athletics Championships Marathon in the years that they occur.

Points System: The champions of the AbbottWMM Series are the male and female athletes who score the greatest number of points from Qualifying Races during the Series. During each scoring period, points from a maximum of two Qualifying Races will be scored. An athlete must start in two Qualifying Races over the Series cycle to be eligible for the championship. If an athlete earns points in more than two events, the athlete's highest two finishes will be scored. The Wheelchair Series follows the same rules, but points from an athlete's best four races count towards the total, or best five during years with Paralympic Games or World Championships.

Points are allocated following each race as follows:

- 1st place..... 25 points
- 2nd place..... 16 points
- 3rd place..... 9 points
- 4th place..... 4 points
- 5th place..... 1 point

Doping Violations: Under AbbottWMM rules, no athlete who has been found guilty of any anti-doping rules enforced by World Athletics, World Anti-Doping Association (WADA), National Federations, or any of the individual AbbottWMM races is eligible to win the AbbottWMM championship title. Athletes must comply with the AbbottWMM Code of Conduct.

Prize Purse: The AbbottWMM prize structure was expanded in 2017 to reward the top three men's and women's finishers in both the open and wheelchair series.

	Men	Women	Wheelchair Men	Wheelchair Women	Total
1st.....	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$600,000
2nd.....	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$150,000
3rd.....	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$70,000
Total.....	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$820,000

Series:

Series XIII.....2019 Bank of America Chicago Marathon to 2021 TCS New York City Marathon
 Series XIV.....2022 Tokyo Marathon to 2022 TCS New York City Marathon

Abbott World Marathon Majors races – Series XIII

Race	Date
World Athletics World Championships (men's race)*	Saturday, October 5, 2019
Bank of America Chicago Marathon.....	Sunday, October 13, 2019
TCS New York City Marathon.....	Sunday, November 3, 2019
Tokyo Marathon.....	Sunday, March 1, 2020
Olympic Games (women's race)	Saturday, August 7, 2021
Olympic Games (men's race).....	Sunday, August 8, 2021
Paralympic Games (women's race).....	Sunday, September 5, 2021
Paralympic Games (men's race).....	Sunday, September 5, 2021
BMW BERLIN-MARATHON.....	Sunday, September 26, 2021
Virgin Money London Marathon.....	Sunday, October 3, 2021
Bank of America Chicago Marathon.....	Sunday, October 10, 2021
Boston Marathon.....	Monday, October 11, 2021
Tokyo Marathon**.....	Sunday, October 17, 2021
TCS New York City Marathon.....	Sunday, November 7, 2021

* The men's marathon at the World Athletics World Championships took place following the 2019 BMW BERLIN-MARATHON and counts towards the Abbott World Marathon Majors Series XIII.

**The Tokyo Marathon 2021 was postponed and will be held on the new date of March 6, 2022.

Abbott World Marathon Majors Series XII leaderboards*

View Abbott World Marathon Majors Series XII leaderboards here:
<https://www.worldmarathonmajors.com/elite-series/leaderboards>

Past series champions

Series I (2006–07)

Men: Robert K. Cheruiyot, Kenya Women: Gete Wami, Ethiopia

Series II (2007–08)

Men: Martin Lel, Kenya Women: Irina Mikitenko, Germany

Series III (2008–09)

Men: Samuel Wanjiru, Kenya Women: Irina Mikitenko, Germany

Series IV (2009–10)

Men: Samuel Wanjiru, Kenya Women: Irina Mikitenko, Germany*

Series V (2010–11)

Men: Emmanuel Mutai, Kenya Women: Edna Kiplagat, Kenya*

Series VI (2011–12)

Men: Geoffrey Mutai, Kenya Women: Mary Keitany, Kenya

Series VII (2012–13)

Men: Tsegaye Kebede, Ethiopia Women: Priscah Jeptoo, Kenya

Series VIII (2013–14)

Men: Wilson Kipsang, Kenya Women: Edna Kiplagat, Kenya**

Series IX (2015-16)

Men: Eliud Kipchoge, Kenya Women: Mary Keitany, Kenya

Series X (2016-17)

Men: Eliud Kipchoge, Kenya Women: Edna Kiplagat, Kenya***

Series XI (2017-2018)

Men: Eliud Kipchoge, Kenya Women: Mary Keitany, Kenya

Series XII (2018-2019)

Men: Eliud Kipchoge, Kenya Women: Brigid Kosgei

Wheelchair Series X (2016-17)

Men: Marcel Hug, Switzerland Women: Tatyana McFadden, USA

Wheelchair Series XI (2017-18)

Men: Marcel Hug, Switzerland Women: Tatyana McFadden, USA

Wheelchair Series XII (2018-19)

Men: Daniel Romanchuk, USA Women: Manuela Schär, Switzerland

* Liliya Shobukhova (RUS) was the original winner of Series IV and V but she was banned from competition for a doping violation in April 2014 and all her results from Oct. 9, 2009 have been annulled.

** Rita Jeptoo (KEN) won four races in the 2013/14 series but gave positive A and B samples in an out-of-competition test in September 2014. Her standings and the final results of the 2013/14 Series have been determined at the completion of the due legal process and the outcome of an appeal. As a result, the Series VIII title has been awarded to Edna Kiplagat.

*** Edna Kiplagat was crowned women's Series X champion following the doping investigation and legal process against Jemima Sumgong (KEN), who won two races but gave a positive sample in an out-of-competition test in February 2017. About the Tokyo Marathon

About the Tokyo Marathon

Organized by the Tokyo Marathon Foundation, the inaugural Tokyo Marathon was held on February 18, 2007. Through its theme, "The Day We Unite," the Tokyo Marathon has gathered together runners, volunteers and spectators for 13 years.

Since the 10th anniversary event in Tokyo Marathon 2016, the official race logo has been renewed to represent the portrayed images of the runners, volunteers and cheering crowds along the course, which signifies the race theme "The Day We Unite." In addition, Tokyo Marathon 2017 began a new course that finishes in front of the Tokyo station area, and in 2018 saw a new Japanese record set for the first time in 16 years. The Tokyo Marathon 2020 was held by reducing the entries to elite and wheelchair elite in response to COVID-19. As the event served as the Olympic trial for the Tokyo 2020, many record-breaking times were established, such as the new national record (2:05:29) set by Suguru Osako. The Tokyo Marathon 2021 was postponed and will be held on the new date of March 6, 2022.

Inaugural running

2007

Largest field (total finishers)

35,460 – 2019

Recent participation

Year	Finishers	Male	Female
2007	25,102	19,505	5,597
2008	26,665	20,738	5,927
2009	29,128	22,807	6,321
2010	30,182	23,823	6,359
2011	32,415	24,678	7,737
2012	34,678	27,355	7,323
2013	34,819	27,819	7,000
2014	34,126	27,203	6,923
2015	34,049	26,827	7,222
2016	34,697	27,121	7,576
2017	33,974	26,278	7,696
2018	34,542	26,637	7,905
2019	35,460	27,253	8,207
2020	165	118	47

*Elites only

Prize purse

¥49,780,000 (approx. \$453,000) in total. Additional record bonuses also available.

*¥11,000,000 (approx. \$100,000) apiece for the male and female champions, and ¥2,000,000 (approx. \$18,200) for male and female wheelchair champions.

Official charities

Tokyo Marathon 2021 Charity (Sports Legacy Program (2 programs) by Tokyo Marathon Foundation, and 38 charities)

Event records

Open men: Wilson Kipsang, KEN, 2:03:58 (2017)

Open women: Lonah Chemtai Salpeter, ISR, 2:17:45 (2020)

Wheelchair men: Tomoki Suzuki, JPN, 1:21:52 (2020)

Wheelchair women: Tsubasa Kina, JPN, 1:40:00 (2020)

About the Virgin Money London Marathon

In 1979, after running the New York City Marathon with John Disley, Chris Brasher questioned whether London could stage such a festival: "We have the course . . . but do we have the heart and hospitality to welcome the world?" Later that year, Brasher travelled to America, where the running boom of the late 1970s had started. He witnessed the Boston Marathon and revisited the New York City race. He studied both races' organizations and finances. On his return, Brasher and Disley secured a three-year contract with Gillette for £75,000, established the organization's charitable status, and set down six main aims for the event. The first London Marathon was held on March 29, 1981. More than 20,000 people wanted to run; 7,747 were accepted. There were 6,255 finishers, led home by American Dick Beardsley and Norwegian Inge Simonsen who crossed the finish line hand in hand. Joyce Smith broke the British record to win the women's race.

The London Marathon was held in a different format for the first time in its history last year when the pandemic meant only the elite races could take place in London, held on 4 October on a closed-loop circuit around the historic St James's Park. Meanwhile, 37,966 people took part in the first ever virtual London Marathon, completing 26.2 miles on the course of their choice anywhere in the world between 00:00:00 and 23:59:59 BST on Marathon Day. This set a Guinness World Record for the most users to run a remote marathon in a 24-hour period and the virtual event is now a permanent part of the London Marathon.

The London Marathon has raised more than £1 billion for charity since its first race in 1981 and had more than one million finishers. The race is viewed in more than 196 countries worldwide and watched by between four and five million viewers in the UK via the BBC.

Inaugural running

1981

Largest field (total finishers)

42,549 - 2019

Recent participation

Year	Finishers	Male	Female
2005	35,105	24,641	10,464
2006	33,222	24,825	10,875
2007	34,497	23,576	10,921
2008	34,497	23,576	10,921
2009	35,268	24,231	11,037
2010	36,550	24,423	12,127
2011	34,838	22,525	12,313
2012	36,748	23,684	13,064
2013	34,280	22,031	12,249
2014	35,800	22,608	13,272
2015	37,671	23,281	14,390
2016	39,140	24,020	15,120
2017	39,487	23,978	15,509
2018	40,272	23,771	16,501
2019	42,549	24,804	17,788
2020 (virtual)	37,966	19,223	18,743

Estimated number of spectators

750,000

Total prize purse

\$313,000 (\$55,000 apiece for the male and female champions, plus time and record bonuses)

Official charity

Macmillan Cancer Support (2021)

Event records

Open men: Eliud Kipchoge, KEN, 2:02:37 (2019)

Open women: Mary Keitany, KEN, 2:17:01 (2017) (women only) Paula Radcliffe, GBR, 2:15:25 (2003) (mixed)

Wheelchair men: Kurt Fearnley, AUS, 1:28:57 (2009)

Wheelchair women: Manuela Schär, SUI, 1:39:57 (2017)

About the Boston Marathon

Inspired by their experience at the 1896 Olympic Games, several members of the Boston Athletic Association founded their own marathon in 1897. The race has been run every year since, and the Boston Marathon is recognized as the world's oldest annual marathon (the 1918 edition featured a military relay and the 2020 edition was run as a Virtual Experience). Both the start and finish lines have moved slightly over the years, but much of the course remains exactly as it was originally designed. Since 1924 the point-to-point race has started in the town of Hopkinton and finished on Boston's historic Boylston Street. Runners must qualify for entry by meeting time standards corresponding to gender and age, which is another aspect – besides its course and longevity – unique to the Boston Marathon.

Inaugural running

1897

Largest field (total finishers)

35,868 – 1996

Recent participation

Year	Finishers	Male	Female
2006	19,682	12,061	7,621
2007	20,339	12,365	7,974
2008	21,948	13,019	8,929
2009	22,842	13,545	9,297
2010	22,720	13,161	9,559
2011	23,913	13,839	10,074
2012	21,616	12,621	8,995
2013	17,600*	10,649	6,951
2014	31,923	17,581	14,342
2015	26,597	14,580	12,017
2016	26,629	14,463	12,166
2017	26,581	14,570	12,011
2018	25,907	14,268	11,639
2019	26,762	14,760	2,002
2020	16,183	8,744	7,439

*Held as a Virtual event

**Smaller total was due to diversion of runners from the finish area following terrorist attacks.*

Estimated number of spectators

500,000

Prize purse

\$876,500 (\$150,000 apiece for the male and female champions, and \$25,000 for male and female wheelchair champions, plus Para Athletics Division and Masters Division prize money). \$50,000 Course Record bonuses are available in open and wheelchair divisions.

Official charities

41

Event records

Open men: Geoffrey Mutai, KEN, (2:03:02) 2011

Open women: Buzunesh Deba, ETH, 2:19:59 (2014)

Wheelchair men: Marcel Hug, SUI, 1:18:04 (2017)

Wheelchair women: Manuela Schär, SUI, 1:28:17 (2017)

About the BMW BERLIN MARATHON

A group of runners from one of Germany's most prestigious athletics clubs, SC Charlottenburg, organised the first BERLIN-MARATHON in 1974. It was not until 1981 that the race moved from the Grunewald (a big forest) into the city center of West Berlin. Supported by the three western allied forces (Britain, France and USA) it quickly developed into Germany's biggest and best quality marathon. A new era started after the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. On 30 September 1990, three days before reunification, the course of the BERLIN-MARATHON led through Brandenburg Gate and both parts of Berlin for the first time. In 2001 Naoko Takahashi became the first woman to break the 2:20 barrier in Berlin. The flat and fast loop course was then changed significantly for the 2003 race. Paul Tergat, who ran a world record of 2:04:55 (first sub 2:05 time ever), became the first man to cross the new finish line, passing through Brandenburg Gate shortly before – the symbol for reunification.

The BMW BERLIN-MARATHON developed into one of the world's best quality road races. In 2008 Haile Gebrselassie (Ethiopia) improved the world record for a second time, clocking 2:03:59. Patrick Makau (Kenya) broke Gebrselassie's world record in Berlin in 2011, improving the time to 2:03:38. Three more world records by Kenyans followed: Wilson Kipsang clocked 2:03:23 in 2013, Dennis Kimetto became the first runner to achieve a sub 2:03 time in 2014 (2:02:57) and then Eliud Kipchoge smashed this mark in 2018. Running 2:01:39 he crowned the 45th edition of the BMW BERLIN-MARATHON. He improved the former mark by 1:18 minutes, the biggest advance in the men's marathon world record for over 50 years. A staggering total of eleven world records were broken in the BMW BERLIN-MARATHON, which is unique.

Inaugural running

1974

Largest field (total finishers)

44,065 – 2019

Recent participation:

Year	Finishers	Male	Female
2005	30,382	24,511	5,871
2006	30,190	24,103	6,087
2007	32,530	26,032	6,498
2008	35,746	28,340	7,406
2009	35,034	27,962	7,072
2010	34,056	26,626	7,430
2011	32,991	25,577	7,414
2012	34,350	26,452	7,898
2013	36,549	27,557	8,992
2014	28,946	22,178	6,768
2015	36,768	27,858	8,910
2016	35,999	26,772	9,227
2017	39,235	28,163	11,072
2018	40,650	28,378	12,273
2019	44,065	30,775	13,290

Estimated number of spectators

1.5 million

Prize purse

Around \$275,000 (237,000 Euros), of which the winners receive around \$ 45,000 (40,000 Euro) each

Wheelchair prize purse

Around \$55,000 (48,000 Euro), of which the winners receive around \$ 11,500 (10,000 Euro)

Event records

Open men: Eliud Kipchoge, KEN, 2:01:39 WR (2018)

Open women: Gladys Cheronon KEN, 2:18:11 (2018)

Wheelchair men: Heinz Frei, SUI, 1:21:39 (1997)

Wheelchair women: Manuela Schär, SUI, 1:36:53, (2018)

About the Bank of America Chicago Marathon\

In 1976, a small band of running enthusiasts met at the Metropolitan YMCA on LaSalle Street to discuss and plan a marathon in Chicago. This founding group realized their vision on September 25, 1977, when they hosted 4,200 local participants in the first Chicago Marathon. The Bank of America Chicago Marathon has since expanded to 45,000 registered runners and an estimated 1.7 million on-course spectators. The flat and fast course begins and ends in historic Grant Park, sweeping through 29 diverse and colorful neighborhoods including Lakeview, Greektown, Little Italy, Pilsen, Chinatown, and Bronzeville. The loop course and abundance of public transportation options enables friends and family to cheer their runners on at many locations along the course. The Bank of America Chicago Marathon has a long history of hosting the world's fastest runners and has been the site of two men's world records (Steve Jones, 2:08:05, 1984; and Khalid Khannouchi, 2:05:42, 1999) and three women's world records (Catherine Ndereba, 2:18:47, 2001; Paula Radcliffe, 2:17:18, 2002; and Brigid Kosgei, 2:14:04, 2019).

Inaugural Running

1977

Largest field (total finishers)

45,932 – 2019

Recent participation

Year	Finishers	Male	Female
2005	32,868	18,602	14,266
2006	33,633	18,910	14,723
2007	25,534	15,348	10,186
2008	31,343	17,678	13,665
2009	33,703	19,077	14,626
2010	36,088	19,946	16,142
2011	35,775	20,284	15,471
2012	37,475	20,681	16,794
2013	39,122	21,595	17,527
2014	40,659	22,242	18,417
2015	37,459	20,207	17,252
2016	39,313	21,638	17,675
2017	44,341	22,842	21,499
2018	44,610	23,923	20,687
2019	45,932	24,608	21,324

Estimated number of spectators

1.7 million

Prize purse

\$606,400 (\$55,000 apiece for the male and female champions, plus time and record bonuses)

Official charities

171

Event records

Open men: Dennis Kimetto, KEN, 2:03:45 (2013)

Open Women: Brigid Kosgei, KEN, 2:14:04 (2019)

Wheelchair men: Heinz Frei, SUI, 1:26:56 (2010)

Wheelchair women: Tatyana McFadden, USA, 1:39:15 (2017)

About the TCS New York City Marathon

The TCS New York City Marathon is the premier event of New York Road Runners (NYRR) and historically has been the largest marathon in the world. Held annually on the first Sunday in November, the race features the world's top professional athletes and a vast range of competitive, recreational, and charity runners. The race began in 1970 with just 127 entrants running four laps around Central Park, and expanded citywide in 1976. Each year, runners tour New York City's five boroughs, starting on Staten Island at the foot of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, and running through the neighborhoods of Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx, before ending in Manhattan at the iconic Central Park finish line. This year, the TCS New York City Marathon will celebrate its 50th running on November 7. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a leading global IT services, consulting, and business solutions organization, is the premier partner of NYRR and the title sponsor of the TCS New York City Marathon. To learn more, visit www.tcsnycmarathon.org.

Inaugural running

1970

Largest field (total finishers)

53,639 – 2019

Recent participation

Year	Finishers	Male	Female
2005	36,856	24,794	12,062
2006	37,869	25,548	12,321
2007	38,607	26,072	12,535
2008	38,096	25,216	12,880
2009	43,660	28,485	15,369
2010	45,103	28,948	16,155
2011	47,340	30,068	17,272
2013	50,266	36,699	19,567
2014	50,530	30,108	20,422
2015	49,595	28,899	20,696
2016	51,388	29,931	21,457
2017	50,773	29,682	21,091
2018	52,813	30,659	22,154
2019	53,639	30,893	22,746

Estimated number of spectators

1 million+ (2019)

Prize purse

\$855,000

Official charities

490

Event records

Open men: 2:05:06 – Geoffrey Mutai, KEN, 2011

Open women: 2:22:31 – Margaret Okayo, KEN, 2003

Wheelchair men: 1:29:22 – Kurt Fearnley, AUS, 2006

Wheelchair women: 1:43:04 – Tatyana McFadden, USA, 2015