

Rules for participants

1. In order to participate in the BTO Big Bird Race, teams must have registered **by 23:59 on the 19th of September** using the [sign-up form](#).
2. The race takes place on 22nd September 2024, with teams allowed to choose the start time for their race between 00:00 and 23:59 on that date, with the maximum duration of the race being **four hours**. The four hour window **must be continuous**, but team members are not required to stay for the full four hours if they are unable or do not want to do so.
3. Travelling to the site chosen for your race is permitted by any mode of transport, but during the four hour race period you are only allowed to go by foot, bicycle or wheelchair/mobility scooter if required for accessibility.
4. Teams must have a minimum of three team members. There is no upper limit, but particularly large groups are recommended to split into smaller teams.
5. Team members are required to stick together and not split up during the duration of their participation in the race.
6. In order to record a bird species, two-thirds of team members must either see or hear the species, but not necessarily the same individual.
7. Only wild birds confidently identified by sight or sound can be counted.
8. The competition relies on trusting participants to honestly record only the species they see/hear, but BTO reserve the right to query any rare or unseasonal sightings.
9. Each species is worth **one point** in your final scoring. There is no bonus for rarities or scarce birds.
10. There will be two leagues: coastal and inland. Coastal is defined as being **within 5 miles** of the coast as calculated using [this website](#). You must calculate the distance based on the closest point of your patch to the coast; you cannot participate in the inland league, and then travel to a coastal site during your race.
11. Teams are required to be respectful of nature and birds they see.
12. Lastly, this event is aimed to bring together different generations of birders to enjoy a day of celebrating nature, birds and BTO. We expect teams to be respectful towards each other and others and share in the spirit of the event.