

TE PUKU O TE IKA

SPRINT CHAMPS

WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY

LAKE KARĀPIRO

Event Pānui

5th and 6th TĪHEMA | DECEMBER 2026

TE PUKU O TE IKA
SPRINT CHAMPS
WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY

Kei ngā maunga whakahī, kei ngā puke kōrero, kei ngā wai tuku kiri – tēnā koutou katoa.
Me whakahonore i a Te Arikinui Kuīni Māori Ngā Wai Hono i te Pō, e noho mai rā i te ahurewa tapu o ōna mātua tūpuna. Paimārire.

Kei ngā mate tāruru nui o te wā, haere, whakaoti atu. Ko te akaaka o te rangi ki a rātou, ko te akaaka o te whenua ki a tātou.

Nei rā te mihi ki ngā kaihoe o ngā karapu huri noa i te rohe o Te Puku o Te Ika, kua whakatere mai ki raro i te maru o Maungatautari, ki runga i ngā wai pīataata o Karāpiro.

Nau mai, haere mai.

The Waikato River Authority and Te Puku o Te Ika Outrigger Canoe Association are proud to welcome you to the Te Puku o Te Ika – Sprint Champs, Waikato River Authority 2026. We acknowledge mana whenua and the deep cultural, historical and spiritual relationships of Ngati Koroki-Kahukura and other river iwi with Lake Karāpiro and the Waikato awa.

These championships mark the beginning of a two-year naming partnership covering the 2026 and 2027 events. The agreement builds on the Authority's support for the national waka ama sprints and brings that commitment closer to the clubs, volunteers and whānau who sustain the sport across our region.



Antoine Coffin, Kaihautū
Waikato River Authority

"Te Awa o Waikato is the life force of this region," said Waikato River Authority Kaihautū, Antoine Coffin. *"Through this event, we can stand alongside paddlers and their whānau, support the growth of waka ama and deepen our shared commitment to the health and wellbeing of the awa."*

Te Puku o Te Ika Board Chairperson, Hiria Rolleston, said the partnership was a vote of confidence in the region's paddlers and waka ama community.

"Our clubs do more than use these waters, they help care for them. This partnership will strengthen that connection and encourage our tamariki and rangatahi to grow as paddlers and as kaitiaki."



Hiria Rolleston, Board Chairperson
Te Puku o Te Ika Outrigger Canoe Association

Our shared aspiration is that these championships celebrate excellence on the water while strengthening whanaungatanga, encouraging healthy competition and inspiring the next generation of river kaitiaki. Everyone who trains, competes or gathers beside the water has a part to play in protecting its health and wellbeing.

We encourage all paddlers and clubs to follow good biosecurity practices and ensure waka and equipment are always cleaned before moving between waterways.

We wish every kaihoe well. Mā rau ringa e ora ai te awa – it will take many hands for the awa to thrive.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui.

TE PUKU O TE IKA

SPRINT CHAMPS

WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY

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Trust Waikato TE PUNA O WAIKATO

FOUNDATION

Waipā DISTRICT COUNCIL



TE PUKU O TE IKA
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KEY DATES

Entries Open - 2nd November 2026
W1 250m Club Trial Times Lodged- 21st November 2026
Entries Close - Monday 23rd November 2026- 11.59pm
Roster Close - Monday 30th November 2026 - 11.59pm
Entries Payments Due: Monday 30th November 2026
Waitlist Payments: Sunday 21st December 2026
Waka Ama Website Link

ONLINE FORMS

Click on links

Club Volunteer Registration
Club Manager | Administrator Registration
Vendor Registration Request
Disability Parking Pass Request
W1 Waitlist Request - Non attendance
W1 Pre Weigh in Time & Rep Top Registration
Health and Safety Incident Report Form

HUI

Managers Meeting Online, Mon 30th Nov 2026 - 6pm
Volunteers Online Briefing, Wed 2nd Dec 2026 - 7pm

RACE CALLS

'At Event' Race Calls - What's App Channel

PROGRAMME

Friday 4th December 2026

4.00pm– 7.00pm	W6 drop off and rigging Club gear drop off W1 Weighing

Security is provided for overnight storage of the W1s

Saturday 5th December 2026

W1 Qualification and W6 Racing

6.30am	Te hiki o ngā kara
6.00am –7.00am	W1 Drop off area open
6.00am - 7.30am	W1 Weighing
7.00am	Gate 2 shuts
6.45 am	Marshall first races
7.00 am	Load out first races
7.15am	Racing commences
Approx 2.30pm	W6 -J16 and J19 W6 Races.
End of Day:	Te heke o ngā kara

Sunday 6th December 2026

W6 Racing (all day)

6.30am	Te hiki o ngā kara
6.45am	Marshall first races
7.00am	Load out first races
7.15am	Racing commences
End of Event:	Te heke o ngā kara

KAITŪAO | VOLUNTEERS

To run the event we need Kaitūao | Volunteers. Each club are asked to provide four full time equivalent volunteers.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER



Volunteers are provided:

- Volunteer T-Shirt
- Hydration and meals during their shifts
- Accommodation and meals (if staying)

Volunteer Areas include:

- Set up/pack down,
- Canoe rigging
- Paddler marshalling,
- Loading bay,
- On-water support
- Administration
- Results and timing.
- Canoe weighing
- Biosecurity station
- Car park marshalling
- Waste Management Support
- Volunteer Chalet Kai Preparation

VENDORS

We encourage a supporting village of vendors to join us and register. Powered or unpowered sites are available with a base fee charge. We invite vendor operators to register their interest and seek out information on past event statistics.
See Page 4 for link.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Check out TPOTI's facebook page and instagram to stay abreast of event updates.

https://www.facebook.com/TePukuoTeIka
https://www.instagram.com/te_puku_o_te_ika/





LAKE KARĀPIRO | MIGHTY RIVER DOMAIN

Clubs are encouraged to provide shelter (sun, rain) for their paddlers. Please observe the event area layout, and keep club tents and gazebos clear from areas that are clearly marked for official use (see event area layout as shown at the back of this document).

The Karāpiro Domain has a strict NO DOGS policy which is going to be actively enforced by council dog control. Please leave your kurī/dog at home. DO NOT bring your kurī /dog and leave at your car.

The 2026 Te Puku O Te Ika, Sprint Champs, Waikato River Authority is a drug, alcohol, vape and smokefree event. Please respect our whānau and whenua. You will be asked to leave the venue if the rules are not followed

There are other events running at the Don Rowlands centre throughout the weekend. There is to be no parking in the Don Rowlands carpark, unless prearranged by TPOTI, by participants. Karapiro Domain monitors this and will call towing companies.

GATE 1: No event access

GATE 2 Access for:

- Club Equipment and W1 drop off between
  - Friday 2pm - 7pm
  - Saturday 6am - 7am
  - Sunday 6am - 6.30am
- Volunteer and VIP Parking - via Parking Pass
- Preordered Disability Parking - via Parking Pass

GATE 3 Access for:

- Participant and Public Parking (Free Parking)
- Disability access - not prearranged

No parking in campground or café area.

Parking wardens will direct you where to go.



EVENT INFORMATION

Saturday 5th December 2026

W1 Qualification and W6 Racing (afternoon)

6.30am	Te hiki o ngā kara
6.00am –7.00am	Drop off area open
6.00am - 7.30am	W1 Weighing
7.00am	Gate 2 shuts
6.45 am	Marshall first races
7.00 am	Load out first races
7.15am	Racing commences
Approx 2.30pm	W6 - J16 and J19
End of Day	Te heke o nga kara

Distances: 250m | 500m | 1000m

Grades: W1 - Intermediate to M80
W6 - J16 and J19

Outside of Region:
Due to the size of the event, Clubs from outside the TPOTI Region, and W1 Paddlers not representing TPOTI at Nationals, are not permitted to enter.

Sunday 6th December 2026

W6 Racing (all day)

6.30am	Te hiki o nga kara
6.45am	Marshall first races
7.00am	Load out first races
7.15am	Racing commences
End of Day	Te heke o nga kara

Distances: 250m | 500m | 1000m | 1500m
Grades: Taitamariki to M80
(excluding J16 and J19)

W6 Racing:
Teams will be provided up to 3 races. Turns races will be prioritised as a means of providing practice on the Nationals course for the W6 teams. Races may be changed to straight races (no turns) should the programme run behind time.

Derigging W6 Canoes:
At the end of racing, all clubs are requested to assist in derigging and loading waka onto the trailer. All clubs are asked to prearrange helpers to assist.



EVENT FEES

W1 ENTRY FEES

Intermediate - J19	$20 per paddler
U23 to Golden Master	$40 per paddler
M70, M75, M80	$20 per paddler
W1 250m Dash	No charge

W6 TEAM ENTRY FEES

Taitamariki to J19	$120 per team
U23 to Golden Master	$180 per team
M70, M75, M80	$120 per team

ENTRIES

Entries are made online via the Waka Ama NZ online entries system. Your club representative / administrator does this for all teams from your club.

Help your club administrator out by:

- Being financial member of your club
- Get an ID card ordered or make sure your ID card is up to date.
- Making your entry payment to your club on time. Clubs pay one overall entry payment per club to TPOTI
- Clubs must be financially affiliated with TPOTI prior to entering the regatta via the online entries.
- Completing your online waiver (see below).

WAIVERS

In 2026 TPOTI will be the first to implement the individual waiver online via the Waka Ama NZ Website. Please get each of your paddlers to find their names on the online entries on the regatta listing, Select their name and complete the waiver. Its very easy to do. Club Administrators will need to monitor to ensure everyone completes their waiver.

PAYMENTS

Entry payments must only be paid on receipt of the invoice. They do not rely on the paddler roster completion for W6 teams. Do NOT pay ahead of receiving invoicing. Online Payment reference instructions will be included in the invoice.

Payments must be received prior to the nominated deadline on the invoice, no payment = no racing. Unpaid membership to TPOTI will mean clubs will be ineligible to enter the event or withdrawn from the event.

REFUNDS

To keep our event planning fair and manageable, refunds are available based on how far in advance a cancellation is made.

Refund Schedule

Cancellation Notice	Amount
8–12 days before the event	50% refund
3–7 days before the event	25% refund
0–3 days before the event	No refund

Refund requests must be submitted in writing to the event organiser, by the club administrator, before the applicable cancellation deadline.

ENTRIES CLOSE
MONDAY 23RD NOV 2026
The day after Nationals Entries Close!

PAYMENTS DUE BY:
MONDAY 30TH NOV 2026

PADDLER ROSTER CLOSES
MONDAY 30TH NOV 2026



W1 500m

Selection and qualification for W1 for the 2027 National Sprint Championships.

- Selection of W1 500m representatives will be based on times gained at the regional event. The race draw comprises a knock out event, heats then finals.
- Note the Adaptive Women and Adaptive Men W1 events are not a qualifying event for National Sprints. The paddlers will be enabled two races, a heat and a final.
- Clubs and Coaches please note that your paddlers must be of a level where they can competently and confidently take the start line and complete the race. Any paddlers who fail to reach the start line in the time allowed will be withdrawn from the race, with no refund of fees. Disqualifications will apply to these races for paddlers going outside of their lane; disqualified paddlers will not receive refunds.
- Starters will be wary of paddlers attempting rolling starts. Measures will be taken to avoid rolling starts.
- NEW- the W1 events are medalling events in 2026. Medalists and qualifiers for Nationals will be presented their medal and/or representative kit immediately after the V1 racing in front of the main grandstand. VIP members will be presenting the awards and we ask that club tautoko their paddlers at the ceremony.

W1 500m NATIONALS QUOTA

Refer to Waka Ama NZ Quota Notification under the 2027 Nationals event page. TPOTI ask that clubs consider carefully the quota when entering and consider the event as a qualification event of your best possible paddlers up to or just over the allocated quota. The event is not considered to be a 'have a go' event.

RACE DIVISION	TANE	WAHINE
INTERMEDIATE	7	5
JUNIOR 16	8	6
JUNIOR 19	6	9
UNDER 23	6	4
PREMIER	7	7
MASTER 40 / MASTER	6	8
MASTER 50 / SNR MASTER	7	7
MASTER 60 / GOLDEN MASTER	9	8
MASTER 70	9	5
MASTER 75	7	4
MASTER 80	6	4



W1 250m DASH

This year TPOTI will be trialling a NEW qualification process for the W1 250m Dash, with a focus on putting our best foot forward as a region. Qualification will begin at club level, with clubs running verified W1 250m time trials for kaihoe wanting to enter. Kaihoe must meet the qualifying standard, with the fastest verified times in each division earning a place on the start line at Regionals.

Please note this does not apply to the W1 500m triallists. There are no time trials required from clubs.

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 to put their strongest kaihoe forward.

The pathway is simple:

- Club Trials: Clubs run verified 250m time trials following the published requirements. Eligible kaihoe are entered using their verified trial times. Participants and their times are to be submitted via online entries on the Waka Ama NZ club portal by club managers / administrators by the 21st November 2026.
- Qualify for Regionals: The fastest 24 verified times in each division earn a place in the Regional Dash heats. TPOTI Sprints Team will complete the W1 Dash entries on the 23rd of November 2026.
- Regional Heats: J19 Women, Open Women, J19 Men and Premier Men each race a divisional heat.
- Make the Final: The fastest 4 from each division progress, plus the next fastest 4 times across the two women's or men's divisions.
- National Selection: The combined Women's and Men's Finals are the selection races. The first 2 J19 and first 2 Premier kaihoe across the finish earn the opportunity to represent TPOTI at Nationals.
- Clubs will need to follow the **full 250m Dash Club Time Trial Requirements,** *(Separate Document)* which set out the qualifying times, trial conditions, timing, verification and entry process.
- Should a review be sought the **W1 250m Dash Qualification Review Process** *(Separate Document)* sets out the process to follow.

This is a new process, and we know there will be things we learn along the way. Following Regionals, we'll kōrero with our clubs and paddlers about what worked well and where we can make the process even stronger.

- By entering the event the paddler agrees to represent the region at the Nationals. Any paddler who has earned a qualifying spot for the 250m dash and then does not to compete at the Nationals event (whilst at the Nationals event), shall be ineligible to enter this qualifying race at the following TPOTI regionals event.

W1 MEDAL CEREMONY
SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2026
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING V1 RACING



W12 REGIONAL TEAM SELECTION

Selection for Regional WT12 at Nationals

- Nationals features a regional WT12 Premier race, for both men and women. Selection of the W12 crews will be based on the fastest 12 times from a combination of **both the W1 J19 and Premier grade 250m dash semi finals.**

- The W1 250 Dash Final due to allocated divisional spots, will not form the W12 selection. The Semi Finals will form the times for ranking of the W12 Regional Team. The W1 250m Dash Finals times will not be counted toward the W12 Regional Team selection. This final is solely for the W1 250m Dash representative selection.

- All entrants into the W1 250m Dash are committing to representing the region for both the W1 250m Dash and/or the W12 Regional Team.

- NEW - All qualifiers will be required to confirm their uptake of their selection immediately following announcement - during the event. This will be following by a presentation of the new kit.

W1 / W12 REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTATION

Te Puku O Te Ika is excited to announce it has new representative race kit for all Nationals qualifiers. Please ensure you have registered to weigh in and nominate your race top size, to ensure the kit has the correct sizings when presented at the awards ceremony. Click the link on page 4.

Both Waikato River Authority and Te Puku O Te Ika are also excited to announce we will be presenting medals to our finalist 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings. Immediately after W1 racing finishes a medal ceremony will occur with medals presented to W1 1st, 2nd and 3rd finalist placings.

Each qualifying paddler will need to complete and submit the confirmation form shared to them at the event, prior to the medal and kit presentation ceremony.

W1 and the Regional W12 representatives **will be notified and required to attend a presentation** of their representative kits at the prizing giving area. Bring your club, whanau and friends to support at the inaugrual awards ceremony.

The awards will be located in front of the main grandstand.

W1 AND W12 REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENTATION
SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2026
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING W1 RACING



W1 WAITLIST CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Refer to W1 Policy

Non Attendance Paddler Waitlist

- Paddlers unable to participate at the TPOTI Qualifier event, wanting to be considered for the quota for Nationals, will be required to fill in the TPOTI Regional Sprint Championships Non-Attendance Waitlist Request Registration (*see link on page 4*). This must be done by the Club Co-ordinator for their respective club before 9am Thursday 3rd of December 2026 prior to racing, to request their inclusion on the Waitlist.

- A non refundable payment of the equivalent entry fee, to the event, is required prior 5pm on Friday prior to racing starts. Clubs are to arrange payment.

- The application must state the reason for missing the Regionals Qualifier event. If required, the Race Director and Race Committee reserve the right to request proof of reason (employer statement, medical certificate, bereavement notice or NZ representation attendance verification).

- Non-Attendance Waitlist Paddlers will be allocated positions behind those remaining paddlers in attendance at the TPOTI event who select to be waitlisted.

- The TPOTI Race Director and Race Committee hold discretion to apply exceptional circumstances to the non attendance waitlist position based on past and recent performance of a paddler, including their prior Sprint Nationals performance. This will only apply if that paddler was a finalist at the Sprint Nationals in the preceding year. At no stage will a non attendance waitlist paddler be considered ahead of those who qualify at the Regionals event.

Paddlers in Attendance - Waitlist

- Competing (at the TPOTI Regional Event) Waitlist Participants will comprise only those paddlers who make the finals. Those who make the quota are included at the bottom of the quota list with regard to seeding.

- All paddlers who are In Attendance at the event and wish to request a waitlist position need to make contact with their club rep. Following Regional Sprints, Clubs Representatives will be responsible for completing the TPOTI Regional Sprint Championship W1 IN ATTENDANCE WAITLIST FORM.

Waitlist Payments

- A payment of non-refundable $20 per paddler is required prior to confirmation of a waitlist position. Paddlers will need to pay this fee to their club and the club will make one lump sum payment of the total fee owing.



W1 REQUIREMENTS

- Paddlers must arrange their own W1 waka. Paddlers should NOT assume that they will be able to use other paddlers W1s on race day.
- The minimum weight is 14kg (including ama & kiato).
- Accepted additional weights for canoes under 14 kg are: a bag of rice or sand or a weight plate or similar.
- Paddlers are to arrange for their own weights, should they be required, and they must be presented to the TPOTI official at weigh-in as requested.
- All W1s must have lane number holders, as per Waka Ama New Zealand race rules. Paddlers without a W1 holder may buy one for $10.00 from Administration and ask for tape to put it on. There are a limited number of these available.
- W1 Paddlers borrowing canoes - MUST ENSURE their waka is not being used 2 races EITHER side of their race.
- Racing will not stop to wait for sharing of waka. If your waka is being used 2 races either side - the paddlers will need to ensure they have another canoe to use. This is the same as Nationals and racing will not wait for you. Being prepared is essential in a qualification event.

W1 WEIGHING

- Pre event weighing will be available at the following times:
  - Friday from 4pm to 7pm.
  - Saturday from 6.30am to 7.30am.- Noting Gate 2 closes at 7am
- Book your W1 weighing timeslot via the link on Page 4.
- Booking in also secures your Representative Shirt Size for presentation at the event.
- The W1 minimum weight is 14kgs, we have aligned our Weigh-in procedures with those of WANZ and will be weighing the first, second and third place in each race as soon as they exit the water. The Regatta Officials reserve the right to do random spot checks.
- It is the responsibility of the paddler to ensure that their canoe is not below 14kgs. Any paddler whose canoe does not reach the minimum weight of 14 kg will be disqualified from the race they competed in and all preceding races. The paddler may compete in another race but will require their waka to be reweighed prior to racing. Paddlers will be required to sign the weigh in form at weigh in. The qualifying finalists will be required to weigh their canoes immediately after the finals event.
- The ROWING NZ scales will be available at Lake Karāpiro prior to the race start for paddlers to check their canoe weights. Waka will be verified and tagged and tags must be displayed on all waka on the water.
- If your canoe is being shared - the paddlier must meet the requirements of the tagged verification for weighting.



W6 RACING - SUPPORT PADDLERS

W6 Taitama, Taitamahine and Intermediate Grades - Adult Steerer and Adult W1 Support Paddlers

For the upcoming regional sprint waka ama event, support paddlers in W1 can follow or paddle alongside taitamariki and intermediate crews or paddlers in straight races only, provided these crews or paddlers do not already have an adult or competent steerer.

Remember the age eligibility for Taitamariki divisions has been raised. See Waka Ama NZ website for information.

Support paddlers are reminded that they must stay behind or beside the crew (inside their ama) they are supporting, should not cross into the lane beside and should not cross the 15m buoyed line before the finish line and must exit to the side of course (not over the finish line) only once all other W6s have finished. The paddler is required to wait until all competitors have completed the race and then exit the course to the side, avoiding crossing the finish line.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a time penalty for the respective crew. This rule helps to maintain a level playing field and allows our tamariki paddlers to fully experience the race while ensuring their safety under the watchful guidance of their adult support paddler.

Waka Ama NZ Rule
16.3 - Support paddlers in W1 may follow or paddle alongside (not lead) taitamariki or intermediate crews or paddlers (Straight races only) who do not already have an adult or competent steerer as per rule 21.11a. Support paddlers following or paddling alongside taitamariki or intermediate crews or paddlers shall not cross the 15m buoyed line from the finish line before the end of the race, otherwise the respective club shall be fined (the amount of which is to be determined by the organising committee). The end of the race will be when the last crew or paddler crosses the finish line.



RACING INFORMATION

- Waka Ama New Zealand race rules apply; they can be found at www.wakaama.co.nz.
- The race course has 12 lanes for W1 racing and W6 500m racing– we will be using half lanes to be consistent with Nationals
- **Disqualifications apply for W1 racing.**
- W6 turns racing will use 8 full-width lanes and W1 and W6 500m using half lanes.
- W6 age divisions have been combined, where appropriate, to make good use of time and lane availability. In this case, entries will be clearly marked as from another division. Note that organisers are unable to contact affected teams individually – please read the lane draw to avoid surprises.
- **Protests for W1 racing, are to be made to the Admin Area by your registered Club Manager only and must be made within 15 minutes of the respective event results being released.**
- Penalties will apply for W6 racing; a 10-second time penalty will be added to the final time instead of applying a disqualification.
- Races may be combined or shortened at the discretion of the Race Director.
- The Race Director has the ability to move races, depending on conditions. For example, if the weather starts to worsen, junior racing may be moved up the schedule to enable them to get through their races before bad weather hits.
- Racing comprises progression races. There will be Heats, and then, based on placings and times, paddlers will progress through to finals. Should there be only enough paddlers for one heat, it will be run as a straight final.
- The lanes used are the same as Nationals.
- The sound system for race number calling is the same that is used at Nationals. The volume is at its highest and it runs the length of the spectator bank. If you are unable to hear the announcements, make sure your surrounding club area is not too noisy. It is your responsibility to listen for announcements. Please also use the What's App channel below.
- W1s can be left overnight in the designated area with overnight security provided. TPOTI however does not accept responsibility for damage caused by others.
- All the whanau (volunteers) at our event have given their time to assist with the event – please show them respect. **Our volunteers are the main reason** why the event is able to be hosted.

LIVE RESULTS
www.liveresults.co.nz

TE PUKU O TE IKA
SPRINT CHAMPS
WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY

Follow
Event Marshalling Calls
on the What's App Channel



EVENT PREPARATION

- Club Managers will be required to attend an online managers meeting 1 week prior to the event - please register your club manager alongside your online entries contact using the link on page 4.

- Only team managers or registered club representatives are to advise of withdrawals prior to the race – Please report to the admin room next to the tower.

- **NEW - WAIVERS - Waka Ama NZ and TPOTI are introducing online waivers for all competitors, please find your name on the regatta entries (on the event page) and click to complete your waiver. Under 18yrs of Age must be completed by a parent or guardian.**

- W1 Paddlers borrowing canoes - MUST ENSURE their waka is not being used 2 races EITHER side of their race - Racing will not stop to wait for sharing of waka. If your waka is being used 2 races either side - the paddlers will need to ensure they have another canoe to use. This is the same as Nationals and racing will not wait for you. Being prepared is essential in a qualification event.

- All paddlers / teams in the marshalling area must have their PFDs with them (Taitamariki and Intermediate), as well as their paddles and/ or W1 canoes.

- Paddlers (and/or club reps) are to become familiar with the race course layout, the event area, race schedule and lane draw.

- All paddlers must have their paddles and lifejackets(if required)(and W1 canoe ready when in marshalling – there is to be no waiting for items to come from other teams/paddlers who are on the race course.

- Physical ID cards are NOT required but the person must be verified in the Waka Ama NZ system.

MARSHALLING

- Marshalling will call each race a total of 3 times. NOTE: Races will load out without waiting for teams who have not arrived at marshalling by the 3rd call. The latter will miss their race.

- Know when your race is on, and listen for the marshalling call over the sound system.

- No parents or coaches are permitted through the marshalling and loading bay areas. Please do not be offended if and when you are refused entry.

- When their race is called, paddlers are to assemble at the loading bay.

- Loading bay officials will advise paddlers when to load and will load out the furthest lanes first e.g: Lane 8, lane 7, through to lane 1. This is to prevent delays on the water at the start line.

ON WATER

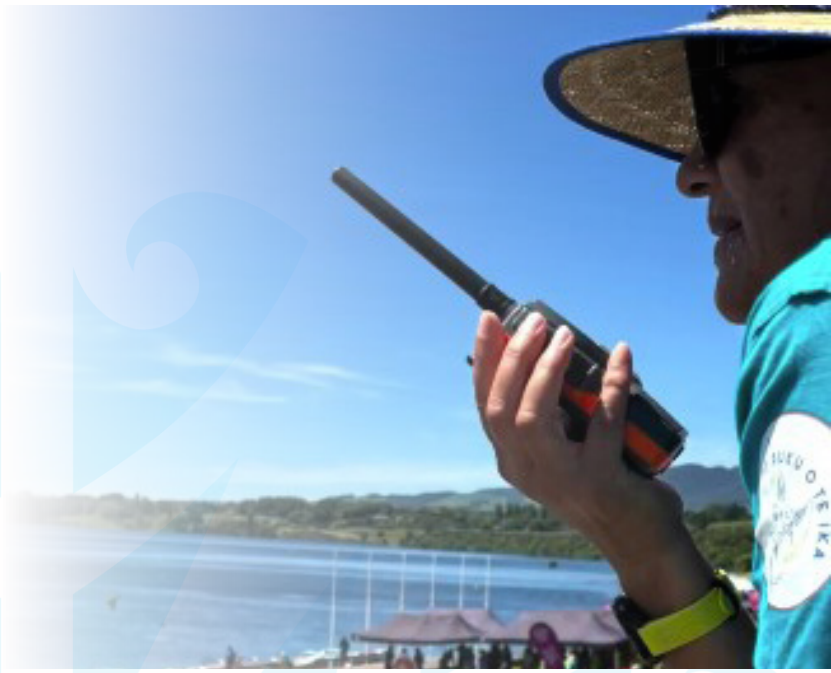
- Once on the water, paddlers are to go directly up to the start line area, where they are in the control of the race starter.

- Paddlers are to wait within 50m of the start line. Please avoid drifting off. Turns racing - finishing waka are to paddle through and behind the next race waiting to start.

- Race starts will be by flag only – there will be no verbal instruction given for the starts.

- Adults trailing Taitamariki and Intermediate paddlers in W1s or W6s- WANZ Rules apply. The Paddler must remain on the left of the waka, behind the ama and inside the ama, this paddler must exit at the turn and return to shore after the other waka have finished. Do not interfere with other competitors.

SAFETY



ON WATER

- There will be three support boats on the water, with at least two support boats monitoring the racing. One of these will be stationary on the start line (the aligner pontoon); the flag boat will be roaming to monitor the racing.
- Taitamariki and Intermediate paddlers must wear life jackets.
- Adult steerers are also able to support Intermediate W6 crews based on their judgement of their experience and conditions. Please note this is not permitted at National Sprints, however this event is an opportunity for practice for the Nationals. Safety of crews and care of waka is paramount.
- Paddlers who are not able to swim at least 50 metres must also wear life jackets. This rule also applies to adult paddlers.
- Clubs must ensure that the paddlers they enter are sufficiently capable of participating in their events, and able to handle reasonably difficult conditions (e.g. wind gusts up to 30 knots). Support boats will NOT assist paddlers in lining up (which can be difficult for novice paddlers, especially in W1s, if winds are stronger than 10 knots). If paddlers are not able to line up within a reasonable time frame, the race will be run without them, and they will be disqualified.
- In case of adverse weather conditions on race day, the race director retains the right to stop, postpone and/or cancel races on race day. Note that organisers will be unable to refund race fees in this case.
- No Swimming at the event. Due to a previous unsupervised child near drowning incident the event hosts will not permit any swimming for the duration of the event. Event management will announce when the site is handed back for public use.

ON LAND

- Clubs are to observe all Mighty River Domain rules, along with any specific event rules
- First Aid responders will be at the event, located near marshalling.
- No vehicles will be permitted in the event area beyond Gate 2 during the event, the exception being any emergency vehicles and domain management vehicles.
- Emergency Evacuations from the site are managed by Mighty River Domain. Directions for evacuation will be provided through announcements on site and through the Event WHAT's APP channel.

INCIDENT REPORTING

- In the event of a health and safety incident, please contact event management who will co-ordinate responses.
- Immediately following an incident we ask those involved complete an incident report - refer to link on page 4.



BIOSECURITY

All used wakas must follow the next steps when you move between lakes and rivers without exception.

All waka returning to freshwater lakes in our region are asked to be washed down before leaving the regatta venue. The wash station is sited next to the main toilet block in the Vendor Village area.

No W6 canoes will be coming from or returning to any freshwater lakes.

For our lake clubs only: Applicable for all 14 Te Arawa lakes and Waikato Lakes.

- Any boat that has been in the Waikato River in the previous 30 days must be cleaned at a designated wash station before entering the water. This is in addition to the Check-Clean-Dry requirements.

Designated wash station when heading home for waka:

- The designated wash station is The Wash Place, 338 Te Ngae Road, Rotorua
- At the wash station, boaties will need to:
  - wash down their boat and trailer, and drain any remaining water
  - scan the QR code shown on signage and complete the online form to prove they've completed the wash-down.

The Wash Place is a commercial facility and there will be a cost for washing your boat and trailer depending on the length of the cycle chosen. You can pay with cards or coins. The station is open 24/7 and detailed instructions about how to complete the wash are provided.

For our Ocean based clubs: Seawater is not a suitable alternative, as the salt content is too low (on average 35ppt ratio) to be effective against clams.

When you move from the controlled stretch of the Waikato River (which is from Whakamaru Dam to the river mouth at Port Waikato) to another part of the river or its lakes, you must follow the Check Clean Dry procedures for the exotic freshwater clam for all watercraft, gear, or clothing that has come into contact with river water.



CHECK | CLEAN | DRY PROTOCOL

Check Clean Dry procedures to prevent human spread of the exotic freshwater clam will also manage other freshwater pest species.

CHECK

- Remove any plant matter, mud or visible clams from your gear and leave it at the river or lake bank or put it in the rubbish.
- Drain all lake water from your boat and gear

CLEAN – for what is not visible before you leave Lake Karāpiro

- Blast your W1 waka and hoe with tap water onto grass, not into a stormwater system or drain. We will set up a fenced area besides the embankment west toilet block where washing equipment is available to use.
- For those W1 wakas who have an on-board foot pump we need to flush it with a bleach solution at the washing station.
- For Sunday afternoon cleaning the W6 wakas: We need to make sure the buoyancy chambers are emptied on the grass before loading the wakas on the trailers.
- We will offer for the Taitamariki and Intermediate teams dunking buckets filled with 10% dishwasher liquid solution for their life vests.

CLEAN – at home for what is not visible before you use your gear again

- For absorbent materials like life jackets, removable seats, booties, use one of these treatments and refer to the manufacturer's instructions if needed:
- Soak in hot tap water (50°C to 55°C) for at least 5 minutes, or
- Soak in 10% dishwasher liquid solution for 10 minutes.
- Freeze till solid (overnight), or
- For a full list of approved treatments, including options for situations where none of the above is suitable, refer to Treatment options
- Leaflets summarizing the above process will be issued at every competitor of the TPOTI event.

DRY

- Gear: allow gear to dry to touch, inside and out, then leave it to dry for at least 48 hours (2 days) before using again.
- Watercraft: dry areas inside the watercraft where water has pooled, for example with an old towel, and then leave the craft to dry for at least 48 hours (2 days). The hull of a watercraft will dry when towed.

Additional Rules in place to protect the Te Arawa lakes (as per 19 March 2025)

Te Arawa lakes Controlled Area Notice (CAN):

- A CAN applies to the 14 Te Arawa lakes in the Bay of Plenty with additional protections for Lake Ōkataina.

For all 14 Te Arawa lakes:

- Any boat that has been in the Waikato River in the previous 30 days must be cleaned at a designated wash station before entering the water. This is in addition to the 'Check Clean Dry' requirements.

TYPES OF TREATMENT

Hot water:

- 70°C, soak for 2 minutes
- 50°C to 55°C, soak for at least 5 minutes
- Above 45°C, soak for at least 20 minutes.

Most homes have hot water set at 50°C to 55°C. Caution is advised, especially with the higher temperatures.

Freezing:

- Until solid, usually overnight.

Bleach:

- Bleach solution
  5% bleach solution: 5-litre mix = 250 ml bleach in 4.75 litres water, soak for 60 minutes,
- 10% bleach solution: 5-litre mix = 500 ml bleach in 4.5 litres water, soak for 30 minutes.
- Take care of how you dispose of the used bleach solution.

Salt water:

- 100 parts per thousand (ppt) household salt in warm water, soak for 4 hours. (100 ppt salt solution: 5-litre mix = 500 g salt in 5 litres warm water.)