Run FAQ

Run Course

What is the half marathon course time limit? **The time limit is 3 ½ hours, finishers after that time will be required to run/walk on the sidewalk and will have to wait for traffic, the finish line however will remain open until the last finisher crosses it.**

Are dogs and strollers allowed? **Yes, on the 1K and 5K courses, but not on the half marathon / 10K course.**

Is the course all hard surface? **Yes, the courses are on streets and hard surface trails.**

Is there a minimum age requirement for the half marathon / relay? **Although there is no official minimum age requirement for the half marathon, we recommend all half marathon participants be at least 12 years old on race day. All participants under 18 must have their event waiver signed by their parent or legal guardian.**

Is the Run Course certified? **Yes, the half marathon, 10K and 5K courses are all USATF Certified.**

Are there mile markers along the course? **Yes, there are mile markers at each mile of the half marathon, 10K and 5K courses, as well the half marathon has 5K, 10K and 15K splits.**

How many hydration stations are on the course? **There are 8 hydration stations along the half marathon course and 4 along the 10K course. They feature both water and an isotonic beverage. The 5K course has one hydration station which you will pass by twice.**

What are their locations? **The hydration stations are clearly marked on both the half marathon, 10K and 5K course maps which are linked here:**

Half Marathon:
https://d2w7gersd1ix5b.cloudfront.net/files.ashx?t=fg&rid=PlanoBalloonFest&f=pbf-half-2018.pdf

10K: https://d38trduahtodj3.cloudfront.net/files.ashx?t=fg&rid=PlanoBalloonFest&f=pbf_10k_-_Map.pdf

5K:
https://d2w7gersd1ix5b.cloudfront.net/files.ashx?t=fg&rid=PlanoBalloonFest&f=5K_Route.pdf

Will there be public restrooms near the start/finish line and along the course? **Yes, restrooms are located throughout the festival grounds, near the start/finish line and along the 10K and Half Marathon courses at approximately miles 1, 4, 6, 7.5, 9.5 and 12.**

Where is the 10K finish line? **The 10K finish is at Bob Woodruff Park North at 2601 San Gabriel Drive, Plano, TX 75074. Shuttles will be available to take participants back to the starting line in the festival area.**

Is the map available for review? **Yes, the course maps for the half marathon, 10K and 5K are linked here:**

Half Marathon:
https://d2w7gersd1ix5b.cloudfront.net/files.ashx?t=fg&rid=PlanoBalloonFest&f=pbf-half-2018.pdf

10K: https://d38trduahtodj3.cloudfront.net/files.ashx?t=fg&rid=PlanoBalloonFest&f=pbf_10k_-_Map.pdf

5K:
https://d2w7gersd1ix5b.cloudfront.net/files.ashx?t=fg&rid=PlanoBalloonFest&f=5K_Route.pdf

Can my friends and family access the course to watch or cheer? **Yes, we recommend the following areas for viewing and cheering on your friends and family:**

- **Along Spring Creek between the start/finish and Jupiter Road**
- **Along the southwest corner of Los Rios and Parker Road**
- **At Bob Woodruff Park North**
- **Along Oak Grove and Maverick Drive**
- **On the trail at Parker Road and Los Rios**

Packet Pick-up

Is there packet pick-up onsite? **No, there is no packet pick-up or registration onsite.**

When and where is packet pick up? **Packet pick up details are not complete and will be posted to** www.pbfraces.org, **at** www.facebook.com/pbfraces **and emailed to registered participants once details are confirmed.**

Can a friend or family member pick up my packet for me? **Yes, all they need to know is the first and last name you used to register.**

If I live out of town and will not be able to pickup my packet prior to the race, how do I get my packet? **We understand that this can be a challenge. We will try to accommodate your request as best we can. You can have your packet mailed to you for $20 however you must be registered prior to August 31st. Additionally a friend or family member can pick up for you.**

Can I exchange shirts for a different size? **No, you will receive the size you ordered and following the race we will do our best to make exchanges; however we cannot guarantee that we will have shirts remaining. Keep in mind you can make changes to your registration including shirt size by logging in at www.runsignup.com with the email address and password you created when you registered. The race shirts are gender specific, dry fit style shirts and are typically more form fitting than a typical t-shirt. Please keep that in mind when selecting your shirt size.**

General Information / Questions

What happens if it rains (inclement weather)? **All races will go on as scheduled unless there is weather which poses a threat to the participants, volunteers, staff and spectators. If in the unlikely event that races are cancelled there will be no refunds or make-up date.**

Is there a bag check? **Yes, the bag check is located in the Runners' Village and your race bib has a coupon attached which serves as your claim check.**

What time is the award ceremony? **The awards ceremony starts at 9:30 AM on the stage in the Runners' Village on both days.**

Can I register a group? **Yes, we offer discounts if you have ten or more adults in your group. Please contact On Your Left! Marketing & Events for more details at info@oylmarketing.com.**

Who receives those amazing finisher medals? **All participants in each distance receive finisher medals. Those who register and complete the Sky High or Elevate Challenge receive a bonus medal.**

How do I make changes to my registration? **You can make changes like switching your shirt size, transfer from the 5K to the half marathon, change your packet pick up location and even transfer your entry to someone else by logging into www.runsignup.com using your email address and password that you created when you registered. Click on Profile and then Manage Registration in your PBF registration and that is where you can edit your registration. Please note that there are fees associated with some changes like transferring your registration to another person.**

Are there refunds? **No there are no refunds, however you may transfer your race entry to someone else by logging into www.runsignup.com, click Profile and then select Manage Registration in your PBF registration and follow the prompts. The deadline for transfers is August 31, 2018.**

The Plano Balloon Festival, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and all funds generated from the race and the festival support our mission. To learn more visit: http://www.planoballoonfest.org/p/about/nonprofitinfo/impact

How early should I arrive prior to the race? **The InTouch Credit Union Plano Balloon Festival is one of North Texas' largest events each year. Because of the high volume of traffic we suggest you plan to arrive at least one hour prior to the start of your race.**

Where should I park for the race? **Your race registration includes parking which is located at the Collin College Spring Creek Campus at the intersection of Jupiter and Spring Creek Parkway. And your race bib acts as your parking pass. Note, depending on where you park in the lot, you could walk up to a mile to get to the start line.**

What happens if I am late to the start line? **We work very closely with the Plano Police Department to ensure runner safety and at the same time minimize the impact to the surrounding community along the course. If you are late we will try our best to accommodate you starting the run but once the Police Department notifies that we cannot allow anyone else to start we have to abide by that decision. The maximum amount of time we can allow the start line to remain open is five minutes after the start of each race. Again please plan to arrive at least one hour early for your race to ensure you won't miss the start.**

Are there any tips you can offer to avoid traffic? **Yes, we recommend taking DART to the Parker Road Station and using the "Balloon Flyer" shuttle from the DART station. Shuttle service begins at 6:00 AM. In addition we highly recommend several alternate routes. From Highway 75, exit at George Bush/Highway 190, Plano Parkway, Park Blvd., or**

Parker Road and traveling eastward to Jupiter Road and continuing North. Follow the signs to the VIP Parking at Collin College.

How many PBF tickets do I get with my registration? **You will receive two tickets to the festival which can be used any day and your race bib will grant you access on the day of the race. Keep in mind your race bib serves as your parking pass and is valid only on race day. Should you use your tickets for another day, you will have to pay for parking.**

What is the Sky High Challenge? **This registration category is for those who want to run the 5K on Saturday and the Half Marathon on Sunday. Those who complete the challenge will receive a bonus finisher medal available at the finish line. In order to qualify you must register for the Sky High Challenge category. If you register for each distance individually you will not be included in the Sky High Challenge and you will not receive the bonus finisher medal.**

What is the Elevate Challenge? **This registration category is for those who want to run the 5K on Saturday and the 10K on Sunday. Those who complete the challenge will receive a bonus finisher medal available at the finish line. In order to qualify you must register for the Elevate Challenge category. If you register for each distance individually you will not be included in the Elevate Challenge and you will not receive the bonus finisher medal.**