

Mo Farah



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Sir Mohamed Muktar Jama "Mo" Farah, CBE (Somali: Maxamed Mukhtaar Jaamac Faarax; born 23 March 1983) is Britain's most successful-ever distance runner. [9] On the track, he mostly competed over 5000 metres and 10,000 metres, but has run competitively from 1500 metres to the marathon. In 2017 he indicated his intention to switch wholly to road racing following victory at his final track race, the 2017 IAAF Diamond League 5000 metres final. His running style has been described as "bouncy" and tactical, [10][11] which he has attempted to alter for a more efficient and energy-saving stride pattern, especially in the longer distances. [12] Farah runs distance races tactically, a style which is aided by his quick sprint finish. [13]

The most successful British track athlete in modern Olympic Games history, he is the 2012 and 2016 Olympic gold medallist in both the 5000 m and 10,000 m, and is the second athlete in modern Olympic Games history, after Lasse Virén, to win both the 5000 m and 10,000 m titles at successive Olympic Games. Farah also completed the 'distance double' at the 2013 and 2015 World Championships in Athletics. He was the second man in history after Kenenisa Bekele, to win long-distance doubles at successive Olympics and World Championships, and the first in history to defend both distance titles in both major global competitions – a feat described as the 'quadruple-double'. [14] Since finishing 2nd in the 10,000 metres at the 2011 World Championships in Athletics, Farah had an unbroken streak of ten global final wins (the 5000m in 2011, the 10,000m in 2017 and the double in 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016). The streak was finally ended in Farah's final championship track race, when he finished second to Ethiopia's Muktar Edris in the 2017 5000 metres final. In his final track race, the inaugural 2017 Diamond League Final in Zurich in August 2017, Farah gained his

Sir Mo Farah

CBE



Farah at the 2016 Olympics podium with his two gold medals

Personal information					
Birth name	Mohamed Muktar Jama Farah				
Nationality	British				
Born	23 March 1983 ^[1] Mogadishu, <u>Somalia</u>				
Monument(s)	Gold Postboxes Isleworth, London; Teddington, London Madame Tussauds London wax sculpture in Marylebone				
Occupation	Runner				
Years active	1996–2017				

revenge, edging out world champion Edris in Farah's final track race to win his first and only IAAF Diamond League title at 5000 metres.

Born in Mogadishu, Somalia to an Isaaq Somali family from Gabiley, Somaliland, Farah was originally based in London and ran for Newham and Essex Beagles athletics club, training at St Mary's University College, Twickenham from 2001 to 2011. Farah is the European record holder for the 1500 m, 10,000 m, half marathon and two miles, the British record holder for the 5000 m, the European indoor record holder for 5000 m, the British indoor record in the 3000 m and the current indoor world record holder for the two miles.

Farah is the most decorated athlete in British athletics history, with ten global titles, and was the first British athlete to win two gold medals at the same world championships, although Dame Kelly Holmes had achieved the feat at an Olympic Games. His five gold medals at the European Athletics Championships make him the most successful athlete in individual events in the championships' history. He has won the European Athlete of the Year award and the British Athletics Writers Association British Athlete of the Year award more than any other athlete, three times and six times respectively. Farah was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2013 and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in the 2017 New Year Honours for services to athletics. [15]

Early life and education

Farah was born on 23 March 1983 in Mogadishu, Somalia into a Habr Awal Isaaq family belonging to the Jibril Abokor subclan. [16][17] His full name is Mohamed Muktar Jama Farah. [18] Although Farah's family was originally from Gabiley, Somaliland, they were living in Mogadishu, Somalia as his father was a businessman there. [16] His family had to flee Mogadishu since they were targeted due to their origin from Somaliland, which had declared independence from Somalia. [16] After fleeing from to Mogadishu to Gabiley, Somaliland with his family, [19] Farah then spent his early childhood as a refugee in Djibouti with his twin brother. [20] He moved to Britain at the age of eight to join his father, speaking barely a word of English. [20][21] His grandfather, Jama, was born in the British protectorate of Somaliland. [22] His father, Mukhtar Farah, is an

Height	1.75 m (5 ft 8 ³ / ₄ in) ^[2]			
Weight	9 st 6 lb (60 kg) ^[2]			
Spouse	Tania Nell			
Website	www.mofarah.com		(http:	://w
	Sport			
Country	 United King	dom	1	
Sport	Track and Field			
Event(s)	1500 m, 3000 m 10,000 m, Half r Marathon			_
University team	St Mary's Univer			lege
Club	Newham and Es Beagles, Londor Nike Oregon Pro Portland	า		
Coached by	Charles Van Commenee ^[3] Alan Storey ^[4] Alan Watkinson ^[5] Ian Stewart (formerly) ^[6]			
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IT consultant and a British citizen, who was born in <u>London</u>, England and grew up in <u>Hounslow</u>. [23][24][25] Mohamed's parents had met during a holiday. [25]

Farah attended <u>Isleworth and Syon School</u>, and <u>Feltham Community College</u>. His athletic talent was first identified by <u>physical education</u> teacher Alan Watkinson. [26] Farah's ambition was to become a car mechanic or play as a <u>right winger</u> for <u>Arsenal</u> football club. [27] He later joined the Borough of Hounslow Athletics Club in west London. [28][29]

Junior career

Farah represented <u>Hounslow</u> at cross-country in the <u>London</u> Youth <u>Games</u>. [30] In 1996, at the age of 13, he entered the English schools cross-country and finished ninth. The following year he won the first of five English school titles. [26] Recognising his talent, athletics philanthropist <u>Eddie Kulukundis</u> paid the legal fees to complete Farah's naturalisation as a British citizen, allowing Farah to travel to competitions without visa issues. [31][32]

Farah's first major title was at 5000 metres at the European Athletics Junior Championship in 2001, [33] the same year that he began training at St Mary's University College, Twickenham. That year, Farah became one of the first two athletes in the newly formed Endurance Performance Centre at St Mary's. He lived and trained at the College, and took some modules in an access course before becoming a full-time athlete as his career progressed.

Senior career

2005-2008: First titles and personal bests

In 2005, Farah moved in with Australian <u>Craig Mottram</u> and a group of Kenyan runners that included 10,000 m world number one <u>Micah Kogo</u>. "They sleep, eat, train and rest, that's all they do but as an athlete you have to do all those things. Running with Craig made me feel more positive," Farah said. "If I ever want to be as good as these athletes I've got to work harder. I don't just want to be British number one, I want to be up there with the best." [26]

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S	2006 Göteborg		5000			
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G	2009 Torino) m		
I T						
G 2011 Paris 3000 m						

In July 2006, Farah recorded a time of 13 minutes 9.40 seconds for 5000 m to become Britain's second-fastest runner after <u>Dave Moorcroft</u>. A month later, Farah won the silver medal in the European Championship 5000m in <u>Gothenburg</u>. Coaches Alan Storey and <u>Mark Rowland</u> made sure that Farah remained competitive and a few words from <u>Paula Radcliffe</u> before the 5000 m final inspired Farah. He has stated that: "She said to me, 'Go out and be brave. Just believe in yourself'." In December 2006, Farah won the <u>2006 European Cross Country Championships in San Giorgio su Legnano, Italy. [34]</u>

Europ	European Cross Country Championships					
G 200	G 2006 San Giorgio su Legnano Individual					
S	s 2008 Brussels					
S	2009 Dublin	Individual				
S	2009 Dublin	Team				
В	2008 Brussels	Team				
E	European Team Championships					
G	2009 Leiria	5000 m				

Farah represented the UK at 5000 m in the 2007 World Championships in Osaka, Japan. Farah finished sixth in a time of 13:47.54. [35][36]

In May 2008, Farah ran 10,000 m events, which was the fastest UK men's time for almost eight years. However, he was knocked out before the 5000 m final at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

2009-2010: British records and European champion

In January 2009, Farah set a new British indoor record in the 3000 metres, breaking John Mayock's record with a time of 7 minutes 40.99 seconds in Glasgow. [37] A few weeks later, he broke his own record by more than six seconds with a time of 7 minutes 34.47 at the UK Indoor Grand Prix in



Farah at the 2008 European Cross Country Championships.

Birmingham, [38] a performance which commentator <u>Steve Cram</u> called "the best performance by a male British distance runner for a generation". [39] Farah attributed his good form to a spell of winter training at altitude in Ethiopia and Kenya. [40] In March 2009 he took gold in the 3000 m at the <u>European Indoor Championships</u> in Turin, recording a time of 7 minutes 40.17. [41]

Farah competed at the 2009 World Championships in Athletics: he was in the leading pack early on in the 5000 metres race and eventually finished seventh – the best by a European runner. After the championships, he scored a victory in his first road competition over 10 miles, winning the Great South Run in 46:25 to become the third fastest Briton in spite of strong winds. [42]

Farah was one of the favourites to upset <u>Serhiy Lebid</u>'s dominance at the <u>2009 European Cross Country Championships</u>. However, Lebid was never in contention as Farah and <u>Alemayehu Bezabeh</u> were some distance ahead throughout the run. Farah was overtaken by Bezabeh in the latter stages of the race, leaving the Briton with a second consecutive silver medal at the competition. He did not manage to attend the medal ceremony, however, as he collapsed immediately after the race and needed medical attention. After a close third place behind <u>Edwin Soi</u> at the <u>BOclassic</u>, Farah competed in the short course race at the <u>Great Edinburgh Cross Country</u>. He was the favourite to win and surged ahead to build a comfortable lead. However, he appeared tired in the latter stages and finished third behind British runners Ricky Stevenson and Steve Vernon. Farah again required post-race medical attention and subsequent tests revealed he had low levels of iron and magnesium. He was prescribed supplements for the condition and his high altitude training plans in Kenya were unaffected.



Farah celebrating winning the 10,000 m at the 2010 European Athletics Championships

Farah won the 2010 London 10,000 in late May in a time of 27:44, in the process beating 10K world record holder Micah Kogo. His success continued the following week at the European Cup 10,000 m. There, he improved his track best by nearly 16 seconds, finishing in a time of 27:28.86. Farah won by a margin of over forty seconds ahead of second placed Abdellatif Meftah. After training in Africa, he returned to Europe for the 2010 European Athletics Championships. He took the 10,000 metres gold medal, overtaking Ayad Lamdassem with two laps to go and finishing the race unpressured in a time of 28:24.99. This was Farah's first major title and also the first European gold medal in the event for Great Britain. He then went on to win the 5000 m from Jesus España, becoming only the fifth man in the 66-year history of the

European Championships to achieve the 5000 m/10,000 m double, and the first for 20 years, following in the footsteps of the Czech Emil Zátopek in 1950, Zdzislaw Krzyszkowiak of Poland in 1958, Finland's Juha Vaatainen in 1971 and Salvatore Antibo, of Italy, in 1990. [51][52]

On 19 August 2010, at a <u>Diamond League</u> meeting in <u>Zürich</u>, Farah ran 5000 m in 12:57.94, breaking <u>David</u> Moorcroft's long-standing British record and becoming the first ever British athlete to run under 13 minutes. [53]

In December 2010, Farah was named track-and-field athlete of the year by the British Olympic Association. [54] He closed the year at the <u>BO classic</u> and just missed out on the 10,000 m title, losing to <u>Imane Merga</u> in a sprint finish by 0.2 seconds. [55]

2011-12: European and British records, and world medals

2011 was a successful year for Farah, beginning on 8 January at the <u>Edinburgh Cross Country</u>, where he defeated the top four finishers of that year's <u>European Championships</u> to take victory in the long race. [56]

In February 2011, Farah announced that he would be relocating to Portland, Oregon to work with new coach Alberto Salazar, train alongside Galen Rupp, and avoid the attention of the British tabloids. [8][57] On 19 February 2011 in Birmingham, England, Farah broke the European 5000 m indoor record with a time of 13:10.60, at the same time taking ten seconds off the 29-year-old British indoor record of Nick Rose. [58] On 5 March 2011, he won gold in the 3000 metres at the European Indoor Championships. On 20 March, Farah also won the NYC Half Marathon in a time of 1:00:23, a new British record. [59][60] He and training partner Galen Rupp had originally planned on running a 10,000 m race in New Zealand. However, after the race was cancelled due to the Christchurch earthquake and damage done to the track, they entered the half-marathon in New York.



The post box on London
Road, Isleworth, painted in
honour of Farah as part of a
scheme to celebrate
Britain's 2012 Olympic gold
medal winners

On 3 June 2011, at a Diamond League meeting in <u>Eugene</u>, <u>Oregon</u>, Farah won the <u>Prefontaine Classic</u>'s 10,000 m event in 26:46.57, setting a new British and European record. On 22 July 2011, at a Diamond League meeting in <u>Monaco</u>, he set a new British national record in the 5000 m with a time of 12:53.11. Farah edged out American Bernard Lagat to win the race.

In the <u>2011 World Championships in Athletics</u> in <u>Daegu</u>, South Korea, Farah made a major breakthrough on the world stage by taking the silver medal in the 10,000 m and then the gold in the 5000 m. [63] He became the first British man to win a World Championships medal over either distance. [64] Farah had in fact been more strongly favoured to take the 10,000 m title, but was narrowly beaten in a last lap sprint by Ethiopian <u>Ibrahim Jeilan</u>. In the 5000 m, he overcame Lagat, beating him into second place. Following the race, <u>Dave Moorcroft</u>, former 5000 metres world record holder, hailed Farah as "the greatest male distance runner that Britain has ever seen". [65]

At the European Championships in June 2012, he won the 5000m. This then made Farah the first athlete to win this European title more than once. [66]

2012: Double Olympic champion

At the London 2012 Olympics, on 4 August, Farah won the 10,000 m gold in a time of 27:30.42. This was Great Britain's first Olympic gold medal in the 10,000 m, and came after two other gold medals for the country in the same athletics session. [67][68] His training partner, Galen Rupp of the United States, took second place. Both runners are coached by Alberto Salazar. Farah stated that he would observe his Ramadan fast later in the year. [69] On 11 August 2012, Farah made it a long-distance double, winning the 5000 metres in a time of 13:41.66. [70] The noise from the crowd in the 5,000 m race was so loud it made the camera shake and distorted the photo-finish image. [71] He dedicated the two golds to his twin daughters.



Farah on the way to his first Olympic gold medal during the $\underline{10,000 \text{ m}}$ event at the 2012 Summer Olympics

On 23 August 2012, Farah returned to the track at a Diamond League meet in <u>Birmingham</u>, where he capped off a winning season with another victory over a distance of two miles (3.2 km). [72]

CBE

Following his 2012 successes, Farah was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2013 New Year Honours for services to athletics. [73][74] The move was met with anger by many in the general public, including erstwhile Minister of Sports Gerry Sutcliffe, who felt that Farah instead deserved a higher accolade. [75][76] Farah's former physical education teacher Alan Watkinson similarly indicated that he was disappointed that Farah was not knighted and that the decision "discredits the system although it's still a fantastic achievement for Mo and well deserved." [76] However, deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg cited Farah's Olympic double gold win in his 2013 New Year's message and 2012 Autumn conference, [77][78] and David Cameron on August 2013 expressed support for a knighthood for Mo Farah.

2013: 1500 m record and world medals

On 19 July 2013, at the <u>Herculis</u> meeting in Monaco, Farah broke the <u>European 1500 m record</u> with a time of 3:28.81. The feat meant that he was the <u>sixth fastest man ever</u> over the distance, overtaking <u>Steve Cram</u>'s 28-year-old <u>British record</u> and Fermín Cacho's 16-year-old European record. [80] It also made Farah the seventh man, behind Saïd Aouita, Daniel Komen, Ali Saïdi-Sief, Hicham El Guerrouj, Augustine Kiprono Choge and

<u>Bernard Lagat</u> to break both the 3:30 barrier in the 1500 metres and the 13-minute barrier in the 5000 metres, as well as the only athlete in history to run sub 3:30, sub 13-minute and sub 27-minute for 1500 metres, 5000 metres and 10,000 metres respectively. Additionally, he has a sub 1 hour run in the half-marathon.

The following month, Farah won the London Diamond League Anniversary Games' 3000 metres event in a time of seven minutes and 36.85 seconds. [81] He twice broke the national record in the half-marathon, first on 24 February in New Orleans, then broke his own record on 15 September in the Bupa Great North run.

On 10 August 2013, Farah stayed in front of Ibrahim Jeilan to win the 10,000 m event at the World Championships in Moscow. The victory was his fourth global title. On 16 August 2013, Farah won the 5,000 m event, in the process becoming double world and Olympic champion. After this victory, BBC commentator Brendan Foster and Sebastian Coe called Farah 'Britain's greatest ever athlete'.



Farah during his gold medal victory in the men's 3,000 metres event at the 2013 London Grand Prix.

second man in history to win long-distance titles at successive editions of the Olympics and World Championships, after Kenenisa Bekele's 2008–09 feat. He was the first British athlete to win two individual gold medals at a World Championships. [82][86][87]

In December 2013, Farah was the second favourite sportsperson behind Wimbledon tennis champion <u>Andy Murray</u> to become the BBC Sports Personality of the Year. When he was asked what drove him to keep pushing back the boundaries of athletic accomplishment, he noted sprinter <u>Usain Bolt</u>'s record breaking streak as a motivating example of what is possible for all dedicated athletes. [88]

Farah was a finalist for the 2013 IAAF World Athlete of the year award. In preparation for his marathon debut, he also extended his training schedule to 120 miles a week. [12]

2014: Double gold in Zürich

Farah began 2014 preparing for the year's <u>London Marathon</u>, his first such run. He described running the event as a longstanding ambition of his, particularly to do so in London. [89] Farah finished in eighth place in a time of 2:08.21. This was outside <u>Steve Jones</u>' GB record, but set a new English national record. [90]

Farah was due to compete at the <u>2014 Commonwealth Games</u> in Glasgow. However, he withdrew due to illness from a stomach ailment and an infection caused from having a tooth removed. [91] Farah later appeared in Zürich at the <u>2014 European Athletics Championships</u>. He successfully defended his 5000 m title and won a gold in the 10,000 m, thus completing another major championship double. [92] This made him



Farah on the way to victory in the 5000m men final of the 2014 European Athletics Championships.

the most successful individual in the history of the European Athletics Championships, with five titles to his name. [93]

On 7 September 2014, Farah competed in the <u>Great North Run</u>, a British half marathon. He won the race with a personal best time of 1:00:00, exactly 1 hour. [94]

2015: World and European records

On 21 February 2015, Farah broke the indoor two-mile world record at the <u>Birmingham Indoor Grand Prix</u>. He ran an 8:03.4 to break Kenenisa Bekele's record. [95]

On 22 March 2015, Farah broke the European record for half marathon in <u>Lisbon</u>. He ran a time of 59 minutes, 32 seconds, 20 seconds, surpassing the record set 14 years previously by Spain's Fabián Roncero. [96]

He repeated his long-distance gold medal double at the <u>2015 World Championships in Athletics</u>. [97] His win in the 10,000m made him the oldest World Championship winner in that event, at age 32. [98]

2016: Double-Double Olympic Golds at Rio

On 26 March, Farah received a bronze medal in the 2016 IAAF World Half Marathon Championships in Cardiff, finishing in 59:59, less than one second ahead of Abayneh Ayele. [99][100] On the 20th of February, Farah won the Glasgow Indoor Grand Prix 3000m event. On 5 June 2016, Farah broke the 34-year-old British 3000 meter record set by Moorcroft, which was set before he was born by winning the Diamond League in Birmingham, a win he dedicated to the recently deceased boxer Muhammad Ali. In July 2016 Farah set the concurrent world-leading time in the 5000m in winning the Diamond League in London. He won the 10,000m at the Diamond League in Eugene, in a time of 26:53.71 which remained the second-fastest time in the world of the year.

On 13 August, Farah won a gold medal in the 10,000 metres at the Rio Olympics, making it the first time a Briton had won three athletic gold Olympic medals. [105] After being accidentally clipped on the back of the heel by American Galen Rupp on the 10th lap he fell, but went on to win gold with the time of 27:05.17. Rupp slowed after Farah's fall to check his condition and finished in 5th place with a time of 27:08.92. In the final lap Farah battled Paul Tanui, who took the lead with 300 metres remaining. Farah edged him out with 100 metres to go. Tanui finished in second place with a time of 27:05.64. [106]

On 20 August, Farah went on to win a second gold medal in the 5,000 metres at the Rio Olympics. Coming into the 31st Olympiad, Farah was trying to win gold medals in the 10,000 metres and 5,000 metres to double his success from the London Olympics. Farah held off the lead he had set and finished with a time of 13.03.30, making it only the second time someone has retained the 5000m and 10,000m Olympic titles, after Lasse Virén of Finland in 1972 and 1976. In September 2016, he won the Great North Run for a record third consecutive year.

In 2016, he was the fastest person from the European <u>continent</u> over two <u>middle distance</u> events and three <u>long-distance</u> events; the 1500 meters, 3000 meters, 5000 meters, 10,000 meters and the half-marathon respectively. [109] His ninth global title, the 5000m in Rio, made him surpass Kenenisa Bekele as the most

frequent winner of gold in history for major long-distance events. He remained unbeaten in 2016 in the 3000m as well as in six races over the 10,000m and 5,000m distances. [110] Farah's distance double was voted the second-most memorable TV-moment of the year by British voters according to an ASDA poll. [111]

2017

Farah announced that he would switch from track events to the <u>marathon</u> after the <u>2017 World Championships</u> in Athletics. [112] He won the <u>10,000m event</u>, and came 2nd in the <u>5,000m</u> event after Ethiopia's <u>Muktar Edris</u>. [113][114]

Farah won his final two track events, in the Diamond league, in Birmingham and Zurich. [115][116] On 24 August 2017, he won his final 5,000m in the Diamond league, finishing in 13:06.05, in a final sprint against Paul Chelimo and Muktar Edris just behind in 13:06.09. [116][117]

On 10 September 2017, Farah won the <u>Great North Run</u> for a record fourth consecutive time. [118] He finished in 1:00:06, 6 seconds ahead of Jake Robertson. [119]

On 31 October, Farah split from <u>Alberto Salazar</u> in order to be coached by <u>Gary Lough</u>, husband and former coach of <u>Paula Radcliffe</u>. Salazar stated that the split was mutual and he would be happy to advise Farah in the future. [120]

"Mobot"

Farah often marks victories with a celebration dance known as the "Mobot". He adopted the move following a television appearance in May 2012 opposite sports presenter <u>Clare Balding</u>, on the panel game show <u>A League of Their Own</u>. The host <u>James Corden</u> suggested to the panelists that they should think of a new dance to mark Farah's winning celebration, and Balding subsequently came up with the "*M*" gesture called "Mobot". While demonstrating it for the first time, she indicated that the part of the move intended to represent the "M" in "Mo" was inspired by the dance to "<u>YMCA</u>", a popular song by the <u>Village People</u>. Corden himself then named it as the "Mobot". [121] A robot was named "Mobot" at a university research exhibition, in honour of Farah's celebration. [122] Farah has since used the pose as part of a charity to raise



Mo Farah completing his "Mobot" signature pose at the $\underline{2013 \text{ London}}$ Anniversary Games.

funds for his foundation. <u>Virgin Media</u> has promised to donate £2 for every <u>YouTube</u> video that is uploaded with someone doing the mobot. [123] Farah often uses the sign-off *Shabba* in online postings. [124]

Personal life

Family and interests

Farah has a twin brother, Hassan, who lives in <u>Somaliland</u>. They were separated at eight years old, when Mo, his two younger brothers, and his mother joined their father who had been working and studying in the UK; however, Hassan was unwell and unable to travel, so stayed behind with family in Djibouti. When Farah's father

returned to collect Hassan, the family he was living with had moved and couldn't be found. Farah and his twin ended up being separated for twelve years. Hassan is now a telecoms engineer with a wife and five children. Farah has a third younger brother who was also born after the family's move to London. [125]

In April 2010, Farah married his longtime girlfriend Tania Nell in <u>Richmond, London</u>. Other athletes at the wedding included <u>Paula Radcliffe</u>, <u>Steve Cram</u>, <u>Hayley Yelling</u>, <u>Jo Pavey</u>, <u>Mustafa Mohamed and Scott Overall</u>, who was an usher. <u>[126][127]</u> Farah has a stepdaughter named Rihanna from this relationship. <u>[128]</u> He and his wife have twin daughters called Aisha and Amani, born in August 2012. <u>[129]</u> In 2015, Farah and Nell had a son called Hussein.

Farah is a devout Muslim, [130] and is an active supporter of the Muslim Writers Awards. [131] Islam is an important part of his preparation: "I normally pray before a race, I read dua [Islamic prayers or invocations], think about how hard I've worked and just go for it." He notes that "the Qur'an says that you must work hard in whatever you do, so I work hard in training and that's got a lot to do with being successful. [It] doesn't just come overnight, you've got to train for it and believe in yourself; that's the most important thing." [132] An RISSC publication named Farah as among the 500 most influential Muslims in the world in 2013.

Farah is also a fan of <u>Arsenal F.C.</u>, and has trained with its first team squad. [134][135] He has indicated a desire to become a fitness coach at the <u>Emirates Stadium</u> in <u>Holloway</u>[136] once he retires so as to improve its conditioning record. [135] In October 2013, he launched a book titled *Mo Farah*, *Twin Ambitions: My autobiography* in Canary Wharf, London. [137]

Farah has a large following on social media. This includes roughly 1.5 million followers on <u>Twitter</u> and 1.1 million on <u>Facebook</u>. In 2013, he was the top-ranked query for a sportsperson on the search engine Microsoft UK <u>Bing</u> who was not a footballer. [138]

As of January 2014, Farah's main residence is of <u>Portland</u>, <u>Oregon</u>, where he and his family have a home. However, on <u>The Jonathan Ross Show</u> in September 2017, he revealed that he planned to move back to the UK.

Philanthropy

Farah is additionally involved in various philanthropic initiatives, launching the Mo Farah Foundation after a trip to Somalia in 2011. The following year, he participated in ITV's *The Cube* and won £250,000 for his foundation, becoming the first and only person ever to win the top prize on the show. Along with other high-profile athletes, Farah later took part in the 2012 Olympic hunger summit at 10 Downing Street hosted by Prime Minister David Cameron, part of a series of international efforts which have sought to respond to the return of hunger as a high-profile global issue.



Farah at the <u>2010 London Youth</u> <u>Games</u> Hall of Fame and Awards Evening.

Olympic memorabilia featuring and signed by Farah has also been auctioned off to raise funds for the London Organising Committee of the

Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). [144] In 2013, he likewise joined legislators and activists in a campaign urging Barclays Bank to repeal its decision to withdraw from the UK remittance market. Farah often used the money transfer operators to send remittances to family, and some of the world's largest organizations

and charities, including the UN and his own foundation, likewise paid staff and channeled funds through these services. [145] In March 2013, Farah, singer Robbie Williams, and a number of other celebrities also urged Chancellor George Osborne to clamp down on global corporations that avoid paying taxes in poor countries in which they operate. [146] He has also expressed support for research into brain tumours. [147]

On August 7, 2017, Farah became a global ambassador for Marathon Kids. Speaking of his new role, Farah said, "I love running, and it's given me and my family so much. As a dad, I know how important it is for my children to be active, and I'm honoured to have the chance to inspire kids to run with Marathon Kids." [148]

Endorsements, advertising and sponsorships

Farah has endorsement deals with a number of companies, including <u>PACE Sports Management</u>, <u>Nike</u>, <u>Lucozade</u>, <u>Quorn</u>, <u>Bupa</u> and <u>Virgin Media</u>. He is expected to earn roughly £10 million in advertising and sponsorships besides making roughly £250,000 – £450,000 during exhibitions, and promoting "Brand Mo" with the management firm Octagen. His work with Nike Inc. includes training at the Nike Oregon Project and marketing of clothing and shoes. In order to better preserve his earnings after taxes, Farah also applied in 2013 to have his main place of residence changed to Portland, where he spends most of the year training.

In December 2013, Farah signed a marketing deal with <u>Quorn</u>, part of a multimillion-pound campaign aimed at doubling the firm's sales. He led television advertisements for Quorn's <u>vegetarian</u> forms of protein, with the campaign scheduled to last throughout the following year. [153]

Travel security

In 2012–2013, Farah intimated that he had been stopped a number of times by <u>U.S. Customs</u> officials under suspicion of being a <u>terrorist</u>, which he attributed to confusion between his full name "Mohamed" and a computerized check-in process. 154 On one occasion after the 2012 Olympics, he said that he had attempted to prove his identity by showing his Olympic gold medals to customs officials, but that this was not accepted.

After U.S. President <u>Donald Trump</u> signed an executive order temporarily suspending the immigration of Somali-born U.S. permanent residents, Farah made a statement on his Facebook account stating that "I will have to tell my children that Daddy might not be able to come home." The UK Foreign Office later said that President Trump's ban did not apply to Farah.

Missed drug tests

In 2010 and early 2011, Farah missed two drug tests in a twelve-month period. [157][158] A third missed test would have resulted in an anti-doping rule violation. [159]

Blood test

In summer 2015, Farah provided a public blood test in an effort to dispel concerns following various events, including pictures posted to Facebook by <u>Hamza Driouch</u>, (who is banned from competing for doping violations) which showed him training with Farah. Farah was seen running directly in front of Driouch during a training session. Management for Mo Farah suggested, however, that the training session was merely Farah employing local athletes to pace him and that he does not have any control over who joins in the training

session. Hamza Driouch has been officially banned from attending training sessions in any capacity for two years from 31 December 2014. In June 2015, in a <u>BBC Panorama</u> documentary, it was alleged that Farah's coach <u>Alberto Salazar</u> was guilty of doping offences at the <u>Nike Oregon Project</u>. The programme did not accuse Farah of any wrongdoing. On 6 June 2015 Farah held a press conference in which he expressed his anger that his name was "being dragged through mud". He withdrew from a 1500 metres event at the Birmingham Diamond League race on 7 June, describing himself as "emotionally and physically drained". Farah said he had been told by Salazar he was not involved in <u>Mary Slaney</u>'s career at the time she tested positive for testosterone but this version of Salazar's history has been challenged.

In February 2017 Farah issued a statement in which he claimed to be a "clean athlete" after a leaked report suggested his American coach, <u>Alberto Salazar</u>, may have broken anti-doping rules to boost the performance of some of his athletes. [165]

Game shows

Farah is the first person to win the full jackpot on \underline{ITV} 's game show $\underline{The\ Cube}$, presented by $\underline{Phillip}$ Schofield. $\underline{[166]}$

Awards and honours

Athletics

- 2006 British Athletics Writers' Association Award [167]
- 2010 British Athletics Writers' Association Award [167]
- 2010 Best Senior Athlete of 2010 (UK Aviva Athletics Awards)^[168]
- 2010 London Youth Games Hall of Fame^[169]
- 2011 British Athletics Writers' Association Award [131]
- 2011 European Athlete of the Year^{[131][170]}
- 2011 BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award, 3rd place
- 2011 Athletics Weekly International Male Athlete
- 2012 British Athletics Writers' Association Award [171]
- 2012 European Athlete of the Year^[172]
- 2012 Laureus World Sports Award for Breakthrough of the Year, nominee
- 2012 Athletics Weekly International Male Athlete
- 2013 IAAF World Athlete of the Year, finalist
- 2013 British Athletics Writers' Association Award [167]
- 2013 Athletics Weekly International Male Athlete^[173]
- 2013 Laureus World Sports Award for Sportsman of the Year, nominee
- 2013 British Olympic Association Olympic athlete of the year^[174]
- 2013 AIPS Europe Sportsmen of the Year Frank Taylor Trophy
- 2013 Rodale, Inc., Running Times Runner of the Year^[175]
- 2014 Jesse Owens International Athlete Trophy, nominee [176]
- 2014 Laureus World Sports Award for Sportsman of the Year, nominee

- 2015 World Record, 2-mile run, Birmingham
- Runners World top 50 influential individuals in running [177]
- LetsRun.com number 1 in 2015 year end world ranking for long distance runners
- 2015 fastest men's 10,000-meter runner^[179]
- 2016 BAWA Athlete of the Year^[180]
- 2016 British Athletics Supporters Club athlete of the year [181]
- 2016 Athletics Weekly International Male Athlete of the Year, ahead of Usain Bolt^[182]
- 2016 Athletics Weekly British Male Athlete of the Year^[182]
- 2017 British Ethnic Diversity Sports Awards^[183]
- 2017 BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award, 1st place

Other

- 2013 Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE)[74]
- 2013 Premier Inn Celebrity Dad of The Year^[184]
- 2013 Best at Sport award at the British Muslim Awards^[185]
- 6th place, Freuds Heroes Index^[186]
- 2014 World's 100 Most Powerful Arabs, Arabian Business^[187]
- 2015, clothing firm Rohan's 8th greatest Briton of all time^[188]
- 2015 Evening Standard's top 25 most influential Londoners [189]
- 2016 Sports Relief highest polled sporting London hero with 27% of the vote^[190]
- 2016, Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Award for Inspirational Athlete. [191]
- 2016, 5th most powerful <u>Black Briton</u>, on 10th anniversary of Powerlist, African and Caribbean heritage listing^[192]
- 2017, Created a Knight Bachelor for services to Athletics. [193]

National titles

- British Athletics Championships
 - 5000 metres: 2007, 2011
- British Indoor Athletics Championships
 - **3000 metres: 2007**
- British 10K Championships
 - 10K run: 2011, 2012
- British Marathon Championships

■ Marathon: 2014

International competitions

Year	Competition	Venue	Position	Event	Notes
	World Youth Championships	Bydgoszcz, Poland	6th	3000 m	8:21.25
1999	European Cross Country	Velenje, Slovenia	5th	Junior individual	23:18
	Championships	<u> </u>	1st	Junior team	26 pts
	World Cross Country Championships	Vilamoura, Portugal	25th	Junior individual	24:37
	Championships		12th	Junior team	216 pts
2000	World Junior Championships	Santiago, Chile	10th	5000 m	14:12.21
	European Cross Country Championships	Malmö, Sweden	7th	Junior individual	19:12
	Championships		2nd	Junior team	25 pts
	World Cross Country Championships	Oostende, Belgium	59th	Junior individual	28:06
	Championships		15th	Junior team	332 pts
2001	European Junior Championships	Grosseto, Italy	1st	5000 m	14:09.91
	European Cross Country Championships	Thun, Switzerland	2nd	Junior individual	19:38
			1st	Junior team	54 pts
2003	World Cross Country Championships	Lausanne, Switzerland	74th	Short race	12:13
	European U23 Championships	Bydgoszcz, Poland	2nd	<u>5000 m</u>	13:58.88
	European Indoor Championships	Madrid, Spain	6th	<u>3000 m</u>	7:54.08
	World Cross Country	Saint-Galmier, France	37th	Senior race	37:50
	Championships	Saint-Gainnei, France	17th	Senior team	308 pts
2005	European Cup	Florence, Italy	2nd	3000 m	8:17.28
	European U23 Championships	Erfurt, Germany	2nd	<u>5000 m</u>	14:10.96
	European Cross Country Championships	Tilburg, Netherlands	21st	Senior race	27:57
			7th	Senior team	129 pts
2006	Commonwealth Games	Melbourne, Australia	9th	<u>5000 m</u>	13:40.53
	World Cross Country		40th	Short race	11:27
	<u>Championships</u>	<u>Fukuoka,</u> Japan	14th	Short race team	253 pts
	European Cup	Málaga, Spain	2nd	3000 m	8:27.91
	European Athletics Championships	Gothenburg, Sweden	2nd	5000 m	13:44.79

Year	Competition	Venue	Position	Event	Notes
	European Cross Country	San Giorgio su Legnano,	1st	Senior race	27:56
	Championships	Italy	4th	Senior team	79 pts
	European Indoor Championships	Birmingham, United Kingdom	5th	<u>3000 m</u>	8:03.50
	World Cross Country	Mombasa, Kenya	11th	Senior race	37:31
2007	Championships	Monibasa, Kenya	8th	Senior team	380 pts
	World Championships	Tokyo, Japan	6th	<u>5000 m</u>	13:47.54
	World Athletics Final	Stuttgart, Germany	3rd	3000 m	7:49.89
	World Indoor Championships	Valencia, Spain	6th	3000 m	7:55.08
	European Cup	Annecy, France	1st	5000 m	13:44.07
2008	Olympic Games	Beijing, China	6th (heats)	5000 m	13:50.95
	European Cross Country	Davis and Dalais and	2nd	Senior race	30:57
	Championships	Brussels, Belgium	3rd	Senior team	54 pts
	European Indoor Championships	Turin, Italy	1st	<u>3000 m</u>	7:40.17 <u>CR</u>
	European Team Championships	<u>Leiria</u> , Portugal	1st	5000 m	13:43.01
2009	World Championships	Berlin, Germany	7th	5000 m	13:19.69
	European Cross Country Championships	<u>Dublin,</u> Ireland	2nd	Senior race	31:02
			2nd	54 pts	Senior team
	World Cross Country	Bydgoszcz, Poland	20th	Senior race	34:09
	Championships	<u>Byugoszcz</u> , Polatiu	14th	Senior team	230 pts
2010	European Team Championships	Bergen, Norway	1st	5000 m	13:46.93
	European Championships	Barcelona, Spain	1st	<u>5000 m</u>	13:31.18
	<u> Сигореан Спаттріонзнірз</u>	<u>Barceiona,</u> Spain	1st	<u>10,000 m</u>	28:24.99
	European Indoor Championships	Paris, France	1st	3000 m	7:53.00
2011	World Championships	Doogu Couth Koroo	1st	5000 m	13:23.36
	wond Championships	<u>Daegu</u> , South Korea	2nd	<u>10,000 m</u>	27:14.07
	World Indoor Championships	Istanbul, Turkey	4th	3000 m	7:41.79
2012	European Championships	<u>Helsinki</u> , Finland	1st	5000 m	13:29.91
2012	Olympic Games	London, United Kingdom	1st	5000 m	13:41.66
			1st	<u>10,000 m</u>	27:30.42
	European Team Championships	Gateshead, United Kingdom	1st	5000 m	14:10.00
2013	Wards Observation 11	Moscow, Russia	1st	5000 m	13:26.98
	World Championships		1st	<u>10,000 m</u>	27:21.71
2014	European Championships	Zürich, Switzerland	1st	5000 m	14:05.82

Year	Competition	Venue	Position	Event	Notes	
			1st	<u>10,000 m</u>	28:08.11	
2015	2015 World Championships Deiling Chips			1st	5000 m	13:50.38
2015 <u>World Championships</u> <u>Beijing, Chin</u>		<u>Beijirig</u> , Crima	1st	<u>10,000 m</u>	27:01.13	
2016	World Half Marathon Championships	Cardiff, United Kingdom	3rd	Individual	59:59	
	Olympia Camac	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	1st	5000 m	13:03.30	
	Olympic Games		1st	10,000 m	27:05.17	
2017	Modd Champianahina	London, United Kingdom	1st	<u>10,000 m</u>	26:49.51	
2017	World Championships	London, Onited Kingdom	2nd	<u>5,000 m</u>	13:33.22	

Circuit wins

- Diamond League
 - London Grand Prix: 2009 (5000 m), 2011 (3000 m), 2013 (3000 m), 2015 (3000 m)
 - Herculis: 2011 (5000 m)
 - <u>Birmingham</u>: 2011 (5000 m), 2012 (2 miles), 2013 (5000 m), 2014 (2 miles), 2016 (3000 m), 2017 (3000 m)
 - Prefontaine Classic: 2011, 2015, 2016 (10,000 m)
 - Athletissima: 2015 (5000 m)
 - Weltklasse Zürich: 2017 (5000 m)
- Road
 - Great South Run: 2009
 - New York City Half Marathon: 2011
 - Rock 'n' Roll Mardi Gras Half Marathon: 2013
 - Great North Run: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
 - Lisbon Half Marathon: 2015
- Cross country
 - Cross de L'Acier: 2006
 - Great Edinburgh International Cross Country: 2011

Personal bests

Category	Event	Time	Date	Place
	800 m	1:48.69	5 August 2003	Eton
	1500 m	3:28.81 AR	19 July 2013	Monaco
	One mile	3:56.49	6 August 2005	London
Outdoor	2000 m	5:06.34	9 March 2006	Melbourne
Outdoor	3000 m	7:32.62 NR	5 June 2016	Birmingham
	Two miles	8:07.85 AR	24 August 2014	Birmingham
	5000 m	12:53.11 NR	22 July 2011	Monaco
	10,000 m	26:46.57 AR	3 June 2011	Eugene
	1500 m	3:39.03	28 January 2012	Glasgow
	One mile	3:57.92	4 February 2012	Boston
Indoor	3000 m	7:33.1 NR	21 February 2015	Birmingham
	Two miles	8:03.40 WR	21 February 2015	Birmingham
	5000 m	13:09.16 ^[195] AR	18 February 2017	Birmingham
	10 km	27:44	31 May 2010	London
	15 km	42:03+ AR	26 March 2016	Cardiff
	10 miles	46:25	25 October 2009	Portsmouth
Road	20 km	56:27 AR	22 March 2015	Lisbon
	Half marathon	59:22a	13 September 2015	Great North Run
		59:32 AR	22 March 2015	Lisbon
	Marathon	2:08:21	13 April 2014	London Marathon

Biographical works

Autobiography

Twin Ambitions: My Autobiography (2013, Hodder & Stoughton) ISBN 9781444779585

Children's fiction

Ready Steady Mo! (with Kes Gray; illustrated by Marta Kissi) (2016, Hodder Children's Books)
 ISBN 9781444934076

Biopic

Mo Farah: No Easy Mile; a non-fictional account of Farah's journey to the Olympics [196]

Other

 <u>Cardiff</u> native Sonny Double 1 released a biographical <u>grime</u> musical named *Mo Farah* in 2016. [197]

See also

- 2012 Summer Olympics and Paralympics gold post boxes
- 5000 metres at the Olympics
- 10,000 metres at the Olympics
- 5000 metres at the World Championships in Athletics
- 10,000 metres at the World Championships in Athletics

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