



TE WAIARIKI PUREA
CHARITABLE TRUST

PĀNUI 2



Waka Ama Secondary School Nationals

Monday 24 - Friday 28 March 2025

Lake Tikitapu, Rotorua



waka ama
Aotearoa New Zealand

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 21 March 2025	- Race Briefing/Managers Meeting Online zoom 7pm
Sunday 23 March 2025	2pm - 6pm at Lake Tikitapu - School tent set-up in the village - Onsite admin desk open for ID card collection and event payments 4pm at Lake Tikitapu - COMPULSORY Manager's Meeting for those unable to attend online Thurs 20th March
Monday 24 March 2025	7am - 9.30am at Lake Tikitapu - School tent set-up in the village - Admin desk open for ID card collection and event payments (Closed at 9.30 for pōwhiri) 10am - Pōwhiri at Lake Tikitapu 11.30am - Racing commences W1 and W12 - School tent set-up in the village re-opened - Onsite admin desk open re-opened

**** After 13th March, full payment is required as per the invoice. All payments will be made to Waka Ama New Zealand. Full payment is to be made by the school before students can race.**

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

- All finance queries please email accounts@wakaama.co.nz
- Any other event queries: events@wakaama.co.nz

ELIGIBILITY

- This event is sanctioned by School Sport New Zealand and must comply with all [School Sport New Zealand Eligibility Regulations](#)
- Competitors must be under 16 on the 1st of January 2025 to enter as a J16; **or**
- Under 19 on the 1st of January 2025 to enter as a J19.
- Competitors may only compete for one school at a National Championship. This must be the school at which they are enrolled and attend full time.
- A student may only paddle for one crew in any one race/event, i.e. J16 or J19, not both.

RACE RULES

Team Managers and paddlers are required to be familiar with the [Regatta Rules](#) Please pay particular attention to the sections on: Team Uniforms, Starts, Replacement Paddlers, Lanes/Turns, and Disqualifications/Protests.

RACE INFORMATION

RACES

- 250 metres – straight race (W1, W6, W12)
- 500 metres – turn race (W6)

CANOE/WAKA TYPE

- W6/W12 – Mahi Mahi
 - W6/W12 waka will be provided by the event organisers for all schools and events.
- W1 – Any Model
 - Paddlers/Schools will need to provide their own W1 waka for events

All contracted W6/12 waka are used solely for this competition. No contracted waka may be taken or used for training purposes while contracted to the event.

NB: Any team/school causing damage to any W6/12 contracted waka will incur the cost of the repairs, which will be charged to the team's school.

EVENTS

Boys W1 J16 250m	Girls W1 J16 250m	Girls W1 J19 250m	Boys W1 J19 250m
Boys W6 J16 250m	Girls W6 J16 250m	Girls W6 J19 250m	Boys W6 J19 250m
Boys W6 J16 500m	Girls W6 J16 500m	Girls W6 J19 500m	Boys W6 J19 500m
Boys W12 J16 250m	Girls W12 J16 250m	Girls W12 J19 250m	Boys W12 J19 250m
Mixed W12 J16		Mixed W12 J19	

Students can only paddle in one category per event:

- One W6 250m event - J16 **OR** J19
- One W6 500m event - J16 **OR** J19
- One W12 250m event - Boys **OR** Girls **OR** Mixed

Examples: If a J16 paddler competes in: the W6 **J19** 250m race, then they are ineligible to paddle the W6 **J16** 250m race; the W12 J19 Boys race, they are ineligible to paddle in a W12 Mixed race.

W1 EVENTS

- Schools are limited to **FOUR W1 paddlers per school**, a mixture of either boys or girls, and across both age groups, eg. **FOUR (4)** paddlers in total.
- W1 paddlers **cannot** paddle in any W12 event, as they are run at the same time.
- W1 Paddlers will be using half lanes.
- There will be up to 12 paddlers in each W1 Race.

W6 EVENTS

- Schools can enter as many W6 teams as they wish
- Students can only paddle in **one** W6 250m and **one** W6 500m event - J16 **OR** J19
- W6 Boys and W6 Girls teams must all be students from the same school

W12 EVENTS

- Schools can enter as many W6 teams as they wish
- Students can only paddle in **one** W12 event - Boys **OR** Girls **OR** Mixed - J16 **OR** J19
- W12 Boys, W12 Girls, and W12 Mixed teams must all be students from the same school**

**Single-sex schools who do not have enough students for a W12 boys or girls team, will still be permitted to join with one another Single-sex school to make a W12 Mixed team

ADAPTIVE/PARA WAKA AMA

We are working to grow the accessibility of our sport and make it inclusive to athletes with a disability. Students with a disability can be entered in your regular W6 school teams, and as W1 paddlers in the Adaptive category. If you have any questions, and/or you require special dispensation, then please contact events@wakaama.co.nz

EVENT FEES & ACCOUNTS

- Entry fees are \$50 incl GST per paddler. This includes an event ID Card.
- To increase participation, South Island Schools will have free entry fees
- Invoices were sent Friday March 14th.

Once the school has been invoiced, you must pay for all paddlers – regardless of withdrawals. You will be charged for any additional paddlers added after invoicing.

ID CARDS

All participants will be issued a 2025 Waka Ama NZ Secondary Schools ID card, which will be scanned for every race they compete in. Students are not able to use club ID Cards.

School sets of ID cards can be picked up at the ID Card Collection point from **Sunday March 23rd 2pm-6pm at Lake Tikitapu**. There will be a charge of \$17 for a replacement ID card or new paddler ID printed at the event.

PŌWHIRI INSTRUCTIONS - Monday March 24th 9.45am

All **Manuhiri** are asked to assemble in the car park area behind the tent village at 9am. From 9.10 manuhiri hikoi through the Village and be seated on the Terraces facing the Lake by 9.40am. **The pōwhiri will start at 9.45am sharp on Monday.** We ask that the Schools with the Taonga from last year situate themselves at the front of the Pōwhiri procession.

Manawhenua and all Rotorua Kura are requested to assemble behind the paepae by 9.30am.

All schools need to please read the full details of the pōwhiri for each group. Instructions including hikoi maps can be found on the event page [NZSS Waka Ama Pōwhiri instructions](#)

WATER SAFETY AND CAPSIZE DRILL

As part of the online entries, all schools must confirm that their teams have completed a safe capsizing drill prior to the event. This is something that should be practiced with students each year - regardless of skill and experience level.

You can view a capsizing drill video on the WANZ website - [Click here](#)

This video explains:

- How to fit a lifejacket correctly for each paddler
- How to right a capsized waka,
- The steps involved to right the waka, get back in it and bail

Waka Ama NZ recommends that all students should be proficient in this skill and feel comfortable doing it. This drill should be completed in a safe and controlled environment (that can be outside) and that life jackets should be worn for the duration of the drill.

UPDATED RACE SCHEDULE

Sunday 23rd March – Set up Day

Start Time	Finish Time	
2:00pm	6:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admin desk open for payments and queries • ID Card Collection • School tents can set up in the Tent Village
4:00pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory Manager's Meeting for those unable to attend the online meeting Friday March 21st

Monday 24th March – Racing Day One

Start Time	
10:00am	Pōwhiri
11:00am	First Race call
11:30am	Racing Commences all divisions W1 and W12 250m - Heats and Semis
NOTE: W1 Paddlers are not eligible to race in the W12 category as these races are run back to back. Races will not be postponed for any paddler.	
12 noon	Any changes for Day 2 Racing need to be received prior to this time

Tuesday 25th March – Racing Day Two

Start Time	
7:30am	First Race call
8:00am	Racing Commences all divisions W1 and W12 250m - FINALS
10:30am	W1 & W12 Prize Giving - De-rigging of W12 waka to W6
12:00pm	Racing Commences all divisions W6 500m Heats
12 noon	Any changes for Day 3 Racing to be received prior to this time.

Wednesday 26th March – Racing Day Three

Start Time	
7:30am	First Race call
8:00am	Racing Commences all divisions W6 250m Heats
10:30am	All divisions W6 500m Semis
12 noon	Any changes for Day 4 Racing to be received prior to this time

Thursday 27th March – Racing Day Four

Start Time	
8:30am	First Race call
9:00am	Racing commences All divisions W6 250m Semis
11:30am	All divisions W6 500m Finals Any changes for Day 5 Racing to be received prior to this time
2:00pm	W6 500m Prizegiving

Friday 28th March – Racing Day Five

Start Time	
9:00am	First Race call
9:00am	RESERVE RACE MORNING for any weather delays
9:30am	Racing Commences all divisions W6 250m - FINALS
11:00am	W6 250m Prizegiving

EVENT INFORMATION

LIFEJACKETS

These must be worn during racing and any practice associated with this event. Schools are responsible for providing their own life jackets, which must be approved Personal Flotation Devices. These must be jacket style. **Waist belts and inflatable styles are NOT PERMITTED.**

Schools without, or with incorrect lifejackets will be disqualified from racing.



FIRST AID

- Peak Safety will be onsite to provide First Aid.
- Please remind your students to bring their EpiPens and Asthmas inhalers should they require them, and ensure these are always accessible.
- Please note - there are no facilities for physio or strapping services on-site at the event.

WAKA AVAILABILITY

All W1 paddlers will need to supply their own waka and **must also have a number holder**. W1 Waka will also need to meet the MPI Biosecurity requirements for the Rotorua Lakes area. ALL Waikato schools with W1 waka will need to visit the Rotorua wash station on Sunday evening, and complete the required Biosecurity washing. W6 waka will be provided for the event by the Event organizers.

FOOD AND WATER

- There are food, coffee, and retail vendors onsite. Please bring cash
- There will be 2 dedicated Water Stations available for filling water bottles. PLEASE remind all students to bring their own drinking bottles.

DISABILITY DROP OFF POINT AND CAR PASSES

There is a designated disability drop off area for those with authorized disability permits. PLEASE NOTE, this is a drop off area **ONLY**. Once you have dropped off your passengers you will be asked to leave the area, as this needs to be kept clear for foot traffic and emergency services.

Only those with an official **CAR PASS** issued by the Waka Ama Manager will be granted vehicle access to the event venue areas.

SCHOOL/PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We still need extra Volunteers in the Loading Bay area to ensure the race schedule runs to time. Please share this link to additional school staff or parents who may be attending to watch, and are keen to help. All full-day volunteers will receive a volunteer pack, including lunch.

[Volunteers - 2025 Waka Ama NZSS Nationals](#)

SMOKE AND VAPE FREE

The entire venue, including parking areas and the spectator banks is SMOKEFREE /AUAHI KORE and Vape free. Any Drugs or Alcohol will be confiscated from this event.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

You should **expect wind, rain and sun during the event** - sometimes all in one day! Schools are advised to bring their own protection from the elements, including strong pegs/weights for the tents. Ensure students bring sunblock, hats and raincoats. Umbrellas are great for sun as well as rain.

EVENT MERCHANDISE

Limited merchandise sizes and styles will be available during the week. Schools and students are encouraged to pre-order event merchandise, and collect it pre-packaged at the event.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TEAMS

We welcome students from the following schools in Tahiti who will be joining us for the event:

- College de Pao Pao
- College de Parapa
- Tuianu Le Gayic High School

The following lanes will be used in the Finals for New Zealand school teams:

	New Zealand School Teams	International Teams
250m W6 and W12	Lanes 1 to 12 (half lanes)	Lane 13
500m W6 Turn race	Lanes 1 to 8	Lane 9
250 W1	Lanes 1 to 12 (half lanes)	Lane 13 +

International teams may appear in other lanes should there not be sufficient NZ teams to fill the first 8 lanes. However, the rule of thumb will always be that international teams will fill lanes outside New Zealand School teams.

RECYCLING AND RUBBISH BINS

Recycling bins are situated at the back of the playground, and down near the boat ramp area. Please ensure that only recyclable materials are put in the bins with yellow lids. In addition, there are also waste wheelie bins for rubbish throughout the venue and Tent Village. We ask that the bins please remain in the areas they are placed, and keep the lids closed.

Please ensure your kura is managing the rubbish in your area – if you see any rubbish around your tent or on the beach, please pick it up 😊

RACE ETIQUETTE

Any school that have teams where a student:

1. **Stands up in a waka** after the race is completed (other than to exit the canoe in the loading bay); OR
2. **Throws paddles in the air** when they have completed their race; OR
3. **Deliberately fly the ama of the waka**

Will be fined \$100 per incident and the thrown paddles will be confiscated.

TENT VILLAGE REMINDERS

- RAPIHI - RUBBISH- please ensure that your area is kept clean at all times.
- HANGARUA - RECYCLING - please use the bins provided
- LOOKING AFTER YOUR TENT - please check daily that your tent is securely pegged. If leaving up overnight, remove the roof or lower the tent in case of strong winds.
- Please ensure that your tent is secure overnight and remove any belongings that might fly away should the weather turn.

TEAM TENTS

Schools are encouraged to set up tents to store their gear in, and provide respite for paddlers from the elements. These sites are not located for spectator viewing of the racing.

- The terraced grass areas are set aside for all schools, whanau, and spectators to sit on for the best race viewing (**no tents or gazebos permitted**).
- All schools will be located on the area boarded by the playground, mobile toilet block and fencing. Note: depending on the past summer weather, this area could be a mixture of gravel & grass - please bring your own ground cover and matting .
- **Please check in with the Village Coordinator on arrival to be shown a site.**

Due to participant and spectator safety NO tents will be permitted in the following areas:

- Lake edge and beach
- Lower grass adjacent to beach
- Terrace grass seating area.
- By the 250m start line
- Next to the administration building

Due to space restrictions, School Tent sites will be marked out by the number of paddlers attending.

If you have:

- 6 students or less, you will be allowed to have a 3x3m pop up size tent
- 6 to 12 students = 6x3m popup size tent
- 13 to 24 Students = Equivalent of two 6x3m
- 25 to 40 Students = Equivalent of four 6x3m

No tents can be erected until 2pm on Sunday 23 March. Any tents erected prior to that will be removed. Tents can also be erected on Monday morning from 7am - 9.30am, **BEFORE** the Pōwhiri commences; and then after 11am, once racing has started.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

If you are going to use a generator and extension cords in your tent area, you are required to have them checked by an authorized electrician. Documentation must be presented to the Village Coordinator authenticating that they have been checked and are in good working order. Failing to do so may result in the Site Manager requesting that the use of the equipment be discontinued. Please whānau this is for the safety of your rangatahi and others.

TROPHIES

PUTU MIHAKA TROPHY

The Putu Mihaka Trophy is awarded to the school that displays manaaki, awhi, and an overall positive attitude throughout the event. This award pays homage to the late Te Putuangaanga (Putu) Mihaka nō Ngāti Pikiao. Putu was a strong advocate of rangatahi Māori, played significant roles in organisations like Te Waiariki Pūrea Trust, and was a huge supporter of the waka community.

LAURIE DURAND MEMORIAL AWARD - TE POU TAUTOKOHIA

Te Pou Tautokohia is awarded to the school that displays tautoko to others and the event. Te Pou Tautokohia pays homage to the late Laurie Durand, a stalwart of Te Waiariki Pūrea Trust, Waka Ama, and the National Secondary School Event.

WI WAKA DROP-OFF AND PICK UP INSTRUCTIONS

W1 WAKA DROP OFF - Sunday March 23rd and Monday March 24th

ALL W1 waka must be checked into the designated area onsite by 9am Monday 24th

- Drop off times are Sunday March 23rd 2 - 7pm and Monday 24th 7 - 9am **ONLY**
- Schools and Paddlers are encouraged to drop their waka during the following times, where there will be a **complete road closure at the drop off gate** - **Sunday 2pm-5pm & Monday 7am-9am.**
- Driving from Rotorua:
 - Travel along Tarawera Rd. Turn right onto Okareka Loop Rd, and follow it round.
 - At the Holiday Park turn right, and safely pull into the drop-off zone on the road.
 - Unload the waka, get checked in through the gate, and then drive off to the carpark/their accommodation.

Overnight security of W1 waka is provided at the venue on Sunday & Monday nights

W1 COLLECTION - Monday March 24th and Tuesday March 25th

- All W1 waka finished with on Monday, need to follow the [Check Clean Dry](#) requirements, and be **removed from the Loading Bay**. Access will be granted at 3.30pm.
- There will be a **complete road closure at the pick up gate** on **Monday 3.30-5pm ONLY**
- After Tuesday's Finals, the remaining W1 waka need to also follow the [Check Clean Dry](#) requirements, and be removed from Loading Bay. Access will be granted from 9.30am.
- There will be a **complete road closure at the pick up gate** on **Tuesday 9.30-11am ONLY**

W1 WAKA FROM THE WAIKATO REGION & SURROUNDING SCHOOLS

As per the Government requirements, all W1 waka from the Waikato region must be washed and checked at the designated [Wash Station on Te Ngae Rd](#), **between 4-6pm on Sunday 23rd.**

Further instructions can be found [here](#) and will be emailed to the schools concerned. It is important that these instructions are passed onto the families who may be transporting the W1 Waka.

ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC / TRAFFIC DELAYS

The Volcanic Epic Mountain Bike event is occurring during the same week as the NZSS Waka Ama Nationals. From Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th March, they will be based out of the [Tawa MTB car park](#) which is situated along Tarawera Rd, on the way to Lake Tikitapu.

On **Friday 28th of March**, they will have traffic management in place on the Corner of Okareka Loop Rd and Tarawera Rd next to Tawa MTB car park entrance. **Riders will be crossing the road between 11am-2pm.** Traffic will still be allowed through, there just may be a few delays.

We ask all schools to please be mindful of the additional traffic, allow extra time to get to/from the venue, and follow all instructions of the traffic management crews from both events.

BIOSECURITY MEASURES

This invasive freshwater clam *Corbicula fluminea* was discovered along a stretch of the Waikato River in May 2023. Biosecurity New Zealand is working with iwi and other partners to prevent the spread of the clam. [Ministry of Primary Industries \(MPI\) - Freshwater invasive clam](#)

As kaitiaki of our roto and awa, we stress the importance of following the MPI [Check Clean Dry](#) requirements to ensure we do not spread the invasive clam or any other species to our lakes and rivers.

Due to the high biosecurity risk of the transmission of the invasive clam species to the Rotorua lakes, an additional Controlled Area Notice (CAN) applies to the 14 Te Arawa lakes in the Bay of Plenty region, with additional protections for Lake Ōkātina. These are in place to protect [Te Arawa Lakes](#)

For our event - **ALL W1 from the greater Waikato region, and any other waka that has been in the Waikato River in the previous 30 days must be cleaned at the designated wash station in Rotorua before entering the water.** This is in addition to the [Check Clean Dry](#) requirements

At the end of the event, all hoe, life jackets, clothing and footwear will need to be Checked and washed Clean of any visible debris before leaving Lake Tikitapu. On return to your kura or whare, we ask everyone to also follow the Clean and Dry instructions for cleaning absorbent clothing - lifejackets, clothes, water shoes, and hats (see the image below).



INVASIVE CLAM INFO SHEET WAKA AMA

As kaitiaki of our roto and awa we are emphasising the importance of following the new Check Clean Dry steps for our Waka Ama whānau to ensure we do not spread the invasive clam or any other species in our lakes and rivers.

When you move gear or waka from one river or lake to another:

CHECK - for what is visible

- CHECK and flick off any visible matter like weed, mud or adult clams at the site.



CLEAN - for what is not visible

- Blast your waka inside and out with tap water, including the ama and kiato, beside the waterway or at home – NOT into a stormwater drain.
- Be sure to wash out any nooks and crevices.
- Then drain it, including removing the bungs.
- Use one of the treatments (below) for absorbent materials that have been in the river or lake water and can stay wet longer – lifejackets, canvas sprayskirts, removable seats, dry bags, booties, straps/ratchets and ropes.

CLEANING OPTIONS:

1. Soak in hot tap water (50–55°C) for at least 5 minutes; OR
2. Soak in 5% bleach solution (5-litre mix = 250ml bleach in 4.75L of water) for an hour; OR
3. Freeze until solid (overnight)

DRY - to be sure

- DRY areas inside the waka where water has pooled with an old towel.
- Ensure all gear is completely dry to touch inside and out.
- Leave waka and gear completely dry for 2 days.



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

