

Waka Ama NZ

Secondary School Nationals

Race Rules

Updated March 2025

1. Categories

- 1.1. **J16 W6 or W12 Team** - Must consist of 6/12 paddlers, this includes the steerer. You can have any combination of students under 16 as at 1 January in the year of competition only, of the same gender from the same school in this division.
 - 1.1.1. If your school cannot field an entire J16 team and you need to mix J16 with J19 then the team must register as a J19 team.
 - 1.1.2. One J19 paddler in a J16 team constitutes the team to be registered as a J19 team.
- 1.2. **J19 W6 or W12 Team** - Must consist of 6/12 paddlers, this includes the steerer. You can have any combination of students under 19 as at 1 January in the year of competition only, of the same gender from the same school in this division.
- 1.3. **J16 W12 Mixed Teams** - Must consist of 12 paddlers, 6 boys and 6 girls including the steerer. You can have any combination of students J16 as at 1 January in the year of competition **only**.
 - 1.3.1. If you are a Single Sex school, then you may mix with one other opposite Single Sex school only.
 - 1.3.2. If you are a Co-Ed School, you must form a W12 from within your own school
- 1.4. **J19 W12 Mixed Teams** - Must consist of 12 paddlers, 6 boys and 6 girls including the steerer. You can have any combination of students under 19 as at 1 January in the year of competition **only**.
 - 1.4.1. If you are a Single Sex school, then you may mix with one other opposite Single Sex school only.
 - 1.4.2. If you are a Co-Ed School, you must form a W12 from within your own school

2. Races

- 2.1. 250m – Straight race
- 2.2. 500m – Turn race

3. W1 Paddlers

- 3.1. Waka must be rudderless
- 3.2. Waka must have number holders for lane identification
- 3.3. W1 waka must be supplied by individuals.
- 3.4. Paddlers must wear a Life Jacket (Personal Floatation Device) as per the safety rules.
- 3.5. Paddlers/schools are required to supply their own Life Jacket, which must be Jacket style only. **NO BELTS and NO INFLATABLE styles are permitted.**
- 3.6. It is the responsibility of Schools to ensure that competitors can competently paddle a W1
- 3.7. If you paddle in the W1 category, you **CANNOT** paddle in the W12 category as these races will be run back to back.

4. Eligibility

- 4.1. Competitors must be Full time Secondary School Students under 19 as at 1 January 2025
- 4.2. 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.
- 4.3. Single Sex schools may mix with one other opposite Single Sex school, only for the W12 Mixed race
- 4.4. A student may only paddle for one crew in any one event/category.
- 4.5. W6/W12 Boys and W6/W12 Girls teams must all be students from the same school.
- 4.6. With the exception of 4.3 where single sex schools can combine to form W12 teams. There shall be no composite teams where schools combine to form a team, eg in the W6 events.

5. School Uniforms

- 5.1. Any display of alcohol, drug or tobacco product advertising will not be allowed on racing uniforms.
- 5.2. All paddlers must paddle in a team uniform (Tops). Standardisation of team uniform on the water to include tops (e.g. T Shirts/Singlets). These must be standardised for the whole team. Mixed W12 teams may have two different uniforms.
- 5.3. Hats and sunglasses are permitted if individual paddlers wish to wear them.
- 5.4. Appropriate additional items of uniform may be worn in line with weather conditions. These items must be worn underneath their race uniform.
- 5.5. To maintain the dignity and solemnity of the presentation/prize giving ceremony, the competitors receiving trophies/medals must wear their approved school uniform/racing uniform or off-the-water uniform.

6. Registration, replacements and withdrawals

- 6.1. Only those competitors registered for the first heat of an event may progress throughout the competition with the following exceptions.
 - 6.1.1. Unless there is an accepted medical reason for withdrawal and replacement accompanied by a medical certificate and accepted by the Race organisers.
- 6.2. Competitors unable to continue racing as in Rule 6.1.1 may only be replaced by eligible paddlers named on the School roster form.

7. Qualifications and Finals

- 7.1. To qualify for finals the Competitors must be within these bounds:
 - 7.1.1. start with those competitors eligible from the paddler roster
 - 7.1.2. progress only with the starting competitors, unless otherwise permitted as per 6.1.1
 - 7.1.3. have sustained no faults or breaches to rules throughout the race
 - 7.1.4. complete the event with no less than six (6) paddlers in a W6 race, 12 paddlers in a W12 race.
 - 7.1.5. complete the entire race in a seated position

- 7.2. Progression will depend on the number of entries and lanes in the event
- 7.3. Should there be any withdrawals, the Race Director may:
 - 7.3.1. eliminate a heat
 - 7.3.2. place competitors in other heats

8. **Safety**

- 8.1. All W6 waka shall carry bailers at all times
- 8.2. Approved Personal Flotation Devices, jacket type are compulsory and must be worn by ALL competitors. Schools must provide their own team PFD's, as correct sizing is an important part of safety. **Waist type belts, tubes and inflatables are not permitted.**

9. **Paddles**

- 9.1. Paddles must be a single blade, and may be any size or shape.
- 9.2. Paddles may be constructed from any material.

10. **Numbering**

- 10.1. W1 canoes must have a number holder attached to the canoe. W1 competitors are responsible for ensuring that their canoe has a holder. Holders will be made available for sale at the event.

11. **Course Markers**

- 11.1. Buoys shall mark lanes. All numbering explanations are from the start of the 250m-straight course.
- 11.2. The lane running closest to the finish line viewing will be Lane one (1)
- 11.3. Lanes shall be marked by a coloured flag; this will indicate the middle of the lane. Where half lanes are used, lanes will start and finish with **ODD NUMBERS** to the right of the flag and **EVEN NUMBERS** to the left of the flag.
- 11.4. The length of the 250m lanes shall, at a minimum, be marked by three (3) buoys per lane. In races requiring turns there shall be a turning flag/buoy. Different coloured flags shall be attached to each turn buoy to help crews identify their lanes. Turn flag buoys shall be positioned equidistant from the numbered buoys i.e. in the centre of the lane at each end of the specific course being used for the turn events.

12. **Lanes**

- 12.1. In sprint races all 250m W1 and WT12 races are straight. W6 races may involve turns at each 250m as set for that event. The Organising Committee of any specific event will set the length of turn races for that competition.
- 12.2. The course shall have lanes that are:
 - i) 250m long, and
 - ii) 30 - 35m in width. Water should be at least 2m deep.
- 12.3. The lanes shall be set so a canoe will finish on the left of the buoy representing the number of its lane assignment.
- 12.4. The Waka must complete the entire race within its designated lane.

- 12.5. In any race involving turns the canoe must turn counter-clockwise around the flag but may start or finish with the flag on any side so long as they are within their designated lane.
- 12.6. A lane or area shall be designated so that the contestants may proceed safely to the starting line without interfering with the racecourse. When a race is in progress paddlers who are not racing will not be permitted on or near the course unless so directed by the Race Director.
- 12.7. In straight races the lanes may be split in two. Canoes must finish with the turning flag to the side to which they started.

13. Turns

- 13.1. In any race involving turns the canoe must run counter-clockwise around the flag. During a turn, the canoe shall not run over the flag in such a way that the flag is between the ama and the hull.

14. Starts

- 14.1. Competitors must be present at the start line for their event as shown on the programme. Starting signals shall be given regardless of absentees.
- 14.2. The start shall be taken up by two parties, one to align Waka and one to start the race when alignment has been achieved.
- 14.3. The order of the start is:
 - i) Raising the white flag - indicates two minutes to the race start. The race shall start any time within that two minutes (waka move to the false start line)
 - ii) Raising of the red flag - Waka move to a starting position behind the start line.
 - iii) Raising of the green flag indicates the start of the race
- 14.4. Crossing the start line at any time before the raising of the green flag will result in a disqualification. Not following starter orders will result in disqualification
- 14.5. If the starter raises a black flag during the starting procedure, this indicates that an infraction exists and the bow of at least one canoe is across the start line. Competitors will be given the opportunity to line up correctly. If, after a reasonable time, the infraction has not been corrected (in which case the black flag will not be lowered), the race may be started, resulting in disqualification of those canoes that caused the infringement.

15. Disqualification (DQ) Applies to all events

Disqualification will occur for any fault that is made before, during or after any race. This includes any breach of the Race Rules.

- 15.1. Disqualification may occur for any misconduct or bad behaviour at an event. This will be at the total discretion of the Race Director or Head Course (HC) Judge. The following provisions, as stated in these rules, are cause for automatic disqualification.
 - 15.1.1. Competing for more than one Crew or School in an event will disqualify both crews
 - 15.1.2. Paddling at any time during a race outside one's lane
 - 15.1.3. Starting or finishing outside one's lane

- 15.1.4. Paddling in a non-seated position (Standing in a Waka at any time during the race)
- 15.1.5. Crossing the line and commencing the race before the raising of the green flag
- 15.1.6. Not rounding the flags in a counter clockwise direction
- 15.1.7. Not rounding the turn flag with the entire waka including the ama
- 15.1.8. Failing to complete a turn within the designated lane and buoys
- 15.1.9. Not following the starting rules
- 15.1.10. Complete a race with less than 6 paddlers (W6)
- 15.1.11. Complete a race with less than 12 paddlers (W12)
- 15.1.12. Paddling out of uniform
- 15.1.13. Failure to wear their approved school uniform/ racing uniform or off the water uniform during presentation/ prize giving ceremony

Note: Start, Turn and Lane faults during Heats will incur time penalties (10 Seconds per penalty)

Procedure on receiving a protest

- 15.2. If 3 stations call DQ, protest disallowed by HC Judge (No meeting)
- 15.3. If 2 stations call DQ, HC Judge consults. This may involve the judges viewing video evidence. Can call a meeting with the Protest Committee if required. The HC Judge has the final decision.
- 15.4. If 1 station calls DQ, HC Judge calls a meeting of the Protest Committee. The Protest Committee shall make the final decision.

Racing DQ's are called by the following stations

Aligner and Starter	Lane Marshalls	Loading Bay Officials	Registration Officials
On the Water Boats	Race Director	Video Officers	Time Keepers

Time penalties for heats

A 10 second time penalty will be applied for all infractions in heats.

16. Protests

- 16.1. All Protests will be overseen by The Head Course Judge or Race Director.
- 16.2. Protest must be made no more than 20 minutes after notification of race result.
- 16.3. Protests cost \$100 to be paid when a protest is lodged.
- 16.4. Refundable if protest is upheld.
- 16.5. Protest forms will be available at administration.

17. Code of Good Conduct

- Schools are responsible for the behaviour of their students on and off the water.
- Supervisory staff and support adults will ensure that all race rules are observed and that their students display a good sportsperson type attitude when competing.
- Any unacceptable behaviour at the lake venue, accommodation or in the city that is notified to the Race Director, will be dealt with accordingly and could include a request to return home from the event.