



# 2026 NZ Secondary School Open Water Swimming Championships

Saturday 7 March 2026

Lake Tikitapu, Rotorua

## Event Information Booklet

### Contact Information

[events@swimming.org.nz](mailto:events@swimming.org.nz)

Version 1 - 24 October 2025

This is a living document and amendments may be made. The information in this booklet is correct at the time of publishing. Swimming New Zealand will not be held liable for any costs and expenses incurred by any person following any changes to the information outlined in this booklet.

For the latest information, please check the event webpage on the Swimming New Zealand website to ensure you have the up-to-date version.



# SECONDARY SCHOOLS OPEN WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS NEW ZEALAND

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Swimming NZ and the NZ Ocean Swim Series have partnered to host the 2026 NZ Secondary School Open Water Championships within the Legend of the Lake swim.

Event Safety and Rules will be governed by the NZ Ocean Swim Series guidelines.

This meet is open to financial, registered (at the time of competition) Swimming NZ club swimmers, competitive swimmers and any person who is enrolled at Secondary Schools in New Zealand.

For further information, general updates, and any changes to this document, please check the SNZ event webpage regularly.

### Distances, Age Groups and Eligibility

The event offers the following distances:

- 3.5km
- 1000m
- 500m

Swimmers wanting to enter multiple distances can do so at their own responsibility. Please note that swimmers must attend the safety briefing of each distance entered. Check safety briefings and start times before entering.

Age Groups for the Championships are 12-13yrs, 14-15yrs and 16-19yrs, with a female and male division for each of the above Age Groups.

### Eligibility Age as at 7 March 2026

There are no qualification times for the Championships; entries open to all schools in New Zealand with year 9-13 students.

Homeschooled students are eligible to participate but must comply with the School Sport NZ eligibility requirements which can be found on their website.

## ENTRY INFORMATION

**Entries close on Sunday 1 March 2026 at 11:59pm**

Late Entries will not be accepted. No refunds for any withdrawals (including medical) will apply once entries have closed.

### Entry Process

All entries **MUST** be completed online and through the NZ Ocean Swim Series registration portal.

### School Sanctioning Form

All entries must be confirmed/sanctioned by the swimmers' Secondary School.

A Sanctioning Jotform, will be available to complete on the SNZ competition webpage and needs to be completed no later than 5pm on Thursday 5 March 2026.

### Foreign Entries

No international visitor entries will be accepted for this championship. Visitors may enter the publicly available event through the NZ Ocean Swim Series.

### Entry Fees

Entry fees are as set by the NZ Ocean Swim Series. These can be found on their webpage.



## COMPETITION INFORMATION

### Briefings

Briefings are compulsory and must be attended by all swimmers prior to commencing. They include important information about safety, start and finish procedures and any other important information.

### Key Times

Distance	Registration	Briefing & Start
3.5km	7am	8.45am 9am (race)
1km	9am	11.05am 11.15am (race)
500m	9am	11.35am 11.45am (race)

\*Please note that NZ Ocean Swim Series may update as required.

### Course Maps

These can be viewed on the NZ Ocean Swim Series webpage for the Legend of the Lake.

### Swim Caps

Swim caps are provided as part of your entry and must be worn as a Health and Safety measure.

### Wetsuits

Wetsuits are optional for all events.

### Wave Starts

All events are split into wave starts seeding you with swimmers of similar ability/speed. This is calculated by the estimated swim time selected during your entry process.

### Timing Chips

Electronic timing straps will be used for these championships. Swimmers will be charged if any straps are lost/not returned.

### Race Pack Collection

These can be collected from the registration tent at the times specified on the Legend of the Lake webpage on the NZ Ocean Swim Series website.

### Results

Results for these championships will be posted on the SNZ website and NZ Ocean Swim Series website as soon as practicable after the race.

### Medals

Medals will be awarded to the top three swimmers in each age group category per gender.

Please note that students will also be eligible for medals in the Legend of the Lake event.

### Top School Trophy

Points will be awarded to top 10 placings in each age group category per gender to determine the Top School Trophy.

### Anti-Doping

All participants must agree to comply with the Sports Anti-Doping Rules.



## OTHER INFORMATION

### Parking

Event Parking will be limited in the event areas, please allow enough time to park further away if required.

We ask for your cooperation to follow any directions or instructions by event staff.

Please drive carefully and slow around the event site as (young) swimmers will be walking around and possibly on roadside.

### Meet Photography

Participants who have entered this event agree to allow photograph, video multimedia or film likeness taken by accredited photographers to be used for any legitimate purpose by Swimming New Zealand or others as approved by Swimming New Zealand. If you'd like to opt out of this, please contact [events@swimming.org.nz](mailto:events@swimming.org.nz)

### Bag Storage Area

The NZ Ocean Swim Series team have organised a bag storage area. Please refer to their website for more details.

### More Information or Questions

Please visit the NZ Ocean Swim Series website for any further general information or contact Swimming NZ for specific NZ Secondary School Open Water Swimming Championships information.

### Points

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Points	26	21	17	14	12	10	8	6	4	2