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**SKECHERS PERFORMANCE LOS ANGELES MARATHON TO LEAVE MARK ON LA**

*The 33rd Running of the Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon will Feature Los Angeles Dodgers All-Star Justin Turner as Honorary Starter and LA Loyal Program for Returning Runners*

**LOS ANGELES (March 12, 2017)** – The 2018 edition of the Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon is this weekend and race organizer, Conqur Endurance Group, is pleased to announce a host of race week activities for runners and spectators alike.

More than 24,000 runners from around the globe will run the iconic Stadium to the Sea marathon course that starts at Dodger Stadium and ends at the Santa Monica Pier this Sunday, March 18.

“Every year, Conqur Endurance Group aims to bring unique and memorable race experiences for our runners through our various events”, said Tracey Russell, Chief Executive of Conqur Endurance Group. “Whether it’s the LA 1/2K Kids Run, the LA BIG 5K, or the Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon, we’ve created a weekend of events encouraging all ages to participate and experience the greatest event in Los Angeles.”

**Professional Runners and Students Run LA Official Race Shake Out Run:**

Friday morning March 16, the professional runners scheduled to toe the start line at the 2018 Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon, will join 25 – 30 participants in the Students Run LA (SRLA) program for the official pre-race shake-out run at Griffith Park. Approximately 3,500 SRLA runners will take part in the Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon again this year.

**Pre-Race Kick-Off Press Conference:**

The pre-race press conference will take place 11AM on Friday morning at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Attending media will have an opportunity to learn about the elite field competing for the \$100,000 prize purse. This year’s men’s race promises to be special as the Champions from the last three years are set to compete. The 2017 winner Elisha Barno (KEN), the 2016 winner Weldon Kirui (KEN) and the 2015 winner Daniel Limo (KEN) will test their experience over the Stadium to the Sea course against a deep international field. The women’s professional field is headlined by defending Champion, Hellen Jepkurgat, alongside Olena Shurkhnо (UKR) and two Ethiopians, Dire Tune and Tsehay Desalegn.

Select athletes, including the returning Champions in the wheel chair division, Alicia Ibarra and Laurens Molina, will be at the press conference to discuss race strategy. There will be a moderated Q&A, followed by breakout interview opportunities with the professional athletes.

**Pre-Race Entertainment at the Health & Fitness Expo:**

The Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon [Health & Fitness Expo](#) is at the Los Angeles Convention Center on Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17. The Expo will host over 120 vendors and features world-class brands of products and services that fuel, support, and motivate runners, friends and family. The Expo with 45,000 expected attendees it is one of the biggest events of the year at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The Health and Fitness Expo is free and open to the public. Hours are 10am – 7pm on Friday and 9am – 5pm on Saturday.

**Fun for the Whole Family at the LA BIG 5K:**

On Saturday, March 17, 4,500 athletes will take part in the 2018 LA BIG 5K and LA 1/2K Kids Run at Dodger Stadium. The family-focused race includes striking views of Los Angeles as the 5K course takes runners through Elysian Park and finishes at the iconic Dodger Stadium. The LA BIG 5K is sold out and registration has closed. Few spots remain for the LA 1/2K Kids Run, a quarter mile run for kids between the recommended ages of 3-8. Participating kids will receive race bib, T-shirt, medal (made from rubber to be kids' safe) and goody bag provided by Big 5. Entry fee in the LA 1/2K Kids Run is \$15 and walk-up registration is available on Saturday morning until the race reaches capacity.

**Marathon Sunday:**

Los Angeles Dodgers All-Star third baseman Justin Turner will join dignitaries and race officials at the start line at Dodger Stadium. Serving as an honorary starter, Turner will help send off participants in this year's Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon on their 26.2-mile journey to the finish line in Santa Monica.

**LA Loyal Program:**

Debuting this year, the LA Loyal program is designed to celebrate marathon runners who run the Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon in consecutive years. These runners will be recognizable by a unique black and gold race bib. Those runners with 10 or more consecutive Marathons will be awarded a coveted Bold and Gold medal, featuring the same design as the original Los Angeles Marathon medal from 1986.

For more information about the Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon and race weekend activities, please visit [www.lamarathon.com](http://www.lamarathon.com) and follow along on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter [@lamarathon](#).

**About Conqur Endurance Group**

Conqur Endurance Group, a subsidiary of McCourt LP, creates world-class experiences that ignite passion in athletes and connect communities through the transformative power of sport. The Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon is among the largest marathons in the country with 24,000 participants, thousands of volunteers and hundreds of thousands of spectators. The "Stadium to the Sea" course, starting at Dodger Stadium and finishing near the Santa Monica Pier, is one of the most scenic in the world, taking runners on a tour of Los Angeles past every major landmark. In addition to the marquee event, Conqur Endurance Group produces the Pasadena Half Marathon & 5K at the Rose Bowl, the Santa Monica Classic 5K/10K and the LA BIG 5K. Conqur also owns and operates one of the largest marathon training programs in the U.S., the LA Road Runners. Through official charity programs and strategic partnerships, Conqur supports dozens of nonprofit partners; the most notable being Students Run LA, one of the foremost nonprofit youth running programs in the nation. For more information, please visit [www.goconqur.com](http://www.goconqur.com)

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