



Boston Athletic Association

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April 15, 2019

Dear Members of the Media,

On behalf of the Boston Athletic Association, principal sponsor John Hancock, and all of our sponsors and supporters, we welcome you to the City of Boston and the 123rd running of the Boston Marathon.

As the oldest annually contested marathon in the world, the Boston Marathon represents more than a 26.2-mile footrace. The roads from Hopkinton to Boston have served as a beacon for well over a century, bringing those from all backgrounds together to celebrate the pursuit of athletic excellence.

From our early beginnings in 1897 through this year's 123rd running, the Boston Marathon has been an annual tradition that is on full display every April near and far. We hope that all will be able to savor the spirit of the Boston Marathon, regardless whether you are an athlete or volunteer, spectator or member of the media. Race week will surely not disappoint.

The race towards Boylston Street will continue to showcase some of the world's best athletes. Fronting the charge on Marathon Monday will be a quartet of defending champions who persevered through some of the harshest weather conditions in race history twelve months ago. Desiree Linden, the determined and resilient American who snapped a 33-year USA winless streak in the women's open division, returns with hopes of keeping her crown. Linden has said that last year's race was the culmination of more than a decade of trying to tame the beast of Boston – a race course that rewards those who are both patient and daring.

Japan's Yuki Kawauchi broke the tape in his Boston debut last year, while familiar faces Tatyana McFadden and Marcel Hug returned to the top spot of the podium in the women's and men's wheelchair division. All return with hopes of adding to their trophy collection.

The year 2019 celebrates many milestones, one of which includes top wheelchair contender Ernst van Dyk. This will be van Dyk's 20th Boston Marathon, in ten of which he's placed first and five more in which he's placed second. Van Dyk's impact isn't just in the results; he's been one of the most influential champions in event history, helping propel elite wheelchair racing forward.

The 123rd Boston Marathon will also be the 30th anniversary of our official B.A.A. Charity Program, which – together with the John Hancock Non-Profit Program -- has contributed more than \$333 million to worthy causes both near and far. Thousands will run on April 15 with far greater purpose than simply earning the coveted unicorn medal.

And finally, the 2019 Boston Marathon will be the first time the race from Hopkinton to Boston is held on One Boston Day since April 15, 2013. Throughout race week, we encourage the entire community to reflect and pay forward an act of kindness in honor of those who were so profoundly affected six years ago.

We at the Boston Athletic Association take great pride in organizing the most historic annual footrace in the world. However, it would not be possible without the dedicated support from so many people, including our 9,500 volunteers. The Boston Marathon would also not be possible without our sponsors and friends, in particular John Hancock, who has provided support for the last 34 years.

We also thank the many state, local, and federal officials who coordinate race and public safety efforts in the eight cities and towns along the Boston Marathon route to ensure a safe and successful experience for all.

Thank you for joining us on what will surely be another memorable chapter in the storied history of the Boston Marathon

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael P. O'Leary
President

Thomas S. Grilk
Chief Executive Officer



April 15, 2019

Dear Members of the Media,

We would like to welcome you to the City of Boston and the 123rd running of the world's most historic marathon. Thank you for celebrating the legacy of the Boston Marathon and for your professional and extensive coverage of the race.

During our 34 years as principal sponsor, we have supported the Marathon as an integral part of our commitment to the community and to the city we have called home for 157 years. We thank the Boston Athletic Association for its unmatched accomplishment of organizing and sustaining this event, and we look forward to partnering with them in the years to come.

This year the race will take place on 'One Boston Day'; the sixth anniversary of the tragic events of April 15, 2013. Mayor Marty Walsh has encouraged all of us to perform acts of kindness on this day as we remember those who were profoundly affected. On that day, we saw how kindness can overcome adversity, and we continue that tradition by working to make positive differences in our communities.

As we prepare for the race, we welcome the 2019 John Hancock Elite Athlete Team. Nine open champions return, including defending champions Desiree Linden of the United States and Yuki Kawauchi of Japan. Combined, the team has won 21 Abbott World Marathon Majors, more than 120 global marathons, and earned Olympic and World Championships medals.

We also welcome defending wheelchair winners, Marcel Hug of Switzerland, and our John Hancock Elite Athlete Ambassador, Tatyana McFadden, who returns to race for a sixth title. Our employee and non-profit partner runners will also take part, intent on surpassing the \$13.1 million they raised for local charities last year. And Team Hoyt will compete again, marking 37 years of inspiring and educating us about the abilities of all people.

Last year, in freezing rain and chilling winds, we stood near the finish line to welcome home nearly 30,000 runners. The harsh conditions were unmatched, yet as each person realized their dream of finishing this legendary race, we witnessed once again the determination, persistence and joy that has made the Boston Marathon the race that challenges all of us to be our best while rewarding us for finishing the journey.

Thank you again for your outstanding reporting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marianne Harrison".

Marianne Harrison
President and Chief Executive Officer
John Hancock