



2027 Team Relay Guide

Sunday May 16 2027 | 7:00 AM | Mall B

This guide explains how each three-person relay team will reach its exchange points on foot, complete the handoffs, and reunite at the downtown finish. Read it with the final race instructions and any updates issued before race weekend.

THREE LEG OVERVIEW			
Leg	Distance	Start	Finish
1	5.1 mi	Start at Mall B	Fort Huntington Park
2	7.1 mi	Fort Huntington Park	Ontario St and Huron Rd
3	14.0 mi	Ontario St and Huron Rd	Finish at Mall B

Choosing Relay Legs

- Leg 1 is the shortest and keeps the runner close to downtown and the lakefront.
- Leg 2 adds the Flats, Tremont and Ohio City before returning downtown.
- Leg 3 is the longest and should go to the strongest endurance runner. It covers the west-side portion of the marathon before returning to Mall B.

The first two exchanges are within walking distance of the start and finish. There are no relay shuttles.

Digital Files

Click 'Going' for Pro Features and download GPX Files

- [Full Marathon with Color Coded Legs](#)
- [Leg 1 - 5.1 Miles](#)
- [Leg 2 - 7.1 Miles](#)
- [Leg 3 - 14.0 Miles](#)

Complete Teams

A relay team must have three registered participants before its packets can be released. Each runner should know the leg they will complete. Teams may change leg assignments among their registered runners without notifying race officials.

Participant Changes

Registration transfers and participant substitutions must follow Cleveland Marathon policies. Contact info@clevelandmarathon.com before race weekend. Changes that remain open during race weekend must be completed at the Health and Fitness Expo; they cannot be made at an exchange zone.

Health And Fitness Expo

Relay bibs and race materials must be picked up at the Health and Fitness Expo at the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland, 300 Lakeside Avenue East. The event currently lists no Sunday race-morning packet pickup. Confirm final 2027 Expo dates and hours on the Cleveland Marathon website before traveling.

Relay Bracelet

The Leg 1 runner receives the team slap bracelet with the relay packet. The bracelet must be worn on the wrist and passed at both exchange zones. The Leg 3 runner must have it at the finish for the team to be eligible for official results and awards.

Timing

Each relay runner wears the assigned relay bib and MyLaps timing tag. Only one team member may be on the course at a time. To protect the team result:

- Keep waiting runners and finished runners away from every timing mat.
- Do not begin the next leg until the bracelet handoff is complete.
- Only the Leg 3 runner may cross the marathon finish line.
- Do not fold, remove or alter the timing tag attached to the bib.

Running More Than One Leg

A participant may run consecutive relay legs only when registered for each team position being completed. Wear one assigned relay bib and carry the team bracelet through each exchange. Questions about combining the relay with another Sunday race must be approved by Cleveland Marathon before race weekend.

Start And Finish

The marathon begins at 7:00 a.m. on St. Clair Avenue at West Mall Drive, beside Mall B. The marathon and relay finish at the same location. Downtown streets begin closing early; Cleveland Marathon recommends arriving before 6:00 a.m.

Parking And Transit

Use an open downtown garage or take the RTA Rapid to Tower City. Suggested downtown garages include Huntington Park Garage, Willard Garage, 200 Public Square Garage, Rockwell Garage, 515 Euclid Avenue, Galleria Garage, Memorial Plaza Garage and 777 Rockwell Garage. Access may be limited after course streets close.

Gear Check

Gear check is at Mall B. Participants must use the clear bag provided at the Expo and label it with the bib pull tab and bib number. Personal backpacks, duffel bags and other non-clear bags are not accepted at gear check.

Exchange Procedure

- Reach the exchange at least 30 minutes before the incoming runner is expected.
- Enter only the staging area assigned by relay volunteers and know the team bib number.
- When the incoming runner crosses the exchange timing mat, meet in the designated handoff area.
- Pass the slap bracelet, then the outgoing runner enters the course and the incoming runner exits to the sidewalk.
- Water and a light snack will be distributed outside the active exchange lane.
- Medals will be distributed at the finish line festival.

Security And Course Access

Only registered participants may enter athlete-only areas or run on the course. Spectators must remain on sidewalks. Bags may be searched. Bikes, strollers and other wheeled vehicles are not permitted on the course. Family and teammates may not join the Leg 3 runner in the finish chute. Teammates may join in the celebration area.

EXCHANGE ARRIVAL CHART

The times below are 30 minutes before an incoming runner reaches each exchange, assuming a 7:00 a.m. start-line crossing. Add the difference between 7:00 a.m. and your team's actual start-line crossing time.

Incoming Pace	Leg 2 At Fort Huntington	Leg 3 At Ontario And Huron
7:00	7:06 AM	7:55 AM
9:00	7:16 AM	8:20 AM
11:00	7:26 AM	8:44 AM
13:00	7:36 AM	9:09 AM
15:00	7:47 AM	9:33 AM
16:00	7:52 AM	9:45 AM

Fast teams. The Leg 2 runner should be at Fort Huntington Park before the marathon starts. Watching the start and then walking to the first exchange is not recommended for teams averaging faster than about nine minutes per mile.

Course Time Limit

The marathon uses a seven-hour operating window. Participants must maintain approximately a 16-minute-per-mile pace plus a 15-minute start buffer to retain open-course access. The currently published course lists a 10:40 a.m. cutoff at mile 13.0, where participants behind the cutoff are directed to the half-marathon route. Relay teams should complete the second handoff at mile 12.2 before that cutoff.

Tracking Your Team

- Share live phone locations before race morning.
- Use the team's expected pace and actual start-line crossing time.
- Allow for pace changes, water stops and congestion.
- Listen for exchange spotters rather than relying only on a phone notification.

COURSE OVERVIEW



The relay follows the full marathon course. The map above is the current official course published by Cleveland Marathon and is dated 2026. The 2027 course and exchange placement remain subject to final approval, construction changes and certification. Relay split distances in this guide are the controlling distances for team planning.

RELAY LEG 1

Relay Leg 1 Details

Distance	Starts	Finishes
5.1 miles	Mall B	Fort Huntington Park

Shortest leg. Leg 1 begins with the marathon field and completes the downtown and near-lakefront opening section. The runner passes through central Cleveland, reaches the lakefront and finishes beside Fort Huntington Park.

Getting To The Exchange

Enter the assigned marathon corral at St. Clair Avenue and West Mall Drive. Carry the team slap bracelet from the start. Follow all marathon course signs and relay exchange signs as Fort Huntington Park approaches.

Arrival timing. Report to the start corrals according to the final runner instructions. The start is scheduled for 7:00 a.m.

At The Exchange

- Follow relay signs as you approach the exchange timing mat.
- Cross the timing mat, continue into the handoff area and locate your teammate.
- Pass the team slap bracelet directly to the Leg 2 runner.
- Leave the active course promptly after completing the handoff.

After Your Leg

Cross the relay timing mat, continue into the marked handoff area and locate the Leg 2 runner. Pass the bracelet before leaving the course. To return to Mall B, walk south along West 3rd Street to St. Clair Avenue, turn left and continue east to West Mall Drive. The walk is approximately one third of a mile.

Collect water and your relay medal after clearing the exchange area. Keep sidewalks and the active course open for other runners and spectators.



RELAY LEG 2

Relay Leg 2 Details

Distance	Starts	Finishes
7.1 miles	Fort Huntington Park	Ontario St and Huron Rd

Middle-distance leg. Leg 2 leaves the lakefront, passes through the Flats and covers the Tremont and Ohio City portion of the course before returning downtown. Expect more turns and elevation change than on Leg 1.

Getting To The Exchange

From Mall B, walk west on St. Clair Avenue to West 3rd Street. Turn right and walk north on the sidewalk beside Fort Huntington Park. Follow relay signs and volunteer directions to the staging area. The walk is approximately one third of a mile. Fast teams should have the Leg 2 runner in place before 7:00 a.m.

Arrival timing. Plan to arrive 30 minutes before the Leg 1 runner is expected. Use the arrival chart in this guide and add the team's delayed start-line crossing time.

At The Exchange

- Stay on public sidewalks until a relay volunteer directs you into the staging area.
- Know your complete team bib number and listen for spotters calling approaching teams.
- Do not cross or stand on a timing mat while waiting.
- Begin your leg only after receiving the team slap bracelet from the incoming runner.

After Your Leg

Cross the relay timing mat at Ontario Street and Huron Road, continue into the marked handoff area and pass the bracelet to the Leg 3 runner. To return to Mall B, walk north on Ontario Street, turn right on Superior Avenue, then continue toward West Mall Drive and Mall B. Stay on sidewalks and follow police or volunteer directions around closed intersections.

Collect water and your relay medal after clearing the exchange area. Keep sidewalks and the active course open for other runners and spectators.



RELAY LEG 3

Relay Leg 3 Details

Distance	Starts	Finishes
14.0 miles	Ontario St and Huron Rd	Mall B

Longest leg. Leg 3 completes the second half of the marathon, heading west through Detroit Avenue, Lake Avenue, Lakewood and Edgewater before using the Shoreway and returning through Hingetown to the downtown finish. Assign this leg to the team's strongest endurance runner.

Getting To The Exchange

From Mall B, walk south toward Superior Avenue, continue west to Ontario Street, then turn left and walk south to Huron Road. Remain on public sidewalks and follow police or volunteer directions at closed streets. Allow at least 20 minutes for the walk and additional time for staging.

Arrival timing. Plan to arrive 30 minutes before the Leg 2 runner is expected. Teams near the course-limit pace should have the Leg 3 runner staged no later than approximately 9:45 a.m.

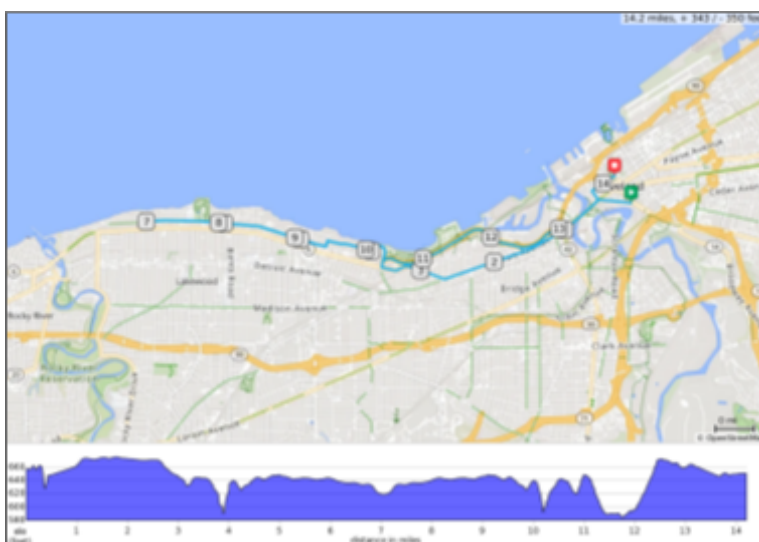
At The Exchange

- Stay on public sidewalks until a relay volunteer directs you into the staging area.
- Know your complete team bib number and listen for spotters calling approaching teams.
- Do not cross or stand on a timing mat while waiting.
- Begin your leg only after receiving the team slap bracelet from the incoming runner.

After Your Leg

After receiving the bracelet, remain on the full marathon route and follow the full-marathon course signs. Only the Leg 3 runner should cross the finish line. Teammates must meet outside the athlete-only finish chute on Mall B.

Continue through runner recovery to receive your medal, food and refreshments, then meet your teammates at the 26.3 Mile After Party on Mall B.



Can All Three Runners Watch The Start

Leg 3 can watch the start and still walk to Ontario Street and Huron Road. Leg 2 may watch only if the team's expected pace leaves enough time to reach Fort Huntington Park at least 30 minutes before the first handoff. Fast teams should stage Leg 2 before 7:00 a.m.

Can A Runner Continue With A Teammate

No. Only one relay team member may be active on the course at a time. An incoming runner must leave the course after completing the handoff.

Are There Relay Shuttles

No. Both exchange zones and the finish are within walking distance of Mall B.

Where Do Teams Reunite

See map for where to unite.

How Are Awards Handled

Relay award categories, eligibility rules and distribution details will be posted with the final race instructions. The final runner must cross the finish with the team bracelet, and the team result must include valid timing reads for all three legs.

Official Information

- Cleveland Marathon: www.clevelandmarathon.com
- Race questions: info@clevelandmarathon.com
- Race office: 800-467-3826
- Health and Fitness Expo: Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland, 300 Lakeside Avenue East, Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Sources Used For This Guide

Cleveland Marathon marathon information, course maps and water stops, race weekend parking, Expo and packet pickup, FAQs, and rules and regulations, accessed September 9, 2026. Final race instructions and direct event communications supersede this guide if details change.