



Rotohoe Series 2026

Nā Ruamata Waka Ama

Pānui 1

Tēnei te karapu waka ama o Ruamata e pōhiri atu nei ki a koutou kei ngā tini mātāwaka huri noa. Ruamata Waka Ama Club warmly invites you to the 2025 Rotohoe Series. 2026 marks the 22nd year of the Rotohoe Series!

TE KAUPAPA

The Rotohoe Series is an annual series of open-water waka ama races held on several of the Te Arawa lakes. It caters to all abilities and age groups: novice and experienced, junior and senior kaihoe, providing racing opportunities to kaihoe who want to build their paddling experience as well as an opportunity for competitive kaihoe to test themselves against others in preparation for national and international races. Rotohoe is also about keeping ourselves well and being in connection with our waters through winter.

2026 marks the 22nd year of the Rotohoe Series. We acknowledge our tuakana club Te Aurere who started the Rotohoe as well as our other tuakana club, Hei Matau, who also helped carry this kaupapa.

Nau mai, haere mai, ki te Rotohoe 2026.

TE WĀTAKA

Race	Date	Location
RACE 1	Sat 16/05/2026	Hinehopu Boat Ramp, Tamatea Street, Rotoiti
RACE 2	Sat 06/06/2026	Rangiuru Bay Reserve, Lake Tarawera, Rotorua
RACE 3	Sat 04/07/2026	Reeme Street Reserve, Ngongotahā, Rotorua
RACE 4	Sat 01/08/2026	Hannah's Bay (Waikawau) Reserve, Willow Avenue, Rotorua

NGĀ REIHI - RACES

Each event in the series will generally follow this timetable. The men's and women's W6 races may swap time slots for some events, this will be confirmed in the pānui for each event.

Time	Race
9:00am	Race 1 start W1/W2 10km All divisions
9:10am	Race 2 start W6 6km Novice & Juniors
10:30am	Race 3 start W6 14km – 16km Women and Mixed (J16/J19/Premier/Master/Senior Master/Golden Master)
12:15pm	Race 4 start W6 14km – 16km Men and Mixed (J16/J19/Premier/Master/Senior Master/Golden Master)

HE PITOPITO KŌRERO/RACE DAY INFORMATION

Car Parking: Parking will be available at each of the reserves. Please respect our traffic team as they direct you to the parking areas. The reserves are grassy, with no seal/asphalt, and may therefore be prone to muddiness. There is also street parking. Please respect residents by not impeding driveways. Please do not block access to the boat ramp adjacent to the reserve.

Trailer parking: There will be an area designated for trailer parking in the reserve. Please follow the instructions of our traffic team on the day.

Food: There will be hot soup, bread, and sausages for kaihoe after the races. You are also welcome to bring your own kai. If you have a keep-cup/reusable cup for soup, please bring it so that we can minimise the use of single-use cups.

Toilets: Toilets are available at each of the reserves.

First Aid: First Aid will be available at the Ruamata marquee.

Rubbish/Recycling: We encourage you to please take home what you bring. However, there will be rubbish/recycling bins on site.

Alcohol/Smokefree: Alcohol, smoking, vaping and any other substance use is not permitted at this event, including all premises of the event.

ĒTAHI TIKANGA E PĀ ANA KI NGĀ WAKA/WAKA DROP OFF & SAFETY CHECKS

Waka Drop off:

- Waka drop off will be possible from 7:00am on the event day
- Please follow the instructions of our traffic team

Safety Checks:

- All waka will have to pass a safety check and be marked before racing. Any boats not checked off as having completed this process will not be permitted to race.

Biosecurity Checks:

- All kaihoe will have to follow CCD procedures under the Biosecurity Act and the Te Arawa Lakes Controlled Area Notice to prevent the spread of the Asian Golden Clam (*Corbicula fluminea*). Any waka not checked off as having completed this process will not be permitted to race.
- Waka that have been on the Waikato River in the 30 days prior to the race must be cleaned following MPI protocols, and evidence of this will be required.

[Controlled Area Notice: Corbicula fluminea Te Arawa Lakes and Lake Ōkataina December 2025](#)

TE PAKEKE O NGĀ KAIHOE ME NGĀ REIHI/AGE DIVISIONS & RACE EVENTS

WAKA	DISTANCE	DIVISIONS	GENDER
W1/2	10km	J19, Prem, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master	Men & Women
W6	6km	J16, J19, Prem, Golden Master	Men, Women, Mixed
W6	14km	J16, J19, Prem, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master	Men, Women, Mixed

Minimum age of 16years on race day for W1/W2.

Minimum age of 13years on race day for W6 races (NB. No J16 division in longer races)

NGĀ UTU/FEES

PER PERSON (<i>charged one fee on race day</i>)	
	Cost
10km W1 (J19/Prem/Master/SM/GM)	\$30.00 (for one or both/all races)
14 km W6 (J19/Prem/Master/SM/GM)	
6km W6 (J16/J19/Novice/GM)	\$10.00

TE URU KI NGĀ REIHI ME TE TIKANGA UTU/ONLINE ENTRIES & PAYMENT

- Online entries are to be completed using the Waka Ama NZ online entry system.
- All entries to be completed through your club admin – contact your club admin to process your entry
- No entries on the day, no exceptions
- Entries for each race close at **11.59pm, the Tuesday before each race**
- Rosters close at **11.59pm, the Thursday before each race**
- Once entered, payment can be made online to:
 - **Ruamata Waka Ama Incorporated**
 - **38-9027-0397045-00**
 - **Use your club, team name and division as your reference**

NGĀ RITENGA E MAU AI TE ORA/SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- All waka must be Safety Checked
- All kaihoe who identify as non-swimmers must wear life jackets
- All kaihoe (W1/W2/W6) of all age divisions:
 - PFD - Personal Floatation Device (per person)
 - Bailers - 1 per W1/W2; 2 per W6
 - Flare or cellphone in waterproof case (1 per waka)
 - Spare Paddle - 2 for a W6, 1 for W1/2
 - Spray Skirt (W6)
 - Tow Rope (W6)
 - Leg leash (for sit on top W1)

NGĀ KAWENGA A TE KAIHOE AKE E MAU AI TANA ORA/INDIVIDUAL & TEAM WAIVERS

- Individual and Team waivers must be completed by all paddlers/teams
- All paddlers U18 must have their waiver signed by their parent/guardian
- Waivers can be sent to ruamata.wakaama.club@gmail.com or handed in to registration on the day
- Individual & Team waivers can be found on our event page on the Waka Ama NZ website
- The minimum age for paddling in the W1 race is 16
- The minimum age for paddling in a W6 is 13

NGĀ TURE/RACE RULES

All entrants must be familiar with the Waka Ama New Zealand race and safety rules.

Refer to the following link for more information: [Waka Ama NZ Race Rules](#)

WHAKAPĀ MAI/CONTACT INFORMATION

- All enquiries please email: ruamata.wakaama.club@gmail.com
- All urgent matters please call: Wiri (027 215 6261)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RuamataWakaAma/>