

PĀNUI 3



Waka Ama Sprint Nationals

Sunday 11 - Saturday 17 January 2026
Lake Karāapiro, Cambridge

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KEY INFORMATION AND DATES

Wednesday 7 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PAYMENT FOR ENTRY IS DUE (Payments can be made by InternetBanking or Cash) – No cheque payments. ● No payment, no racing
Thursday 8 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ONLINE ZOOM MANAGER'S MEETING - 7PM
Saturday 10 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ROSTER CHANGES CLOSED
Sunday 11 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PŌWHIRI Sunday Morning 8:30 am. Racing will start Sunday 11am for Taitamariki paddlers.

RECORD BREAKING NUMBERS AT NATIONALS 2026!

The 2026 Waka Ama Sprint Nationals will be the largest event ever held on Lake Karāapiro, **with a record number of more than 4,600 paddlers to compete next week**. This is nearly 800 more competitors than in 2025, this event marks the largest Nationals in the history of waka ama, and stands as one of the largest single-sport national events in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The 2026 Waka Ama Sprint Nationals also serve as an official qualifying event for the 2026 International Va'a Federation World Sprint Championships, to be held in Singapore in August 2026. Club intents can be viewed here: <https://www.wakaama.co.nz/racecalendar/lookup/2382>

FEES AND PAYMENT

All club fees and outstanding accounts must be paid by **Wednesday 7th January**.

All queries to the Admin Desk which will be open onsite on **Saturday 10th January @ 2:00 pm**

Fees include Nationals Entry Fees, ID Cards and Club Affiliation fees.

WAKA AMA AOTEAROA NZ STAFF ONSITE

The majority of Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ staff will be onsite at the lake from Friday 9 January assisting with event set-up. During this time, responses to emails will be delayed. For urgent matters, please contact Aroha on 021 809 845 or Lara on 027 548 4612.

The Admin Desk will be open at the lake in the Don Rowlands Centre on **Saturday 10 January from 2.00pm–7.30pm**, and then for the entire event time every day 6.30am onwards.

We look forward to seeing you all at the lake — please drive safely.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Please note, for 2026 the Managers Meeting will be an online Zoom call at 7pm Thursday January 8th. There will be no nightly hui held on-site.

The race schedule and lane draw are available on the Event website [Sprint Nationals 2026](https://www.wakaama.co.nz/racecalendar/lookup/2382)

And will also be on www.liveresults.co.nz during the event.

Date	Racing Day	Racing information and Managers meetings
Thursday 8 Jan 7pm	0	Online Zoom Race briefing for ALL Team Managers (Junior, Senior, W1)
Friday 9 January	0	Club Hired W6 Waka drop off from 12-8pm
Sunday 11 January	DAY 1	<p>Pōwhiri huihuinga - 8am</p> <p>Taitamariki racing starts 11am</p>
Monday 12 January	DAY 2	<p>Taitamariki / Intermediate / J16 racing starts 7.30am</p> <p>Taitamariki Prizegiving 4pm</p>
Tuesday 13 January	DAY 3	<p>Intermediate / J16 racing starts 7.30am</p> <p>Prizegiving 3.30pm</p>
Wednesday 14 January	DAY 4	<p>W1 racing day starts 7.00am</p> <p>Prizegiving 5.30pm</p>
Thursday 15 January	DAY 5	<p>J19 and all adult W6 & W12 Heats starts 7.30am</p> <p>Regional W12 and W1 races</p> <p>Prizegiving 5pm</p>
Friday 16 January	DAY 6	<p>J19 and all adult W6 & W12 starts 7.30am</p> <p>Corporate Challenge Racing</p> <p>Adaptive Club Racing</p> <p>Prizegiving 5.30pm</p>
Saturday 17 January	DAY 7	<p>J19 and all adult W6 racing - FINALS starts 8.00am</p> <p>Final Prizegiving 2.30pm</p>

Pōwhiri

The Pōwhiri will take place at **8:30 am on Sunday 11th January**. Manuhiri please assemble in the car park at the Don Rowlands Centre at **8:00 am**. We welcome all paddlers and supporters to attend the Pōwhiri. There will be a cup of tea/coffee and refreshments available at the ACC whānau zone after the Pōwhiri. If it rains, the pōwhiri will be inside the Don Rowlands Centre. Manuhiri will still assemble in the car park.

CAR POOLING

Due to the high number of participants this year - particularly on Sunday (11th) and Monday (12th) - we ask that our clubs communicate with your members and supporters to **please carpool where possible**. This includes paddlers, club members, and supporters. Car pooling will help reduce traffic congestion, and ensure safe and fair access for everyone.

HAUORA HUB

Waka ama has always been more than just a sport, it's a living expression of hauora whānau in all spaces.

For the first time at the Sprints Nationals there will be a Hauora Hub, a dedicated space that supports and uplifts the ongoing practices of whānau well being.

Hauora Hub stations will include

- ★ Heart Foundation
- ★ ACC New Zealand
- ★ New Zealand Blood Service
- ★ Diabetes NZ
- ★ Te Ahurei a Rangatahi
- ★ Recover Me
- ★ Curative NZ , in partnership with Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora
- ★ Te Piringa Kōtuku | | Tuahuora Medical Associates
- ★ National Hauora Coalition (NHC)

These stations will provide korero, various free health services, and activations, and are situated in the Don Rowland Centre carpark. Make sure to check them out during the week!

HAUORA HUB PASSPORT

Visit up to 8 of our Hauora Hub providers and receive a stamp for your Hauora Hub Passport - submit this passport with your details at the admin desk to go in the draw to win a Waka Ama Prize Pack! Entries close Friday 4pm - winners will be contacted via email following the event!

START TIMES

Here are the start times for each race day - the First race call will be 30 minutes before the first race.

NB: times may vary and be updated. Please listen to all MC announcements and information transmitted through the RT system

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
'Waka Fit' Loading Bay	6.00 am	6 .00 am	6.00 am	X	6.00 am	6.00 am	6.30 am
Karakia Lakeside at Podium	6.55 am	6.55 am	6.55 am	6.30 am	6.55 am	6.55 am	6.55 am
Admin Desk onsite open	8.30 am (Pōwhiri)	6.30 am	6.30 am	6.00 am	6.30 am	6.30 am	7.00 am
First Race Call	10.30 am	7.00 am	7.00 am	6.30 am	7.00 am	7.00 am	7.30 am
First Race Start	11.00 am	7.30 am	7.30 am	7.00 am	7.30 am	7.30 am	8.00 am

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

We are excited to have a record number of teams and paddlers competing at the 2026 Sprint Nationals! This brings with it additional challenges re traffic flow and car parking. **You will need to allow extra time to get to the event, to find a car park, and then to find your team.** We need everyone to carpool from your whare please, with fellow team-mates to reduce the number of cars on the road and in the venue.

PARKING – WEEK-LONG PASSES

Car parking will be free for the first day of racing (Sunday 11th January). From Monday onwards, parking will be \$5 per vehicle, per day.

Week-long Parking passes are available to pre-purchase for \$25. Week-long passes must be displayed on the vehicle dashboard for clear viewing and must include the vehicle registration number. Passes will be available for purchase from the admin desk at the Don Rowlands Centre, and online **until January 10th** at the Waka Ama Online Shop <https://waka-ama-nz-shop.myshopify.com/>

The last chance to purchase a week-long pass will be directly from the Admin area on Sunday January 11th. Parking passes will not be available for purchase after Sunday. Daily charges will incur as you enter through all venue gates.

DISABILITY/MOBILITY PARKING

Disabled and Mobility Parking is accessed through Gate 3. The parking spaces are located near the drop-off zone, and you must display your Disability/Mobility pass at all times.

LOWER ROAD ACCESS

There will be no vehicle access to the lower road area between 7.00am (or 30mins before the first race call - see race schedule) and before 5pm every day, excluding emergency and service vehicles.

Day	Lower road access prohibited from:	Race Starts
Sunday (Day 1)	7.30 am	Pōwhiri starts 8.30 am
Monday (Day 2) & Tuesday (Day 3)	7.00 am	7.30 am
Wednesday (Day 4)	6.30 am	7.00 am
Thursday (Day 5) & Friday (Day 6)	7.00 am	7.30 am
Saturday (Day 7)	7.30am	8.00 am

PHOTOS AND IMAGES

Any official photos and images that are taken during the event remain the property of Waka Ama NZ. By entering the event, individuals, clubs, and regions accept that their photo or image may be taken and used for promotional purposes by Waka Ama NZ. All images will be made available for competitors to access free of charge on our Facebook page. www.facebook.com/wakaamanewzealand If you have any queries or concerns regarding photos or images, please contact media@wakaama.co.nz

ID CARDS

Pre-ordered ID cards can be picked up from the Admin Desk inside the Don Rowlands Centre by the designated Club Coord. Any replacements ordered after 2nd January or at Nationals will cost \$17 each.

REPLACEMENT PADDLERS

As per the race rules, paddlers may only be removed and replaced after the heat of an event by producing a medical certificate from a registered medical practitioner, or the medical first aid team on site. This confirms that the paddler has been examined, and had a legitimate medical reason for not being able to paddle at that particular event and time. Replacement paddlers will need to be actioned at the admin desk onsite.

COVID-19

We understand that COVID-19 may still impact some paddlers and teams. Therefore, should a paddler test positive for COVID-19, they are not required to produce a medical certificate. They may simply send a photo of their positive test to their club coordinator, who must then come to the admin onsite and replace them with an eligible paddler from their club roster. Should the Club have to add a new paddler to their roster to replace the paddler, the late fee for this paddler will be waived. Entry fee and ID card costs will apply as required.

The paddler who tested positive for COVID-19 will not be eligible to race in any further events at the 2026 Waka Ama Sprint Nationals. The paddler must take all COVID precautions as required and isolate offsite in line with Ministry of Health rules.

CLUB/REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Nearly all Clubs have registered their coordinators for this event - ngā mihi nui! This will help us ensure that urgent messages, correction of entries or any other issues are dealt with urgently. It is important that Event organisers can communicate to Regions and Clubs quickly. This will also prevent delays and/or disappointments. Send details of the club or region: the Coordinator's Name, email address and mobile number to event@wakaama.co.nz - subject heading Club COORDINATOR. We will issue you with a club co-ordinators pass.

To keep up to date with information a WhatsApp channel has been created to receive updates. Here is the link to join this channel

<https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029VbC6ZamChq6ICjoyMw2i> or scan the attached QR code.



ONLINE MANAGERS' MEETING - **NEW**

For 2026, the Managers' Meeting for all race days will be held on Thursday January 9th at 7pm via ZOOM. It is compulsory for all Club and Area Coordinators to attend this session, and any additional Team Managers/coaches are welcome to attend too. Links for the meeting will be sent to those who have registered as a Club/Regional Coordinator as above.

SITE MAP

2026 Event Site Map



GATE 1
W1 Drop Off Only

GATE 2
Officials
Vendors
Media/VIP

GATE 3
Public Parking
Disability Parking
Drop Off Zone

1	Don Rowlands Centre	8	Hauora Hub	15	Waste/Recycling Station
2	Admin	9	ACC Whānau Zone	16	Gate 2 Parking
3	Marshalling Area	10	First Aid	17	Spectator Bank
4	Loading Bay/Waka Storage	11	Results Tent	18	Disability Parking
5	Loading Bay Shade	12	Prizegiving	19	Gate 3 Parking
6	Waka Wash Station	13	WANZ Merch Tent	20	Gate 3 Parking
7	W1 Waka Weighing	14	Vendor Lane		

KAITŪAO

We have a dedicated team of kaitūao (volunteers) for the entire week. We are very grateful for all those who have offered their time to volunteer during the week - KA NUI TE MIHI!

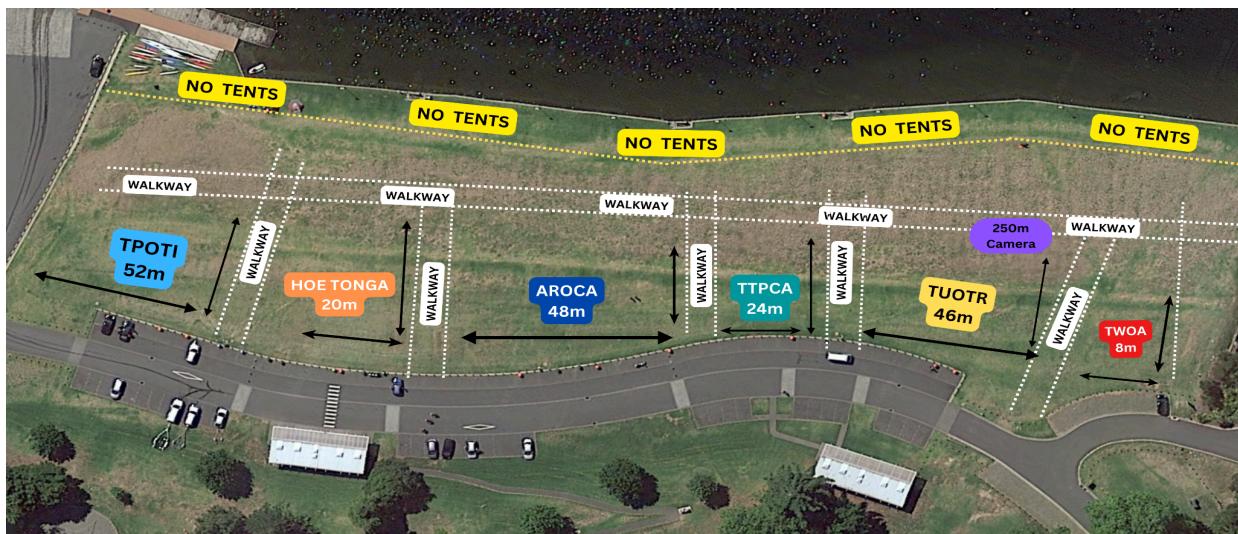
Please respect and follow their instructions at all times, and at the different areas of the event.

We kindly ask all regions to assist at the end of each day to remove the Waka from the water. Many hands make for light work, and an announcement will be made calling for your assistance each day.

WAKA USE

The W6 waka are kindly loaned by clubs and our Waka Fleet Partner Te Wānanga o Aotearoa. Any team causing damage to any W6/W12 waka at any time during the event will incur the cost of the repairs, which will be charged to the team's club. Please respect the Waka and treat them as you would if they were your own. All contracted W6 waka are used solely for the competition. No contracted waka may be taken or used for training purposes while contracted to the event. This non-permitted use will incur a fine to the offenders' club \$200 per incident.

REGIONAL TENT ALLOCATIONS AND SPECTATOR EMBANKMENT



All clubs must ensure their tents and marquees are set up within your **region's allocated area** and positioned in a way that maximises space and viewing for everyone.
(End closest to the tower)

TPOTI 52m	HTPWAA 20m	AROCA 48m	TTPCA 24m	TUOTR 46m	TWOA 8m
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The short side of all tents must face the lake.

A clearly marked area of the spectator bank must be kept **completely clear of tents and marquees** to allow for safe pedestrian access see map below. There will also be a marked exclusion zone along the lake edge (10 metres deep). **No tents may be erected within this area**, or behind the tower (on the grass), or in front of the Podium Café.

Any tents or pop-up structures placed on the sloping embankment near the medal dais **must be taken down for prize-giving each day**.

If your club is arranging a hire company to erect tents on your behalf, please ensure the hire company is aware of your **designated regional area**. If you have paid a company to erect your club/regional tent please ask them to check in at the admin area (Don Rowlands Centre) when they arrive onsite and before erecting any tents. They can also contact Aroha (021 809 845) or Lara (027 5484612) for assistance on the day.

No tents can be erected before midday, Friday 9 January.

Clubs are responsible for ensuring their tents are correctly placed. Any tents erected in the wrong area or set up in a way that does not maximise space, will be required to be removed. If no club representative can be located, event organisers or regional coordinators may remove the tent on your behalf. All tents must be securely weighted or pegged in a safe manner. Pegging must not create hazards for pedestrians.

ACC WHĀNAU ZONE

Once again ACC will host the ACC Whānau Zone for supporters, paddlers and wider whānau to relax and watch the racing, as well as trying rongoā (traditional Māori healing).

ACC will also have a site in the Hauora Hub for their supporting Active Recovery kaupapa. This campaign is focused on the benefits of active recovery after a low complexity injury like a sprain or strain. Staying active and connected can help you heal sooner - and get you back to what matters - like paddling!

MAUNGATAUTARI SANCTUARY - VISITS

Waka ama participants are invited to join mana whenua guide Bodie Taylor for an immersive Moa Hunter cultural experience at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari.

Step into the ancient ngahere, awaken your senses, and discover Māori bush lore as you walk the maunga that stands above Karāpiro.

- Dates: **Tue 13 – Fri 16 January**
- Time: **9am daily**
- Spaces: 10 per morning (limited) kai provided
- Registration starts: From Monday 12 January at the Waikato River Authority marquee

This kaupapa is proudly sponsored by the Waikato River Authority, connecting kaihoe to the restoration mahi linking awa and maunga.

**From the awa to the maunga
– explore Sanctuary Mountain
Maungatautari for free.**

[SEE DETAILS BELOW](#)



 **Waikato River Authority**

ELVERS RELEASE

Waikato River Iwi Tuna Collective will be releasing thousands of Baby Tuna (Eels) on **Monday 12th**, straight after the last race (around 3pm). This is an awesome kaupapa and we hope you can all come and join us as we send the elvers along on their journey with some aroha from the Waka Ama whānau.



MERCHANDISE DESIGN - By Ben Thomason - AUAHA

The design showcases the look at the water as it flows from the waka. It pays respect to the bodies of water that each waka and paddler must navigate in order to compete in this sport. It's a reminder that the whenua and taiao will be there long after the race is over. This is demonstrated by the repeating puhoro pattern down the center of the design. Specifically shaped in the shape of the wake behind a waka.

The sides of the design pay respect to whānau and friends, the supporters that line the banks in solidarity with the event, it allows us to reflect on the body of water and everyone who gives up their time to be at the kaupapa. This is shown via the taniko patterns on the ribs and sides of each shirt.

Lastly to create a connection with local mana whenua at Karāpiro: Ngāti Korokī Kahukura, and the work to promote the mahi they are doing with Tuna and elvers (baby eels) that can't migrate up the awa past the dam, based on the released 20,000 elvers during the event the tuna is shown in the middle the water and people pattern on each garment.



OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE

The official merchandise tent is located on vendor lane. Online orders made in December /January will be available for pick-up in the tent, from midday Sunday Jan 11th. Merchandise can also be ordered online via our partner's website Pure Athletic - 2026 Waka Ama Sprint Nationals, and delivered to your whare after the event.

Merchandise will go on sale on-site at the event from Sunday 11th January at midday.

RACE RULES

Please ensure you are familiar with all the race rules. The updated race rules can be found here <https://wakaama.co.nz/pages/read/1005147>

CLUB TROPHIES

The Trophies were carved by Matahi Whakataka-Brightwell who has been instrumental in the re-birth and growth of the sport of Waka Ama in Aotearoa.

Waka Ama Sprint Nationals Club Points Trophy

The first is a trophy that recognises club paddling excellence and achievement. Points will be accumulated throughout the week from all finals, and the club with the most points at the end of the week will be awarded this honour. In 2025 the trophy was again awarded to **Horouta Waka Hoe** who topped the club points for the 13th time in 14 years.



Ace Cuthers Memorial Club Spirit Award

The second trophy was carved and named in honour of Ace Cuthers who we sadly lost in 2010. It is the “Ace Cuthers Memorial Club Spirit Award”. It will be chosen by the Volunteers and Officials at the event. They will take into consideration the actions of the club throughout the week and their performance on and off the water. The winning club in 2025 was **Nga Hoe Horo**. As a club they embodied the values of Waka Ama throughout the event - Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga, Hauora, Tū Tangata. A true reflection of all working together as one.

Both trophies will be on display all week in the Don Rowlands Centre and will be awarded at the final medal presentation on Saturday 17th January.

KAITŪAO

We have a dedicated team of kaitūao (volunteers) for the entire week. We are very grateful for all those who have offered their time to volunteer during the week - **KA NUI TE MIHI!**

Please respect and follow their instructions at all times, and at the different areas of the event.

We kindly ask all regions to assist at the end of each day to remove the Waka from the water. Many hands make for light work, and an announcement will be made calling for your assistance each day.

WAKA FLEET PARTNER

Our loyal fleet partner Te Wānanga o Aotearoa will return to Vendor Lane this year, with a site next to the Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ merchandise tent. They will be running fun activities for rangatahi on Sunday and Monday, have a Chill Out Day on Tuesday and an Enrolment Day on Wednesday. You can prove your skills in a virtual race or try some of the other fun activities. Pop over to their stand and find out how you can make 2026 your year of learning something new and exciting.

For more information about their courses head to their website - <https://www.twoa.ac.nz/>

KIATO

This year, we will be using PAI BOA Kiato on all W6 Waka. This is to reduce the impact of the weight difference across wooden kiato. Thanks to the clubs and Te Wānanga o Aotearoa who own PAI Kiato for making them available. And thanks to PAI INDUSTRIES for loaning us the rest to make up the numbers.

To celebrate this change, we are giving away 2 sets of PAI BOA Kiato at the end of the week.



Every club's name will go in the draw to win 1 of 2 sets of Kiato, drawn at the prizegiving on Friday. Please note, the 2 lucky clubs will need to arrange to take the kiato home with them on Saturday.

<https://www.pai.supply/product-page/aluminium-boa-kiato> Ngā mihi PAI

2026 CORPORATE CHALLENGE

The annual Corporate Challenge event will be hotly contested by 24 teams on Friday January 16th. Each team is made up of 11-12 employees or contractors from an organisation; and has a mix of genders and abilities, and is limited in numbers of WAANZ affiliated club paddlers.

Teams can be viewed here: <https://www.wakaama.co.nz/racecalendar/entries/2304/event/418>

WASTE MINIMISATION

The Mighty River Domain is continuing to work towards operating as a “Zero Waste” site.

- There will be a large **Waste “Sort yourself” Minimisation Station** set up along Vendor Lane.
- All clubs, paddlers, and spectators are expected to take their recycling and waste to the station, and sort it yourselves.
- There will be large skip bins labelled for flattened cardboard and rinsed plastic bottles / cans.
- There will be large wheelie bins labelled for glass and food waste.
- There will be smaller wheelie bins labelled for general waste.
- All bins are to remain at the Sorting Station. **Please do not move them to your own club tent sites.**
- The station will be manned each day from 8am - 5pm (or until 30 mins after the last race), by a group of Kaitūao (Volunteers), to ensure patrons use the correct bins for their waste.
- Bins will be monitored regularly and emptied by venue staff as required
- There **will not** be the capacity to remove broken umbrellas, broken chairs or gazebos, chilly bins, or other large items, so please must take these with you when leaving
- Clubs will not be issued with black rubbish bags, or individual rubbish boxes.
- Please encourage your teams to bring a **refillable drink bottle** to fill from the water stations.
- Please encourage whanau to bring a **reusable keep cup for hot/cold drinks at vendor sites**
- Recycling stations will still be set up around the venue for glass, plastic, cans and food scraps

We remind everyone as kaitiaki to reduce, recycle and reuse as much as possible at the 2026 Waka Ama Nationals and work with the Mighty River Domain operating as a “Zero Waste” site.

EVENT PENALTIES

Non permitted use of waka	\$200 per incident
Damage to W6 /W12	\$cost of repairs
Team additions/withdrawals after 15th Dec	\$50 (per team)
ID Card orders on and after 5th Jan	\$17
Team /Individual withdrawals after 5th Jan	Full entry fee plus \$50 Penalty fee
New Paddler registration after 5th Jan	\$50 (per paddler)
Protests (per incident)	\$100 (refunded if protest upheld)
Fines (Support W1 paddler crossing finish line)	\$100
Appeals (per incident)	\$200 (refunded if protest upheld)

VENDORS

We have over 60 vendors and promoters who are going to be onsite for the week. In addition, some of the Cambridge businesses are offering discounts to the waka ama whanau. Please support them!

HEALTHY KAI

With the support of our vendors and whanau, we are continuing to follow this kaupapa to be a healthier event. There will be no fizzy drinks or deep fried food available to purchase onsite. Water stations are spread throughout the venue to re-fill your bottles during the week.

AIR TAHITI NUI PARTNERSHIP

Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ is excited to announce the partnership with Air Tahiti Nui will continue into 2026. Air Tahiti Nui, has a long-established history of supporting the growth of Va'a Polynesian outrigger canoe racing in the Islands of Tahiti.

As part of this partnership, the airline will serve as the preferred airline of Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ and feature at major events, working collaboratively with Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ to further develop the sport.



At the 2026 Waka Ama Sprint Nationals, we will have **2 x double tickets to Tahiti to give away**. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting opportunity!

For more info about this partnership and Air Tahiti Nui please visit the Air Tahiti Nui Website [here](#) and follow Air Tahiti Nui on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) *Mauruuru Roa Nui Air Tahiti Nui!*

SPORT INTEGRITY COMMISSION

With the Waka Ama Sprint Nationals approaching, it's crucial that every participant and support person understands their role in maintaining the integrity of Waka Ama.

The Clean Sport 101 course from Sport Integrity Commission Te Kahu Raunui provides essential information on your clean sport rights, responsibilities, and the doping control process. If you're interested in finding out more, you can start the course today at [SportTutor NZ](#)

HOUSE OF TRAVEL

House of Travel Events is the official travel partner for Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ. They manage seamless travel, gear, and accommodation for paddlers (kaihoe) and teams competing worldwide. In support of the many international Waka Ama opportunities, HoT Events offers packages, discounts and deals to Waka Ama clubs and members registering their travels through HoT Events.

WORLD CHAMPS SINGAPORE

HoT have made two trips to Singapore to source Hotel and Flight deals for the IVF World Sprint Championships 2026. If your club is planning to attend, go and see David Williams for all the information. He can be found in Vendor Lane near the WAANZ Merch marquee.

All Bookings to Singapore also go into a draw to win back your airfare and accommodation!

W1 WEIGHING PROCESS

IMPORTANT – PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH ALL W1 PADDLERS AND MANAGERS

- **W1 Waka (hull, ama, and Kiato) must all weigh a minimum of 14kgs (fully rigged)**
- We will not be weighing all W1 waka prior to the racing
- The first 3 Waka in each race will be weighed as they come off the water at the end of their race.
- Paddlers are responsible for ensuring that their waka has weights in it when they race, if it needs weighing up
- **It is the paddler's responsibility to ensure that the waka weighs 14kg when they race.**
- The scales will be set up prior to races during the W1 drop off times. Paddlers are encouraged to get their waka weighed on the official scales to check its weight prior to racing, if in doubt.

These are the ONLY W1 Drop off times: 4pm - 7pm - Tuesday January 13th

6am - 7am - Wednesday January 14th

- There is no restriction to the amount or type of W1 that can be used for this event.
- W1 must only be dropped off at the allocated times above
- Drop off access is via Gate 1, but there is no parking available in the area.
- Space will be marked by region. Please check in with your regional coordinator for your area
- Your W1 is your responsibility.
- Bring your own bungs for your waka and look after them.
- You must have a number holder attached to your waka
- A limited supply of number holders will be onsite, and can be purchased from the admin building for \$6 each. Please bring your own duct tape.
- Or Number Holders can be ordered online for \$6 - <https://waka-ama-nz-shop.myshopify.com/>
- There will be access to the race course for W1s **AFTER the prizegiving on Tuesday 16th, and not before 5pm – there will be no lake access on Wednesday morning.**

For W1 day, the loading bay bank will be marked out for each region. Regional coordinators are expected to monitor this space and ensure access ways are not blocked. Paddlers are responsible for storing W1 in allocated spaces without causing damage to any other waka.

W1 Waka Pick Up/Collection - All W1 waka not required for the Regional W1 250m events on Thursday, must be removed from Loading Bay after racing on Wednesday. First access will be granted from 3pm/the start of the Finals. Then on Thursday after the Regional W1 event, the rest of the W1 waka must also be uplifted from Loading Bay to clear the space. **Access will be granted from 4pm, at the end of the Dash events.**

ALL W1 WAKA MUST COMPLETE THE CHECK, CLEAN, DRY PROCESS, AND BE PRESSURE-WASHED AND TAGGED BEFORE THEY CAN LEAVE THE LOADING BAY.
PLEASE BE PATIENT AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE KAITŪAO

BIOSECURITY INFORMATION

As kaitiaki of our roto and awa we will continue to follow the **Check, Clean, Dry** steps for our Waka Ama events, to ensure we do not spread the freshwater clams or any other invasive species in our waterways. For more information on the clam, please visit the [Ministry for Primary Industries website](#)

All waka, hoe, life jackets/PFDs, clothing and footwear will need to be **Checked** and washed **Clean** of any visible debris before leaving Lake Karāapiro. There will be high pressure wash stations set up for all W1 and W6 waka, ama and kiato in the loading bay area - **ALL waka will be washed and tagged, before they are released from the Loading bay area.** Please do your part and follow the instructions of the Kaitūao. In addition, there will again be educational dunking bins for life jackets/PFDs, clothing, and footwear along the exit pathway.

All Paddlers must also follow the [Check, Clean and Dry process](#) for all clothing and PFDs on return to their whare.

STOP PESTS INVADING OUR LAKES AND RIVERS

CHECK
CLEAN
DRY

How to 'Check Clean Dry' when you move

Follow these steps when you move between lakes and rivers.

✓ Check – for what is visible

Remove any plant matter, mud or visible clams from your gear and leave it at the river or lake bank, or put it in the rubbish.

Drain all river or lake water from your boat and gear.

✓ Clean – for what is not visible

Blast your gear and craft with tap water onto grass, not into a stormwater system or drain.

For absorbent materials, use one of these treatments and refer to the manufacturer's instructions if needed:

- Soak in hot tap water (50°C to 55°C) for at least 5 minutes, or
- Soak in 5% bleach solution (5-litre mix = 250ml bleach in 4.75 litres water) for an hour, or
- Freeze till solid (overnight), or
- Soak in salt solution at 100ppt (parts per thousand) (5-litre mix = 500g salt in 5 litres warm water) for 4 hours.

For a full list of approved treatments, including options for situations where none of the above is suitable, refer to [Treatment options](#)

✓ Dry – to be sure

- **Gear:** allow gear to dry to touch, inside and out, then leave it to dry for at least 48 hours (2 days) before using again.
- **Watercraft:** dry areas inside the watercraft where water has pooled, for example with an old towel, and then leave the craft to dry for at least 48 hours (2 days). The hull of a watercraft will dry when towed.

These 'Check Clean Dry' steps will also help stop the spread of other freshwater pest species.

For more information: visit the [Ministry for Primary Industries website](#)



NGĀ KAITAUTOKO | OUR PARTNERS

Ngā mihi nui ki ngā kaitautoko!



National
Hauora Coalition



Te Wānanga
o Aotearoa



TE TAURA WHIRI
I TE REO MĀORI
MĀORI LANGUAGE COMMISSION



Lottery Grants Board
Te Puna Tahua
LOTTO FUNDS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY



Contact events@wakaama.co.nz

For all event information: [2026 Waka Ama Sprint Nationals Event Page](#)

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