



Dear 2018 New Balance Palm Desert Half Marathon & 5k Participant,

Welcome to the 20th Annual New Balance Palm Desert Half Marathon, Half Marathon Relay, 5K Run/Walk, and 1K Kids Race. We look forward to seeing you on race day and wish you all the best in your training. This sheet includes important information on packet pickup and race day. Please read the entire letter. If you still have questions after reading, please email us at info@southland-events.com.

New Balance - We are proud once again to have [New Balance on El Paseo in Palm Desert](#) as our title sponsor. Packet pick up will be at their store on Friday and Saturday (see below for address and times). While you're there, you'll be able to check out all the great New Balance shoes, apparel and products, and get a discount on your purchase.

Race Packet Pick Up - You can pick up your race packet and goodie bag on Friday, February 9th, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm, or Saturday February 10th, from 10:00am - 4:00pm at the New Balance Store in Palm Desert. They are located at 73-399 El Paseo, Suite 105 in Palm Desert. You can also pick up your packet on race morning, Sunday, February 11th, starting at 5:30am, at Civic Center Park, 43900 San Pablo Avenue in Palm Desert. However, we highly recommend that you pick up your packet on Friday or Saturday at the New Balance store to avoid long lines on race morning.

YOU MAY NOT PICK UP ANOTHER PERSON'S PACKET. EVERY PERSON MUST SIGN THE WAIVER BEFORE THEIR BIB WITH TIMING CHIP WILL BE RELEASED!!

Directions to New Balance Store - To get to the New Balance Store from I-10, exit Monterey Ave and go south about 5 miles, cross over Hwy 111 to El Paseo, turn left and go one block past San Pablo. Their number is 760 346-1112

Directions to Civic Center Park - To get to Civic Center Park from the west, take I-10 to Monterey Avenue exit, turn right and go approximately 5 miles. Turn left on Fred Waring, then make the first left after San Pablo Avenue. To get to Civic Center Park from the east, take I-10 to Cook Avenue exit, turn left and go approximately 5 miles. Turn right on Fred Waring, then make the first right after San Pascual Avenue.

Race Start Times - The Half Marathon and Half Marathon Relay Teams will start at 7:00am, and the 5K at 7:30am at Civic Center Park - Rain or Shine! Expected race start temperature is 50 degrees, with a high temperature of 78 degrees.

Chip Timing - The 1/2 marathon and 5k will be chip timed. Your timing device for this event is a disposable tag affixed to the back of your bib number. In order to receive an accurate time, please make sure your bib is clearly visible on the front of the torso, unaltered and unmodified (DO NOT fold or wrinkle), pinned in all four corners, and not covered by jackets, runner belts, water bottles, etc. Pins will be included in your race packet. Timing will be professionally done by Time Management.

Parking – There is ample parking at Civic Center Park. Please enter the parking lot through the entrance on Fred Waring by following the directions above. Please keep in mind that, because of street closures, your car will not be able to exit the lot until race officials have cleared portions of the course, which will happen at approximately 8AM. Once cars in the lot have been cleared to exit, you MUST follow the parking signs to exit on Fred Waring. If you need to leave prior to 8AM, there is ample street parking in the area. Please follow all parking sign rules, and do not park where cones are laid out for the course or your car will be towed.

Gear Check - There will be a Gear Check area located next to Volunteer Check-In to leave your post-race clothes. Please do not leave valuables in these bags. You must pick up your bags immediately after finishing the race. Please bring your own bag as it will be easier to locate after the event. For relay team gear exchange, see the Relay Teams section below.

½ Marathon Course Information – Please familiarize yourself with the course [here](#). The first 1.5 miles of the course are flat. From approximately mile 2 to approximately mile 4.5 is a gradual uphill. Then it's downhill to the relay point at 6.5 miles. From there is a gradual uphill to 7.65 miles, then another downhill to approximately mile 10.5. From there, it's flat to the finish. There will be 8 water and fluid replacement stations ([Fluid Sports Nutrition](#) is our on-course hydration) on the course at miles .95, 4.7, 8.4, 9.9, 11.5 and 12.5. There are restrooms at the start/finish area as well as portable toilets at miles .95, 2.7, 6.5, 9, 11.5 and 12.5 (some portable toilets will be slightly off course; signs will direct you to these restrooms). Gu Energy Gels will be available at mile 9.9.

5K Course Information – Please familiarize yourself with the course [here](#). You will pass the same water and fluid replacement from [Fluid](#) station on the course at miles .5, 1.5 and 2.5 miles. There are restrooms at the start/finish area as well as near the water station.

Relay Teams - Legs of the relay will be broken up as follows: For two-person teams, the first member will run or walk 6.5 miles, while the second team member will run or walk 6.6 miles; for three person teams, the first team member will run or walk 6.5 miles, the second team member will run or walk 3.4 miles, and the third team member will run or walk 3.3 miles. You will be given two bib numbers per team which will have the chip timing attached. On two person teams, both members will wear a bib. For three person teams, the first person wears one of the bibs and the last person wears the other. The middle person does not need a bib number. It is important that the first and last member have a bib on as this will record your start and finish time for the team. Relay teams will start at 7:00am, along with individual runners.

There will be a shuttle bus from Civic Center Park to both relay points starting at 6:45AM. This bus will drop off the second team member and pick up the first team member at the first relay point, and drop off the third team member and pick up the second team member at the second relay point. We recommend that the second (and third) team member bring a bag of warm clothing and any other items the first (or second) runner might need with them, and hand them off when tagging.

Kids Race presented by Old Spaghetti Factory – Our 1K kids race starts at 10AM, and follows part of our 5K on a closed course. This race is open to kids 4 to 13 years of age. Parents may run with their children, but will not receive a bib or medal. This race is not timed. All Kids Race participants will receive a bib, kids tech shirt, finisher medal, post-race food, and a free meal at the Old Spaghetti Factory (Rancho Mirage location only). Our kids race is limited to 100 participants, so make sure you register your kid [here](#) today.

Awards - Awards will be given three deep in each age category for the Half Marathon, Relays and 5K (there will be no awards for the Kids Race). Awards ceremony will take place at Civic Center Park at 8:30am for the 5k and 10:00am for the 1/2 marathon. **Finisher Medals will be given out to all finishers.**

The Brick – If you ride any distance at the Tour de Palm Springs on Saturday, February 10, and run any distance at the New Balance Palm Desert ½ Marathon & 5K on Sunday, February 11, you'll receive the coveted Brick award. After completing your run on Sunday, go to the Brick tent (at Volunteer Check-In). Show your Tour de Palm Springs bike number and New Balance Palm Desert ½ Marathon & 5K bib, and you'll get your brick.

Fitness Expo - Have your friends and family join us on race day for our fitness expo from 6:30am -12:00pm at Civic Center Park on race day. There will be many vendors with great products to sample and buy, and if they're 21, they can spend some time at the beer garden (see below).

Hotel Information - For hotel information, please visit the City of Palm Desert's tourist site [here](#).

Post-Race Food presented by Whole Foods Market – Our new sponsor, [Whole Foods Market](#), will be providing post-race food and drink, including Horizon Organic chocolate milk. Make sure to visit their store in Palm Desert at 44-459 Town Center Way.

La Quinta Brewing Co. Beer Garden, benefiting YMCA of the Desert - We're excited to announce that [La Quinta Brewing Co.](#) will be sponsoring our beer garden. Each participant of legal drinking age on race day will can get one complimentary beer. Participants can purchase additional beers and spectators can join in for only \$5. All proceeds from the beer garden will benefit [YMCA of the Desert](#). To enter the beer garden, you will need to pick up a wristband at packet pickup or on race day at the beer garden. Please remember to bring your ID. Spectators are invited as well.

Volunteers - If you have family or friends who would like to volunteer, please have them contact our volunteer coordinator check Elise Cruz at volunteer@southland-events.com, or on race morning at Volunteer Check-In.

See you on February 11th!

Matt Sills
Race Director