



250m W1 DASH

Trial Qualification Process

As we all know, qualifying for Nationals from 2028 will look different for our paddling whānau.

As a step towards this change, this year at Regionals TPOTI will be trialling a new qualification process for our 250m Dash.

The change will see qualification begin at club level, with clubs running 250m time trials for kaihoe wanting to enter the Dash. Kaihoe who meet the qualifying standard can be submitted, with the fastest verified times in each division earning a place on the start line at Regionals.

For TPOTI, this is about putting our best foot forward as a region.

The aim is simple: to support our clubs to identify and put forward their strongest kaihoe, create a clear, fair and transparent pathway to regional representation, and ultimately put our strongest regional representation forward at Nationals.

As part of this kaupapa, there will be no entry fee for the 250m Dash. This is one way TPOTI can give back to our paddling whānau and support our clubs and kaihoe as we continue to strengthen our regional pathway.

Key dates

Date & Time	What happens
21 November, 11.59pm	Dash entries close. All 250m Dash entries and required trial information must be submitted via the link within the online entries on the Waka Ama NZ Club Administrator Login.
23 November, 11.59pm	Regional qualifiers announced. The Qualification Review period opens at the same time.
25 November, 11.59pm	Qualification Review period closes. Any request for a Qualification Review must be received by this time.
27 November, 11.59pm	Qualification results confirmed. Any Qualification Reviews will be completed and clubs directly affected by a decision will be advised. Final Regional Dash qualifiers will then be confirmed.

The Qualification Review period runs for exactly 48 hours, from 5.00pm on 23 November to 5.00pm on 25 November.

What are the qualifying times?

Division	Qualifying Time
J19 Women	1:35.00 or faster
Open Women	1:35.00 or faster
J19 Men	1:25.00 or faster
Open Men	1:25.00 or faster

These times have been set after reviewing results from last year's Regional Dash races.

Meeting the qualifying time makes a kaihoe eligible to be entered. If more than 24 eligible times are received in a division, the 24 fastest verified times will qualify for Regionals.

Running your club time trial

Clubs can run their own time trials. To keep things as fair and consistent as we can across the rohe, all trials need to meet the same requirements:

Requirement	What is required
Distance	250m on an accurately measured course.
Water	Flat, non-flowing water. Tide, current or other water movement must not provide an advantage.
Waka	W1 waka must meet the applicable race requirements, including minimum weight requirements.
Start & Finish	A stationary race start with a clear starting signal. Time stops when the bow crosses the clearly identified 250m finish line.
Attempts	Kaihoe may complete a maximum of three attempts. Both times must be recorded and the fastest valid time will be used.

Requirement	What is required
Conditions	Trials should be run in calm or light conditions and not where wind or water conditions provide a clear performance advantage.
Timing	Record times to 1/100th of a second (two decimal places). For example, 1 minute 24.37 seconds is recorded as 1:24.37.
Trial Record	Record the date, venue, waka type, waka weight, weather/water conditions and three trial times.
Verification	The completed trial record must be checked and signed by the Club Captain.

Where possible, we strongly encourage clubs in the same area to run their trials together. It is a great way to create more consistency around course measurement, timing and conditions, and a good opportunity to get our paddling whānau together.

- By signing the trial record, the Club Captain is confirming that the trial was run according to these requirements and that the information submitted is accurate.
- TPOTI may contact a club if we need to clarify any information before accepting a qualifying time.

How do we enter?

The process is straightforward:

- 1. Trial:** Clubs run their 250m time trials.
- 2. Verify:** The Club Captain checks and signs the trial record.
- 3. Enter:** The Club Manager/Administrator completes the 250m Dash Entry Form for eligible kaihoe and attaches the verified trial record.
- 4. Submit:** Entries are submitted by the advertised closing date.
- 5. Qualify:** Once entries close, all verified eligible times are ranked within each division. The 12 fastest in each division qualify for the Regional Dash.

Clubs will then be notified of their successful qualifiers.

What happens if there is a tie?

If identical trial times affect the **24th qualifying position** in a division, the kaihoe's second recorded trial times will be used as the tie-break.

If the second recorded times are also identical, the tied kaihoe will complete **one additional verified 250m time trial** before a specified deadline. The fastest time from this additional trial will determine the final qualifying position.

Once qualifiers are announced

Once the Regional qualifiers are announced, clubs will have 48 hours to request a Qualification Review where there are valid grounds to do so.

The separate Qualification Review Process sets out the grounds for review, the information or evidence required, how a review will be considered, and when qualification results become final.

The full Qualification Review Process should be read alongside this document.

What happens at Regionals?

There will be eight divisional heats, each division will race 24 kaihoe:

J19 Women | Open Women | J19 Men | Open Men

From there we move into one combined Women's Final and one combined Men's Final, with 12 kaihoe in each.

Who makes the final?

To make sure both divisions have the opportunity to race for their National places while still rewarding the fastest performances, progression works like this:

Women's Final	Men's Final
Fastest 4 J19 Women	Fastest 4 J19 Men
Fastest 4 Open Women	Fastest 4 Open Men
Next fastest 4 times across both women's heats, regardless of division	Next fastest 4 times across both men's heats, regardless of division

That gives us 12 kaihoe in each final.

How are our National representatives selected?

The final is the selection race.

From the Women's Final, the first 2 J19 Women and first 2 Open Women across the finish earn selection to represent TPOTI at Nationals.

From the Men's Final, the first 2 J19 Men and first 2 Open Men across the finish earn selection to represent TPOTI at Nationals.

Heat times do not carry over for National selection. It comes down to the final.

What about the Regional W12? How will this be selected?

The Regional W12 Women and Regional W12 Men teams will be selected using times recorded during the Regional 250m Dash heats.

- The 12 fastest women's times across all J19 Women and Open Women heats will make up the Regional W12 Women team.
- The 12 fastest men's times across all J19 Men and Open Men heats will make up the Regional W12 Men team.

This means W12 selection is based on performance across the heats, rather than the make-up of the combined Dash final, providing a consistent selection opportunity for kaihoe across the J19 and Open divisions.

The 250m Dash combined finals will not be used to determine selection for the Regional W12 teams.

What about the waitlist for the 250m Dash?

A National representation waitlist will be formed for each division after the Regional Dash.

Kaihoe who make the final but are not selected for Nationals will sit first on the waitlist, in their finishing order within their division in the final.

Kaihoe who do not progress to the final will then be added in order of their Regional heat times, fastest to slowest.

If a selected representative later withdraws, declines their place or is unable to compete, the place will be offered to the next eligible kaihoe on the waitlist for that division.

We expect to learn from the process and refine it where needed. After Regionals, we'll ask clubs and paddlers for feedback on what worked, what didn't, and what we can improve.

For now, it's time to get those trials underway and find our fastest kaihoe.



TE PUKU O TE IKA
SPRINT CHAMPS
WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY

250M DASH

CLUB TIME TRIAL REQUIREMENTS

TO QUALIFY FOR REGIONALS

FAIR. CONSISTENT. FOR OUR WHĀNAU.



DISTANCE

250m on an accurately measured course.



WATER CONDITIONS

Flat, non-flowing water. Tide, current or other water movement must not provide an advantage.



WAKA

W1 waka meeting the applicable race requirements, including minimum weight.



RACE START

A stationary race start with a clear starting signal.



FINISH

Time stops when the bow of the waka crosses the clearly identified 250m finish line.



ATTEMPTS

Maximum of **two attempts**. Both attempts must be recorded and the fastest valid time will be used.



CONDITIONS

Run in calm or light conditions and not where wind or water conditions provide a clear performance advantage.



TIMING

Times are to be recorded to **1/100th of a second** (two decimal places). For example, 1 minute 24.37 seconds is recorded as **1.24.37**.



TRIAL RECORD

The trial record must include the date, venue, waka type, waka weight, weather/water conditions and both times.



CLUB CAPTAIN VERIFICATION

The Club Captain checks and signs the trial record, confirming the trial was run according to the published requirements and the information submitted is accurate.



FURTHER INFORMATION

TPOTI may contact clubs for clarification or further information when checking submitted trial results.



TE PUKU O TE IKA
SPRINT CHAMPS
WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY

250M DASH

ENTRY PROCESS

FROM CLUB TRIAL TO REGIONALS
FAIR. CONSISTENT. FOR OUR WHĀNAU.

- | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | | COMPLETE YOUR CLUB TIME TRIAL | Run your trial according to the published Club Time Trial Requirements. |
| 2 | | RECORD YOUR TIMES | Both attempts must be recorded.
The fastest valid time will be used. |
| 3 | | CLUB CAPTAIN VERIFIES | Club Captain checks and signs the trial record, confirming the trial was run according to the requirements and the information is accurate. |
| 4 | | SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY | Complete the online entry form and upload your signed trial record by the closing date. |
| 5 | | VERIFICATION | TPOTI will check all submitted trial results. Clubs may be contacted for clarification or further information. |
| 6 | | QUALIFY FOR REGIONALS | The 24 fastest verified times in each division will qualify for Regionals. |



TE PUKU O TE IKA
SPRINT CHAMPS
WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY

250M DASH

QUALIFICATION & SELECTION PATHWAY

FAIR. CONSISTENT. FOR OUR WHĀNAU.



WHY THE CHANGE?

A refreshed 250m Dash process designed to put our best foot forward as a region, create a fair and consistent pathway and identify our strongest kaihoe for National representation. It gives clubs clear standards, provides transparency at each stage and ensures opportunities are earned and based on performance.

1



CLUB TIME TRIALS



Clubs run 250m time trials using the published Club Time Trial Requirements (standards and protocols) for distance, water conditions, waka, start, finish, attempts, timing and recording.

2



CLUB VERIFICATION & ENTRY



The Club Captain verifies the trial met the requirements and that the information is accurate. The verified trial record is submitted with the entry.

3



TPOTI CHECKS & RANKS



TPOTI checks all submitted information. Clubs may be contacted for clarification or further information where required. Verified eligible times are ranked within each division.

4



QUALIFIERS PUBLISHED



The 24 fastest verified times in each division qualify for the 250m Dash at Regionals.



QUALIFICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Clubs have **48 hours** from publication to request a review where one of the published grounds for review applies. Supporting evidence is required. TPOTI may also initiate a check where information raises a question requiring verification.

5



REGIONALS – HEATS



Each division has one heat with 24 kaihoe, split into two heats of 12. The 12 fastest times across the two heats progress to the combined final.

6



COMBINED FINALS – 12 KAIHOE



WOMEN'S FINAL

4 fastest J19 Women
+ 4 fastest Open Women
+ next fastest 4 across both women's divisions
= **12 kaihoe**

MEN'S FINAL

4 fastest J19 Men
+ 4 fastest Open Men
+ next fastest 4 across both men's divisions
= **12 kaihoe**

7



NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The final is the selection race. Previous trial and Regional heat times do not carry over.

The **first 2 J19** and **first 2 Open** from each combined final are selected as **TPOTI National representatives**.

HE WAI | HE WAKA | HE TĀNGATA



TE PUKU O TE IKA
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250m DASH

WHO MAKES THE FINAL?



AT REGIONALS

Each division has **24** qualified kaihoe, split across **two** heats of 12.



**J19
WOMEN**



**OPEN
WOMEN**



**J19
MEN**



**OPEN
MEN**



**TWO HEATS
OF 12
IN EACH DIVISION**

Kaihoe race within their division and times from both heats are combined and ranked to determine progression to the combined finals.

WOMEN'S FINAL

12 KAIHOE

4

+

4

+

4

Fastest
J19
Women

Fastest
Open
Women

Next fastest
times across
both women's
divisions

= 12 FINALISTS

MEN'S FINAL

12 KAIHOE

4

+

4

+

4

Fastest
J19
Men

Fastest
Open
Men

Next fastest
times across
both men's
divisions

= 12 FINALISTS



THE FINAL IS THE SELECTION RACE

Regional heat times determine who progresses to the final.
They do not carry over for National selection.



FROM EACH COMBINED FINAL:

First 2 J19

+

First 2 Open

=

**TPOTI NATIONAL
REPRESENTATIVES**



TE PUKU O TE IKA
SPRINT CHAMPS
WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY

HE WAI
HE WAKA
HE TĀNGATA



W1 250m DASH

Qualification Review Process

Te Puku O Te Ika Outrigger Canoe Association (TPOTI) is committed to ensuring the W1 250m Dash qualification process is fair, transparent and applied consistently across all clubs.

Checking and confirming results

As part of confirming qualification results, TPOTI may check submitted information and contact clubs where clarification or further information is required.

This may include information relating to course measurement, timing, waka requirements, water or weather conditions, verification, or any other requirement set out in the published 250m Dash Club Time Trial Requirements.

This is part of the normal verification process and helps ensure the published requirements have been applied consistently before qualification results are confirmed.

If information received at any stage raises a reasonable question about whether a submitted result meets the published requirements, TPOTI may seek further clarification from the club concerned and check the relevant information before confirming that result.

Qualification results and review period

Clubs have 48 hours from the time qualification results are published to request a Qualification Review.

A Qualification Review is not a general challenge to another kaihoe's time. It is a process for raising a specific concern about whether a published qualification requirement was met or whether a result has been processed correctly.

What can a Qualification Review be requested for?

- A published Club Time Trial Requirement was not followed.
- Information submitted as part of a qualifying trial is incorrect, incomplete or inconsistent.
- A qualifying time has been recorded, entered or ranked incorrectly.
- An eligible submitted result has been omitted from the qualification results.
- There is other specific information indicating that a qualifying result may not meet the published requirements.

What is not grounds for a Qualification Review?

- Another kaihoe's time appears faster than expected.
- A club or paddler disagrees with another kaihoe's qualifying time or ranking.
- Trials were conducted at different venues or on different days.
- Weather or water conditions differed between trials, provided the published Club Time Trial Requirements were met.

We recognise that club trials will naturally take place at different venues, on different days and under different conditions. The purpose of the published requirements is to provide clear and consistent parameters for all clubs, rather than identical trial environments.

What must be provided?

A Qualification Review request must:

- be submitted by the Club Captain or authorised Club Representative;
- be received within the 48-hour review period;
- identify the kaihoe and qualifying result being questioned;
- identify the specific published requirement believed not to have been met, or the specific processing error believed to have occurred; and
- include the information or evidence available that provides reasonable grounds for the concern.

Evidence may include photographs, video, timing information, course measurements, trial documentation, correspondence or other relevant information.

A review will not be opened on speculation alone.

What happens once a request is received?

TPOTI will first consider the request and the information provided to determine whether it meets the grounds for a Qualification Review.

If it does, TPOTI will review the relevant information and, where required, contact the club whose result is being reviewed for clarification or further information.

The club concerned will have the opportunity to provide relevant information before a decision affecting their qualifying result is made.

Following the review, TPOTI may:

- confirm the original qualifying result;
- correct an administrative, recording or ranking error; or
- determine that a result does not meet the published qualification requirements and amend the qualification results accordingly.

Any clubs directly affected by a change to the qualification results will be advised.

When are results final?

Once the 48-hour review period has closed and any Qualification Reviews have been completed, the Regional Dash qualification results will be confirmed as final.

If TPOTI subsequently identifies an administrative error or receives information that raises a reasonable question about whether a published qualification requirement was met, TPOTI may still seek clarification and take any action required to maintain the integrity of the qualification process.

A fair process for everyone

The purpose of the Qualification Review process is to protect the integrity of the Dash qualification process for all clubs and kaihoe.

It gives clubs a clear pathway to raise a genuine concern, while also ensuring that a qualifying result is not questioned or changed without reasonable grounds and an opportunity for the club concerned to provide clarification.

Key Dates

Date & Time	What happens
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