

31/05/2026  
Mechelen



## ARE YOU READY FOR IT?

Hi Runner!

The big day is almost here. The first Anita Great Half Mechelen is just around the corner.

In this email, you'll find all the practical information and your race number so you can head to the starting line with peace of mind. We've been looking forward to this for months and have been working hard behind the scenes, so we're happy to see you soon!

You can find your race number via [this link](#).

You can also read all the practical information in Dutch and English on the [Keep on Running website](#).

### PICK UP YOUR RACE NUMBER

Want to avoid lines and stress? You can pick up your race number at [Runners' Lab Rumst](#) starting Tuesday, May 5, during store hours:

- Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 9:30 AM–6:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:30 AM–7:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:30 AM–2:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

If you pick up your race number in advance, you'll enjoy a 20% discount on an Anita sports bra and a 10% discount on nutrition products when you pick up your race number at Runners' Lab Rumst. If you'd like personal advice, we recommend making an appointment in advance via [the reservation system](#).

On Saturday, May 30, you can pick up your race bib between 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM at the Technische Scholen playground. Address: Onder-Den-Toren 13/14, 2800 Mechelen. Will you be joining the Shake Out Run as well?

On the day of the event, you can pick up your race bib starting at 7:30 AM at the Technische Scholen Mechelen playground. Address: Onder-Den-Toren 13/14, 2800 Mechelen.

At the event reception, we'll ask for your **race number and ID**. You no longer need the confirmation email for your registration. Your race number is your ticket. We don't use QR codes or PDF files. Changing your start wave is no longer possible from now on.

Looking up and picking up someone else's race number? You can easily do that via [this link](#). You can pick up other race numbers with a photo of the person's ID. **Group registrations** will be picked up all at once by the team captain and will be ready together in an envelope.

### DAILY SCHEDULE

- **7:30 AM:** Registration
- **9:30 AM:** Starting areas open
- **10:00 AM:** Start of the Anita Great Half Mechelen – all waves start right after each other
- **12:00 PM:** Men's and women's podium ceremony (Ijzerenleen)
- **1:30 PM:** Finish line closes
- **3:30 PM:** Bag drop closes

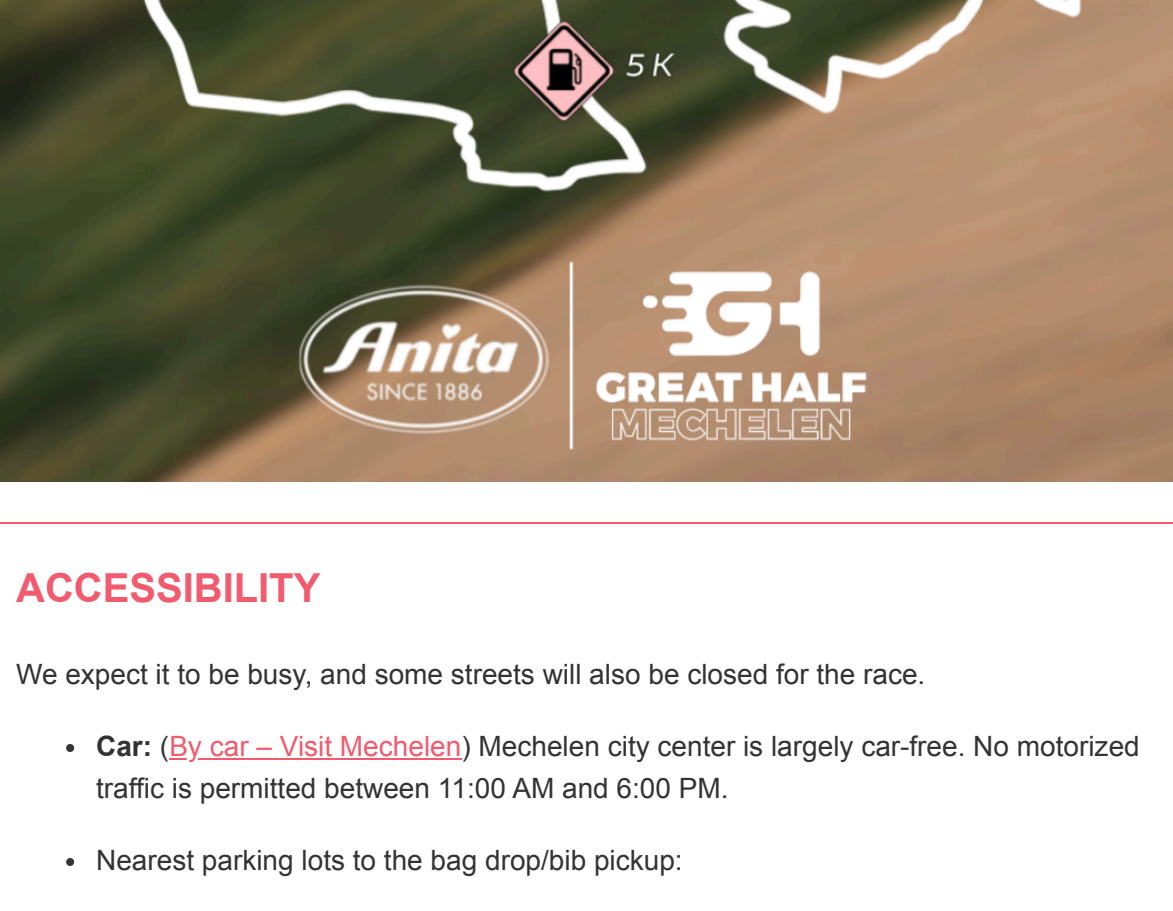
### STARTWAVES

We'll be using the city and navigating the streets. The start and finish are located on Ijzerenleen, 3800 Mechelen. We'll gather in the adjacent streets for different start waves. The announcer will call you when it's time for your start wave to set off.

Changing your start wave online is no longer possible. Please take your pace and that of your fellow runners into account.

START: 10:00 a.m.	<b>STARTING BLOCK 1</b> Target time: under 1 hour 20 minutes With bib number check	Ijzerenleen – walk to the starting area via Begijnenstraat
START: 10:00 a.m. Following Wave 1	<b>STARTING BLOCK 2</b> Target time >1:45 Pacers: 1:30 and 1:40 With bib number check	Ijzerenleen – accessed via Schoenmarkt
START: 10:00 a.m. Following Wave 2	<b>STARTING BLOCK 3</b> Target time >2:15 Pacers: 1:50 and 2:00 With bib number check	Blauwhondstraat – detour via Bruul
START: 10:00 a.m. Following Wave 3	<b>STARTING BLOCK 4</b> Target time >2:15 Pacers: >2:10 With bib number check	Geitestraat – detour via Bruul

Pacers are available with finish times of 1:30, 1:40, 1:50, 2:00, and 2:10. Finish time limit: 3 hours. The finish line closes at 1:30 p.m.



### ACCESSIBILITY

We expect it to be busy, and some streets will also be closed for the race.

- **Car:** ([By car – Visit Mechelen](#)) Mechelen city center is largely car-free. No motorized traffic is permitted between 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM.
- Nearest parking lots to the bag drop/bib pickup:
  - Kathedraal Parking:
    - Address: Sint-Romboutskerkhof 6, 2800 Mechelen
    - Distance: ± 5-minute walk
    - Website: <https://www.indigoneo.be/nl/parkings/2354/parking-kathedraal>
    - Q-Park Lamot:
      - Address: Guldenstraat 18, 2800 Mechelen
      - Distance: ± 10-minute walk
      - Website: [Q-Park Lamot](#)
    - Parking Grote Markt:
      - Address: Grote Markt, 2800 Mechelen
      - Afstand: ± 10 minuten wandelen
      - Website: <https://www.indigoneo.be/nl/parkings/2352/parking-grote-markt-mechelen>
  - **Public transportation:**
    - Train: ([By train – Visit Mechelen](#)) (NMBS)
      - Mechelen station: ± 15-minute walk
      - Mechelen-Nekerspel station: ± 10-minute walk
    - Bus: ([By bus – Visit Mechelen](#)) (De Lijn)
  - **Bike:** ([By bike – Visit Mechelen](#))
    - You can easily get around Mechelen by bicycle
    - Bicycle parking: Onder-Den-Toren 13/14, 2800 Mechelen

### CHANGING ROOMS/ SHOWERS/ CLOAKROOM

- Supervised bag drop-off **available**. This area is located on the playground of the Technische Scholen. You can also pick up your bib number here. Open from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM.
- Changing rooms and showers are **NOT available**.

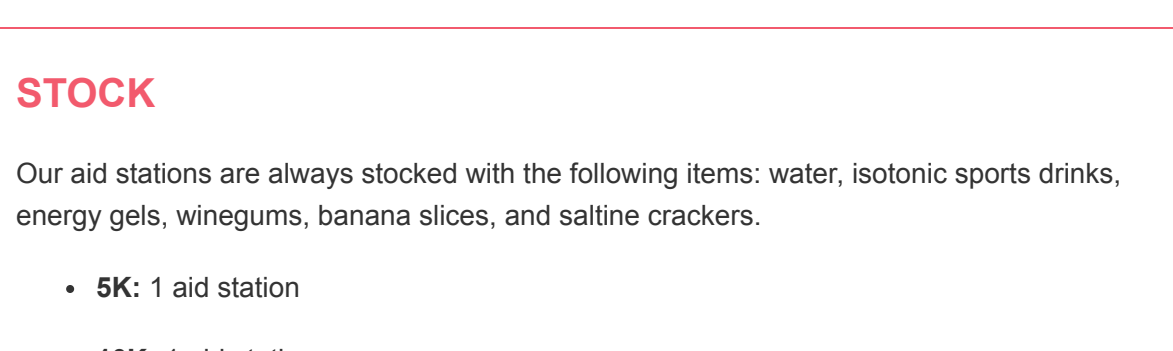
### COURSE

This officially certified half marathon of 21.097 km offers everything you need to set a fast time. The course is flat, with long straight stretches that are ideal for improving your personal best. You'll run through Mechelen and its green suburbs, often along the water, before finishing in the charming historic city center. There are also several timing mats along the course.

The route is fully marked with orange Keep on Running arrows, and at key points, there are marshals and information signs to ensure a smooth race.

Pacers will help you reach your goal with target finish times ranging from 1:30 to 2:10.

- Parcour Google Maps: [link](#).
- GPX: [link](#).
- You can view the photos the same day via [link](#).



### STOCK

Our aid stations are always stocked with the following items: water, isotonic sports drinks, energy gels, winegums, banana slices, and saline crackers.

- **5K:** 1 aid station
- **10K:** 1 aid station
- **14K:** 1 aid station
- **18K:** 1 aid station

Each aid station is marked by an orange beach flag. So you can get ready to grab some refreshments from our volunteers.

The aid stations use cups, so you don't need to bring your own reusable cup or soft flask. There is a clearly marked area 100 meters before and after each aid station where you can dispose of your trash. Our volunteers will clean up that area.

We strongly ask that you leave your cups and trash only there, and not elsewhere on the course. Together with the City of Mechelen, we strive to make this event as clean as possible. Plastic bottles and trash do not belong in nature.

We have also set up 6 spectator zones along the course. Send your supporters there to help create a great atmosphere. You can find the spectator zones [here](#).

5K	
10K	
14K	
18K	

### EVENT VILLAGE

After picking up your race number, head over to Ijzerenleen to explore our event village. There you'll find:

- Nike test shoes—also available during the shakeout run
- Blackroll recovery zone—because what could be better than taking a moment to recover in those boots after 21K?
- Obet food truck—time to refuel! We know you need that

In short, everything is in place to make this a complete and enjoyable experience.

### SHAKE OUT RUN

Want to be fully prepared for the start? Then get in the mood the day before with the **Shake Out Mechelen x Runner's High Collective!** This relaxed 5K run is the perfect way to loosen up your legs and shake off any last-minute race jitters.

- Date: 05/30/2026
- Check-in at 5:00 PM – start at 5:30 PM
- Location: Technical Schools Playground, Mechelen
- Register for free for the Shake Out Run with Runner's High Collective: [via the website](#).

After the run, stick around for a carb load and try out Nike test shoes on-site. Handy: you can also pick up your race bib right away.

- Bib pickup will be open from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
- We'll also have a bag drop available during the Shake Out Run
- Location: Technische Scholen Playground, Onder-Den-Toren 13/14, 2800 Mechelen

In short: the perfect warm-up for a successful running weekend!

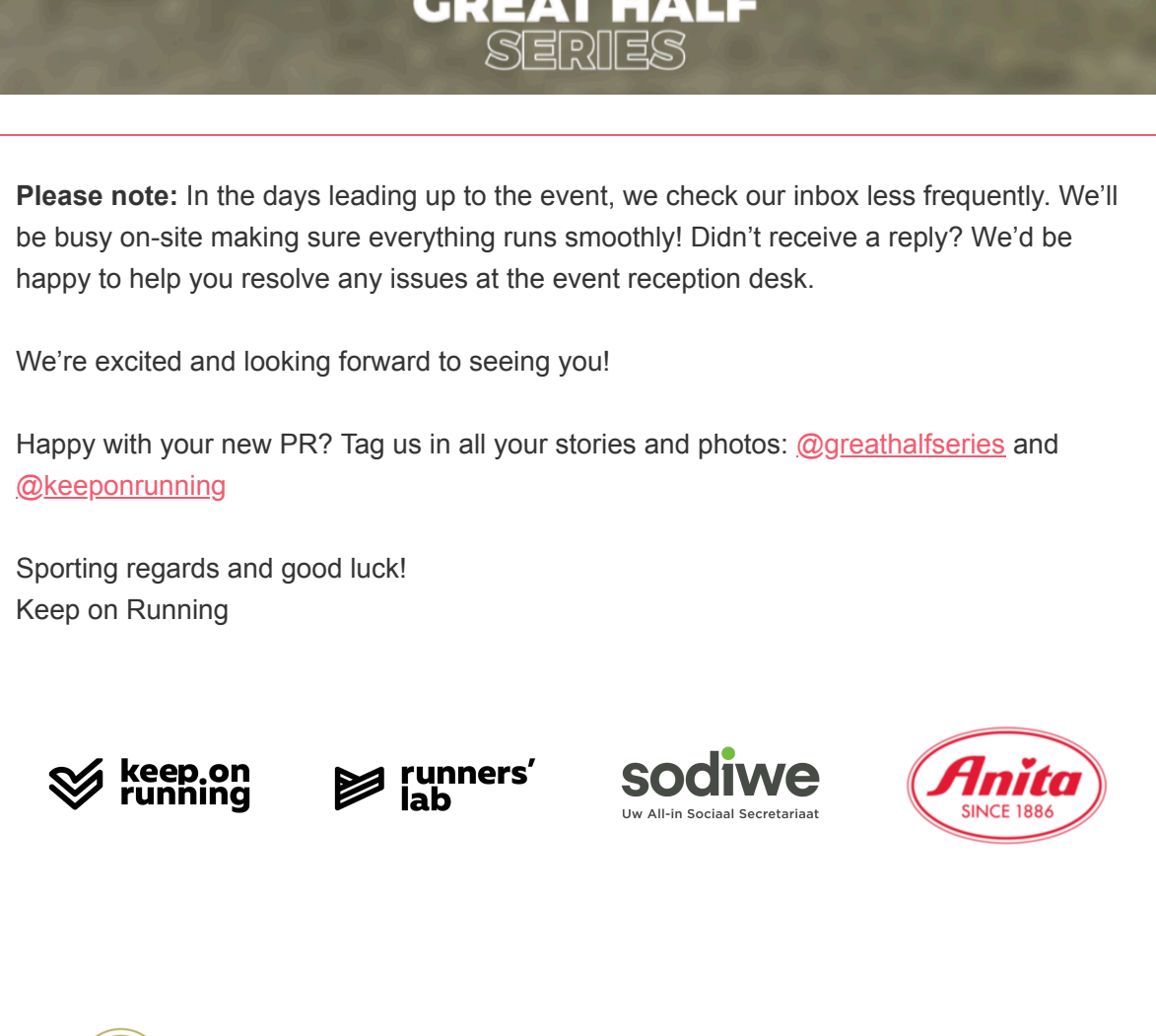
### GREAT HALF SERIES

A series of (fast) half marathons. Are you ready?

Series on Running recently launched a brand-new concept in Flanders: [the Great Half Series](#). A series of half marathons in various Flemish cities.

Next up: September 20, [WALLS Great Half Antwerp](#), and November 15, Anita Great Half Sint-Truiden. In 2027, we'll launch two more Great Halves, bringing the total to five races.

Can you complete them all within five years? If so, you'll earn an exclusive Great Half Medal.



**Please note:** In the days leading up to the event, we check our inbox less frequently. We'll be busy on-site making sure everything runs smoothly! Didn't receive a reply? We'd be happy to help you resolve any issues at the event reception desk.

We're excited and looking forward to seeing you!

Happy with your new PR? Tag us in all your stories and photos: [@greathalfseries](#) and [@keeponrunning](#)

Sporting regards and good luck!  
Keep on Running

