



HOE TONGA PADDLER SERIES

2021

Series Information Pack



Introduction

The Hoe Tonga Paddler Series is designed to attract new paddlers to our sport, and to enable paddlers and teams to race during the winter season. The Series is overseen by Hoe Tonga, but each individual race is hosted and organised by member clubs.

Time and date

Please go to www.hoetonga.co.nz for information on the date and location of each race in the Series.

Distances and divisions

Races consist of a long course (15-18km) for senior teams, and a shorter course (7-9km). The latter is intended primarily for junior and novice (1st year paddling) teams. The short course event is long enough to be challenging and not so long as to be daunting.

- Senior teams (long course): men, women, mixed, U23 to M70
- Junior teams (short course only): men, women, mixed, J16 and J19
- Novice teams (short course only): can be made up of any combination of paddlers and age groups (eg 5 men and 1 woman, or 4 women and 2 men). They can also include up to three senior paddlers to make up numbers (eg steering).

Note that this Series is primarily focused at W6, albeit an additional race for W1 may be offered by clubs.

Entries

- \$30 per senior paddler (U23 to M70), including senior novice paddlers (1st year of paddling)
- \$20 per junior paddler (J16 and J19)

Senior paddlers are encouraged to assist novice teams (eg by steering) in the short course. There is no extra cost for senior paddlers also competing in the short course event.

Entries are to be done online only, by clubs. Clubs will be invoiced. This is the same system used for most events around New Zealand, including the Sprint and Long-Distance Nationals. Entries for each individual event will close on Saturday the week before the event. This is to ensure the club has time to get all details confirmed (eg safety boat numbers).

Late entries will not be accepted. The team roster (specifying which paddlers will compete in each team) has to be completed online by the day before the race (normally Friday, via the respective club).

There are no refunds once entries have closed. Clubs (and their teams) will be required to pay the full amount as per the entries received by the deadline.

You can find out who has entered at www.hoetonga.co.nz.

Please note that all paddlers need to be registered and affiliated with a club and Waka Ama New Zealand.

Typical event programme

7:00am	Venue and team registration open
8:00am	Safety boat briefing
8:30am	Karakia and briefing for race 1
8:45am	Start of short course (race 1), including W1 if offered
10:30am	Briefing for race 2
10:45am	Start of long course (race 2)
12:30pm	Pack up

The programme shown here is guide only! The race programme for each event may differ to the below, and may not be confirmed until entries have been received. If there are changes to the default time frames, this will be notified in the race specific panui by the host club before each race, and/or posted on the Hoe Tonga website.

Where a club offers an additional W1 race, for experienced paddlers only, this may be run at the same time as the short course (albeit the start may be offset by 5min to avoid congestion).

Rules and safety

- The series is open to teams from within and outside the Hoe Tonga region
- All teams must arrange for their own W6 (teams are encouraged to share equipment where possible) and safety gear
- As a Waka Ama New Zealand sanctioned event, the Waka Ama NZ Race Rules apply
- All paddlers must be affiliated to Waka Ama NZ through an affiliated club
- The minimum age for an event in this series (non-open ocean) is 11 years of age
- All juniors and novice paddlers must wear an appropriate PFD anytime they are on the water while associated with the event. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- Definition of a Novice team: a minimum of 3 paddlers who are in their first year of paddling, any combination of men and women and age groups.
- Teams may change the division they have entered once online entries have closed (you may wish to do this after seeing the numbers of entries in each division – please advise during sign-in on the day). However, teams cannot change their short course / long course entry (organisers need to know exactly how many teams are in each race for support boat reasons)
- All teams in the long course event are encouraged to wear a club uniform
- W6 must have a spray skirt, 6 lifejackets, tow-rope, flare or cell phone and 2 spare paddles.
- W1 must have all relevant safety gear, as per Waka Ama NZ race rules
- All canoes will have to pass a safety check before racing
- Competitors should dress appropriately for the conditions
- All steerers and team captains must attend the race briefing
- A waiver form must be signed by all teams/paddlers at sign-in on the day.
- Should teams require assistance during the race, a paddler must hold their paddle up vertically or raise their hand so that an official rescue boat or any passing team can render assistance.
- The Race Director (appointed by the club hosting the event) and his/her officials have absolute control of the event.

- All safety boats should have one driver and one support person.

Prizes and points

All participants will also go in the draw for spot prizes, including a brand-new paddle.

Points will be tallied from each race and trophies will be awarded for series winners. Note that the series winners are determined only by the number of points they accumulate, NOT by often they win in their division. A team could win in their division every time they compete, yet may not become the series winner in their category.

Teams get points, not the paddlers in the teams. You may change paddlers provided that the team name remains the same (some restrictions apply, see below).

Teams must compete in more than half of the races they attend in a particular category in order for that team to be eligible for the series trophy in that category.

Example 1: A team competes in the Master men division in race 1, and in the Open Mix division in the other races. That team will be eligible for winning the “Senior” category trophy even though they have swapped between divisions. This is acceptable because it is not always feasible to maintain the same people for every race.

Example 2: A team competes in the Junior division in race 1 (eg six Junior 19 paddlers), in the Open Men division in race 2 (five junior paddlers and one senior paddler), and in the Novice division in races 3 and 4 (three junior paddlers and three “novice” junior paddlers). This team won’t be eligible for winning any of the category trophies because they have not raced more than half of their four races in a particular category.

Points system

3 or fewer teams

<i>1st</i>	6 Points
<i>2nd</i>	4 Points
<i>3rd</i>	2 Points

4 or more teams

<i>1st</i>	12 Points
<i>2nd</i>	10 Points
<i>3rd</i>	8 Points
<i>4th</i>	6 Points
<i>5th</i>	4 Points
<i>6th</i>	2 Points
<i>Any other placing</i>	1 Point

Waiver - Teams and Paddlers

Event: _____

Club: _____

Team name: _____

Category: _____

I declare that:

1. My accepted entry will not be transferred to another entrant.
2. In the event of any “act of God” conditions causing a cancellation of the event, my total entry fee is not transferable or refundable.
3. I acknowledge that there are risks involved with Waka Ama and fully realise the dangers of participating in an event such as this and fully assume the risks associated with such participation and my wellbeing during the event.
4. I understand and agree that situations may arise during the event, which may be beyond the immediate control of officials or organisers, and I must continually participate in a manner that does not endanger either myself or others.
5. Neither the organisers, the sponsors nor other parties associated with the event shall have any responsibility, financial or otherwise, for any risk incident that might arise, whether or not by negligence, from any direct or indirect loss, injury or death that might be sustained by me or any other party directly or indirectly associated with me, from my intended or actual participation in the event or its related activities.
6. I authorise my name, voice, picture and information on this entry form to be used without payment to me in any broadcast, telecast, promotion, advertising, or any other way pursuant to the Privacy Act 1993.
7. I agree to comply with the rules, regulations and event instructions of the event.
8. I consent to receiving medical treatment which may be advisable in the event of illness or injuries suffered during the event.
9. I confirm that I can swim 50 Metres/OR if I cannot swim 50 Metres I will wear a PFD during the race

DATE	PADDLERS NAME	FULL	SIGNED	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGN (IF UNDER 18)	MEDICAL CONDITIONS	DATE OF BIRTH

Safety check form W6

Team name: _____

Canoe number: _____

Items	Check
2x bailers	
1x lifejacket per paddler (Belt bags are acceptable)	
2x spare paddles	
Skirts fully fitted	
1x flare, VHF radio, cell phone or personal locator beacon	
1x tow rope (20m), rope secured to canoe	
Waiver form signed?	
Safety Check tag on kiato	

NAME OF OFFICIAL _____

SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL _____

Safety check form W1

Competitor Name: _____

Canoe number: _____

Items	CHECK
1x bailer (unless self-bailing via venturi; canoes with foot pumps still require a bailer)	
1x leg leash (sit-on-top only)	
1x lifejacket (Belt bags are acceptable)	
1x spare paddle	
1x flare, VHF radio, cell phone or personal locator beacon	
Waiver form signed?	
Safety Check tag on Kiato	

NAME OF OFFICIAL _____

SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL _____