MELBOURNE CITY RACE 2024 – FAQs

www.melbournecityrace.com.au

What is the Melbourne City Race?

City Races are long distance urban navigational events. Using a provided colour map, you must complete a pre-determined course by visiting a series of checkpoints, in numerical order (known as "Line" format). You'll start at timed intervals, so the person who successfully finishes the course in the shortest time, wins. You decide the best way to navigate between checkpoints, so quick thinking and smart decision making are just as important as running speed.

City Races take place world-wide. The Melbourne City Race has been held every year since 2019 at places like Docklands and Williamstown. Port Melbourne was also used for the 2021 edition of MCR. Click here to see maps from 2021

Visit our website to see race reports, results, maps and photos from all four previous Races, and watch our video from the first ever Melbourne City Race!

Where and when is the Melbourne City Race?

The 5th edition will be held on Sunday 17 November 2024, starting at 11am. The location is Port Melbourne, and you'll start and finish at Edwards Park, Esplanade East/Lagoon Lane. The Race will take you through the maze of streets, lanes and parks of Port Melbourne, Albert Park, Beacon Cove, Station Pier, and more!

How long are the courses, and which one should I enter?

There are five courses in total, and you can enter whichever suits you! The distances given below are approximate, and represent the optimum route choice. If you are new to City Racing or orienteering, we suggest entering a course that is slightly shorter than your normal distance. There is a course closure time of 1:30pm, so choose a course that you can complete before then. Note that all courses will require crossing local roads and streets.

- Course 1 – approx 10 km
- Course 2 – approx 8 km
- Course 3 – approx 6 km
- Course 4 – approx 4 km
- Course 5 – approx 2.5 km, easier navigation

How do I get to the Start, and what time should I arrive?

We recommend using public transport to get to Edwards Park, although there is free parking too. Many City Racers ride their bikes. The Port Melbourne light rail (tram route 109) takes you within easy walking distance, with the closest stop at Graham Street. The iconic South Melbourne tram (route 1), to Richardson Street, is another option.

Registration opens from 10.30am. You may start any time between 11am and 12pm. The Start will be a very short walk from Registration. You may leave bags at Registration, but all valuables are left at your own risk.

Do I need to be a runner?

No! Although it's a race, MCR is open to people of all skill and fitness levels, and many participants enter for the fun of exploring new places. Participants can choose the distance and pace they are comfortable with, which can be a run, a jog, a walk, or a mix of all three! Running at full pace often leads to navigational errors – "more haste, less speed" is definitely applicable to this event.

Do I need to be an experienced orienteer?

No previous experience is needed. The maps (without controls) will be on display at Registration, and our friendly team will give you instructions before you start. A compass isn't necessary, though if you want to carry one, you can borrow one from Registration.

We use "Sportident" timing devices. These are small plastic devices containing a chip, which you wear on your finger. At each control, you insert it into the hole until it beeps. This records the time you visited the control, and verifies that you completed the course correctly. If you don't own a Sportident stick, we'll lend you one at Registration (included in the entry fee).

Can I participate with friends?

Yes, absolutely. MCR is an individual event and each person needs to enter separately, but thanks to our flexible start times, you can race with one or more friends – either run together, or race head to head and choose different routes between controls!

What about family members?

Again, yes. Families with younger kids who want to participate in a group, can enter as a family, receive a capped entry fee equivalent to two adults and one junior ($45). Refer to the entry instructions to find out how to do a family entry. Please note - dogs are not permitted.

How do I enter?

Click on the entry link on the Melbourne City Race website. This will take you to Eventor, our race entry system. If you are not familiar with Eventor, simply follow the steps at these instructions.

First, complete a simple registration process first, to create an Eventor login. Refer to instructions at the link above, under the heading HOW TO REGISTER.

Next, follow the steps under the heading HOW TO ENTER AN EVENT, and enter your preferred course. Payment is via PayPal, and is required to complete your entry.

To enter on behalf of family members, each person in the family will first need an Eventor login. Once set up, follow the steps at the above instructions, under the heading ENTERING ANOTHER PERSON. This allows you to enter yourself and family members, and pay in a single transaction. The family cap will be automatically applied and your payment will be $45.00, regardless of the number of juniors entered.

Entry fees: $18 per adult (21+); $9 per junior (13-20); $6 for kids 12 and under.

Can I enter on the day?

We prefer for everyone to pre-enter online, as that helps us order the correct number of maps. However, we do accept entries on the day at Registration, with payment by card or cash. Please note that you may not be able to enter your preferred course if maps run out, so we recommend arriving early to secure your map. And you miss out on our random prize draw!

What if I change my mind?

Refunds are offered under certain circumstances – click here to read our Refund Policy.

Still have questions? Email enquiries@drocorienteering.com.au, or call/text Debbie on 0409 135 020.