



Westport Marathon / Half-Marathon /10k – Competitors Brief

Welcome to the 2026 Westport Marathon. This document outlines important information relevant to all three of our events – marathon, half-marathon, and 10k. Please read the 'Important Notices' section, as well as the section of the brief pertaining to your event.

Our primary concern is that all competitors complete the event safely and enjoyably. You have a key role to play in making this happen. I would specifically remind you to closely observe the following:

Important Notices

1. When gathering for the start of your event, please go straight to your assigned zone (Red – Marathon; Green – Half; Blue – 10k) and keep clear of any sections of the public roads at the Quay which will be in use for the events.
2. Please obey the instructions of the Gardai, Civil Defence, and event marshals during the event. They are there for your safety and enjoyment.
3. It is your responsibility that you are fit and well to compete in your event. If you have not trained for the event, or are feeling in any way unwell on the day, we recommend that you refrain from taking part.

4. Part of the full-marathon and half-marathon course will use the cycle/walkway between Westport (Belclare Junction) and Murrisk village, along the R335. This section of the course will have 2-way traffic so please be aware of oncoming runners. Always stay to the LEFT of the path when meeting oncoming runners.
5. The extra short loop added to the 10k event last year, just after the 3k mark at the Skate Park, remains in place this year. Please refer to the course map.
6. Bag drops will be available at the start line of each event.
7. Westport Marathon pursues a 'Leave No Trace' policy. Westport itself is one of Ireland's tidiest towns. Rubbish drops will be available at the water stations around the routes and are clearly marked on the maps on our website. Please dispose of your rubbish responsibly.
8. Toilets will be available on the route and these are clearly marked on the route maps on our website.
9. Water Stations are available along all routes and these are also clearly marked on the route maps on our website.
10. We ask competitors to please stick to the running route when running between Belclare junction and Murrisk village and vice versa. Marshals will be in place at certain sections of the route to aid the flow of the race.
11. Traffic Management systems will be in place along the full- and half-marathon routes at the 4/5k outward routes and the 17k/30k inward routes. Please follow the instructions of the traffic management professionals, Gardai, and marshals in these areas.
12. After finishing your event, please keep to the right hand side of the road, inside the barriers, in order to exit the finish area. There will be other

runners using the rest of the road as they complete their event. Please respect your fellow competitors. Thank You.

Full-Marathon

- The full marathon course has been professionally measured. The extra 195 metres has been added at the start of the route. For your Garmin/tech to align with the course KM markers, you should record your first split at the 0km point, 195-metres after the start line of the event (marked '0' with RED line paint).
- The Full Marathon begins beside the bag drop tent at the road at Westport Quay at 07:30am. **PLEASE FOLLOW THE RED FLAG.** Competitors must be at the start line no later than 07:00am. The pre-race briefing will take place at 07:20am.
- Competitors who have not reached the turnaround point for the half-marathon (11km) by 9:15am, will be directed back on the half-marathon route. This is for your safety and that of the course volunteers and is at the request of the Gardai.
- The marathon course will be marked every 5km with **RED** distance markers on a white background. The section of the route from 25km to 30km will have distance markers every KM. The road will also be marked every KM with **RED** line paint.
- After the 5km mark, just before Belclare junction, you will turn right at the junction to complete another loop of the Railway walk section of the course. Upon return to Belclare junction (approx 12k mark), you will continue straight past the junction towards Croagh Patrick.
- The section of the route between the approx 19km mark (end of the Greenway after Murrisk village) and the 32km mark (re-entering the Greenway before Murrisk on the inward/return route) will be on OPEN PUBLIC road, the R335. From the 19km mark, **competitors must keep to**

the RIGHT HAND SIDE of the road, facing the oncoming traffic. Please remain as close to the shoulder as is safely possible. There will be warning signage placed along this section of the route to advise drivers of athletes on the road. Motorcycle marshals will also be on the route to slow traffic.

- On the inward section from Murrisk to Belclare, stay to the left of the picnic benches at the viewpoints at approx the 36k and 37k marks. Follow the signage and instructions of the marshals.
- You may meet oncoming runners from the Half-marathon between Murrisk village (35k) and Belclare junction (39k). Please stay to the LEFT HAND SIDE of the running route, in single file where necessary or when instructed by the marshals, when meeting oncoming runners.
- From the 39km mark onwards, there is a full road closure in place up to the Ardmore rd, just before the Quay school. Please stick to the left-hand side of the road when turning left at Belclare. After 200m, the full width of the road is available to runners here. However, local access traffic will still be using the road. Please merge to the left side of the road until the traffic passes, and then re-use the full width of the road.

