



AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR PARTICIPANTS, FRIENDS AND THE RUNNING COMMUNITY:

The Big Sur International Marathon, soon to be celebrating its 30th Presentation in 2015, has become a “bucket list” race for runners from throughout the world. As with many popular races around the country, thousands of runners are vying for limited spots.

Last year’s Big Sur Marathon surprised us by selling out in only 59 minutes. We heard from many runners who weren’t able to register online on the single specified date at a specific time. This year, we attempted to remedy that situation by offering multiple days and times to register, followed by a small lottery for those who still weren’t able to get a place in the marathon. We chose this solution after much research, looking at other races around the country who faced similar capacity problems, and interviewing many runners, both local and national, to determine what would serve them best.

Despite our best efforts we found that the new system was still not adequate for the number of individuals wanting to run our race. The four sign-up periods each allowed 625 runners in them, but given that several thousand were trying to access the system at the earliest possible time, only a fraction were able to register. Hundreds of runners were sent to a screen that indicated the system was “On Hold,” meaning that the full amount of registrants were allowed into the system to register within seconds of opening.

We realize that many runners were frustrated and upset with the registration process. Not being able to register after four attempts quadrupled the disappointment. We acknowledge your feelings of exasperation and annoyance and the time spent in the multiple registration attempts.

The Big Sur International Marathon is committed to making our registration process as painless and fair for all. Please know that we will not be repeating this system next year, but will be looking into a more palatable way to handle the multitude of runners that look forward to “running on the edge of the western world.”

Welcome to all runners who were able to secure a marathon spot in the 2015 race, and to those entering the lottery we wish the best of luck. For the rest of you, we hope to see you on the marathon course in a future year, or perhaps at one of our other events (10.6, 9 Miler, Marathon Relay, 5K or 3K) still available for 2015.

Thank you,
The Board & Staff of the Big Sur International Marathon
www.bsim.org
831.625.6226
info@bsim.org