



TPOTI V1 Qualification & Waitlisting Policy for Sprint Nationals

Te Puku o Te Ika Region | Waka Ama New Zealand

1. Purpose & Scope

This policy aims to balance competitive fairness with inclusion, ensuring all paddlers are treated equitably based on their commitment and performance.

This policy outlines the process by which paddlers from the Te Puku o Te Ika (TPOTI) region qualify for the V1 events at the Waka Ama New Zealand National Sprint Championships. It applies to both paddlers and the TPOTI Race Committee responsible for oversight.

2. Definitions

TPOTI: Te Puku o Te Ika Outrigger Canoe Association - Regional Body.

W1/V1: Single paddler outrigger canoe races.

WANZ: Waka Ama New Zealand.

Quota: Number of qualifying spots allocated to TPOTI by WANZ.

Waitlist: List of paddlers eligible to replace quota paddlers who withdraw.

Race Committee: The TPOTI-appointed group responsible for administering the W1/V1 qualification and waitlisting process. The committee will be confirmed annually and consist of the Race Director, the Results Lead and a representative from Waka Ama New Zealand.

Non-Attendee: *A kaihoe (Paddler) who is unable to attend the Regional Te Puku o Te Ika Sprint Event for specific reasons outside of their control.*

3. Overview of the Qualification Process

TPOTI quota positions for V1 events are determined by performance in the finals held at the TPOTI Regional Sprint Championship. Only those who make the final are eligible for seeding or waitlisting.

4. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, a paddler must:

- Be a current member of a TPOTI-affiliated club.
- Be of the correct age division for the event.
- Register and pay for the TPOTI Regional Sprint Championship (or, in cases of non-attendance, complete the formal request process).

5. Qualification at Regional Sprints

- Paddlers compete in heats leading to finals.
- Final placements determine qualification order for the WANZ quota.
- There are no automatic qualifications based on previous national performance.

6. Waitlisting Process

Waitlist Priority Summary

1. Finalists (ranked by final race time)
2. Non-finalists (ranked by best heat time)
3. Non-attendees (approved under exceptional circumstances)

A. Attended Regionals

- Paddlers who made the final but did not secure a quota spot may request to be placed on the waitlist.
- These paddlers are ranked above non-attendees.
- Waitlist ranking for these paddlers will be determined by their **race time** in the final, **not** by the order in which their waitlist request is received.

B. Non-Finalists

In the event that all eligible finalists have been offered quota positions and additional spots remain unfilled, the Race Committee may draw from the pool of **non-finalist paddlers** who competed at Regionals.

- Selection will be based on **fastest race time**, regardless of heat placement.
- Non-finalists will be placed **below all finalists** on the waitlist, even if their race time is faster than a finalist's.
- Non-finalists will be seeded **ahead of non-attendance** waitlist paddlers.

This ensures that paddlers who progress to the finals are recognised for their performance under equal conditions and competitive pressure. Heat times, while used for non-finalist ranking, are not equivalent to finals outcomes.

C. Non-Attendance - Paddlers must submit the Non-Attendance Waitlist Request Form by **completing the non-attendance waitlist form**. Under no circumstances will a non-attendance waitlisted paddler be placed ahead of a paddler who attended Regionals and made the final.

A non-refundable fee equal to the Regional entry fee must be paid as set out in the Paanui.

These paddlers are placed on the waitlist **after** both finalists and non-finalist competitors.

D. Exceptional Circumstances

The TPOTI Race Committee may exercise discretion only if:

- The paddler was a **finalist** at the **previous year's** Sprint Nationals.
- Performance evidence supports inclusion.
- Under no circumstances will a non-attendance waitlisted paddler be placed ahead of a paddler who attended Regionals and made the final.

7. Withdrawals and Replacements

- Quota paddlers must notify TPOTI immediately if they are unable to attend Nationals.
- Withdrawals must be made in writing to **sprints@tpoti.co.nz**
- The next eligible paddler on the waitlist will be offered the vacated spot.
- If the quota is not filled through the above, TPOTI may select any other eligible paddler who:
 - Attended the Regional trial.
 - Is of the correct age for the division.

8. Paddler Responsibilities

- Paddlers must arrange their own V1 waka.
- All waka must meet WANZ weight requirements (minimum 14kg) and be verified at weigh in. Refer to Paanui for Canoe Weigh in times.
- Paddlers are responsible for additional weights and V1 lane number holders.
- Paddler must accompany the waka when it is being weighed before and after racing
- Pre-weighing is available on Friday prior to the event.
- Paddlers must ensure their V1 waka is not being used in races scheduled within two races before or after their own event. Sharing waka across closely timed races is strongly discouraged, as it may result in a paddler missing their race. The event will not be paused or delayed to wait for waka, and with three races running simultaneously on the water, careful planning by each paddler is essential to avoid conflicts and ensure timely availability of equipment.

9. Race Committee Responsibilities

- Final results will be confirmed by the Race Committee.
- Ensure accurate timing and ranking of heats and finals.
- Verify final results and confirm quota placements.

- Maintain an up-to-date waitlist.
- Notify paddlers of changes or available spots promptly.

10. Discretionary Powers

In cases not addressed within this policy or where ambiguity exists consultation will be sought with appropriate parties.

11. Contact Information

For enquiries, submissions, and withdrawals: **Email:** sprints@tpoti.co.nz

Reviewed and Endorsed by:

Te Puku o Te Ika Outrigger Canoe Association Ltd

Date of Approval:

Version: 1.0 – Effective from 1st October 2025