

The **Manchester Marathon** stands out as one of the UK's premier spring marathon events, attracting tens of thousands of runners yearly with its fast, flat course running through the heart of Greater Manchester. With more entrants every year and the race growing in scale, one common question among participants is, *do you get your Manchester Marathon time by text message?*

In this comprehensive post, I will address the timing and results system, how entries work including charity places, the course details, and useful tips to get the most out of race day. I will also highlight tools such as goandrace.com and Garmin devices for preparing beforehand, giving you a full picture to help set expectations and plan your perfect Manchester Marathon.

Manchester Marathon at a Glance

Event Detail Information Race Date (2026) Sunday 12th April 2026 Scale Approx. 20,000+ runners Time Limit 6 hours 30 minutes Entry Sell-out Usually within hours after entry opens Official Timing Sporthive timing with chip & mat system

Do You Get Your Manchester Marathon Time by Text Message?

The Manchester Marathon uses a professional chip timing system managed through **Sporthive**, a widely adopted race solutions platform. The finishing mats record your chip time accurately as you cross the line.

Results by SMS (UK Mobile Number Text Time)

Uniquely for Manchester, yes, they **do offer live results delivered by SMS text message** following the5krunner.com your race finish, but with some conditions:

- You must pre-register your UK mobile phone number during race entry to receive SMS notifications.
- The text typically includes your official chip time along with your finishing position, but it is a **summary message**, not a full result sheet.
- Text results are sent as soon as your chip is recorded, usually within seconds to a few minutes after you pass the timing mat.
- This service avoids the frustration of waiting in crowded finish areas or scrolling on congested websites immediately post-race.

Note that this only works with **UK mobile numbers**—international participants will need to check the race website or Sporthive platform online for results.

Other Ways to Access Your Results

If you do not opt-in for SMS results or use a non-UK phone, **Sporthive timing**

Post-race, official full results including detailed splits get published on the Manchester Marathon website and Sporthive page.

Entry Process and Sell-Out Reality

The Manchester Marathon is hugely popular, and the entry process reflects this demand.

Entry Opens in Autumn

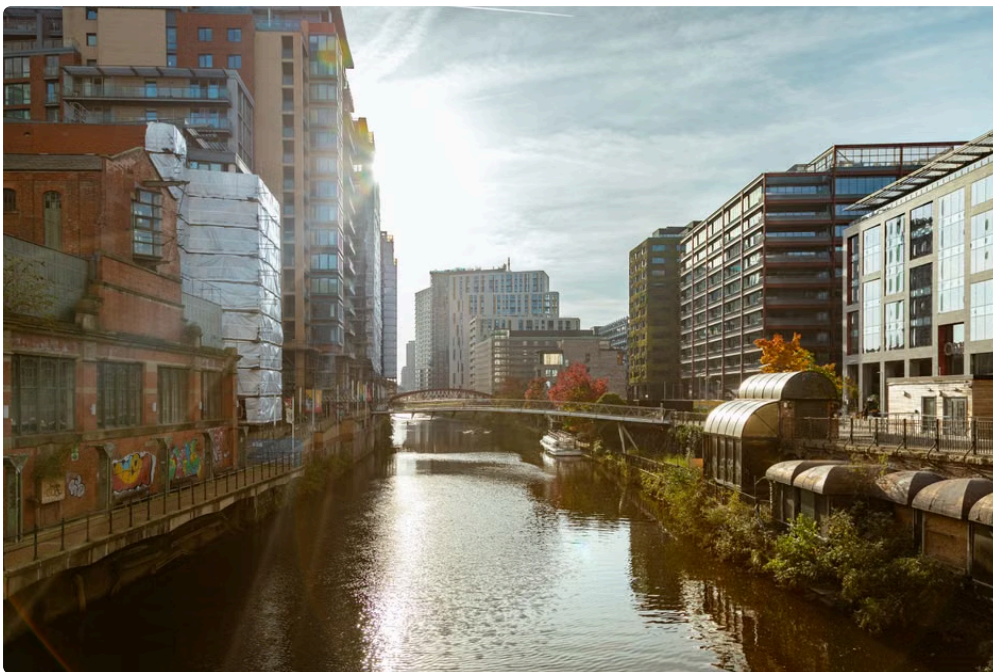
Public entries open generally around October of the calendar year before the race, and **sell out in hours**, sometimes mere minutes depending on publicity and demand. For 2026, anticipate an October 2025 launch.

Charity Places and Real Costs

Many runners gain entry via charity places, which come with a separate responsibility to raise funds. A case in point is the **MS Trust charity place scheme**, which requires runners to pay a registration fee plus meet a minimum sponsorship target:

- **£40 registration fee** (non-refundable)
- **£500 minimum sponsorship** pledged and raised

Do not underestimate these costs and effort; these are real commitments, not giveaways. The charities use these places to fundraise often much-needed money, and in return, you get a guaranteed start without waiting on the public ballot.



The Course Route: Flat, Fast & Certified

One of Manchester Marathon's main appeals is its predominantly flat route, ideal for many aiming for PBs (personal bests). However, it is always worth noting crowding and logistics can slightly affect pacing, especially near the start.

2026 Route Overview

The official 2026 Manchester Marathon route has been released but not yet in full detailed public GPS form. However, **goandrace.com** offers a *third-party downloadable GPX file of the 2026 route* that you can load onto your Garmin or other GPS devices. This is invaluable for pre-race planning:

- goandrace.com lets you download the GPX route file
- Compatible examples include **Garmin Forerunner** and Edge series devices
- Loading this GPX helps you familiarise yourself with the route elevation, turns, and landmarks

If you are a Garmin owner, simply transfer the GPX file via Garmin Connect or their desktop software and sync to your watch for course previews.

Elevation Profile

The elevation gain is minimal and gently rolling, roughly **around 75 metres of total ascent**, concentrated mostly in the latter half of the race. This keeps fuel strategies straightforward and provides many runners a flat course advantage.



Certification and History

The course is officially measured and certified by UK Athletics and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). Each year the route varies minimally, but the start line, iconic Manchester landmarks, and finish in the city centre remain consistent.

Essential Race Day Tips for Manchester Marathon Runners

From a decade of UK marathon reporting and plenty of personal race days covered, here are practical tips for Manchester Marathon entrants:

1. **Arrive by 08:00 am at the latest:** The start waves begin from 09:00, but with tight transport timelines and bag-drop queues, earlier arrival saves stress. The **Salford Central station** offers the shortest walk to the start village.
2. **Pack Collection:** Confirm your pack collection day/time in advance—often the day before race day. The Manchester Marathon is strict: you cannot collect on race morning, so plan accordingly.
3. **GPX Practice:** Load the 2026 route GPX from goandrace.com onto your Garmin and run parts around your local area or treadmill previews.
4. **Mobile Number:** Ensure your registered phone number is active and UK-based to get **results by SMS** immediately after finishing.
5. **Time Limits:** The official cutoff is **6 hours 30 minutes**. Plan pacing so you're within that window to avoid removal from the course mid-way.

Summary Table: Manchester Marathon Timing & Entry Facts

Feature Details Official Timing Sporthive chip timing system Results by SMS Yes, for registered UK mobile numbers at finish Online Live Results Available on Sporthive & Manchester Marathon websites Entry Fee (Public Ballot) Approx. £65 - £75 (subject to change) Charity Entry Example (MS Trust) £40 registration + £500 minimum fundraising Course Length 26.2 miles / 42.195 km (certified) Course Type City centre flat, rolling elevation Race Date 2026 Sunday 12th April 2026 Time Limit 6 hours 30 minutes

In Conclusion

Manchester Marathon is a fantastic event combining fast course potential and rich city atmosphere. For those wondering *do you get your Manchester Marathon time by text?*—the answer is yes, but make sure you register your UK mobile number to receive your **results by SMS**. Sporthive timing technology ensures official, accurate results at your fingertips within moments of crossing the finish line.

Entry demand remains fierce, so plan ahead, especially if you seek a charity place where minimum sponsorship fundraising can be significant. Use resources like [goandrace.com](https://www.goandrace.com) to study the course in detail, and load GPX files onto your Garmin or preferred device.

Ultimately, preparation, respect for the rules, and proper logistics planning ensure you enjoy your race day without surprises, ready for that PB or simply the joy of running one of the UK's most iconic marathons!