

2024

HOE TONGA REGIONAL SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIPS



RACE INFORMATION

16 & 17 November

Lake Henley

Masterton





Key dates

- **All entries close 11 November at 11:59pm**
- **Roster close: Wednesday 11.59pm before race day (13/11/24)**
- The schedule and lane draw will be made available by Thursday before race day on www.hoetonga.co.nz and on our Facebook page
- If the event, or any one of the two days of racing, is postponed due to adverse weather conditions, Hoe Tonga will advise paddlers via www.hoetonga.co.nz on the day before by 1pm.
- **16th November: W6 race**
- **17th November: W1 races**

Entry process

- All entries are to be done online via your club coordinator.
- Paddlers: In order to obtain a list of people that can make online entries for your club, go to <https://www.wakaama.co.nz/clubs/reps>
- Club reps: To enter your paddlers, please go to the 'Members Area Login' at <https://www.wakaama.co.nz/members-area/> If your club needs access for other people, please contact admin@wakaama.co.nz
- The entry process has two parts:
 - **Entries close:** All entries have to be confirmed in the online entry system.
 - **Roster closes:** Clubs have to confirm all paddlers that race in each W6 team. In order to assign paddlers to each team, all paddlers have to be affiliated.
- Late entries may be permitted only if workload allows but will incur a late fee and are subject to lane availability. If you want to race, be organised.
- Each team must have a unique name; clubs must NOT use numbers in team names when making entries.
- Entries can be viewed on www.hoetonga.co.nz, please go to the race notice.
- The event is open for entries from clubs outside the region, albeit they are **NOT** eligible for medals or prizes. In W1 events, entries from outside the region may be limited, please contact Hoe Tonga if you intend to enter.
- Clubs will be invoiced by Hoe Tonga at the conclusion of the event, cash payments are not accepted.
- There will be no refunds or entry fee reduction for withdrawals of entries or no-shows for each category after the specified entry close dates.

Entry fees

- Fees will apply to each paddler that has been entered. This is the same process as used at the Waka Ama Nationals.
 - **Midget: \$5 per paddler**
 - **Intermediate, J16, J19: \$20 per paddler**
 - **Senior (U23+): \$30 per paddler**



- Late entries, after the specified entry close dates will incur a late fee of \$15 per entry. Note that any late entries must be authorised, via an email, by an executive officer of the respective club.
- Incomplete team rosters will also attract an additional late fee of \$15 per entry. Only Waka Ama NZ (not Hoe Tonga) can add paddlers to your roster after the deadline has closed. Note that a team will not be able to compete on race day if their roster is incomplete.
- Unless otherwise stated, teams and paddlers can only race in one division per event. For example, a Junior 19 could race in Premier W1 500m or Junior 19 W1 500m, but not both. Note that an exemption to this policy applies to the W6 Premier 500m events (men and women). Other divisions are eligible to enter this event also, as it is used for selection of the Regional W12 team to compete at Nationals.

Volunteers

- In order to run the event, we require a number of volunteers on a variety of official stations and in different roles, including setting-up / cleaning-up, registration, loading bay, flag boat, aligner, and finish line.
- If you are able to help on race day (either as a head official or as an assistant), please contact Hoe Tonga on hoetonga@gmail.com. We will also contact clubs directly. We aim to have one official for every two entries received from each club, to be supplied by the clubs.
- We aim to finalise the roster of volunteers (names and contact details) as soon as possible. We invite head officials and support boat crews to attend an online meeting prior to race day, in order to clarify event and safety processes. The time/date will be confirmed directly with the relevant volunteers.
- Main volunteers have the opportunity to stay at the accommodation in Masterton. Accommodation will be provided for the 15th (Friday) and 16th (Saturday) November. This will be confirmed directly with the relevant volunteers individually.

Safety

- There will be two support boats monitoring racing. One of these will be the flag boat, and one will be a roaming boat.
- Midget and intermediate paddlers must wear life jackets.
- Paddlers that are not able to swim at least 50m must also wear life jackets. This also applies to adult paddlers.
- Clubs must ensure that the paddlers they enter are sufficiently capable to participate in their events and handle reasonably difficult conditions (eg strong wind gusts). Note that while support boats will rescue paddlers, they will NOT assist paddlers in lining up (which can be difficult for novice paddlers, especially in W1, if winds are stronger than 10-15knots). If paddlers are not able to line up within a reasonable time frame, the race will be run without them and they will be disqualified.
- In case of severe weather conditions on race day, the race director retains the right to stop, postpone and/or cancel races on race day. Note that organisers may be unable to refund race fees in this case.



- Spectators **MUST NOT** fly private drones at the event venue unless the user has both the authorisation of the event organiser and complies with local council bylaws and aviation rules.

Event area

- Clubs are encouraged to provide shelter (sun, rain) for their paddlers. Please observe the event area layout and keep club tents and gazebos clear from areas that are clearly marked for official use (see event area layout as shown at the end of this document).
- Alcohol and/or drugs are not permitted on site.
- Team managers, clubs please ensure you have thought about your paddlers kai and refreshments, shelter and weather conditions.

Accommodation

- For paddlers and clubs wishing to stay in Masterton on Friday or Saturday night, there is accommodation available in Masterton. For example, Mawley Holiday Park (5 Oxford Street, includes camp sites and cabins) is approximately 1.5km from Henley Lake.

Canoe hire and transport

- The organising committee requires twelve Mahi Mahi. Clubs that make W6 available will be compensated with a fee of \$60 per W6 (canoes must be in good condition and have all bungs in place). In addition, clubs (drivers) transporting canoes will be compensated at a rate of \$1/km (to account for vehicle and trailer costs). Please contact hoetonga@gmail.com if your club can help. Provide hoetonga@gmail.com information regarding your waka and drivers contact details please.
- We are grateful to the clubs that make their W6 available for this event. Paddlers are advised to treat the equipment with utmost care and respect.

Fundraising activities

- Hoe Tonga welcomes fundraising activities by clubs, including but not limited to BBQ. Please email hoetonga@gmail.com to register your interest in setting up a fundraiser to avoid competing stalls.
- Note that clubs must ensure they comply with Masterton District Council requirements (eg they may require a license).
- Note we aim to have a coffee cart will be on-site.

Arrival of paddlers on race day

- Team managers or club representatives are to make their way to the information and registration stand to sign-in their teams/paddlers, and/or to advise of withdrawals.
- Team managers or club representatives must provide signed waiver forms for all their paddlers. This must be completed before their paddlers are permitted to race. The waiver forms should match the paddlers on the roster for each entry.



- All documents, waivers and race information will be made available online for paddlers, manager to download prior to race day.
- Paddlers (and/or club reps) to become familiar with the race course layout, the event area, race schedule and lane draw (available online)

Pre-race guidance

- Paddlers are to follow officials' instructions at all times.
- When their race is called, paddlers are to assemble at the loading bay. Paddlers must not load canoes without going through the loading bay.
- Loading bay officials will advise paddlers when to load. Note that for the W6 events, a shared canoe pool is used. W6 will be allocated to lanes and teams by officials in the loading bay.
- Once on the water, paddlers are to paddle directly up to the start line.

Racing

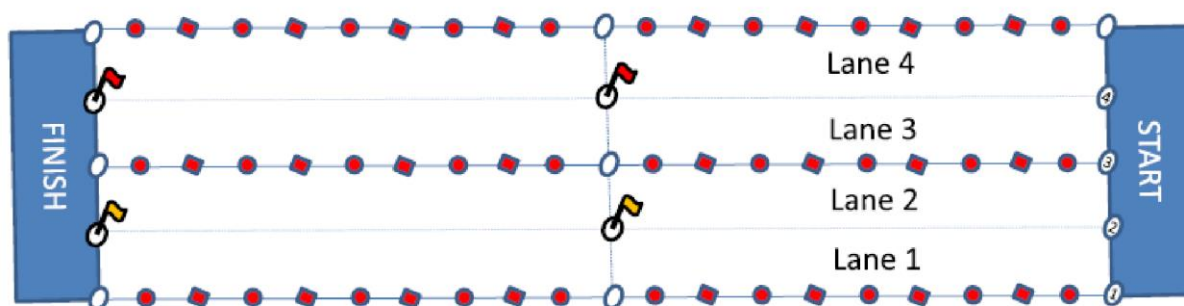
- Waka Ama New Zealand race rules apply; they can be found at www.wakaama.co.nz.
- As a minimum, two entries are needed per division for the race to be run.
- If there are fewer than three entries, the race may be combined with another race. In this case, entries will be clearly marked as from another division. This may mean that teams from the affected division have to race a different distance (eg if Masters are combined with Premier, then the Masters team(s) have to race 1500m in their turn races.) Note that organisers are unable to contact affected teams individually – please read the lane draw to avoid surprises.
- Protests: to be made to Registration within 15 minutes of the respective event.
- Protests: A form will need to be completed a nominated club representative
- Penalties: For selected offences, a 10 second time penalty may be added to the final time instead of applying a disqualification, see Waka Ama New Zealand race rules for details.
- Races may be combined or shortened at the sole discretion of the organising committee or the race director.

Progression

- The W1 events will be straight finals, there are no heats. Placings will be determined on times. Races may have combined grades if there are spaces.
- The W6 events will feature heats and finals, progression will be based strictly on time, due to the limited number of lanes available, and due to the large number of races. Placings do not determine progression (eg a first place in a heat does not necessarily guarantee progression).
- Event organisers will endeavour to offer further B and C Finals, depending on the number of entries in the heats, and time available.

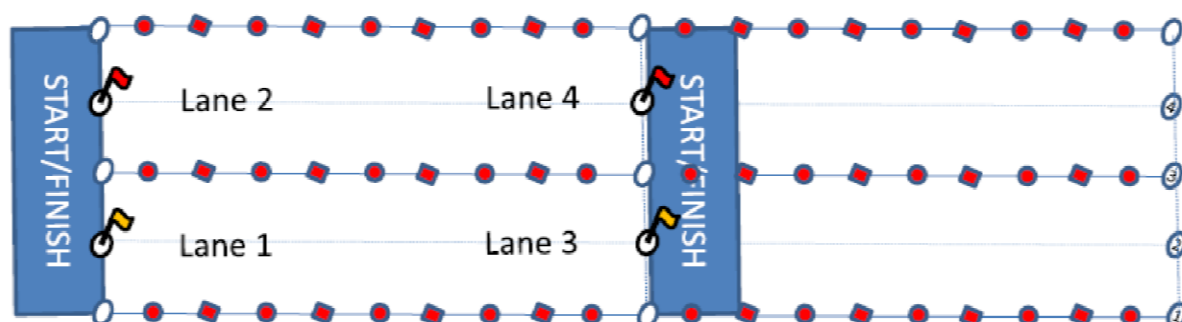
Race course for 250m and 500m events

- For straight races over 250m and 500m, the race course consists of four lanes. Each lane is 13.5m wide.



Race course for turn events

- For turn races over 1000m and 1500m, the race course consists of four lanes. Each lane is 27m wide. This is slightly narrower than at the Waka Ama Nationals.
- As the lake's small size only allows for two turn lanes in a conventional race course layout, races with more than two entries will be run in the pursuit format. This means that two teams will start at one end of the 250m course, and the two other teams will start at the other end of the 250m course, at the same time. Therefore, at any time, there may be two teams racing within the same lane, pursuing each other. The format is similar to cycling pursuit races.
- Lane numbers for turn races are marked on the turn flag buoys as T1, T2, T3 and T4. By way of example, the turn flag buoy marked T2 will indicate the start location for Lane 2 for turn races.
- In the unlikely event that a team catches up to the other team, the team being chased down must give way or it will be disqualified automatically (or a time penalty will be applied). Note that this situation is very unlikely, only a couple of such situations have arisen during the last few years.



W6 events

- All W6 races will take place on 16th November.
- Distance: 250m/500m and 1000m/1500m
- Divisions: Midget to Master 80
- There will be **no W12** races



W1 Events

- All W1 races will take place on 17th November
- Distance: 250 and 500m
- Divisions: Intermediate to Master 80
- The event will also feature additional 250m sprint (dash) races for the J19 and Premier division. These races are open to paddlers of other age classes, as long as they meet the requirements as per Waka Ama New Zealand rules.

Selection and qualification for W1 at Nationals

- Please read the selection policy, available on the Hoe Tonga website.

W1 requirements

- Paddlers must arrange for their own W1. Paddlers should NOT assume that they will be able to use other paddlers' W1 on race day.
- All W1 used for the event will be weighed before racing commences. Weighing of W1 will take place between 7.30am and 8.30am. Late arrivals may not be accepted. Paddlers are to arrange for their own weights should they be required.
- Weighed W1 will be tagged, and tags will be checked when going through the loading bay.
- **All W1 must have lane number holders**, as per Waka Ama New Zealand race rules. Paddlers must bring their own number holders as there is no guarantee that the event organiser will have any extra available.
- A good idea to bring along some duct tape as well to secure number holders

Selection for Regional W12 at National Sprint Championship

- National Sprint Championships feature a regional Premier W12 race, for both men and women. (This is in addition to the club W12 races.) Please read the selection policy, available on the Hoe Tonga website.

Prize-giving and club trophies

- A formal prize-giving ceremony will take place after each day of racing, commencing approximately 20 minutes after racing has finished.
- Hoe Tonga Board will aim to have junior prizegiving commence 20mins after the last junior race has been completed. We recognise our juniors will have had a big day.
- We invite competitors and clubs to assist in packing and cleaning up, to enable an on-time start for the prize-giving. Competitors must be present to receive their prize.
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places will receive gold, silver and bronze ribbons.
- Hoe Tonga will also award two perpetual club trophies (see photo below) after the final day of racing.
- The first is a trophy that recognises a club's paddling excellence and achievement throughout the event. Points will be accumulated throughout the event from all finals and the club with the most points at the end of the event will be awarded this honour.
- The "Club Excellence Award" will be awarded on points accumulated over race finals (including W6, W12 and W1 races) throughout the event as follows:
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- 1st - 4 points
 - 2nd - 3 points
 - 3rd - 2 points
 - 4th - 1 points
 - DQs do not count for points.
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- The second trophy is the “James Hapeta Club Spirit Award”, named in honour of James Hapeta. It is chosen by key officials at the event. They will take into consideration the club’s actions throughout the event (eg acting with integrity, wearing correct uniform, assisting where needed, keeping the event area clean, volunteering, etc).



Event area and race course layout for straight races (250m, 500m)

