42nd Singapore Bird Race® 2026 – Rules & Conditions

Prepared by Nature Society Singapore

October 2026

NATURE SOCIETY SINGAPORE

EST. 1954

Content Page

Rules and Regulations **2**

1) Race Category 2
2) Code of Conduct 3
3) Race Boundary 4
4) Bird Race Logsheet 4
5) Bird Race Checklist 4
6) All Categories, except School (Primary) – Recording Your Observations 5
7) All Categories, except School (Primary) – Submitting Your Observations 6
8) For School (Primary) 7
9) Scoring 7
10) Tie-breaking 7
11) Prohibitions & Exclusions 8
12) Penalties & Disqualifications 8
13) Safety 8
14) Copyright 8
15) eBird 9
16) Terms & Conditions 9

Annex A – Safety Briefing **10**

Rules & Regulations

The following are the rules and conditions for the 42nd Singapore Bird Race (2026). All race participants must agree to and comply fully with the following Rules & Regulations of the Singapore Bird Race® to compete. Failure to do so may result in team disqualification or penalties.

1) Race Category – Team Composition, Duration & Requirements

a) The requirements across categories may differ and are as follows:

S/N	Race Category	Team Composition	Duration
1	Marathon	3-4 members	**24 hours** Race starts at **12:00 pm** on 14th November 2026 and ends at **12:00 pm** on 15th November 2026;
2	Sprint	3-4 members	**5 hours** Race starts at **7.30 am** and ends at **12.30 pm** on 15th November 2026
3	Novice	3-4 members	
4	Family	2-4 members *At least 1 adult and 1 child under 13 years old*	
5	Youth	3-4 members *Aged 13 to 18 years and may be supervised by a teacher or parent for safety reasons*	
6	School (Primary)	3-4 members *Aged 12 years and below and must be supervised by a teacher or parent for safety reasons*	**2.5 hours** Race starts at **7.30 am** and ends at **10.00 am** on 15th November 2026 *[Previously started at 8am for a 2 hr race in 2025]*
7	Non-competitive	No limitations	**5 hours** Race starts at **7.30 am** and ends at **12.30 pm** on 15th November 2026

b) Please note the following changes in race categories and requirements in 2026:

i) All categories, except School (Primary), will be required to submit photos of their observations via memory card along with their logsheets. (See page 4 & 5 for information)

ii) Non-competitive participants are encouraged, but not required, to submit photos of their sightings. The photos will help support citizen science data and verify observations uploaded to eBird, if needed.

iii) There is no 'Photographer' category.

2) Code of Conduct

a) **Respect Nature:**
   i) Put the welfare of the birds and our environment above the race.
   ii) Observe, don't disturb. Keep a safe distance and never chase, feed or bait birds.
   iii) Protect nature by staying on designated trails and respecting habitats.

b) Respect Others:
   i) Treat fellow participants and the public courteously. Be considerate and mindful of others' space, privacy, and boundaries.
   ii) Do not discriminate, harass, or undermine fellow participants or members of the public.

c) Respect the Event:
   i) Be honest and practise fairplay, while placing ethics and safety above winning.
   ii) All files, observations and evidence should be original and recorded during the race period only.

d) In addition, the following codes of conduct must be observed at all times:

i) NParks Parks & Nature Reserves Etiquette

ii) NSS Code of Ethics for Nature Lovers & Photographers

3) Race Boundary/Start/End

a) **Start Point:**
   i) Teams will be assigned their flag-off location by category as follows:
      - **Sprint & Novice Categories:** Visitor Centre of Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve (Address: 60 Kranji Way, Singapore 739453)
      - **School (Pri), Youth, Family & Non-competitive Categories:** Promenade of Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park (1380 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1 , SG569982), *3-min walk from Car Park A.*

b) End Point:
   i) For all categories, the end point shall be the **Town Hall of Mapletree Business City** on the **Mezzanine Level** (Address: 10 Pasir Panjang Road, Singapore 117438; GPS Coordinates: 1.274389, 103.798836; Located between Block 10 and Block 30).

   ii) For the **School (Primary) category**, submission of the logsheets will take place at the **Promenade of Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park**.

   Transport from Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park – Carpark A to the Town Hall of Mapletree Business City will be provided.

c) All species recorded must be within the boundaries of the Republic of Singapore (including all outlying islands) except the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Live Firing Areas, and any areas identified to be restricted to the public.

4) Bird Race Log sheet

a) All teams shall record their sightings on the hard copy bird race log sheet, which will be issued on 15th November 2026 at the start point.
   i) For the Marathon category, the log sheet will be emailed to participants to self-print.

b) As all categories, except School (Primary), must submit photos, teams should indicate the corresponding image file name for each sighting onto the logsheet in chronology.

5) Official Bird Race Checklist

a) The Nature Society Singapore Bird Group Records Committee **Checklist of the Birds of Singapore (2026 edition)** will be the official checklist for the Singapore Bird Race:

   https://tinyurl.com/NSS-Bird-List-2026

b) Birds recorded during the race which are not in the **Checklist of the Birds of Singapore (2026 edition)** will not be included into the final team tally.

6) For all categories except School (Primary) – Recording Your Observations

a) **ALL** bird observations must be **supported by a photograph** in **jpg/jpeg format**.

b) **Before Flag-off:**

i) All teams are required to photograph a designated verification subject, which will be announced by the Organising Committee, before the start of the race.

This photograph will serve as verification that all subsequent photographs submitted for the race were taken on the official race day after the team's flag-off.

ii) Teams in the **Marathon Category** will be informed of the designated verification subject **five (5) minutes** before the commencement of their race.

iii) Failure to capture and submit the required verification photograph may result in the team's **immediate disqualification** from the competition.

c) **During Race - Recording of Observations:**

i) Teams must record all observations during the race on the hard copy log sheet.

ii) The time and location of the species photographed must be recorded, including the photo file name.

iii) **The majority of team members must agree** on the bird's identity before it can be recorded into the log sheet. (2 out of 3 for teams of three, or 3 out of 4 for teams of 4. For teams of two in the Family category, both members must agree on the bird's identity.)

iv) Enter the number of birds seen per species. An estimate will do if you are not able to determine the exact number.

d) **During Race - Team Movement:**

i) All team members must remain together at all times while observing and photographing species. Team members must not split up across multiple locations or within the same location.

7) For all categories except School (Primary) – Submitting Your Observations & Logsheets

a) Teams must submit their log sheet, and memory card (for download of photos to organiser's laptop) at the Town Hall of Mapletree Business City on Mezzanine Level by the following times, sharp:

i) **Marathon:** 12pm

ii) **Youth, Family, Novice, Sprint:** 12.30 pm

b) **Conditions for Photo Submission:**

i) **Photograph Format and Submission**

- Photographs should be submitted in **jpg/jpeg format**.
- Photos in other formats (such as RAW, etc) will not be accepted.
- Each Team must have **one** designated digital camera (e.g. Mirrorless, DSLR, prosumer, bridge, or compact zoom.) Only photographs from the designated camera will be accepted.
- All photos must be submitted via **one** memory card.
- As photos of species observations will be reviewed in chronological order, please ensure that the files submitted correspond with the observations and image file names recorded onto the logsheet.
- The memory cards will be returned to participants immediately after photos are downloaded.

ii) Photograph Content

- Photographs must depict wild birds in their natural environment.
- Photographs must be taken within the official race window.
- Photographs must show the identification features necessary for the Expert Panel to confirm the species.
- Teams shall only submit 1 photo for each species. If a bird is not able to be identified confidently in one photo, you may submit up to 3 photos.

- Photographs must not be edited in a way that misrepresents the field situation, the subject or the recording context.

8) For School (Primary) Category (exempted from photo requirement)

a) Teams must record all observations during the race on the hard copy log sheet.

b) The time and location of the species sighted must be recorded.

c) **The majority of team members must see and agree** on the bird's identity before it can be recorded into the log sheet. (2 out of 3 for teams of three, or 3 out of 4 for teams of 4.)

d) Species recorded by calls alone cannot be included in the log sheet.

e) Enter the number of birds seen per species. An estimate will do if you are not able to determine the exact number.

f) All team members must remain together at all times while observing and photographing species. Team members must not split up across multiple locations or within the same location.

g) Each team from School (Primary) category must submit their log sheet at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park's Promenade **by 10.00 am** sharp (transport from Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park to the Town Hall of Mapletree Business City will be provided).

9) Scoring

a) The winning team will be the team with the **highest number of species recorded, with supporting photos**.

b) There is a penalty for late submissions: one species will be deducted for every minute late.

c) The arbitrators' decision will be final, and no appeals will be entertained.

10) Tie-Breaking Principles

a) In the event that two or more teams record the same total number of species, the team that made their last observation first will be ranked higher.

11) Prohibitions & Exclusions

a) Observations that involve trapped, caged or restrained birds cannot be recorded.

b) Observations that involve oiled, sick or dead individuals must be excluded.

c) Attracting, luring or baiting birds with audio devices, sound recordings or food are strictly prohibited.

d) Do not disturb birds for photography by trapping, touching, flushing, excessively approaching, or altering their natural behavior.

e) The use of drones or any flying device is not allowed.

f) Do not obstruct other teams or deliberately chase birds away.

12) Penalties & Disqualifications

a) The arbitrators reserve the right to disqualify any team found to have breached any of the Rules and Conditions of the 42nd Singapore Bird Race (2026).

13) Safety

a) The organiser reserves the right to cancel the race in the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen events;

b) Teams are to observe the prevailing safe management measures at all times.

c) Teams are to observe all safety, traffic rules, and rules governing the use of parks, gardens and nature reserves. Please refer to Annex A – General Safety Briefing for more details.

14) Copyright

All images submitted by the photographers remain the sole property of its authors, but the Nature Society Singapore and its authorized agencies reserve the right to use them for reports and communication purposes after the event in both digital and printed format. All images used will be acknowledged.

15) eBird

Selected bird lists from race teams may be uploaded to eBird (without photos) by NSS under the user "singaporebirdrace", crediting the team. In the event of queries by eBird reviewers (on rare birds, etc), NSS may provide the relevant photos for verification.

16) Terms & Conditions

a) By participating in Nature Society Singapore's activities, you agree to abide by the following terms and conditions:

i) Understand, accept, and acknowledge that by providing your personal data, information, you give your consent to Nature Society Singapore ("NSS") to collect, use, and disclose your personal data for the specified purposes of enabling NSS to communicate with you; to facilitate the organisation of Singapore Bird Race; to provide you with products and/or services; to respond to your enquiries or complaints; to provide you with information, invitations, and/or updates; and to disclose the same to any relevant third parties that NSS has engaged for the specified purposes.

ii) Understand, accept, and acknowledge that by registering for this activity, the NSS retains the rights to use any photographs, sound recordings, and/or videos taken during this event as deemed necessary without seeking consent of any person captured. This includes any recording of the webinars in any form.

iii) Understand, accept and acknowledge that you are solely responsible for your own safety during the course of this event. The NSS, all organisers, and all sponsors shall not be held responsible for any mishap, accident, injury or death, as well as loss or damage to personal property that may occur during this event.

iv) Understand, accept and acknowledge that you are required to read the safety guidance provided in this document before the commencement of the race, and will adhere to it throughout the course of the race.

----- END -----

Annex A – General Safety Briefing

1	Be appropriately dressed (outdoor/sports attire with covered shoes) and prepared for outdoor activities. Carry the following items in a backpack: ● To prevent dehydration, carry a water bottle of at least 500 millilitres and hydrate regularly. Ensure that your water bottle is filled before the race begins. ● To prevent insect and mosquito bites, carry and use insect repellent and wear long bottoms. ● To prevent sunburn, carry and use a cap or hat and sunblock. Reapply your sunblock every one to two hours.
2	For teams in the School (Primary) and Youth categories, follow the instructions of your adult supervisor and remain together as a team at all times. Do not separate from your team. ● If you are injured or feel unwell, inform your adult supervisor immediately. ● If you need to refill your water bottle, take a break, or use the washroom, inform your adult supervisor and/or team members before doing so. ● The adult supervisor is responsible for the well-being and whereabouts of the team members throughout the race.
3	Observe safety and traffic rules when crossing roads.
4	To prevent falls and other injuries, look where you are going when walking. Do not use binoculars, a camera, or a mobile phone while walking.
5	Observe trail and wildlife etiquette at all times: ● Do not disturb, feed, or touch any wildlife, their nests, or plants. ● Keep a safe distance of at least 1 metre from any moving wildlife. ● Stay on designated trails. Do not brush against vegetation, as you may disturb nests of stinging insects or wildlife.
6	Take appropriate precautions in wet weather: ● If you are caught in the rain, put on a poncho or raincoat immediately. ● In the event of drizzle or light rain without lightning, your team may continue the race in ponchos or raincoats, provided that it is safe to do so and with the permission of your adult supervisor, where applicable. ● In the event of lightning or heavy rain, seek shelter immediately and await further instructions from the Organising Committee via the Telegram channel or your adult supervisor, where applicable.
7	For a medical emergency or rescue assistance, call 995.