



Event Pānui

Auckland Region W1 Sprint Trials

7th & 8th November 2026

Killarney Park - Lake Pupuke,

Takapuna Auckland

Tēnā koutou e ngā kaihoe o te rohe o Tāmaki Makaurau.

Anei ngā kōrero whakamārama mō ngā whakataetae takitahi ā-rohe. AROCA Regional W1 Sprint Championships.

This is the pānui for the event. Further updates will be provided to clubs and kaihoe leading up to the event through social media and an online club briefing.

EVENT SUMMARY

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

This is the qualifying event for W1 paddlers wanting to represent the AROCA region at the WAANZ Sprint Nationals Championships in 2027. Medals will be awarded to podium finishers.

Entries are to be made through the Waka Ama NZ website and will close at 11.59pm, 20th October 2026. Paddlers can only enter into one age category.

Please Note: this event is a regional qualifying event and only paddlers from the AROCA region member clubs are eligible to enter.

KEY DATES & LOGISTICS

Race days: Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th of November 2026

Entries Open: 8am Sunday October 4th (after LDNs, and when the new season starts)

Entries Close: 11.59pm Tuesday 20th October 2026

Please Note: WAANZ affiliation for 2026/2027 season starts 1st October 2026. All Paddlers and Clubs must be affiliated for the new season prior to the regionals event.

LATE ENTRIES

In 2025, AROCA received several requests for late entries. For 2026, any entries received up to 48 hours after the closing date (11.59pm 22nd October) will incur a \$100 late entry fee per paddler. **ALL LATE ENTRY REQUEST MUST COME FROM CLUB ADMINS & NOT INDIVIDUAL PADDLERS**



After **22nd October**, any further requests for a late entry will need to be received in writing directly from Club Representatives with a valid reason. Acceptance will be at the discretion of the AROCA Race Committee (the organising committee for this event) and will incur the late entry fee per paddler.

W12 SELECTION PROCESS

In 2025 AROCA changed the selection process for the W12 Regional event and was well supported. In 2026 the W12 regional team will be made up of the 12 fastest individual times recorded in the **'semi-finals'** across both the J19 and Premier Men and Women divisions in the **250m Dash events**.

The top 12 paddlers will be selected to represent Auckland in the W12 Regional division.

How the Individual Dash Representatives will be selected:

The finals of the 250m dash will be used to determine the 2 fastest qualifiers in each of the following divisions to represent **AROCA**

- **J19 Men**
- **Premier Men**
- **J19 Women**
- **Premier Women**

To balance fairness with the need to complete the regional competition within two days, the 250m semi-finals have been chosen as the benchmark for the regional 12 selection. Running these races at the same time on the second day will help ensure all paddlers compete in similar weather conditions.

W1 - RACE DAY INFORMATION

As outlined in WAANZ update 3 to the 2027 Sprint Nationals, support paddlers will no longer be permitted in the Intermediate division at regionals. This aligns with the expectation that athletes competing at a national championship level have developed the capability and experience to manage race conditions safely without additional on-water support.

NGĀ KAIWHAKAHAERE KARAPU – W1 Club Coordinators

Each club is required to register a designated W1 Club coordinator, this person is responsible for all club communication and must be present on race days.

KAITŪAO - Volunteers

Clubs are required to provide at least **4 kaitūao** (volunteers) and to complete the AROCA W1 event volunteer form so we can create a roster/schedule as per selection of volunteer tasks to ensure this event is a success.

Many hands make for light work, and an announcement will be made calling for your assistance each day. Please always respect and follow their instructions so that our regional event is successful and enjoyable for all.

W1 Drop off dates and times

- There are no restrictions to the amount or type of W1 that can be used for this event.
- Drop off access – please refer to the event venue map with ‘Drop off zone’.
Due to permit conditions, we are unable to park inside the Killarney grounds this year. Instead, a securely fenced area will be arranged for waka storage through the two-day event. This will be locked and monitored by security and opened daily from 6am. On Friday, designated hours will be available for waka drop-off (4pm-8pm). The park will also be open from 6am on both Saturday and Sunday for waka drop-off only.
Please note that long-term vehicle parking is strictly prohibited in this field.
- Your W1 is your responsibility
- You must have a number holder attached to your waka
- The drop off zone 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 waka not marked will not be permitted to race.

Pre-Race

It is your responsibility to ensure that your waka weighs a minimum of 14kg when you race.

- W1 Waka (hull, ama, and Kiato) must all weigh a minimum of 14kgs (fully rigged)
- We will not be weighing all W1 Waka before the racing – 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.
- Paddlers are responsible for ensuring that their waka has weights in it when they race, if it needs weighing up.

Post-Race

W1 Weighing Process

- The first 3 waka across the finish line in each race will be weighed by an assigned kaitūao when they come off the water at the end of their race. This will be for heats and finals.
- The assigned kaitūao will inform paddlers as they return to loading bay if they need to be weighed.
- If any of these wakas weigh less than 14kg this will be noted and the Club W1 Co-ordinator for that paddler will be called for.
- The waka will be reweighed and verified by the Race Director – if the waka is less than 14kg they will be disqualified and the results will be updated to reflect the disqualification.

AGE DIVISIONS & RACE EVENTS

All age criteria for divisions are outlined in the Waka Ama New Zealand Race Rules, rule 24.1. Age is taken as reaching the specified age in 2027 (i.e., next year).

This enables you to race in the same division as you will at the coming 2027 Sprint Nationals, January 2027.

For information visit: Please check age criteria at: [Waka Ama Age Division Checker](#)

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+ Adaptive	Men & Women

RACE FEES		
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/Adaptive	N/A	\$25

ONLINE ENTRIES & PAYMENT

- All online entries for the 2026 W1 AROCA Regional Event are to be entered via the Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ online entry system.
- All entries are to be completed through your affiliated Club Co-ordinator or Club Administrators. Contact them to process your paddler entry and ensure that you are affiliated for the new 2026/2027 season.
- **Entries close at 11.59pm Tuesday 20th October 2026.** (Refer to above 'Late Entries')
- It is imperative that all race entrants are affiliated and verified members of an affiliated AROCA club.
- WAANZ clubs, the new season starts 1st October 2026.
- New paddlers are required to have finalised their WAANZ ID registration for verifications requirements.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Volunteer lead and coordination - **Ayla Jacobs** (Regional Coordinator) 022 3683180
- All enquiries please email: admin@aroca.co.nz

EVENT SCHEDULE

7th November - Int, J16, J19 (500m & Dash Heats), Golden Masters, M75, M80
First Race will commence at 8:30am, lane draw scheduled for release after entries close.
All Heats Semi's and 500m Final for J19 to be run on this day.

8th November - J19 Dash Final, U23, Open, Senior Masters, Masters
First Race will commence at 8:30am, lane draw scheduled for release after entries close.
J19 Dash Final is also scheduled for this day alongside the Open Dash Final.

RACE COURSE

PAPA RĒHI - Race Course

The Race course will be set up by the AROCA Race Committee, they will align the lanes to WAANZ W1 course layout.



NGĀ TAE HAKI - Flag Colours

LANE	COLOUR OF FLAG	
1	Blue	
2	Yellow	
3	Orange	
4	Green	
5	Pink	

We will use the photo finish system to time races and will adhere to the flag colours to support our decisions on results. We will use **small flags** this will avoid any interference with the camera's view of the finish line.

NGĀ TURE RĒHI - Race Rules

All Paddlers, W1 Club Co-ordinators, Coaches and Managers must be familiar with the Waka Ama Aotearoa NZ Race rules. The updated race rules can be found here [WAANZ Race Rules](#)

TIMITANGA RĒHI - Race Starts

Competitors must be present at the start line for their race as shown on the programme. Starting signals shall be given regardless of absentees.

The order of the start is as follows:

- Raising of the white flag indicates the race is in the aligner's control and competitors should move up to the false start line.
- Raising of the red flag by the starter indicates to paddlers that they must head to the start, stop, hold and align.
- Raising of the green flag by the starter indicates the start of the race.
- If the starter raises a black flag during the starting procedure, this indicates that an infraction exists and the bow of at least one waka 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 still be raised), the race will be started by the raising of the green flag, resulting in the disqualification of those waka that were infringing at the time the green flag was raised.

Please refer to diagram below:

START RULE EXPLANATION

Every race will approach the false start line and start line the same.

The **WHITE FLAG** will be used to signal to the Waka they are to proceed to the false start line.

Once the Waka are aligned on the false start line the **RED FLAG** will be raised to proceed to the start line.

If during this time at least the bow of one waka is over the start line – the **BLACK FLAG** will be raised. (This allows for waka to correct themselves if they find they are over the start line).

If the waka are corrected the **BLACK FLAG** will be lowered and the **GREEN FLAG** will start the race.

If after a reasonable amount of time the waka have not been corrected the **BLACK FLAG** will remain raised and the **GREEN FLAG** will then start the race.



RĀRANGI WHAKAMUTUNGA - Finish line

As per the race rules: 13.3 *The start line and finish line shall be aligned by the markers for the innermost and outermost lane. The official start and finish lines may be moved forward or backward of the flagged line to avoid flag interference.*



The Official finish line is not the line of flagged buoys. The Official finish line is the Photo Finish line which is positioned before the flagged buoy line.



The finish lane is the small flags. The small flags are used to ensure the flags do not interfere with the view for the photo finish camera.

PROTESTS

TAUTOHE – Protests

- Only the W1 Club Co-ordinator can lodge a protest on behalf of their paddler.
- All protests must be lodged using the protest form at the Administration tent.
- Note – you must be sure your protest is necessary, and your reasons are valid.
- The protest form is to be completed in full.
- The protest form must be submitted in writing no longer than 15 minutes after the result was posted on the Results Board.
- The cost of lodging a protest is \$100.00. This must be paid with the protest form at the Administration tent.
- The protest is actioned, and information is gathered about the protest.
- The information is provided to the Race Director who checks it against video footage, and detailed information is provided by necessary officials.
- Official video footage is being used at the event. Individual phone or video recordings of the races will not be used in protest queries.
- The Race Director will make the decision based on the facts and evidence presented.
- The response is provided back to the W1 Club Co-ordinator.
- If the protest is upheld, the fee is refunded, and the necessary action is taken.
- If the protest is declined, the results remain the same.
- The protest is signed off and filed.

Protest Queries

- If you wish to query a DQ, you may do so.
- You may ask 1 or 2 questions on the DQ. (Every effort will be made to provide valid reasons for the DQ)
- If you do not find the answer suitable, you will be asked to lodge a protest following the above process.

WĀ TUKU TAONGA PRIZEGIVING

Medals will be awarded to podium finishers who are representing AROCA region at the WAANZ Sprints National Championships in 2027 ie: 🏆 1st, 🥈 2nd, 🥉 3rd
Prizegiving will be located behind the Administration tent area.

Please ensure that W1 paddlers are in their club uniforms to accept medals.

Race rule 4.4 To maintain the dignity and solemnity of the presentation ceremony, the competitors receiving medals shall wear their approved club uniform

Medal presentations will take place at the end of the last race of the day has concluded.
Please stay and support medal recipients.



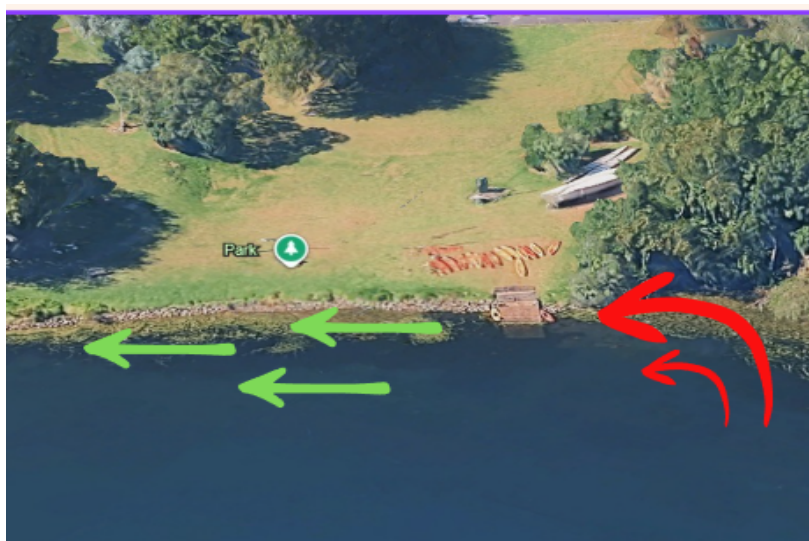
Formal Announcement of the W12 AROCA Representatives will be announced a week after the W1s Regional Event has taken place.



MAHERE WHAKATAETAE EVENT MAP

The following maps outline the event set up.

Loading Bay



Vendors & Amenities



Drop off waka zone & overnight security





PARKING

TŪNGA WAKA - Car Parking

Parking locations will be available. Specific maps and locations will be updated closer to the event and communicated to clubs and paddlers.

Large vehicles will be permitted to drop off passengers and gear each morning dependant on the start times for racing. There is NO parking within the race boundaries of the venue. All parking is under Auckland council management you will need to read the signs and park accordingly.

Tikanga Mō Te Wāhi- Rules for venue

WHAREPAKU - Toilets

Portaloos will be stationed around 30 metres away from the Vendor area. Please refer to the event venue map for more details. There is also an onsite public toilet near the café. If there are any issues, please notify the Administration tent who will liaise with the Volunteer Co-ordinators.

WAIPIRO KORE, AUAAHI KORE, VAPE KORE - No drinking, smoking and vaping please.

Our venue is drug, alcohol, vape and smokefree. Please respect our whānau and whenua. You will be asked to leave the venue if the rules are not followed.

KORE KURĪ - No dogs

The entire Killarney Park is a 'DOG FREE' area.

ME TIAKINA TE WĀHI - Respect the venue.

Please pass on to your club members, whānau and supporters that we must respect the venue. Nobody wants to see any violence, tagging or vandalism and we would like to leave the venue the way we found it.

WĀHI HAUORA - First Aid

First Aid is on-site at the venue. They will be located behind the administration tent. Please refer to the event venue map.

MANAAKITIA Ō TAONGA - Take care of your stuff

Please look after your belongings. The AROCA Race Committee/organisers of this event are not responsible for your tent locations or your personal belongings. If you have any issues please inform our volunteers at the Administration tent.

NGĀ TAPUTAPU KA NGARO | Lost Property

If you find any lost property, please return it to the Administration tent. If you are looking for something we are happy to make announcements for you.

RĀPIHI ME TE HANGARUA - Rubbish and Recycling



AROCA Race Committee is working towards operating as a “Zero Waste” site in partnership with the event sponsors.

- There will be a rubbish and recycling station located by the main toilet block.
- We encourage all clubs, paddlers and supporters if the stations (bins) are full please take your rubbish and recycling items home.
- We encourage your paddlers and whānau to bring refillable drink bottles to fill from the water station.

RARAUNGA RĒIHI - Race Results

The W1 results will be located on the board in the ‘Administration tent’ as per the site map. Results will be posted as soon as the Photo Finish and officials have processed results.

Please DO NOT remove results from the Board.

NGĀ RARAUNGA IPURANGI - Online Results

If you have an IPAD or Phone with internet access, you will be able to access the online live results for the 2026 W1 AROCA regional event. The link is <http://liveresults.co.nz/>

KAI ORA - Healthy Kai

As in previous years there will be no fizzy drinks or deep-fried food available on-site from our vendors. We will have several kai/coffee vendors onsite.

KŌRIPO MARAMA - Bad Weather, Lake Weed

Should we experience unsafe conditions (e.g. high winds, fog) or extreme lake weed, we will halt all racing until those conditions have passed. This is the call of the Race Director. There will be NO racing in the dark.

Further updates will be provided through clubs and social media and an online viewing for the W1 Club Coordinators as we lead up to our regional event.