

New Balance North Jersey Individual Grand Prix Rules & Regulations (2016)

Adopted 1-12-2016

The first Long Distance Running Grand Prix was held in 1992 and quickly caught on with New Jersey runners. From 1994 through 1999 the Midland Run was the title sponsor. New Balance of North Jersey has been the title sponsor since 2000.

I. Requirements for Athletes

A. The athlete must be a current member of the New Jersey Association of USATF in order to score in any NBGP event. Athletes that live outside the geographical boundary of the New Jersey association are allowed to join New Jersey with written approval from the association in their geographical area. Individuals may belong to multiple associations. However athletes may compete in only one association. Non-U.S. athletes who are in the United States on a sports or other visitor's type visa are not eligible to compete in the NBGP. The athlete must be a bona fide resident in accordance with the bylaws of USATF.

B. In order to score NBGP points in any NBGP event, the athlete must enter his/her current, valid USATF number in the space provided on the event's entry form. Substitute numbers or phrases such as "yes" or "have it but left it home" may cause the athlete's performance to be excluded in the NBGP scoring.

II. Requirements for NBGP Events

A. All long distance running events held within the state of New Jersey are eligible, including road and cross country. Trail events are excluded.

B. The event must be sanctioned by USATF-NJ, including signing of the USATF Trademark sublicense agreement.

C. The course must be certified by the Road Running Technical Council of USATF prior to the running of the event. Under special circumstances, the course certification requirement may be waived or altered by the LDR committee.

D. The event organizers must include the following required items on the official race entry form:

1. The appropriate NBGP Insignia in the required size as indicated by USATF-NJ. The size may not be reduced.

2. The point value of the race must be shown within the NBGP Insignia. If an event offers multiple races, the point values for each event must be made clear. Identifying the distance Category is encouraged.

3. A clearly positioned and indicated line for "[current year] USATF-NJ #" (with optional line "Required for NBGP-NJ Grand Prix scoring") printed below it. This line must be long enough to allow registrants to fill in a ten-digit number.

4. A line for "Date of Birth" in addition to "Age on Day of Race."

5. A pre-entry deadline that is no more than 10 days before the event date.

E. The LDR Grand Prix Agreement must be submitted no later than 60 days prior to the event to the USATF-NJ with the appropriate fee.

F. Copies of all press releases, media coverage, and all printed materials must be submitted to the USATF-NJ office.

G. Complete results must be submitted to the grand prix scoring company within one week after the event. These must include a listing of all finishers by place, including times and a clear system for identifying which participants were current USATF-NJ member athletes. Events employing the services of either CompuScore, Elite, BEST, or Lin-Mark computer scoring companies are assumed to be responsible for submitting results directly to the grand prix scoring firm, as these companies are automatic participants in the NBGP scoring system. However, Race Directors are ultimately responsible to see that their results are submitted by the firms hired to do scoring.

III. NBGP Scoring

A. The "point value" of any NBGP event indicates the number of points awarded to the first finisher of each gender. The point value awarded to the last finisher is indicated in parentheses. 1. 500 (100) point races are NBGP non-championship events that offer pre-entry discounts to USATF-NJ members. Provide minimum \$3 pre-entry discount for race entry fees of \$49 or less. Provide a minimum \$5 pre-entry discount for race entry fees \$50 or greater.

2. 700 (200) point races are USATF-NJ LDR Championship events. Championship events offer pre-entry discounts to USATF-NJ members. Provide a minimum \$3 pre-entry discount for race entry fees of \$49 or less. Provide a minimum \$5 pre-entry discount for race entry fees \$50 or greater.

3. All USATF-NJ Cross Country Championships will have a point value of 700 (300)

4. A title sponsor may request a high point value of 800 (200) points for a race of their choosing.

5. *The USATF-NJ LDR committee may designate a Category Three race as a Wild Card Race with regard to points. Runners can choose to be scored in the race as either a 700 point championship race or a 500 point non-championship race designation. Runners who do not designate which point value they choose on the race application will automatically be assigned to the 700 point race. This Wild Card Race must be scheduled on a date after all Category Three USATF NJ Association Championships. The Wild Card Race must be announced at the time the Championship Schedule for the year is released.*

6. USATF-NJ Track and Field 5k and 10k Open and Masters Championship races will have a point value of 500(100).

B. The point value of an event indicates the number of points that will be awarded to the first male and female finisher in the event. Points shall then be awarded to all finishers in a race regardless of

membership in USATF-NJ on a descending scale down to the minimum point value for that event, separately for men and women, which shall be proportionate to the number of finishers in the event.

1. In races which feature separate International Elite and/or American Elite divisions, the runners from those divisions, with the exception of USATF-NJ members, shall be removed for the purpose of determining points. Only those finishers who are members of USATF-NJ and in the appropriate age groups will be tallied for purposes of scoring in the grand prix.
2. In races which are contested in heats that separate athletes into divisions. (Events like the Road Mile) The results of all the division heats shall be combined and organized by time to determine order of finish and points awarded as outlined above.

C. NBGP participants may compete in an unlimited number of NBGP events during the year. Final NBGP scoring for the year is determined by nine events in which the participant has scored his/her highest point values. These nine events are limited as follows:

1. A maximum of three from Category I (4 miles down to 1 mile) In Category I, a maximum of one event at distances less than 5km may count toward the final Category I total.
2. A maximum of three from Category II (over 4 miles up to but not including 12km)
3. A maximum of three from Category III (*12km and above*)
4. Within each of the categories, a maximum of two championships may be scored with the third score being a non-championship event.
5. In order to have his/her points counted in the end-of-the-year scoring, the athlete must have competed in a minimum of three NBGP events.
6. Athletes must choose which point value they wish to be scored in at the USATF-NJ designated Wild Card Race; 700 points or 500 points. If the point value is not selected, 700 points will be the automatic default.
7. Where an event features a simultaneous start for more than one race, an athlete may be scored in only one race.
8. Athletes competing in USATF-NJ Championship events for awards, medals, or prize money are prohibited from possession or use of portable listening devices during the event. This only applies to Championship Events. At non-championship events, the use of portable listening devices is at the discretion of the event director.

D. NBGP scoring shall be done separately and equally for men and women and all runners will be listed in the overall scoring. However, Age Divisions will be from 16 to 39 for females and males in accordance with national rules regarding the conduct of LDR events. The Master's (40+) age divisions continue with 40 to 44, and on up through 95 to 99 in five year age divisions. The top three Overall scorers will be recognized for being the winner of the grand prix regardless of his and her age division. The top three overall male and female winners shall be removed from their age

division at the end of the competitive season. The top three scorers in each age division will be recognized for being the winner of their respective grand prix age division.

To be eligible for prize money an athlete must have completed at least six grand prix races with at least one race in each distance category, with the exception of athletes in age group divisions 80 years and above who are not required to have completed a race in the category 3 division. If an athlete fails to complete the prize money requirements, his place remains the same and no athlete moves up.

E. NBGP scoring for any given event is subject to USATF Rules of Competition, including the appropriate rules for pacing, course cutting, and disqualification.

F. Athletes who change age groups during a calendar year:

1. An athlete's age on December 31st will determine his/her NBGP age group for that entire year.
2. The above policy applies only to NBGP scoring, not to individual and team Masters Championship placing in any race. Masters place in their age division according to their age on race day.

G. NBGP scoring ties: All NBGP scoring ties shall stand as they are except for the year end first place Overall, first place for both men and women in all age group divisions. For these positions, ties shall be broken as follows:

1. The three best USATF-NJ Championship placings (or as many as necessary) shall be compared until the tie is broken.
2. Only the championship placings of the division in question will be compared. For example if breaking a tie for number one Open woman, only Open women's championships will be used.

IV. Procedures, Protest, Appeals

1. All matters of interpretation of NBGP rules shall be submitted to the LDR committee for decision.
2. Protests must be filed in writing to the USATF-NJ office, within thirty (30) days of the posting of the NBGP series standings on the USATF-NJ web-site. The NBGP Appeals Committee shall consist of the three LDR Chairs and three LDR Vice-Chairs with the LDR Division Chair serving as tie-breaker, if necessary.
3. Appeals of year-end final NBGP standings must be filed in writing to the USATF-NJ office, within five (5) days of the posting of the NBGP series final results on the USATF-NJ web-site.
4. Rule change proposals are required to be submitted in writing at the LDR Committee meeting in the fall of the preceding year to be considered for adoption at the first LDR meeting prior to any Championship races being contested. A rule change proposal must receive a minimum 60% majority vote at the LDR meeting to be approved and incorporated in the Grand Prix Rules for the year.

5. The LDR Committee shall establish the prize money subject to approval of the USATF NJ Trustees

Mini-Series Category One and Two were established in 2003. While still scoring in the New Balance Grand Prix, runners can also score in the Mini-Series using the NBGP scoring system:

Mini Category One: 1 mile to four miles - score a total of nine races, with a maximum of three championship scores and a minimum of seven races total. A maximum of one event at distances less than 5km may count toward the Category One Mini Series total.

Mini Category Two: Over four miles up to but not including 12km - score a total of seven races, with a maximum of three championship scores and a minimum of five races total.

Mini Category Three (2015): 12km and above - score a total of five, with a maximum of two championship scores and a minimum of five races total.

1. In All Mini-Series, age divisions will be the same as in the Overall New Balance Grand Prix. At season's end, only those who have completed seven races for Category One, and five races for Category Two and Category Three will be listed and ranked.
2. The top three male and female overall and age group winners from the New Balance Grand Prix shall be removed from their age division in the Mini's at the end of the competitive season.

Established 2006 - Participation Grand Prix. All scores for members with no limit on the number of races being scored will be tallied as an exhibition grand prix in 2006. The top ten male and female finishers will be recognized. Recognition in subsequent years dependent on sponsorship.

Established 2009- Cross Country Series Score a total of five races, with a maximum of two Cross Country Grand Prix championship scores and a minimum of three races total. Non Championship Cross Country races shall have a point value of 500(100). The Cross Country races are not required to be NBGP participating races. The events must be USATF-NJ Sanctioned and will have the new Cross Country logo on their race application.