

PURPOSE:

To clarify the distribution of invitational entries allocated to the Town of Wellesley by the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) in support of the Boston Marathon.

POLICY:

The Select Board's policy outlines the assignment of invitational entries to Wellesley Public Safety officers and to nonprofit organizations that directly benefit Wellesley residents or offer programs that benefit the Town and allows all qualified nonprofits a fair chance to be awarded one or more runner entries.

PROCEDURES:

Allocation of Invitational Entries

- a. Reflecting the significant contribution that Public Safety officers make to the success and safety of those who run the Boston Marathon, up to four (4) invitational entries will be reserved in late fall prior to the Marathon for Wellesley Police officers and Wellesley Firefighters who commit to train and run. The Police and Fire Chiefs shall advise the Public Information Officer of the names of any designated runners from each department, as soon as they are identified, and not later than December 31. If there are fewer than four entries requested from either department, those entries will be returned to the Select Board pool for distribution pursuant to the procedures in section d.
- b. All recipients of invitational entries must complete and sign a runner agreement to be registered for the Marathon and must pay the applicable entry fee to the BAA on or before January 31st or forfeit the invitational entry. Recipients of invitational entries (other than Wellesley Public Safety officers) must agree to fundraise a minimum amount set by the Select Board for the sponsoring nonprofit. A sponsoring nonprofit may, in its discretion, set a higher fundraising minimum.
- c. All recipients of invitational entries must agree to comply with all terms and conditions set by the BAA.
- d. Following any award of invitational entries to Wellesley Public Safety officers under section a, above, the Select Board will utilize the following criteria to determine how the remaining invitational entries will be awarded:
 - i. At least two entries will be reserved for Town of Wellesley residents and/or employees who agree to raise funds for the Town's War Memorial Scholarship Fund. In the

event that more than two runners apply to represent the War Memorial Scholarship Fund, selection of recipients shall be made by the Select Board based upon qualifying criteria set by the Select Board or its designee from time to time. If there are fewer than two (2) total entries for the War Memorial Scholarship Fund, remaining entries shall be returned to the pool for distribution pursuant to the procedures outlined in section ii, below.

- ii. The remaining entries will be made available to nonprofit organizations which contribute significantly to the Town of Wellesley or to some population of Wellesley residents, as determined by the Board. The Select Board will award entries to nonprofits in their sole discretion and may issue no entries or more than one entry to nonprofits. Organizations should recognize that there are likely to be more requests for entries than the Town is allocated, therefore applicants should not rely on the award of an entry as all nonprofit applicants may not receive entries every year.
- iii. Invitational entries awarded under sections i and/or ii above are made for the express purpose of use by the named recipient or named nonprofit organization. *The entries are not transferable. Nonprofit organizations are responsible for securing their runners.* If a nonprofit organization is unable to secure a runner, any unused entry must be returned to the Select Board by January 31st for further distribution under sections i and ii, above.

e. Schedule

- i. The Boston Marathon is held each year on Patriots Day.
- ii. By late fall of the preceding year, invitational entries awarded to Wellesley Public Safety officers shall be determined pursuant to (a) above.
- iii. Beginning in late fall of the preceding year, the Select Board office will accept applications from nonprofits, residents, and employees interested in an invitational entry. For nonprofits, the application must include the desired number of invitational entries the nonprofit is seeking and signed confirmation that the nonprofit will recruit a runner(s). The application can be found at <https://wellesleyma.gov/1207/Boston-Marathon>

- iv. Completed applications must be received in the Select Board Office by a previously determined date in November.
- v. Invitational entries will be awarded by vote of the Select Board to War Memorial Scholarship Fund runners and qualified nonprofits in late November.
- vi. Awarded runners must complete and return the Town of Wellesley Boston Marathon waiver by December 31st.
- vii. Awarded runners must pay the applicable BAA entry fee and register for the Marathon with the BAA by January 31st or forfeit the entry to be returned to the Town for re-distribution.
- viii. Awarded runners must complete their fundraising and submit their final totals to their sponsoring nonprofit and to the Town Public Information Officer by May 1st following the Marathon.
- ix. Each runner's total fundraising amount for their sponsoring nonprofit will be submitted to the BAA and to the Select Board no later than May 15th of the Boston Marathon year. The Public Information Officer will relay to the Board information about each runner's fundraising total.

DEFINITION:

Invitational Entries: Invitations to run the Boston Marathon that the BAA distributes to the towns along the race course and to nonprofit organizations of their choosing. Organizations use these entries to recruit athletes who pledge to raise funds for their cause or the Town, in exchange for a waiver of the Boston Marathon qualifying time requirements.

REGULATORY / STATUTORY REFERENCES

Allocation of invitational entries are subject to the requirements of the Boston Athletic Association (BAA).

APPROVED BY:

Select Board, Chair

Colette E. Aufranc

Select Board

Marjorie R. Freiman

Select Board

Thomas H. Ulfelder

Administrative
Policy and
Procedure

Select Board Boston Marathon
Invitational Entries Policy

Approved September 9, 2019

Select Board

Beth Sullivan Woods

Select Board

Kenneth C. Largess III

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4/20/2021 (updated to Select Board)

4/24/2025