



Event Pānui 1

Auckland Region W1 Sprint Trials

8-9 November 2025

Killarney Park, Lake Pupuke, Takapuna, Auckland

EVENT SUMMARY

Tēnā koutou ngā kaihoe o te rohe o Tāmaki Makarau AROCA Regional Sprint Championships. This is the first pānui of the event, more information will be distributed at a later date.

The W1 events will be held over the normal Nationals distances, for all age grades.

Medals will be awarded to podium finishers. This is also the qualifying event for W1 paddlers wanting to represent the AROCA region at the National Sprints Championships 2026.

Entries are to be made through the Waka Ama NZ website and will close on **20 October 2025 11:59pm**.

Please note, this is a Regional event and only paddlers from the AROCA region member clubs are eligible to enter.

KEY DATES & LOGISTICS

Race days: 8 & 9 of November

Entries Open: 1 August 2025

Entries Close: 20 October 2025 11:59pm

Entries submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Note: WANZ affiliation for 2025/2026 season starts 1 October, all paddlers must be affiliated for the new season, to participate.

Key items:

Canoe Weighing: First 3 finishers will be weighed immediately after race is completed

Safety Checks: Will be done and canoes tagged in loading bay

Canoe drop off: Arrangements to be finalised in Pānui 2

RACE DAY INFORMATION

Car Parking: Parking Locations are being finalized - more details will come in Pānui 2. All parking is under Auckland Council management, you will need to read the signs and park accordingly.

Food: We encourage you to bring your own healthy kai, however a small range of food vendors will be available onsite to purchase healthy kai.

Toilets: See site layout for toilet locations.

First Aid: First Aid will be available onsite - please see event layout for location.

Rubbish/Recycling: We encourage you to please take what you bring. However, the main rubbish and recycling station is located by the main toilet block.

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

RACE RULES

All entrants must be familiar with the [Waka Ama New Zealand race and safety rules](#).

AGE DIVISIONS & RACE EVENTS

All age groups are outlined in the Waka Ama New Zealand Race Rules, rule 24.1. Age is taken as reaching the specified age in 2026 (i.e., next year). This enables you to race in the same division as you will at the coming 2026 Sprint Nationals, January 2026.

For information visit: <http://www.wakaama.co.nz/agedivisionchecker> / Email: admin@aroca.co.nz

WAKA	DISTANCE	DIVISIONS	GENDER
W1	500m	Int, J16, J19, Open, Master, Senior Master, Golden Master, M70, M75	Men & Women
W1	250m	J19, Open, M80+	Men & Women

ONLINE ENTRIES & PAYMENT

- Online entries are to be completed using the Waka Ama NZ online entry system.
- All entries are to be completed through your club administrators. Contact them to process your entry, and ensure that you are affiliated for the new 2025/2026 season.
- Entries close on **20 October 2025 11:59pm**
- **No entries after entry close date, no exceptions**
- It is imperative that all race entrants are affiliated and verified members of affiliated AROCA WANZ clubs. The new season starts 1st October 2025. **Please ensure all entrants are affiliated and verified for the new season by the closing date 20 October.**
- New paddlers are required to have finalised their WANZ ID registration, for verification requirements.

W12 SELECTION PROCESS 2025

As previously communicated, there is an important change to the W12 selection process for 2025. AROCA will be shifting from selecting the fastest club time, to selecting the 12 fastest paddlers, both J19 and Open, based on their 250m dash results in the W1 event. **For full details see the letter below.**

FEES

Fees are per event, and remain unchanged from 2024:

DIVISION	W1 500m	W1 250m
Intermediate	\$15	N/A
J16	\$20	N/A
J19	\$20	\$15
U23	\$25	N/A
Open	\$25	\$15
Masters	\$25	N/A
Senior Masters, M70, M75	\$25	N/A
M80	N/A	\$25

WAKA DROP OFF & SAFETY CHECKS

Waka Drop off:

- Waka drop off will be available from 6.00am on the event day. We will offer a Friday night drop off option, and have security measures in place overnight.
- Waka drop off will be clearly signed with entry & exit - please follow all instructions.

Safety Checks:

- All waka will have to pass a safety check and be marked before racing. Any boats not marked will not be permitted to race.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- All event enquiries please email: maruwhare@wakaama.co.nz

W12 SELECTION PROCESS - Pānui posted June 27th 2025

To the Waka Ama Whānau of the Auckland Region

Tēnā koutou katoa,

We hope this message finds you well and thriving both on and off the water.

We would like to inform you of an important change to the W12 selection process for our region. After careful consideration and in alignment with proven successful models in other regions, Auckland will be shifting from selecting the fastest club time to selecting the 12 fastest paddlers (both J19 and Open, based on their 250m dash results in the W1 event) to represent us in the W12 division. This change will be implemented at our 2025 W1 Regionals in November.

This decision was not made lightly. Our primary aim is to provide more opportunities for paddlers across all clubs in Auckland to come together as a united regional team—te kotahitanga o te rohe. By moving away from an inter-club competition format and toward a performance-based, regional selection process, we hope to foster greater collaboration, whanaungatanga, and regional pride.

We have seen this approach work incredibly well in other regions, most notably Te Puku o Te Ika, who have followed this model for the past four years and have consistently dominated the podium at Nationals. It's clear that giving our top paddlers the chance to train and compete together—regardless of club affiliation—can lead to outstanding results.

This new selection process opens the door for all clubs to see their top athletes contribute to a strong and unified Auckland presence on the national stage. It is a step forward in building a deeper sense of regional connection and shared success, while still honoring the fierce club spirit that makes our waka ama community so special.

We appreciate your support and understanding as we implement this change. We are excited for what lies ahead and confident that this new direction will elevate the strength and mana of our Auckland paddlers.

If you have any pātai or would like further clarification, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Maruwhare Harman
Auckland Region Waka Ama Race Committee