

2023 Zespri Aims Games- Canoe Racing

Event Information for Team Managers & Parents

Canoe Sport at the 2023 Zespri Aims Games is made up of two separate events- Canoe Slalom and Canoe Racing (flatwater/ocean paddling). There is one entry fee which allows for participation at both the Canoe Slalom and Canoe Racing events, although paddlers can choose to only compete in one or the other if they prefer.

The following information relates only to the Canoe Racing event at Pilot Bay, Mt Maunganui.



The Canoe Racing event at the Zespri Aims Games utilizes the CRNZ [Kahawai format](#), which designed to be an enjoyable, engaging entry into paddling competition and to build bridges between flatwater/sprint, ocean, surf and river paddling.

When: Tuesday 5th September, 2023

Where: Pilot Bay Beach, Mt Maunganui.

Event base will be at Pilot Bay Beach/reserve area opposite Pacific Avenue, utilising the carpark area next to the public facilities.

Event Organiser: Canoe Racing New Zealand

Event Manager: Danika Mowlem (CRNZ Participation Lead)- 021 202 6154,
danika.mowlem@canoeracing.org.nz

Entry information:

Entries open: Friday 10 March

Entries close: Wednesday 31st May

Entry fee: \$80 per student (The entry fee includes both the Canoe Slalom and Canoe Racing events, although paddlers can choose to only compete in one or the other if they prefer.)

How to Enter:

Entries to the 2023 Zespri AIMS Games will be made and only accepted online, via the online registration system. Registrations will only be accepted from the school's designated Zespri AIMS Games Coordinator.

When entering, School Coordinators will need to select if each student wants to do Canoe Slalom, Canoe Racing or both.

If you wish to take part in the Canoe Sport events at the Zespri Aims Games, contact your School Sport/Aims Games coordinator.

Event Schedule:

Practice Days- Saturday 3rd/Sunday 4th September

Boats will be available for paddlers to try and practice in, supported by CRNZ coaches, during set sessions on Saturday and possibly the Sunday, at McLaren Falls, in conjunction with the Canoe Slalom event. Final details to be confirmed, information regarding practice opportunities will be sent out to team managers.

Event Day - Tuesday 5th September

7.45am Compulsory Managers Meeting including confirming of participant attendance and teams.

8.00-8.30am Paddlers arrive - kayaks will be available for use by any paddlers as practice (on water safety will be present)

8.30am Competitor Briefing and Karakia

9.00am Individual Paddler X racing start (2x rounds of heats, 1 x final per division). Race schedule displayed at event registration and at the entrance to the course arena. Followed by team relay events.

Prizegiving will occur as soon as possible following the completion of racing. We anticipate event to finish by 2pm, but this is dependent on the number of paddlers taking part.

Event format:

Participants will be separated into age groups as follows:

- Year 7 girls
- Year 7 boys
- Year 8 girls
- Year 8 boys

All paddlers will compete in individual Paddler-X racing. Following the completion of this, there will be team relay events for each division.

Paddler-X races

All paddlers will compete in 3-4 Paddler-X races, made up of two heats and a final. If required based on participant numbers in some divisions, there may be semi-final races.

The course will be determined on the day, but competitors start in their boats in shallow water and race out and around 2 or more buoys and back into the beach to finish. Races should take 2-4 minutes, with a time limit of 5 minutes. Each race shall consist of no more than 6 paddlers.

Heats in each division are to be randomly drawn (up to 6 paddlers per race). Results will be determined by the aggregate total of the heats. The top 6 competitors in each division will progress to the A final, the next 6 to a B final etc.

Races will be run back-to-back following a tight schedule, which will be displayed at registration and at the race arena, and given to team managers. It is the responsibility of the paddlers to ensure they are at their race start.

To see more about this event format/style of racing, check out <https://www.paddler.nz/kahawai>



Team Relays

Team relays consist of paddlers racing around the course as per individual racing then tagging their teammate who completes the course and so on.

School Relay teams of 3 are gender and year specific. Eg 3x Year 7 boys.

Team members can be of mixed gender and mixed year groups; however, they compete in the boys' team race of the eldest team member.

Team managers are responsible for allocating teams for their school*. School teams must be submitted to CRNZ Event Manager no later than Friday 1st September. Any changes must be approved at the team manager meeting.

*Canoe Racing NZ can put together mixed teams made up of different year groups, genders or schools, in order to include more paddlers, but these teams will not be eligible for school team prizes or school points (there may be mixed team certificates).

Prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each division for individual Paddler-X racing and team relay races.

Overall School Points/Trophy

The School Points system is set up to take into account and encourage both results, overall participation and good sportsmanship throughout the event. The winning schools (based on the most points) will be recognised at the conclusion of the event.

- Individual event points will be distributed for the top 16 paddlers in each division (Points are 1st = 18, 2nd = 16, 3rd = 15, 4th = 14 and so on).
- Teams Event points are awarded to the first 6 teams in each division (1st = 18, 2nd = 16, 3rd = 15).
- Additional school points (up to 20points at a time) may be awarded to individuals/schools, at the discretion of the event manager on event day, based on good sportsmanship and fair play. More information will be given on this.
- Team, individual and sportsmanship points awarded to each school will be added together to calculate overall school points.



Equipment:

All boats, paddles and lifejackets will be provided by Canoe Racing NZ. One design craft will be used in each division, craft types will be as follows:

- Year 7 boys and girls – Nelo 510s
- Year 8 boys and girls- Star Kayaks*

There will be enough of each type of boats so that as one race is occurring, the competitors of the next couple of races should be able to find a boat and get prepared.



**Year 8 paddlers may race in Nelo 510s if they choose (these boats tend to be more stable).*

All paddlers must wear a correctly fitted PFD (provided) when on the water.

Paddlers may wear their own PFD if they choose, but it must be checked and approved by event staff on the day.

As well as the practice session on Saturday, the boats will be available for use if any paddlers want to practice, prior to racing from 8am.

What to wear/bring:

- Paddlers must wear appropriate paddle-wear that is suitable for the cold, September conditions. Wetsuits recommended.
- The event format means paddlers will be waiting between their races. Please ensure paddlers have suitable warm/waterproof jackets/layers to wear before and after their races. Paddlers getting cold has been a serious issue at this event in the past.
- Lunch/snacks/water. There will be a coffee cart on-site.
- Dry clothes (school uniform) for prizegiving

Event Postponement/cancellation:

Extreme weather conditions that could jeopardise the safety of paddlers may lead to the postponement or cancellation of the event, if no alternative venue or format is feasible. The event organisers will endeavour to inform all team managers of this by email and/or phone/text and social media by noon the day before, at the very latest. If forecast conditions are not suitable for Pilot Bay Beach, the alternate venue at McLaren Falls may be used. A decision regarding this shifting to this venue will be made 2 days before and inform all team managers of this change in venue via email and social media



Health and Safety

The safety of everyone involved is our biggest priority

- Qualified Lifeguards on boards and an IRB will be present as on-water safety. Lifeguards will be able to assist paddlers if required and allow them to finish the race.
- There will be a medic onsite at all times, with first aid equipment.

If you wish to see our full H&S plan including risk management assessment, please contact Event Manager for a copy.



KIA KAHA I TE WAI BE STRONG IN THE WATER

The Aims Games Canoe Racing event is focused on fun, developing young paddlers and fair, sportsman-like racing that everyone can enjoy.

If you have any questions, please contact Danika Mowlem (Event Manager)
danika.mowlem@canoeracing.org.nz 0212026154