



TE WAIARIKI PŪREA
CHARITABLE TRUST

PĀNUI 1



Waka Ama Secondary School Nationals

Monday 23 - Friday 27 March 2026

Lake Tikitapu, Rotorua



waka ama
Aotearoa New Zealand

IMPORTANT DATES

3 November 2025	Pānui 1 distributed and ENTRIES OPEN
31 January 2026	Event Updates & Pānui 1 re-distributed
Sunday 8 March 2026	ONLINE ENTRIES CLOSE
Friday 13 March 2026	Paddler Roster/Student Names CLOSE Schools will be invoiced from this date**
Friday 13 March 2026	Paddler ID cards close Photos must be uploaded by this date
Friday 20 March 2026	COMPULSORY - Race Briefing/Managers Meeting 7pm Online zoom.
Sunday 22 March 2026	2pm - 6pm at Lake Tikitapu - School tent set-up in the village - Onsite admin desk open for ID card collection and event payments
Monday 23 March 2026	7am - 9.00am 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) 9.30am - Pōwhiri at Lake Tikitapu 11am - 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 to be made to Waka Ama New Zealand. Full payment is to be made by the school before students can race.**

IMPORTANT LINKS AND CONTACTS

- Team Entry and Paddler ID registration OPEN NOW www.enternow.co.nz/wakaama
- Your school should have a login from last year. If not, please request one from:
events@wakaama.co.nz
- All finance queries please email accounts@wakaama.co.nz
- Any other queries: events@wakaama.co.nz

This event is sanctioned by School Sport New Zealand and must comply with all

[School Sport New Zealand Eligibility Regulations](#)

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 paddle in a maximum of 3 events, and only in one age group/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

Example: If a J16 paddler competes in the W6 J19 250m race, then they are ineligible to paddle the W6 J16 250m 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

- 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, are permitted to join with one another Single-sex school to make a W12 Mixed team

ADAPTIVE/PARA WAKA AMA

Waka Ama is a sport for all ages and abilities, and is inclusive to athletes with a disability. Students with a disability can be entered in your regular W6 school teams, as a team of adaptive paddlers, and/or as W1 paddlers in the Adaptive division. If your kura has lots of students with a disability keen to compete, and/or you require special dispensation, then please contact events@wakaama.co.nz

ELIGIBILITY

- All schools/students must meet the [School Sport New Zealand Eligibility Regulations](#) to participate in this event
- Competitors must be under 16 on the 1st of January 2026 to enter as a J16; **or**
- Under 19 on the 1st of January 2026 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.
- Single sex schools may form their own W12 teams **OR** combine with one other single sex school to form a Mixed W12 team
- Due to scheduling constraints, W1 paddlers cannot race W12

EVENT FEES

- **\$50 per paddler**** This includes an event ID Card.

** To increase participation levels, South Island Schools will again have Free entry for the 2026 event.

ID CARDS

Event ID Cards are required for racing and will be provided for all paddlers. School sets of ID cards can be picked up at the ID Card Collection point from **Sunday March 22nd 2pm-6pm at Lake Tikitapu**. There will be a charge of \$17 for any replacement ID or new paddler ID cards printed at the event.

ACCOUNTS

Each school will be able to download a preliminary invoice after the online entries have closed. Schools will be sent a XERO Invoice for payment on March 13th 2026. **Once the school has been invoiced, you must pay for all paddlers – regardless of withdrawals. You will also be charged for any additional paddlers added after invoicing.**

WATER SAFETY - CAPSIZE DRILL

As part of the entry process, all schools will be asked to confirm that all their teams have completed a safe capsizing drill prior to the event. This is compulsory, and something that should be practiced with the 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 life jackets should be worn for the duration of the drill.

RACE SCHEDULE

NOTE

The times for the start and finish of racing every day may change depending on the number of race entries, and weather conditions. We will update as entries close.

Sunday 22nd March – Set up Day

Start Time	Finish Time	
8:00am	6:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Event Team Venue Setup ● Lanes set and complete ● W6 Waka delivered and lashed
2:00pm	6:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Admin desk open for school payments and queries ● ID Card Collection ● School tents can set up in the Tent Village

Monday 23rd March – Racing Day One

Start Time	
10:00am	Pōwhiri
11:00am	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	All changes for Day 2 Racing need to be received prior to this time

Tuesday 24th 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
11:30am	Racing commences all divisions W6 500m Heats
12 noon	All changes for Day 3 Racing to be received prior to this time.

Wednesday 25th March – Racing Day Three

Start Time	
7:30am	First Race call
8:00am	Racing commences all divisions W6 250m Heats
11:00am	Racing commences all divisions W6 500m Semis
12 noon	All changes for Day 4 Racing to be received prior to this time

Thursday 26th March – Racing Day Four

Start Time	
7:30am	First Race call
8:00am	Racing commences All divisions W6 250m Semis
12:00pm	Racing commences all divisions W6 500m Finals All changes for Day 5 Racing to be received prior to this time
Approx 2:30pm	W6 500m Prizegiving

Friday 27th March – Racing Day Five

Start Time	
8:30am	First Race call
9:00am	RESERVE RACE MORNING for any weather delays
9:00am	Racing Commences all divisions W6 250m - FINALS
Approx 11:00am	W6 250m and Team Awards Prizegiving

EVENT INFORMATION

PŌWHIRI

All Manuhiri are asked to assemble in the terrace area 30 mins prior to the Pōwhiri start time. **The pōwhiri will start at 10am sharp on Monday 23 March.** We ask that the Schools with the Taonga from last year situate themselves at the front of the Pōwhiri procession. All Rotorua kura are requested to assemble behind the paepae.

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 and Emergency care.
- There is no capacity on-site to provide tape and/or strapping services for paddlers.
- Please remind your students to bring their EpiPens and Asthas inhalers should they require them, and ensure these are always accessible.

WAKA AVAILABILITY

W6 waka will be provided for the event by the Event organizers.

All W1 paddlers will need to supply their own W1 waka, and must also have a number holder taped to the top side of the nose/bow. **W1 Waka will also need to meet the MPI Biosecurity requirements for the Rotorua Lakes area.** Further information will be distributed to all schools pre-event.

FOOD AND WATER

There will be high-volume water stations with taps available for filling water bottles. PLEASE, ensure students bring their own drinking bottles. There will also be food and retail vendors onsite.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed daily to make the week run smoothly. A shout-out for school and whanau volunteers will occur in term 1, 2026.

SMOKE AND VAPE FREE

The entire venue, including parking areas and the spectator banks is SMOKEFREE /AUHI 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

A full range of merchandise will be advertised and sold online early in Term 1 2026. Schools and students are encouraged to pre-order online, and collect it pre-packaged at the event.

There will be a smaller selection of merchandise for sale at the event, but with limited styles, sizes, and colours due to space. Eftpos will be available on-site for purchases.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TEAMS

We welcome schools from overseas to take part in our event, as it is a great way for our rangatahi to meet paddlers from other countries. We also understand that this event is a New Zealand Secondary School National Championships.

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.

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 Pura Trust, Waka Ama, and the National Secondary School Event.

RACE ETIQUETTE

Te Pou 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
1. **Throws paddles in the air** when they have completed their race; OR
2. **Deliberately fly the ama of the waka**

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

NZ SECONDARY SCHOOL KAYAKING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ and Te Waiariki Pura Trust are proud to support Canoe Racing NZ host their 3rd NZSS Kayaking National Championships at Lake Tikitapu, on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd March. Kayakers from all over New Zealand will represent their school as they participate and compete for national secondary school titles in an inclusive and paddler-focused event. All equipment is provided to allow more students to take part, if any new schools or paddlers are keen to be involved.

TRAFFIC CONTROL AND PARKING MANAGEMENT - **** NEW FOR 2026****

All parking and traffic control across the week will be under strict traffic management protocols. There will be a Drop-off zone available at the top entrance to the Village for tents, paddling gear, chilly bins, etc. Then all cars and school vans/buses will be directed to park in the managed area across the road from the Tent Village. There will be controlled road crossings at all times for all competitors and spectators both to and from the car park area.

There is to be NO parking on the grass verges and sides of the roads at any time.

DISABILITY DROP OFF POINT AND CAR PASSES

This year there will be a designated disability drop off zone for those with authorized disability permits. PLEASE NOTE, this is a drop off zone **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 Waka Ama NZ issued car passes will be permitted vehicular access to the ramp area.

RECYCLING AND RUBBISH BINS

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

****Please ensure you are managing the rubbish in your area, and taking it daily to the bins provided.**

TENT VILLAGE INFORMATION

TEAM TENTS

Schools are encouraged to set up tents in the Village to store their gear in, and provide respite for paddlers from the elements. These sites are not located for ideal 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 are permitted**).
- All school tents will be located on the area boarded by the playground, mobile toilet block and fencing. Note: depending on the early summer weather, this area could be a mixture of gravel & grass - **please bring your own ground cover and matting** .
- **All schools must check in with the Village Coordinator on arrival to be shown a site.**

Due to participant and spectator safety, tents will be NOT 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 admin building
- Next to the vendors

School Tent site sizes will be allocated 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 pop-up size tent
- 13 to 24 Students = Equivalent of two 6x3m
- 25 to 40 Students = Equivalent of four 6x3m

Please note: If your tent area is larger than 100m³, you will need to apply for a special permit from the Rotorua Lakes Council.

- **Tents must not be erected before 2pm Sunday 22 March.** Any tents erected prior 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 - **** NEW FOR 2026****

Due to increased participant numbers, dry ground conditions, and distance to emergency services there is to be **NO BBQs, gas bottles, generators or cooking in the Tent Village this year.** After conducting a post-event review, it was determined that the risk of explosions and/or fires was high due to the condensed nature of the Tent Village. We have therefore decided to ban this equipment, to ensure we are keeping our rangatahi and whanau safe

VILLAGE REMINDERS

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

2026 SECONDARY SCHOOL WAKA AMA CHAMPIONSHIPS - REGATTA RULES

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.