



2026 Waka Ama Sprint Nationals

Online Managers Meeting

2026



He mihi

- Karakia
- Overview for Club Coordinators, Regional Coordinators and Team Managers
- Purpose of the hui

Key Reminders

- Please remain on mute
- Update your name to: Your name - Club Name
- If you have any pātai, please pop them in the chat anytime and we will pause along the way to answer
- Read the pānui and managers booklet



Event Stats

- Biggest event to ever take place at Karāapiro
- Biggest Sprint Nationals in history!

4,600 Paddlers

2,500 under 16

455 Races

150+ Kaitūao

2400 Entries

83 Clubs



Admin Desk

- Admin Desk at the Don Rowlands Centre
 - For anything that you might need!
 - Open 2pm Saturday
 - Club booklets and ID card collection
 - ID card replacement
 - Lost property
 - Campground questions - head to the site office (next to the cafe)

Venue Rules and Tikanga

- Alcohol, drug, smoke and vape free
- **No dogs permitted at all times**
- First aid - based on the boat ramp (lake side)
- Lost property and lost children
- Swimming - please keep an eye on tamariki
- No scooters/skateboards/bikes
- Respect the Venue and the facilities



Club Coordinators Information

- Two per club
- Admin Desk at the Don Rowlands Centre - for anything that you might need!
- Scan the QR code to join the 2026 Sprint Nats Whatsapp Channel
- From 2pm Saturday, Club Coordinators head to the admin desk to collect club packs, ID cards, lanyards and more
- Club coordinators must lodge protests

Site Map

- See next slide
- Gate 3 for public parking
- Share with new whānau who haven't attended before



2026 Waka Ama Sprint Nats - Club/Region Coordinators

WhatsApp channel



Scan this QR code using the camera to view or follow this channel.

2026 Event Site Map



GATE 1

W1 Drop Off Only

GATE 2

Officials
Vendors
Media/VIP

GATE 3

Public Parking
Disability Parking
Drop Off Zone

1 Don Rowlands Centre

2 Admin

3 Marshalling Area

4 Loading Bay/Waka Storage

5 Loading Bay Shade

6 Waka Wash Station

7 W1 Waka Weighing

8 Hauora Hub

9 ACC Whānau Zone

10 First Aid

11 Results Tent

12 Prizegiving

13 WANZ Merch Tent

14 Vendor Lane

15 Waste/Recycling Station

16 Gate 2 Parking

17 Spectator Bank

18 Disability Parking

19 Gate 3 Parking

20 Gate 3 Parking



Regional Tent Spaces

- Each region/club allocated tent space.
- Regional coordinators to ensure that tents for their region stay within the designated area
- Regional Coordinators to ensure tents are erected in such a way that maximises space for everyone.
- Please make sure you are mindful of all the clubs from your region and make space for everyone.
- Keep within marked zones.
- No tents on walkways or within restricted areas (e.g., lake edge).

**Te Puku o
Te Ika**
52m

Hoe Tonga
20m

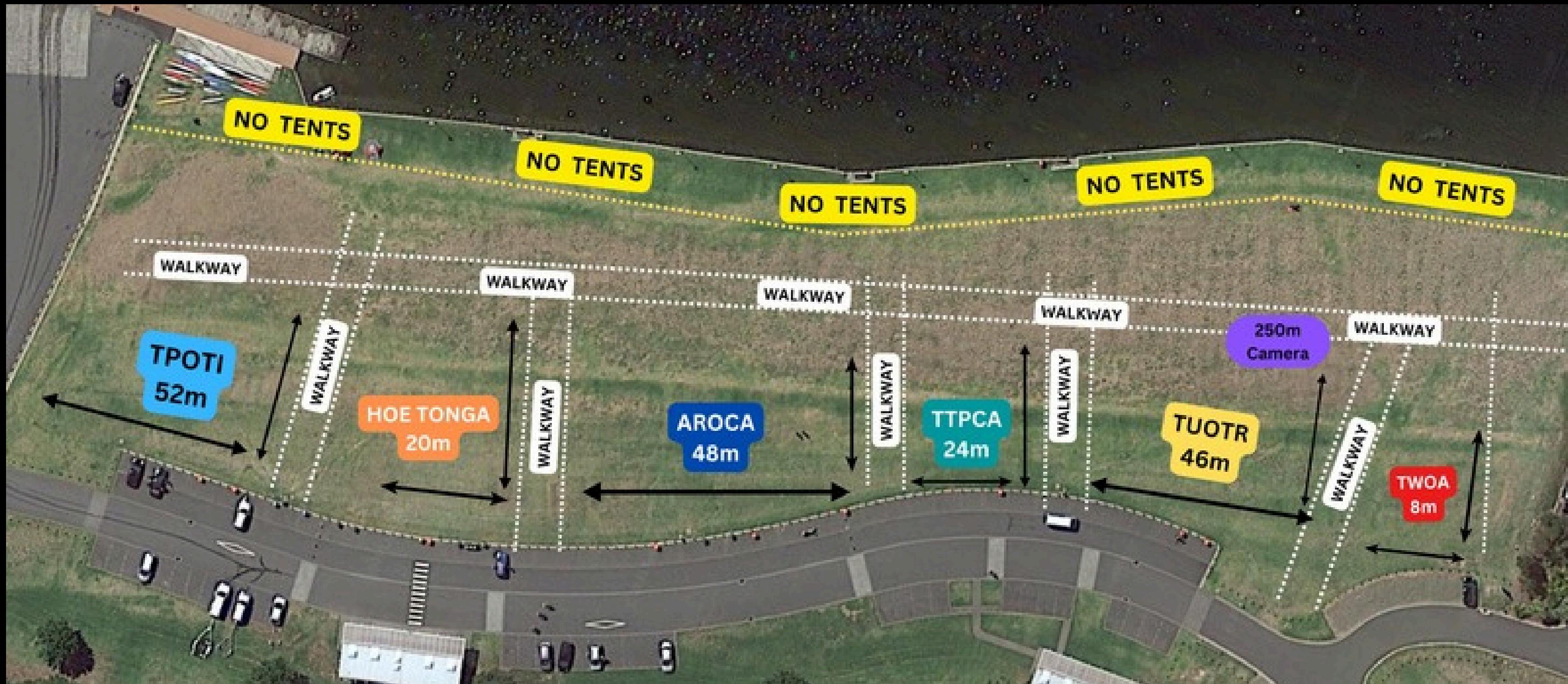
AROCA
48m

TTPCA
24m

TUOTR
46m

TWOA
8m

Regional Tent Map



Car Parking and Access

- Admin Desk at the Don Rowlands Centre to purchase week passes or online via the shop
- Lower Road Access times (see managers booklet)
- Disability Parking - located Gate 3
 - Weekly Car passes - brought online until 5pm 10th Jan
- Please adhere to the parking attendants, be patient and mindful of our tamariki in the parking area.

We are asking all our Waka Ama whānau to carpool - this will help manage traffic and parking

Livestream and Event Photos

- Whakaata Māori is Livestreaming every day - it is FREE - links will be shared on official WAANZ platforms
- All photo will be loaded to the WAANZ Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/wakaamanewzealand>



Waste Minimisation

- Please use waste and recycling stations provided.
- Remove all large rubbish at the end of each day.
- Bring reusable bottles or cups where possible.
- Full information in managers booklet and pānui

Official Event Merchandise

- The merchandise will be open from Sunday
- Merchandise will be based on vendor lane

Water stations

- Located around the venue
- Please ensure all of our waka whānau stay hydrated - it is going to be hot!



Vendor Lane

- 55 Vendors
- 9 Hauora Hub Providers
- EFTPOS may be available at selected vendors.
- Healthy kai options are encouraged including no fizzy drinks or deep-fried kai

Hauora Hub and ACC Whānau Zone

- The full list of Hauora Hub providers can be found on the WAANZ Website
- Hauora Hub Passport - get 8 stamps from different providers to go in the draw
- ACC whānau zone is back for supporters, paddlers and wider whānau to relax and watch the racing, as well as trying rongoā (traditional Māori healing).
- ACC will also be providing services in the Hauora Hub



Waka Use & PAi Kiato

- W6 and W12 supplied by clubs and Te Wānanga o Aotearoa.
- Damage or loss may incur a charge to the club/team.
- Only authorised waka may be used on the course.
- This year, we will be using Pai BOA Kiato on all W6 Waka.

Invasive Species Management

- All waka and gear must follow regional “Check, Clean, Dry” requirements.
- Wash stations available onsite.
- W1 must be sticker-checked as “Clean & Dry” before racing.

Sport Integrity & Anti Doping

- With the Waka Ama Sprint Nationals approaching, it's crucial that every participant and support person understands their role in maintaining the integrity of Waka Ama.





Lane Draw and Race Schedule

- Please note the times are an indication **ONLY**
- Race will run in order unless advised
- Please ensure you are aware of the race calls and prepare teams to be ready
- Ensure there is ample time between races for paddles and lifejackets - we will not wait for crews who are sharing equipment
- Please let us know ASAP if you have any **back to back race**
- Lane draws will be available to collect each morning from the admin desk - **2 PER CLUB**
- Liveresults will show any changes as they are actioned

Race Progressions

- Can be found on the WAANZ Website, managers booklet and printed on the results board

Announcements

- Race Announcers will call for teams/W1 paddlers 3 times.
- First Call- Teams should be getting ready
- Second Call- Teams should be making their way to the Marshalling Area
- Third and Final Call- Teams should be at Marshalling waiting to go inside

Marshalling

- Located in front of the Don Rowlands Centre
- At Marshalling Paddlers must:
 - Have their ID cards
 - Be in the correct uniform
 - All paddlers must be present
- Competent Steerers - do not need ID cards - one will be provided
- ALL Taitamariki and Int Paddlers must be wearing appropriate life jackets





Registration

- Once paddlers are loaded into the marshalling tent, all teams/paddlers will be called lane by lane to swipe their ID cards
- Please ensure all paddlers enter the marshalling tent with their ID cards
- If you need a new ID card - please organise this well in advance at the admin desk.
- A good idea for managers is to collect ID cards back once they are scanned

Loading Bay

- Bin for gear in the loading bay
- Teams must follow loading bay instructions from Kaitūao
- Kaitūao will guide you to your waka
- There are portaloos and a water station provided in the loading bay area.



Loading Bay Cnt'd

- W12 loading - please be mindful when loading in and out of the W12s
- Please ensure paddlers listen to the instructions of the Kaitūao
- Paddlers must know their race number and lane and follow directions

Tips for the startline

- Load out as instructed
- Don't cut across the lake to your lane - follow the wakas along the lake side
- Don't rush the start line, depending on conditions give yourself a wide entry onto your lane
- Ensure you are heading down to the startline with your fellow waka - not too far ahead, not hanging too far back
- For the turns - don't head off for a warm up - head straight to your line
- Be mindful of other waka and other races loading in and out at the same time as you

Taitamariki & Int Racing

W1 Support person

- Support paddlers in W1 may follow or paddle alongside (not lead) Taitamariki or Intermediate crews or paddlers (**straight races only**) who do not already have an adult or competent steerer as
- **Please ensure you DO NOT cross the fluorescent Orange 15M buoy line before the finish line - or you will be fined \$100**

Competent Steerers

- There will be an ID card at Registration that will be labelled "Competent Steerer".
- The Competent Steerer card must be swiped for them to pass through Marshalling.
- Competent Steerers will be issued a Hi Viz Vest to be worn on the water - **Please return it after each race.**
- Please remember that the purpose of having a steerer for your Taitamariki is to help them line up and go straight (in all conditions). Make sure whoever you charge with that responsibility is up to the task.



Taitamariki & Int Racing

- **ONLY** Taitamariki and Intermediate crews can have **ONE** manager/adult go through marshalling with them.
- This person must be acknowledged by the registration desk.
- If you have a competent steerer for a Taitamariki crew and it is a different person to the Manager/Coach, that is fine, both can go through, but the steerer must have the "Competent Steerer" ID card swiped.

Time Penalties

- Taitamariki and Intermediate racing 10 sec time penalties will be given for racing infringements during the heats instead of DQs

A gentle reminder to all of our adults...for many of our tamariki and rangatahi this will be their first sprint nationals. Let's embody our values and work together to create a positive environment for our Tamariki and Rangatahi!



Race Course and Water Safety

Race Course

- False startlines
- Lane width
- Small finish flags used for accurate photo finish.
- Steerers should be familiar with all flag markers.

Flag Colours

- Ensure your crews are aware - maps in the manager booklet and will be placed around the venue

Race start procedure

- Flags process - see managers booklet
- White Flag
- Red Flag
- Green Flag
- Black Flag

Water Safety

- Safety Boats are there to assist - if there is a safety or medical emergency on the water paddlers must raise their paddle to alert the water safety crew

W1 Process

Waka Drop Off

- Tuesday Jan 14: 4-7 pm access to race course after prizegiving
- Wednesday Jan 15: 6-7 am - no lake access
- Drop off only during allocated times via Gate 1, exit Gate 2
- Waka stored by region – check with regional coordinator
- Bring bungs; number holders available onsite (\$6) or online
- Waka responsibility: care for and weigh your waka

Pre-Race Requirements

- W1 must weigh minimum 14kg fully rigged
- Scales available during drop off and pre-race
- Paddlers responsible for adding weights if needed
- No restriction on W1 type; hull, ama, kiato must meet weight



W1 Process Cont'd

Post-Race Weighing

- First 3 waka per race weighed by Kaitūao
- Regional coordinator called if waka <14kg
- Disqualification if minimum weight not met

Loading Bay / Waka Storage

- Space marked for each region; coordinators ensure access
- Paddlers store waka safely without damaging others

Waka Pickup / Collection

- Wednesday & Thursday: check, clean, and remove waka
- Access from 3pm (Wednesday) and after 250m dash (Thursday)



Exiting the loading bay

- Please advise teams to exit their waka safely and leave the pontoons
- Save handshakes for on the land as the pontoons can get very congested
- Remind paddlers to collect any gear after they finish their race
- Once you have exited the loading bay you will not be permitted back in.
- Unless you have double registered for another race, you will need to follow the same process for your next race (announcements, marshalling etc)



Bin for lifejacket and paddles

- Educational dunking bins for life jackets/PFDs, clothing, and footwear along the exit pathway as you leave the loading bay
- Please remind paddlers to use these bins as they exit the loading bay

Results

- Live Results - www.liveresults.co.nz
- Results tent - located by the loading bay exit - boat ramp
- Full results posted on the WAANZ website each night

Protests

- Process covered in the managers booklet
- 15 minutes from the time posted on the results (printed results in the results tent)
- Only club coordinators can submit protests

Prizegivings

- Held daily at the medal Dias immediately after racing (no prize giving on Day 1 Sunday)
- Teams must wear correct club or regional uniform.
- Ceremonies may be moved indoors depending on weather.



Other awesome kaupapa!

- Air Tahiti Nui giveaways
- Maungatautari Sanctuary visits
- Elvers Release - Monday after racing and before prize giving
- Check out the Hauora Hub daily!
- Head to the ACC whānau zone!
- Keep an eye on the social media for any competitions and giveaways!





Club Coordinator Tips & Tricks

- Read the pānui and managers booklet
- Check race schedule daily
- Check results after each event
- Collect Lane Draws daily at the admin desk or look on liveresults.co.nz
- Replace ID Cards at the admin desk
- If you need to make a replacement for a medical or other reason - come to the admin desk
- Buy yourself some merch - you deserve it!
- Remember to breathe - we're here to help you!
- Good comms to your club members makes a huge difference!
- We are asking all our Waka Ama whānau to carpool - this will help manage traffic and parking
- Stay hydrated - it's a big week!
- And finally...

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa - THANK YOU!

This event would not be possible without the time, support and aroha from our amazing club kaitūao. Waka ama - for all - for life!

Ngā mihi nui ki ngā kaitautoko



Waikato River
Authority

National
Hauora Coalition



HOUSE OF TRAVEL

PURE
ATHLETIC



W H A K A A T A
MĀORI

Mercury

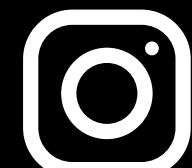
Trust
Waikato.
Te Puna o Waikato

Four Winds
FOUNDATION

BOBBY
Foundation

Lottery Grants Board
Te Puna Tahua
LOTTO FUNDS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

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