

General Race Rules – 2026

1. Start Time.

Junior Race – the Junior Ekiden is scheduled to start at 9:30am. All laps are 1 mile. All first leg runners should assemble by 9:15am

Senior Race – the Senior is scheduled to start at 10:20 am.

Note the first lap of the first leg of the Ekiden is 2.2 k, with the following laps being 2.5k. All first leg runners should assemble by 10:15.

2. Junior Entrants

We are following the new England Athletics rules so the categories are now as follows:

Teams for those aged under 12 on 31/8/26

Teams for those aged under 14 on 31/8/26

Teams for those aged under 16s on 31/8/26

Children aged 8 and under must run with an adult.

3. Senior Entrants

Senior Race – entrants to the Ipswich Ekiden must be of a minimum age of 15.

Please note:

15-year-olds are permitted to run legs of no longer than 5k

Those aged over 16 and under 18 can run the 5km and 7.2km legs

18s and over can run any leg

In the Senior race, age is based on the participants' age on race day.

4. Teams

A runner can run more than once in a team, but the team concerned will not then qualify for any prizes. Runners may run for more than one team but it is their responsibility to time this so that they are available to run the respective legs.

5. Affiliated teams – all teams will be entered in the respective affiliated categories, with non affiliated teams subject to the England Athletics levy of £12 per team (which JAFFA pay to the EA to cover insurance etc)

6. Veteran Categories

For men this is for those aged 40 and over on race day and for women it is 35 and over on race day.

7. SuperVets Categories

Men this is 50 and over on race day

Women 45 and over on race day.

60 + teams – all participants must be aged 60+ on race day.

70+ all participants must be 70+ on race day.

8. Non-affiliated/ Social team competition.

Category – suspended for 2026

9. Club Priority.

Affiliated athletes may only enter in social teams where their club has priority over their selection for club-based teams. Participants on the JAFFA teams are obliged to help marshal or in some other capacity on race day.

10. Holding Pen and handover

It is your team captain's responsibility to make sure all team members are ready in the holding pen in good time for when the next runner comes through.

Runners must hand over the baton to their team mate within the exchange area. This will be demonstrated on the day. For the sake of clarity, the handover takes place in the box before the finish line. The lap time will be recorded when the finishing runner crosses the line.

11. Disqualification.

Please adhere to the course which is clearly marked. If for any reason you stray from the route then you and your entire team may be disqualified

12. Runners/spectators

They should not enter the course or obstruct any of the athletes.

13. Race Numbers

A race number must be worn on the front of the running vest/t-shirt, unmodified, unfolded, and visible at all times during the race.

Please secure each number with four safety pins so it can be clearly seen by the timekeepers.

14. Sportsmanship.

All runners and supporters must display courtesy and sportsmanship at all times.

15. School Grounds.

Runners and supporters must not litter or damage the landscape or environment. This is really important as the school permit us free access to their grounds and facilities. Please take any litter etc away with you.

16. Dogs.

No dogs are permitted to enter the Ipswich High School grounds

17. Results

These will be published on the Ipswich JAFFA website
www.ipswichjaffa.org.uk

Safety and Medical Issues

1. Remember, at all times and in all situations, safety is the most important issue. This means safety for runners, staff, and the general public. The Red Cross will be in attendance.
2. Runners are responsible for their own actions.

Awards - Trophies will be awarded to the following:

1st 2nd and 3rd Men's and Ladies Open teams

1st 2nd and 3rd Mixed team (minimum 2 female runners to score).

1st Men's and 1st Ladies Veterans teams F – 35+ and M – 40+

1st Super Vets Male only aged 50+

1st Supervets team – Female only – 45+

1st Team over 60 – male/female, any combination accepted

1st Team and 2nd team over 70 – male/female, any combination accepted

Rule Enforcement and Penalties – Race Referee

1. Race rules are designed to provide a safe and fair experience for everyone involved and to help ensure our ability to produce the race again next year.
2. Rule breaches by runners will be dealt with by the Race Referee who has the authority, at any time, to overrule any rule or invent a new rule based on extenuating, unforeseen, and/or unusual circumstances and/or to maintain the integrity and fair play necessary for the successful completion, and continuation, of the race. The Race Referee has ultimate authority in regards to all rules, their interpretation, and their enforcement. There is no "appeals committee" nor an "appeals process." All entrants in the race willingly acknowledge this fact, by attending the race in any capacity.
3. In all cases and circumstances, it is the intent, and spirit, of the rules which will govern their implementation and enforcement.

Cancellation

1. In the event of cancellation of the Ekiden, Ipswich JAFFA will provide a refund of race entry fees after deduction of the costs incurred in staging the event. These costs will be allocated on a pro rata basis from the cost of each team entry. These costs are likely to include medical provision, portable toilets, race number and trophies which are not able to be reused on a future event.
2. Personal arrangements including travel, accommodation or hospitality relating to the event which have been arranged by you are at your own risk. Liability for the cancellation or rescheduling of an event will be limited to the refund as set out in these terms and conditions.
3. We will not be responsible for any loss, theft or damage of your personal belongings, other than caused as a result of our negligence or other breach of statutory duty.