

Course Cut-Offs & Redirection Points

TCS Sydney Marathon presented by ASICS

6:30 AM

RACE START TIME

8:40 AM

START LINE CLOSES

7 HOURS

3:40 PM
COURSE CUT-OFF

10 MIN/KM

MINIMUM AVERAGE PACE

To keep every runner safe and to reopen Sydney's roads on schedule, the 2026 TCS Sydney Marathon uses a series of advertised cut-off and redirection points along the course. This guide explains how they work, where they are, and what happens if you reach a point after its cut-off time.

Your start window

The race starts at **6:30 AM**. All runners must cross the start line within the 130-minute start window, which closes at **8:40 AM**. No one will be permitted to cross the start line after 8:40 AM, and any runner whose timing chip is activated after the window closes — or is not activated at the start line — will be disqualified. All participants must start within their allocated start group and wave.

Your course cut-off and pace

Every runner has **7 hours** to complete the course, and must maintain an average pace of **10 minutes per kilometre or better** for the whole distance. All cut-off times are measured from the moment the start line closes at 8:40 AM — so even the last runner across the line has the full 7 hours, with the final course cut-off at **3:40 PM**. The Tail Sweep Pacer crosses the start line at 8:40 AM and runs exactly to the cut-off pace: stay ahead of the sweep and you are on track.

What are redirection points?

Redirection points are predefined points on course (refer to the table below) where a runner can skip a section of the course if they fall behind the cut-off time. You will receive a DNF but will still be able to experience finishing the race.

What happens if you miss a cut-off

If you have not reached a designated point by its advertised cut-off time, event staff will manage you in one of two ways, depending on the location:

- 1 Retire at that point** — either boarding the participant support (SAG) vehicle or walking back to the Finish along or beside the course. This is recorded as a DNF (Did Not Finish) and DSQ.
- 2 Be redirected ('skip' a section)** — you continue on the course to the Finish via a shortened route. You will still enjoy the finish-line experience, but your number is recorded and the result is a DSQ — you will not be an official finisher.

The Tail Sweep will give you late-timing warnings if you fall behind the cut-off pace anywhere on course. After **two warnings**, you will be managed by one of the two options above. Please follow the directions of event staff at all times — failure to do so may affect your entry into future editions of the event.

How many times can a participant be redirected?

Participants will only be offered the chance to be redirected **once**. If a participant is forced to be redirected because they fell behind the cut-off time and then falls behind the cut-off time again, the participant will be disqualified (DSQ) and asked to board the participant support (SAG) vehicle.

The support (SAG) vehicle

A tail vehicle and a participant support (SAG) vehicle — a small van or minibus — follow the back of the field, and event officials are stationed at every cut-off and redirection point. If you miss a hard cut-off with no redirection option, we recommend taking the SAG vehicle back to the finish area. First-aid personnel travel with the vehicle to check on every retiring runner, and an interpreter is available via radio if needed.

How the cut-off times are calculated

Race start (gun time)	6:30 AM
+ Start window of 2 hours 10 minutes (130 min)	start line closes 8:40 AM
+ Course cut-off of 7 hours (average 10 min/km)	final cut-off 3:40 PM

All cut-off times are measured from the official closure of the start window, so every runner is treated consistently from their time of crossing the start line.

Cut-off & redirection points on course

Points marked in **blue** are the advertised cut-off and redirection points. The remaining points are on-course monitoring and support locations where staff may also assist runners near the cut-off pace.

	LOCATION & WHAT HAPPENS	COURSE DISTANCE	COURSE SKIPPED	CUT-OFF TIME (FROM 8:40 AM)	TIME OF DAY (ON-TIME START)
1	Start Line — Cut-Off Point You have a 130-minute window (6:30 AM – 8:40 AM) to cross the start line. No one is permitted to cross after 8:40 AM.	0 km	–	0 min	8:40 AM
2	Anzac Pde at Dacey Ave — Redirection / Skip Point Runners continue along Anzac Pde, skipping the Dacey Ave U-turn.	17.8 km	~1.0 km	2 hrs 57 min	11:37 AM
3	Half-Way Point +100 m at Baker St — Major Redirection / Skip Point Runners U-turn at Barker St and head north back along Anzac Pde, skipping the rest of the Anzac Pde loop.	21.2 km	~4.0 km	3 hrs 31 min	12:11 PM
4	Anzac Pde at Sturt St — Major Redirection / Skip Point Runners make a long U-turn at Sturt St and head north back along Anzac Pde, skipping the rest of the Anzac Pde loop.	22.0 km	~2.0 km	3 hrs 40 min	12:19 PM
5	Anzac Pde at U-turn into Bus Lane — Soft-Skip Redirection Point Runners have the option to retire and walk back to the Finish along the course.	28.3 km	~14.0 km	4 hrs 42 min	1:22 PM
6	Moore Park at Driver Ave — Soft-Skip Redirection Point Runners may retire and walk back to the Finish along the course, or exit the course to Moore Park Rd and take the SAG vehicle back close to the Finish.	29.1 km	~14.0 km	4 hrs 50 min	1:30 PM
7	Robertson Rd Gate, Centennial Park — Major Redirection / Skip Point Runners U-turn before the entry gate to Centennial Park and either continue back along Federation Way or board a SAG vehicle, skipping the full Centennial Park loop.	30.26 km	–	5 hrs 02 min	1:42 PM

	LOCATION & WHAT HAPPENS	COURSE DISTANCE	COURSE SKIPPED	CUT-OFF TIME (FROM 8:40 AM)	TIME OF DAY (ON-TIME START)
8	Centennial Park Medical Tent (Jervois Ave) — SAG Pick-Up Point Runners may be picked up by the SAG vehicle at this point.	33.4 km	~10.0 km	5 hrs 34 min	2:14 PM
9	Driver Ave at Moore Park Rd — Hard Cut-Off & SAG Pick-Up Point Runners are picked up by the SAG vehicle, skipping the rest of Driver Ave.	35.1 km	~7.0 km	5 hrs 50 min	2:32 PM
10	St Marys — Hard Redirection / Skip Point Runners are redirected along Prince Albert Rd into Macquarie St, skipping the Royal Botanic Garden.	37.6 km	~3.1 km	6 hrs 15 min	2:55 PM
11	Mrs Macquarie's Rd — Redirection / Skip Point (option) Runners are redirected through the split point to head south, skipping the Mrs Macquarie's Point loop.	38.75 km	~3.25 km	6 hrs 27 min	3:07 PM

If the start is delayed on event day

Unexpected operational delays to the closing of the start window can occur on event day. If runners are unable to cross the start line before the scheduled 8:40 AM closure because of an unforeseen delay, the event may revise the cut-off times to align with the later start. Any updated timings will be communicated on the day by event officials.

Good luck — we can't wait to see you cross the Finish Line at the Sydney Opera House.