

For Immediate Release

“Together, We Run Further”
Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2021
is Set to Take Place on 24 October

HK’s first major mass participatory sporting event since the pandemic started; Registration for Public Ballot Entry begins on 2 September

HONG KONG, 18 August 2021 – The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon, which has been suspended due to the pandemic, is set to resume on Sunday, 24 October 2021, with strong support and collective efforts from various parties. This year’s marathon will be the first major mass participatory sporting event in Hong Kong since the start of the pandemic. The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2021 Organising Committee would like to thank the government bodies for their active coordination in making the race happen, allowing runners to participate in this much anticipated physical event healthily and safely.

There will be a **total enrollment quota of 18,500** for this year’s event, allocated to the Marathon, Half-Marathon and 10KM race. **Registrations for the public ballot entry will open at 10:00 a.m. on 2 September 2021.** At least half of the quotas for the three respective categories have already been reserved for runners who had successfully enrolled for last year’s cancelled race. Eligible runners can register through the Guaranteed Entry from 23 to 27 August 2021. Since the event has been scaled down with fewer enrollment quotas, unsuccessful applicants can also choose to reserve their spot for the 2022 race. For the first time ever, a virtual marathon will be also held alongside with physical race, allowing runners from around the world to participate.

Anti-pandemic measures to ensure the safety of the race

To align with the government’s anti-pandemic measures and by making reference to the latest arrangements of other international marathons, all runners in the physical run are required to have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine recognised by the HKSAR Government on or before 10 October 2021 (i.e. at least 14 days before the race). Participants are also required to submit in person on the runner’s pack collection day 1) the COVID-19 vaccination records and 2) a health declaration form which confirms that they have not stayed in places outside Hong Kong in the past 21 days. Additionally, runners must have taken a COVID-19 nucleic acid test recognised by the government within 72 hours before the race. *(Details of the test will be announced shortly)*

Mr Kwan Kee, Chairman of Hong Kong Association of Athletics Affiliates, said, “Since the cancellation of last year’s Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon, the Organiser has been closely monitoring the pandemic progress hoping to resume the race at the best timing. For large-scale events to relaunch, our utmost priorities are always on the safety of the public, with consideration of the necessary preparation time and related anti-pandemic requirements for the runners. After continuous discussions with relevant government departments, we are aware of the anti-pandemic guidelines including the pre-race COVID-19 test. To alleviate runners’ participatory costs, HKAAA will fully subsidise the HK\$50 administrative fee for the anti-pandemic measures. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Standard Chartered Bank for making additional sponsorship on the COVID-19 testing service fee for all runners.”

Ms Mary Huen, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, said, “For 25 years, Standard Chartered has committed to growing and promoting the HK Marathon through our title sponsorship, despite all the ups and downs. The uncertain pandemic situation in the past two years has led to the postponement of the race but we’ve been hopeful of holding the physical event in a safe manner. Thanks to all related parties for their dedicated effort and marathon spirit to enable the return of this much-anticipated event. We look forward to seeing runners and the public regain their energy and inject positivity into our community together.”

Race Details

The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2021 physical race will have a total of **18,500 runners**.

Category	Marathon	Half-Marathon	10KM race
Quota	4,000	6,500	8,000
Start Area	Nathan Road in Kowloon		Western Harbour Crossing Toll Plaza in Kowloon <i>[New!]</i>
Finish Area	Victoria Park		

Entry Fee, Cancellation and Refund Arrangements

The entry fee for the physical run remains unchanged with all prices listed on the official website, while the fee for the virtual run are half priced. In case the physical run might be cancelled due to the pandemic or any other unforeseen issues, the following arrangements will take effect:

- If the physical run is cancelled on or before 10 October (i.e. 14 or more days to race date), runners will get a 50% refund for their registration fee.
- If the physical run is cancelled after 10 October (i.e. within 14 days to the race date), unfortunately there will be no refunds. However, all runners are allowed to participate in the Virtual Run for free.

The New Virtual Run

To encourage more runners to participate in this annual long-distance running event, the Marathon, Half Marathon, and 10KM races will also be held in a virtual format from 25 October to 14 November 2021. Interested runners aged 16 or above can register via the official website from 10:00 a.m. on 15 September onwards on a first-come, first-served basis. Runners can run the designated distances in the categories they have signed up anywhere they wish, and simply upload their running records through a designated mobile app. They will receive an e-certificate, a medal and a commemorative T-shirt after verification of their running records.

The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2021 has been designated as a Brand Hong Kong event by the HKSAR Government. Standard Chartered is the title sponsor of the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2021, other sponsors include: Western Harbour Tunnel Company Limited, Nike HK Limited, Citizen Watches (H.K.) Limited, Watsons Water, POAmedia, GP Batteries International Limited, BMW Concessionaires (HK) Limited, Regal Hotels International, Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical (Hong Kong) Co., Limited (Salonpas), Lukfook Jewellery, Otsuka Pharmaceutical (H.K.) Ltd – SOYJOY Soy Bar (SOYJOY), GOGOX, Shun Hing Group (Panasonic), Banitore® and Reckitt Hong Kong (Dettol). Supporting organisations include Information Service Department, Hong Kong Tourism Board, TIML MOM Limited, and Leisure and Cultural Services Department.



About the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon

www.hkmarathon.com

The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon, organised by the Hong Kong Association of Athletics Affiliates, is Hong Kong's largest participatory annual sporting event attracting over 70,000 local and overseas participants each year. Standard Chartered has been the title sponsor since the first Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon in 1997 and also sponsors marathons in six other cities globally including Taipei, Singapore, Nairobi, Kuala Lumpur, Stanley and Jersey, as well as a 10km run in Shanghai and 5km run in London.

This press release is released by **Ogilvy Public Relations** on behalf of the **Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2021 Organising Committee**.

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