

Tuesday 3 March 2026
Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ
Pānui - Coaching and Learning Update

Tēnā koutou,

Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ would like to inform our members, clubs, and regions of the following updates and developments regarding waka ama coaching and learning.

Puna Ako - Online Learning Platform

We have created an online learning platform to provide online learning courses and resources to support the development of your waka ama knowledge. This platform has been named *Puna Ako*, which in this context, refers to our learning hub. The *Puna Ako* is now live online and can be accessed via this link: <https://wakaama.epicsharing.com/>

Our online learning courses provide self-paced flexible learning opportunities to develop your waka ama knowledge and support coaches to provide quality waka ama experiences.

There are currently four foundation level courses available online via our *Puna Ako*; Coaching Basics, Paddling Basics, Steering Basics, and Rigging Basics.

You will need to sign up and create an account to enrol in the courses. Each course has an enrolment fee of \$10, payable at the time of enrolment. Access to courses are available in Aotearoa NZ only.

Coaching Pathway

We are currently working on re-developing our coaching pathway to ensure greater relevancy for our waka ama whānau. At present, the re-developed foundation level consists of five courses, each now available as an online course:

- Coaching Basics
- Paddling Basics
- Steering Basics
- Rigging Basics
- Waka Ama Safety (available via [Coastguard Courses](#))

These foundation level courses are suitable for all beginner and entry-level aspiring waka ama coaches, as well as current coaches wanting to maintain their coaching knowledge.

Coaching Certification

At the successful completion of each online course available, you will receive a digital completion certificate per course. There will no longer be an overall foundation level certificate issued once all courses are completed.

Coaching Course Database

As part of our transition to an enhanced learning platform, our previous database for completed foundation level coaching courses has been archived. We encourage those who have completed the

previous foundation level courses to refresh their knowledge and engage with the re-developed courses now available online.

Puna Ako Email

We have created a dedicated email for any coaching and learning queries. Please email puna.ako@wakaama.co.nz if you have any queries.

That concludes the current updates. We are excited to share these developments and learning opportunities with you all with the intention to support the delivery of quality waka ama experiences for all our whānau.

For any queries, please contact us.

Nā,

Puna Ako

Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ
puna.ako@wakaama.co.nz