



2027 ROAD AND TRAIL RACE SANCTIONING UPDATE Frequently Asked Questions

PARTICIPANT LICENSING & INSURANCE

What is changing for participants?

All participants in AO-sanctioned road and trail races will be required to hold one of the following:

- a valid Athletics Canada (AC) membership, or
- a \$5 day-of-event license

What does the day-of-event license include?

The \$5 day-of-event license (or AC membership) includes:

- General Liability insurance
- Accident Death & Dismemberment coverage

This ensures consistent insurance protection for all participants at sanctioned events.

Are kids' and youth races affected?

No. Kids and youth races are exempt from the day-of-event license requirement.

The associated insurance cost for these participants will be absorbed through the new fee structure, so no additional action is required.

Does the race director have to pay the fee for free or comped race entries?

No. Free or comped race entries are exempt from the day-of-event license requirement. The insurance costs for these participants will be covered under the new fee structure; no additional fees or actions are required.

Why is this change being introduced?

This update is part of a [national harmonization initiative led by Athletics Canada](#) and will be implemented consistently across all provincial and territorial branches.

In addition to ensuring uniform insurance coverage, this model supports a more sustainable approach to long-term participant investment in the sport's development.

The current race organization fee structure based on race size will be replaced with:

- \$50 per race organization, which includes one race sanction
- \$25 for each additional race sanctioned by that organization



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Where do the fees from the day-of-event license or membership go?

Fees will cover the cost of:

- Insurance
- Sanctioning
- Administration

Any remaining funds will be reinvested to support the growth and development of the running community.

Long-term sport development models include, but are not limited to, enhanced safety and sanctioning measures; sanctioned event promotion and marketing; athlete, coach, and race director education, support, and recognition; community running group promotion, safety, and education; diversity, equity, and inclusion support; and road and trail championships.

Athletics Canada and its provincial branches, including Athletics Ontario, operate as not-for-profit organizations and are responsible for the long-term development and sustainability of the sport.

Is this approach common in other sports?

Yes. Participant-based licensing is already standard in many endurance sports. For example, Triathlon Canada–sanctioned events typically require a one-day license for non-members, ranging from approximately \$10 to \$25 per participant. By comparison, the AC/AO day-of-event license is intentionally priced lower while still providing essential insurance coverage and participant protection.

RACE ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

What is changing for race sanction fees?

The current race organization fee structure based on race size will be replaced with:

- \$50 per race organization, which includes one race sanction
- \$25 for each additional race sanctioned by that organization



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What is changing for race organization fees?

- The current race organization membership and fee structure will be replaced by a per-participant day-of-event license, paid directly by the participant (not the race director).
- Race organization memberships and associated annual fees will be eliminated.
- The end-of-year insurance fee reconciliation for races that exceed their participant cap will also be eliminated.

Will race organization memberships still exist?

Yes. However, membership in race organizations and the associated annual fees will be significantly reduced. The end-of-year insurance fee reconciliation for races exceeding participant caps will also be eliminated.

What does this mean for insurance coverage?

Participant insurance will now be provided on a per-participant basis, through:

- an Athletics Canada membership, or
- a \$5 day-of-event license

Both options include General Liability (GL) and Accident, Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) coverage.

Is there insurance for race organizations themselves?

Yes.

- Races are covered under the GL policy
- Race organizations that wish to access additional Athletics Ontario Directors & Officers (D&O) insurance for not-for-profit organizations may do so through an optional Race Organization D&O Membership at a cost of \$200 per year.
 - Directors and Officers insurance is a separate policy from General Liability insurance and is only available for not-for-profit organizations



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RACE ROSTER REGISTRATION & ATHLETICS CANADA MEMBERSHIP INTEGRATION

How will participant registration work under the new model?

To keep registration simple and uninterrupted for participants:

- Athletics Canada membership verification will be fully automated as part of the Race Roster registration process.
- Participants with a valid Athletics Canada membership will be recognized automatically.
- Participants without a membership will have the \$5 day-of-event License added seamlessly at checkout.

No additional steps or manual verification will be required from participants.

Will this slow down or complicate registration?

No. The integration has been designed to be smooth, intuitive, and minimally disruptive, ensuring the registration experience remains fast and user-friendly.

What do Race Directors need to do?

- Race Directors planning 2027 events that will open registration soon should contact Race Roster directly to enable this integration.
- This step ensures the Athletics Canada membership verification and day-of-event license are built directly into your registration platform.
- Integration is available at no cost (or minimal cost, where applicable) to Race Directors.

Early communication with Race Roster will help ensure your registration opens smoothly and is fully aligned with the new requirements.

What if our race does not use the Race Roster platform for registration?

Race organizations that do not use Race Roster can still comply with the new participant licensing and insurance requirements by:

- contacting their existing registration platform to confirm whether Athletics Canada membership verification and the \$5 day-of-event license integration can be enabled; or
- choosing to use the Athletics Canada event registration platform, which supports the required integration.



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What if registration is already open for our 2027 race(s)?

In this case, Race Directors are encouraged to contact Athletics Ontario. Race organizations requiring guidance on available options or support with implementation can contact Athletics Ontario at roadtrail@athleticsontario.ca for more information.

REQUIRED REGISTRATION LANGUAGE

To support clarity, consistency, and transparency for participants, Athletics Ontario asks that all sanctioned road and trail races include clear privacy and participant information messaging within their registration process.

Privacy & CASL Notice

Athletics Ontario may contact participants directly with information related to membership, insurance coverage, safety, programs, and athletics activities, in compliance with Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL). Participants may unsubscribe from these communications at any time.

Participant Information Notice

I acknowledge that a \$5 Athletics Ontario day license fee may be required to participate in this event and, where applicable, will be automatically applied at checkout. The Athletics Canada/Athletics Ontario (AC/AO) \$5 day-of-event license provides race-day insurance coverage for each registered participant in this Athletics Ontario–sanctioned event and supports sanctioning processes that uphold participant safety and protection standards. This fee is waived for current AC/AO members and does not apply to kids or youth races. For more information, please contact roadtrail@athleticsontario.ca.