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## 1 Before the competition / Registration and information

### 1.1 Hotline

If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to email us at [info@generali-koeln-marathon.de](mailto:info@generali-koeln-marathon.de). You can reach us by telephone from Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 1.00 pm, on 0221 / 33 77 73 11

### 1.2 Withdrawal, transfer or entry or cancellation cover

In the event that you are unable to take part in the Generali Cologne Marathon as planned, you have two options: transferring your entry to another person or taking out entry fee insurance.

#### Transfer of entry

We offer the option to transfer your entry to another person. A transfer can only be made once per race number, is only possible via the race place exchange and cannot be reversed. The transfer fee is €25.00. Transfers are possible until 31 August 2026.

Further details can be found [here](#) under the tab 'Withdrawal / Transfer or Cancellation Insurance'.

**IMPORTANT:** This process is irrevocable and cannot be reversed.

Transferring your race number without an official re-registration is not permitted and will result in immediate disqualification.

#### Entry Fee Insurance

This insurance covers your entry fee in the event that you are unable to take part. It covers illness, accident, unemployment, short-time working, pregnancy or significant damage to property. Any additional services you have booked are not included.

If you have taken out this entry fee insurance and are unable to take part in the event, please send us an email stating this. We will send you a cancellation form, which you should then submit via the [insurer's online tool](#), together with the following documents:

- A copy of your personal email confirmation of registration for the marathon
- Unsubscribe Form
- Proof of the claim (e.g., a doctor's note, etc.)
- Current bank account information (IBAN and BIC)

The amount of the insurance fee depends on the amount of the entry fee.

**IMPORTANT:** In the event of a claim, a refund can only be made to an IBAN account.

Any additional services you've booked—such as the participant T-shirt—are not eligible for a refund and can be picked up at the Running.EXPO or mailed to you after the event. For mailing, please send us a prepaid return envelope (currently €1.80) along with a brief note including your bib number and, if applicable, the T-shirt size you ordered, to the following address:

Kölner Ausdauersport GmbH  
Girnitzweg 30 – Tor 5A  
50829 Köln

If you pre-ordered the race packet, the shirt, jacket, or towel you ordered will be automatically mailed to you. In this case, you do not need to send us a self-addressed envelope.

### **1.3 Change in Distance**

Upgrades from the half marathon to the marathon can be made through the change link until August 31, 2026, or until the marathon is booked out. Downgrades to the shorter distance are not possible.

### **1.4 Dispatch of race packs**

If you are unable or do not wish to collect your race pack in person at the Running.EXPO, you can have them sent to you for €25 (marathon and half-marathon, within Germany) or €30 (relay marathon and delivery to the Benelux countries), provided you have an address in Germany or the Benelux countries and the allocation for postal deliveries has not been exhausted. The deadline for booking postage is 31 August 2026; late bookings are not permitted. Anyone who has booked postage will receive a parcel containing all the race documents in good time before the event:

- The race number, including the transponder for timekeeping
- The starter pack and its contents
- The participant's T-shirt, jacket or towel, provided it has been booked in advance
- For relays: The race numbers for all four relay runners

**IMPORTANT:** It is best to have the parcel delivered to an address (such as an office or similar) where you can be sure it will be accepted. If the parcel cannot be delivered and is returned to us, no (!) second delivery attempt will be made due to time constraints. The parcel will then be available for collection at the race pack collection point at the Running.EXPO.

## 2 Before the competition / Friday and Saturday

### 2.1 Informations & Questions

If you have any questions for us in the run-up to the event, please feel free to email us at [info@generali-koeln-marathon.de](mailto:info@generali-koeln-marathon.de).

You can reach us by telephone during the week before the event between 09:00 and 13:00, as well as on Saturday between 09:00 and 17:00 and on Sunday between 08:00 and 18:00 on the following number: 0221 / 33 77 73 11.

If you have any questions about travelling by public transport or about the timetables for Cologne's buses and trams on Sundays, you can call the KVB's 'help line': 0800 6 50 40 30 (free of charge).

### 2.2 The most important thing – your health

Before you set off, please listen to your body. **If you have any signs of a cold or any other infection, or if you have a toothache, please do not start the race.**

Even though, together with ASB Cologne, we have over 150 paramedics and doctors stationed along the entire route and in the start/finish area to ensure your safety, you yourselves know best what your body can handle.

Please write an emergency contact number on the back of your race number!

Medical staff are also authorised to withdraw athletes showing signs of injury and/or overexertion from the race for their own safety.

### 2.3 Running.EXPO and bib pickup

The free [Running.EXPO](#) will take place from Friday 2nd to Saturday 3rd October 2026. The venue is [MOTORWORLD Cologne](#).

There you will receive your full race pack (race number, race bag, participant T-shirt, jacket, towel – if ordered) and all the important information about the day of the event. To collect your race pack, please bring the digital confirmation of entry that was sent to you by email.

Please make sure you also read the attachment containing the latest important information.

If you are unable to collect your documents yourself, you may arrange for someone else to collect them on your behalf upon presentation of the digital confirmation of participation.

**Please note: There will be no distribution of race packs in the start area on Sunday!**

### Running.EXPO opening hours

Friday, 2 October 2026, 12:00 to 20:00

Saturday, 3 October 2026, 9:00 to 18:00

### Travelling to the Running.EXPO by bus and train

- Tram: Line 5 (towards Ossendorf) to the IKEA Am Butzweilerhof stop
- Bus: Line 127 to the Alter Flughafen Butzweilerhoff stop

### Travelling to the Running.EXPO by car

There is a car park available right next to Motorworld. The first 30 minutes are free of charge; after that, a charge applies.

- Motorworld's address for your sat-nav: **Butzweilerstrasse 35-39, 50829 Köln**

## **2.4 Changes to details and subsequent booking of additional services**

You can update your details (excluding personal details such as your name, gender, date of birth, etc.) yourself via the change link in the email confirmation of registration, and you can also add further products or services. Changes can still be made as follows:

- by 31 August. 2026: all changes relating to the event
- by 3 October 2026 at 5.30 pm: details of relay runners
- by 4 October 2026 at 8.00 am: emergency contacts

## **2.5 For relays: Change the running order or replace a runner**

You can change the order of the runners yourselves using the change link in the email confirmation of registration until 3 October 2026, or replace one runner with another. If a runner is unable to take part at short notice, one participant may run two legs. PLEASE NOTE: In this case, you will not be included in the rankings for the fastest relay team.

## **3 Before the competition / Sunday**

The most relaxed way to travel on the day of the race is by bus or train. At the marathon expo, you can pick up a fold-out map showing all the areas clearly laid out.

Along with your final confirmation of entry, you will also receive a VRS ticket for public transport, which you can download online. As a runner, you will of course have your own ticket, but you can also download a ticket for your accompanying person. This will allow you to use trams and buses in the [VRS](#) area free of charge on Saturday 3 October and Sunday 4 October.

**Important when planning your journey:** If you wish to hand in a bag of clothes, you must first travel to the FINISH LINE and hand it in at the bag drop there. The bag drop for the marathon and the relay race is on Christophstraße. The bag drop for the half marathon is in the Burgmauer. From there, it's about a 20-minute walk or an 11-minute journey on tram lines 3, 4 or 14 to the start (board at Appellhofplatz – alight at Deutz/Messe/LANXESS Arena).

### 3.1 Travelling by bus and train to the FINISH to drop off bags

Take the U3 and U4 lines to Appellhofplatz, Kattenbug/Zeughausstraße exit.

Alternatively, you can also travel via the main station. Use the 'Bahnhofsvorplatz' exit there. From there, it's about a 5-minute walk along 'Domprobst-Ketzer-Straße' and 'An den Dominikanern' to the bag drop.

The opening times are as follows:

- Half Marathon: from 7.00 am, Burgmauer 50667 Cologne
- Marathon: from 8.00 am, Christophstraße 50667 Cologne

### 3.2 Travelling by car on Sunday to the FINISH to drop off bags

There are no parking spaces available near the finish area. Anyone who still needs to come by car can use the nearby pay-and-display car parks. However, when planning your journey, you must, of course, take into account the road closures in place for the marathon.

### 3.3 Travelling to the START by bus and train (no bag drop)

#### KVB-trams

Lines 1, 3, 4 and 9 to the 'Bahnhof Köln Messe/Deutz' or 'Deutz/Messe/LANXESS Arena' stop.

#### **PLEASE NOTE – please be aware of the special timetable\*:**

From 8.00 am until approximately 3.15 pm, Line 1, travelling from Weiden West, will only run as far as the Aachener Straße/Gürtel stop.

From 8.00 am until approximately 3.15 pm, service on Line 9 will be suspended on the section between Sülz Hermeskeiler Platz and Neumarkt.

\*Subject to change

#### S-Bahn in the VRS

Lines S6, S11, S12 and S19 in the Rhein-Sieg Transport Association (VRS) stop right at the start point at the Köln Messe/Deutz stop.

### Deutsche Bahn

All trains stop at Köln Messe/Deutz station (approx. 2-minute walk) or at the main station (approx. 15-minute walk across the Hohenzollern Bridge to the starting area).

### Travelling by car to the start (no bag drop)

There is the option to park in the LANXESS Arena car park for a fee. Please note that we have not reserved any parking spaces and that other events may be taking place at the arena at the same time. It is about a 5-minute walk from there to the start.

### Getting to the transition zones for relay runners

All three transition zones are easily accessible by KVB from the finish line.

Getting to the [first handover](#):

Line 16 runs directly from Cologne Cathedral to Chlodwigplatz, which is also served by lines 15 and 17. It is about a 30-minute walk from Cologne Cathedral.

Getting to the [second handover](#):

Second handover is located on Aachener Straße, right next to the Aachener Weiher. You can reach the 'Aachener Str./Gürtel' stop on lines 1, 7 and 13. From Cologne Cathedral, it is about a 20-minute walk to the second handover.

Getting to the [third handover](#):

Third handover is at Ebertplatz and can be reached directly from Cologne Cathedral via lines 16 and 18. Lines 12 and 15 also stop at Ebertplatz. From Cologne Cathedral, it is about a 15- to 20-minute walk to the third handover.

## **3.4 Bib number**

Please attach your bib number clearly to the front of your running shirt before the start. Your race number will indicate the colour of your starting block. The colours will be checked at check-in. Please assist the volunteers by showing your numbers without being asked.

Starting from the wrong starting block (verified via timekeeping) and/or obscuring, folding or otherwise damaging the sponsor strip on your race number will result in disqualification.

**For relay teams:** You will be given a relay race number with a transponder on the back, a bib belt, and four back numbers for the four runners. Please attach the relay race number to the bib belt and wear it visibly on your front. You must hand this to the next relay runner in the transition zone.

**IMPORTANT:** The relay race number with the transponder is essential for timekeeping.

The four shirt numbers are each attached to the back of your shirt using safety pins.

### 3.5 Starting blocks

The colour of your race number automatically indicates the colour and starting block (e.g. 'RED') from which you will start.

Allocation is based on the finish time you provided during registration. You can still adjust this later via the edit link in your registration confirmation email, up until 31 August 2026.

If you have not specified a finish time by 31 August, you will automatically start from one of the rear blocks.

### 3.6 Self-catering (marathon only)

If you wish to use your own drinks along the route, you can leave your own provisions at the refreshment points.

Please hand in your individually marked water bottles on the day of the event, 4 October, between 9.30 am and 10.15 am at Auenweg (near the station restaurant) in the start area. A lorry with boxes for the respective refreshment stations will be waiting there. Only bottles may be handed in. During the race, you will find your bottles on the **second** table at each station.

## 4 During the competition

### 4.1 Start times on Sunday, 04. October 2026

|                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Generali Cologne Halfmarathon     | 08:30 |
| Generali Cologne Marathon & Relay | 10:30 |

### 4.2 Timekeeping

Timing for all competitions is carried out exclusively using a race result transponder attached to the race number. The first 10 finishers are ranked on a gross basis and are marked with an \* in the results list.

### 4.3 Routes

You can find the [route maps](#) here.

The entire route runs through the city of Cologne, is at least 3 meters wide and is tarmacked. However, there may be narrow sections on some parts of the route due to roadworks. Although we check and clean the entire route several times in advance, damage to the tarmac, dirt and other issues may still arise at short notice. Please run carefully and, if necessary, alert other participants to any potential hazards.

#### 4.4 Legs and transition zones for the relay marathon

The lengths of the individual legs of the relay marathon are 12.0 | 11.9 | 6.0 | 12.3 kilometers. The approach to the transition zones is signposted 100 metres before each zone. The transition zone is divided into sections of 50 bib numbers. Please leave the transition area immediately after your change via the designated exits so as not to obstruct the following relay teams. We will lay out separate timing mats for you at the transition zones so that the time of every runner in your relay team can be recorded. You must run over these mats!

#### 4.5 Pacemakers – keeping you on pace

Once again this year, we're offering you support along the route. The front-runners and back-runners – known as pacemakers – set the pace to help you achieve a specific finishing time.

They'll be in the starting blocks well in advance and will be identified by flags displaying the relevant finishing time. The pacemakers are all 'old hands' and know all about running and finishing times.

There are pacers for the following target times:

- Half marathon 1:30, 1:45, 2:00, 2:15 and 2:30 hours
- Marathon 3:00, 3:15, 3:30, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, 5:30 and 6:00 hours

#### 4.6 Refreshment points along the route

You'll find [refreshment stations](#) roughly every 5 kilometres.

There are a total of 11 refreshment stations along the **marathon route**, offering a variety of items, including water, bananas, Coca-Cola and DextroEnergy.

There are a total of 6 refreshment stations along the **half-marathon route**, offering a variety of items, including water, bananas, Coca-Cola and DextroEnergy.

#### 4.7 Toilets along the route

There are portable toilets at every refreshment point and in the relay changeover zones.

#### 4.8 Donation mat

At the 23 km mark of the marathon (11 km mark of the half-marathon) on Aachener Straße, you can run across the donation mat. By voluntarily running across the 'donation mat', you can make a donation. We will then contact you again by email after the race regarding your donation.

#### 4.9 Time limits

Please ensure that you stay within the specified time limit. The broom van traditionally brings up the rear. Should you fall outside the time window, the driver of the broom van and the marshals will give you a warning in good time.

However, as soon as the broom van overtakes you, you will be outside the secured section of the route and the race will be over for you. You will then have the option of getting on the bus and travelling to the finish line, or you can use public transport to get there.

Once the broom van has passed, the route will be cleared and then reopened to traffic.

The qualifying standards for the individual events are as follows:

- **Half marathon** 2:45 hours net (last start at 9.45 am)
- **Marathon, Relay marathon:** 6:00 hours net (last start at 10:50 am)

‘Net’ means that your time is measured from the moment you cross the starting line until you cross the finish line.

IMPORTANT: Special rule for the half marathon. There is a checkpoint at Neumarkt at approximately km 19.8; if you have not passed this by 12:15, you will be withdrawn from the race there and will not be able to run to the finish line.

## 5 At the finish line | after the competition

Congratulations on your fantastic performance – well done!

As soon as you cross the finish line, please move on quickly and leave the immediate finish area. The athletes behind you will be grateful.

#### 5.1 Medal

Just before you enter the refreshment area, our volunteers will put your medal round your neck.

#### 5.2 Refreshments at the finish line

Enjoy the superb selection of snacks, refreshments and drinks at the finish line. Of course, a chilled Reissdorf Kölsch will be waiting for you. With or without alcohol – whichever you prefer

#### 5.3 Where to find what in the finish area?

To help you find your way around, [here](#) is a map of the venue

#### Check-out / Collection of clothes bags / Showers

At the end of the REWE Group refreshment village, you'll exit the closed event area. Head straight ahead (marathon) or turn left (half-marathon) to collect your bags on

Christophstraße and Burgmauer; the showers are straight ahead. From the cloakroom, you can then head on to Neumarkt for the post-run party at ReissDorf. The routes there are signposted.

#### *After-Run-Party at "ReissDorf"*

Once you've finished the race, you can head to the 'ReissDorf' to reflect on your run over a cozy glass of Reissdorf Kölsch and catch up with friends. The 'ReissDorf' is located on Neumarkt.

#### *Medal engraving*

Once again this year, you'll have the chance to have your medals engraved. You'll find the engraving stand in ReissDorf on Neumarkt.

### **5.4 Results**

You can find your results on our website under '[Results](#)' immediately after crossing the finish line. Under your name, you will also find a link to your certificate.

We will publish the final and official results lists in the same section of our website once the appeal period has ended, approximately one week after the event.

### **5.5 Honours**

The awards ceremony for the three fastest runners in the half marathon and the marathon will take place immediately after each race finishes, on the stage in the finish area.

The top three relay teams in the relay marathon, the fastest school relay team, and the city champions will also be honoured on site.

The awards ceremony for the Studi-Werk Cup will take place at Neumarkt. Please make your own way there after crossing the finish line.

All age-group winners and the winners of the special categories will be notified in writing and honoured after the event.

### **5.6 Photos**

"[Sportograf](#)" captured your race at various points along the course. As soon as the photos are online, you'll receive an email with a link to your photos. This usually takes no longer than two days.

### **5.7 Show yourselves on the Social Wall!**

If you'd like to share your photos and videos with friends and other participants on social media (Instagram and Twitter), you can do so quickly and easily:

All you have to do is tag your posts with the hashtag [#generalikoelnmarathon](#)—and we'll be able to capture your best moments and impressions from marathon day right

away and display them on our [Social Wall](#) along with all the other posts. This Social Wall brings together all the posts about our event in one place.  
After the event, we hope you have a relaxing trip home and a quick and full recovery.

**See you on October 4, 2026, for the 28th Generali Cologne Marathon!**