



**It is the responsibility of each team member to read and understand these instructions.**

**DATE, TIME, PLACE**

The five-person Relay Event will begin with the Mercedes Marathon and Half-Marathon at 7:03 a.m. on Sunday, February 14th in front of Boutwell Auditorium in Downtown Birmingham.

**NUMBER OF RUNNERS AND DISTANCES**

Each team will consist of five runners. The relay is held on the same course as the individual marathon and run at the same time. The distance of each leg is approximately:

- Leg #1 - 6.2 miles
- Leg #2 - 3.1 miles
- Leg #3 - 6.2 miles
- Leg #4 - 3.2 miles
- Leg #5 - 7.5 miles

Each Relay team is assigned a single timing chip that is attached to a baton that will be passed from each runner to the next leg runner. The baton must be passed off to the next runner of the relay after crossing over the timing pad as the relay exchange.

Should the first leg of the relay wish to also continue running in the Mercedes Marathon or Mercedes Half-Marathon that runner must complete, **including payment**, an individual entry form. This person will wear the relay team number and carry the team baton as well wear their own individual number and chip.

**RELAY EXCHANGE AREAS** - Look for tents at each location & check-in upon arrival.

**Relay Exchange #1** – Just past Mile 6 - Back side of Glen Iris Elementary School on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. You'll run through the water station on the front side of the school and continue on the course for another half-mile or so. The relay exchange point will be towards the end of the Glen Iris Elementary School campus on the East side. Glen Iris Elementary School is the location for the KBR tailgate party as well as Relay Exchange #4 so there should be lots of action going on here!

**Relay Exchange #2** – Just past Mile 9 on Clairmont just past Highlands Golf Course – The relay exchange will be about 50 yards before the water station located by V. Richards on Clairmont. This is the "Royal Mile" with Royal Cup Coffee, so expect to have a good time while waiting for your teammate to arrive! It is important for this team member to know that they need to follow signs for the marathon route and not the half-marathon route for this leg as the course will split during this part of the race and relay teams will need to stay on the MARATHON course.

**Relay Exchange #3** – Around Mile 15<sup>th</sup> in Kelly Ingram Park near the Civil Rights Institute. The relay exchange point will be located close to the intersection of 16<sup>th</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue close to the historic 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. The Civil

Rights Institute will be open for relay participants and volunteers that would prefer their facilities over the provided portalets. Be sure to head straight to this point once the race starts if you want to catch the Phi-De-I Drum Corps that will be playing during the first loop of the course. This location is only a few blocks from the start and finish.

**Relay Exchange #4** – Around 18 Miles at the front side of Glen Iris Elementary. The KBR tailgate party will be in full swing by now, so bring a chair and have some fun while waiting to run the final leg of the relay!

### **RACE PACKET PICKUP**

Your Relay Team packet will be distributed to one team member at the Mercedes Marathon Race Expo at the BJCC South Exhibition Hall in downtown on Friday, February 12th from 12:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, February 13th from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. There will be NO race day packet pickup. The packet will contain all materials and supplies for each of the five members of the team. Only one member of the team may pick up the team packets. They will not be distributed individually. Each relay RUNNER will be given a runner bib number to be displayed on the FRONT of the runner's shirt. Please distribute the bibs before race morning. Safety pins will be available at the Expo.

### **RELAY EXCHANGE INSTRUCTIONS**

Each relay TEAM will be given one timing device; a baton, which will be passed from each runner at the relay exchange areas once the runner has passed over the timing pad. If the first runner plans to continue running as an individual in either the marathon or half-marathon, they will leave their second timing chip attached to their shoe and continue running.

### **TIME LIMITS**

The Marathon, Half-Marathon and Relay are open to runners and walkers of all abilities. However, a six-hour time limit has been set. This means a participant or team must maintain consistent pace of at least 13:44 per mile. Relay teams need to keep this in mind and may need to alternate slower runners with faster runners to keep within the time limits.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

1. The first runner will need to arrive at the start line in plenty of time to park the car, warm-up, check in gear, etc.
2. All other relay runners will need to be at their designated relay exchange areas in plenty of time to allow them to check in their warm-up gear, warm-up, etc. Although transportation is provided to each exchange point, it is the responsibility of each runner to be on time and ready to run the next leg of the relay.
3. While some runners will want to provide their own transportation to their exchange areas, many others will need transportation. For those relays runners, transportation will be provided from the starting area to their respective relay exchange area via passenger vans provided by ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR. Each van will be marked #1, #2, #3, and #4 to designate which van to ride on to get to your exchange area. Please remember that many roads along the course will be closed, so you are encouraged to use the transportation provided. You will find the vans parked on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> streets (right around the Alabama School of Fine Arts), just to the west of the Mercedes Marathon starting line.
4. All relay runners using the transportation vans to get to their exchange zones will need to be aware of the van schedule to get to the relay exchange zones. Vans will depart from the back of

the start line area beginning at 6:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. The **last** van leaving the start for each exchange area is as follows:

- #1 7:15 a.m.
- #2 7:30 a.m.
- #3 8:15 a.m.
- #4 8:45 a.m.

5. If you are providing your own transportation to your relay exchange area, remember that the marathon course will be closed off to traffic. However, access to these areas will be available via side streets, etc. You will not be able to drive on the actual course once runners start arriving in that area. Please use common sense and **DO NOT PARK DIRECTLY ON THE COURSE!** Please plan ahead.

6. When runners have completed their leg of the race, there will be transportation available back to the finish line area. Look for the ENTERPRISE van at the exchange area for your ride back. Please don't be impatient with the Enterprise volunteers – they will get you back as soon as possible and will do their best to facilitate everyone.

### **WARM-UP GEAR (CHECK-IN AND PICK-UP)**

Warm-up gear may be checked in the designated BAG CHECK area just near the starting line. Bag Check Tags are attached to your bib race number. Remove this tag and attach it to the bag that you will be checking. If you want to make something available for yourself to put on after your relay leg, then you will need to work that out with your team member running the leg after you. Any gear not claimed will be turned over to Boutwell Auditorium Lost & Found.

### **RELAY TEAM FINISHER**

There will be a Relay Tent at the finish line with all the finisher packets. First Commercial Bank Relay Finishers Shirts and Medals will be given as a single package for each team and your Relay Team Finisher will get this at the finish line. Your team finisher is the **ONLY** person who can pick up the team packet in the finish line area

**Everyone, please make sure your last runner is aware of this. Once you leave this area, you cannot return to get your team packets.**

### **RELAY AWARDS AND RESULTS**

#### **Four members to run, Five Members to be eligible for awards**

Awards will be presented to the winning relay team in each category at the awards ceremony at Boutwell Auditorium at 1:00 p.m. All team results will be posted on the Mercedes Marathon web site, <http://mercedesmarathon.com>, after the race.

Email [info@mercedesmarathon.com](mailto:info@mercedesmarathon.com) with any questions or concerns.

**NOTICE: Due to insurance regulations, unregistered runners, unauthorized vehicles, bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, strollers, baby joggers and other wheeled devices and animals are prohibited in the race.**