



## Waka Ama Sprint Nationals 2020 and beyond!

After the immense success of the 2019 Waka Ama Sprint Nationals held at Lake Karāpiro, Waka Ama New Zealand identified that due to a regular increase in numbers and the projected future increases - we needed to make some changes.

The purpose of this change is to continue the growth of waka ama, allowing us to offer participation to even more paddlers around New Zealand. It also allows for a bit of breathing space in terms of the race schedule and contingencies for bad weather or other significant events. As it currently stands, we are nearly at the maximum number of teams that we can cater for in the adult grades – even with the addition of half lanes.

As a result of this analysis, Waka Ama New Zealand has decided to increase the Sprint Nationals Event from the current 6 days format to 7 days of racing for all future Sprint Nationals events.

The event will start Sunday and will be formatted as below\*:

<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Pōwhiri and Midget racing</b>
<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Midget, Intermediate, J16 racing</b>
<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Midget, Intermediate, J16 racing</b>
<b>DAY 4</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>W1 racing</b>
<b>DAY 5</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>J19 and all adult W6 &amp; w12</b>
<b>DAY 6</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>J19 and all adult W6 &amp; W12</b>
<b>DAY 7</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>J19 and all adult W6 racing</b>

\*Please note there may be some minor changes depending on entries received

This moves all events a day earlier and adds a 3rd day of racing for the J19 and senior events.

### There are many benefits of adding another day of racing such as:

- More Time
- More time for Adults racing on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
- Spread out the prize-giving's – especially as Saturday is really long
- Midgets have the potential to be finished on Monday (Depending on entries)
- Shortens days for volunteers – Currently very long hours especially at the end of the week
- Allows for more time in the schedule – later starts, earlier finishing, more space between races
- Potential for even more growth without it having a negative effect on the event

It is important to note that with the current rate of growth that waka ama is experiencing (which is awesome!) this change will be the last increase in days added to the event. Waka Ama New Zealand will be working towards creating a 5 to 10-year plan and beyond for the Sprint Nationals to accommodate the growth of this event in the future and put in place strategies and solutions that best serve the membership moving forward. This will include discussions with Regions and consultation with clubs.

More information will be provided in the following months about Sprint Nationals 2020. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact [admin@wakaama.co.nz](mailto:admin@wakaama.co.nz)