2027 Junior Festival – Aquaknights

6 - 7 March 2027

Waterworld Te Rapa
Garnett Avenue, Forest Lake, Hamilton 3200

Event Information Booklet

Contact Information
events@swimming.org.nz

Version 1 – 3 November 2026

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

HAMILTON
6 - 7 MARCH 2027

Purpose
The Junior Festivals are 12 & under swimming events hosted in 4 zonal locations around the country across one weekend in 2027. The purpose of these meets is to provide 12 & under swimmers a fun environment to participate and race, with the focus on achieving personal bests and “make every stroke count.”

Entry Information

Swimming New Zealand policies and the New Zealand swimming rules govern this competition.

This meet is open to financial, registered (at the time of competition) Swimming New Zealand competitive swimmers and foreign swimmers registered with foreign World Aquatics affiliated swimming federations.

This meet is targeted toward the following regions:

- Swimming Bay of Plenty
- Swimming Hawke’s Bay Poverty Bay
- Swimming Taranaki
- Swimming Waikato

Entries	Timeline
Entries Open	Tuesday 11 January
Individual Entries Close	Tuesday 23 February
Relay Entries Close	Wednesday 24 February

Entry Process
All entries must be submitted via the SNZ National Database. Individuals will be able to access and complete their entries online via their Fast Lane page.

There is no limit on the number of individual event entries.

Late Entries will be accepted for 24hrs, as per SNZ Policy 006. A $50 (NZD) fee will apply.

Qualification Criteria
Age as at 6 March 2027.

The qualifying period is from 1 January 2026 to Monday 22 February 2027.

Swimmers must be 12 years or under as of 6 March 2027.

There are no qualifying times required to enter the Junior Festival, including swimmers with a disability. However, a swimmer must have swum the respective race before and have a time on the SNZ database. This means times from designated and development meets can be used to enter. Individual entry times will be generated by the SNZ database. Performances from competitions not held within the database will not be eligible for use to enter this competition.

Entry Fees

Location	Individual	Relay Team
Domestic	$16	$27
International	N/A	N/A

Entry fees must be paid prior to the start of the meet. If they have not been paid it will result in the withdrawal of swimmers. Clubs and regions that have not paid the required entry fees at the closing date of entries will be invoiced by Swimming New Zealand.

No refunds for any withdrawals before or during the meet. Refunds for any medical withdrawals can be considered if a signed medical certificate is supplied.

Event Specifications

Age Groups - Individual swimmers for the following age groups: 10&U, 11 years, 12 years. 12&U for Swimmers with a Disability.

All events are timed finals.

Events will be super seeded with the top 10 swimmers in each age group swimming together in the last timed finals for each respective event, all other swimmers will be rank seeded.

Swimmers With a Disability

This event is open to swimmers who have a diagnosed physical, vision, hearing or intellectual disability of some kind, with no classification required.

With the swimmers with a disability concept, it is key to aligning with the purpose of the meet – provide 12 & Unders a fun environment to participate and race, with the focus on achieving personal bests and "make every stroke count." The extent of the swimmer's disability (and Muti-Class swimming eligible impairment type) is irrelevant, so long as there is a diagnosis.

Like able-bodied swimmers, there are no qualifying times for swimmers with a disability. Place getter ribbons will be allocated based on who touches the wall first regardless of disability type or extent.

Although there are no qualifying times for swimmers with a disability, the swimmer must be capable to swim their entered races.

Races for swimmers with a disability will be 50s and 100s of each stroke, including the 100m IM.

If you have any questions about this swimming with a disability category or wish to learn more information about classification moving forwards, please contact Cameron Leslie on cameron@swimming.org.nz.

Relays

Only swimmers who have entered in at least one individual event in this competition may be permitted to swim in relay events. There is no limit to the number of relay teams a club may enter.

6x50 Mixed Freestyle Club Relay consists of 3 males, 3 females (1 swimmer from each age group)

- 10 & U years male & female
- 11 years male & female
- 12 years male & female

4 x 50m Free Club Relay – both male and female relays are swum as 12 & Under

4 x 50m Free Club Relay (Mixed) – consist of 2 males and 2 female swimmers 12 & Under

4 x 50m Medley Club Relay – both male and female relays are swum as 12 & Under

4 x 50m Medley Club Relay (Mixed) – consist of 2 males and 2 female swimmers 12 & Under

4 x 25m Freestyle Kick Club Relay – both male and female relays are swum as 12 & Under (free to enter)

4 x 25m Freestyle Kick Club Relay – consist of 2 males and 2 female swimmers 12 & Under (free to enter)

Freestyle Kick Event

There is no entry fee for the freestyle kick and all athletes are encouraged to participate.

The event will not involve diving. Swimmers will start in the water, with one hand on the kickboard and one hand on the starting blocks. Swimmers will kick for the 25m, touch and turn, and return in the same manner, with no underwater work. The swimmers only need to touch with one hand.

Psych Sheets

Psych Sheets will be posted on the event webpage as soon as possible after entries close.

Any corrections and changes to psych sheets are to be sent to entries@swimming.org.nz within 24 hours of the psych sheets being posted.

Any changes made after the final psych sheets are published will not be updated online but will be completed and updated on the SNZ event file.

Event Information

Opening Hours

Competition	Morning	Afternoon
Saturday 6 Mar	8.00 (doors)	15.00 (doors)
	9.00 (comp)	16.00 (comp)
Sunday 7 Mar	8.00 (doors)	14.00 (doors)
	9.00 (comp)	15.00 (comp)

Clubs that wish to train outside these times will have to organise their own times with the pool and pay entry.

Results

Results will be published on Meet Mobile.

Spectator Tickets

Tickets	Timed Finals
Adult	$5*
Child (5 & under)	Free

*Not including GST and booking fees

Spectator Access

Spectators enter through event entrance doors. Spectators are to remain in designated areas at all times. Competition staff will also be monitoring this, if any spectators are seen to be on pool deck they will moved to the spectator area or asked to leave the venue at the Competitions Manager's discretion.

Photography & Videography

Photos and videos may be taken throughout the competition. All athletes and spectators have agreed to allow photographs, videos, audio recordings and audio recording to be taken by accredited SNZ contractors to be used for any legitimate purpose by SNZ. If you have any concerns please contact the Competitions Manager.

Anyone wishing to take photo, video and/or audio recordings at the championships need to request permission via emailing events@swimming.org.nz. The SNZ staff will, at their sole discretion, determine whether or not an item is intended for personal or club use.

Merchandise
Merchandise for this event is provided by SNZ partner Teamline and is available for pre-purchase. In addition, race suits and other swim products are available from Teamline on their online store and from their poolside pop-up store. Find everything you need on their website

Parking
Parking is limited at this facility. Please try and limit the number of vehicles you travel into the meet.

Please note: Parking fees apply, please see signage displayed.

Athlete Information

Pool Access
Swimmers
Access to the pool is via the event entrance doors. Seating will be available in the grandstand using the outside staircase.

Warm-Up Procedure

Date	Warm-Up Times
Saturday 6 March	Morning: 8am – 8.50am
	Afternoon: 3pm – 3.50pm
Sunday 7 March	Morning: 8am – 8.50am
	Afternoon: 2pm – 2.45pm

Please follow any signs displayed during warm-up.

Athlete Seating
Seating will be available in grandstand for swimmers, coaches and team managers. SNZ encourages all clubs to work together as there are plenty of seats available.

Marshalling Process
Self-marshalling will be employed during all sessions. Self-Marshalling will occur near the 25m pool non-grandstand side during all sessions. Swimmers should assemble here 4 heats prior to their event. For all 50m events swimmers need to be at marshalling 6 heats prior to their event.

Place Getter Ribbons
Ribbons shall be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place getters in all events for those attending each respective Junior Festival – regardless of where the swimmer resides. Ribbons will be awarded separately per race for disabled swimming events.

For the Junior Festival, coaches or team managers will be permitted to take photos, as no official victory ceremony photos will be shared on SNZ social media channels. Please be mindful of avoiding congestion and others around the podium.

PB Percentage
The winning clubs will be based on PB% verse entries. Categories are based on total entries;
1-50, 51-100, 101-200 and 200+

Recognition for club winners shall be:

- Recognition in the post-competition wrap

In the event of a highest percentage tie within a zonal or national category the winner will be determined by the highest number of entries.

All calculations will be made by Swimming NZ staff and the winners will be final.

Team Managers Information

Accreditation

Clubs will need to complete the respective coaches and managers form for team personnel who are attending the meet. Event passes will be allocated to clubs based on this information.

Please note that we have introduced the below ratios for clubs

- **1 - 10 Swimmers = 2 managers**
- **11 - 20 Swimmers = 3 managers**
- **21 - 30 Swimmers = 4 managers**
- **31+ Swimmers = 5 managers**

Accreditation must be worn at all times, around the neck, to gain access to and remain on the pool deck.
No accreditation no entry. Lost accreditation can be replaced at a cost of $15.00 each.

Accreditation applications will not be accepted after the late application deadline.

Date	Deadline
Applications Open	Tuesday 11 January 2027
Applications Close	Tuesday 23 February 2027
Late Applications Close	Wednesday 24 February 2027

A link to apply for coach and team manager accreditation will be available on the event webpage closer to the opening date, with this page providing more details regarding gaining accreditation.

The late applications closing date above is the last date to apply for an accreditation.

Please note: late applications will incur a $50 late fee for each individual

Accreditation Criteria

Coaches must be registered with Swimming New Zealand under the member category 'Coach' and must be showing as financial and active in the Swimming New Zealand database and registered with Swim Coaches & Teacher of NZ Inc. Coaches are also required to have completed the respective online education modules.

Managers must be an active member on the Swimming New Zealand database. They can be registered as volunteer member and must have a Police Vetting check completed on their SNZ profile. They are not permitted to be undertaking any coaching on pool deck.

If you need to process or confirm your police check on the SNZ database, please email policevetting@swimming.org.nz. Please note, police checks may take up to 30 working days, ensure you allow enough time to be approved before the event.

Photo accreditation will be incorporated for this event, so a headshot or passport photo will be required to be included as part of the application process.

Please note you will only hear back from Swimming New Zealand if there is an issue with your accreditation approval.

Any team manager, coach or swimmer who is caught giving their accreditation to somebody other than themselves, will have their accreditation removed for the remainder of the event.

Anyone without an accreditation will need to purchase a spectator ticket.

Pool Access

Coaches & Team Managers:

Access to the pool is via the rear competitor's entrance. Seating will be available in the grandstand using the outside staircase with your accreditation. Staff will be on hand to ensure that passes are being presented. If you do not have a valid pass – you will be required to stay in the spectator seating.

Accreditation must be worn, around the neck, to gain access. No accreditation no entry. Lost accreditation can be replaced at a cost of $15.00 each.

Communication During Competition

During the meet SNZ may use WhatsApp to communicate to coaches and managers during the meet, please ensure your contact details are correct.

Managers Meeting

There will be a compulsory team managers meeting held on Saturday 6 March at 8:15am outside the control room.

Team managers will be given a brief run-down of meet activities, expectations of swimmers, parents and clubs and general delivery of the event.

Each club should have at least one representative at the meeting to ensure all information is delivered back to the swimmers.

Event Packs

Packs and passes must be collected by team mangers from the competitor's entrance to gain entry into the pool facility. These will be available to collect from 6.45am on the Saturday morning.

Withdrawals

Scratchings for session one should be emailed to entries@swimming.org.nz by Thursday 26 February 2pm. Any withdrawals after this time will need to be submitted at the resolutions desk.

We encourage you to complete a withdrawal form and submit at the resolutions desk if a swimmer won't swim an event.

Protests

Protests must be submitted to the referee, in writing, on the protest form by the team manager only within 30 minutes following the conclusion of the respective event. This needs to be accompanied in cash by the $100.00 protest fee.

If conditions causing a potential protest are noted prior to the event a protest must be lodged before the signal to start is given.

All protests shall be considered by the referee. If the referee rejects the protest, they must state the reasons for their decision. The regional Team Manager may appeal the rejection to the Jury of Appeal whose decision shall be final.

If the protest is rejected, the deposit will be forfeited to SNZ. If the protest is upheld the deposit will be returned.

Disqualifications

Disqualifications will be announced and a copy of the DQ form can be sighted by requesting at the resolutions desk.

Timelines

Timelines will be included in session programmes. The times shown are approximate and races may start before or after the times indicated.

Banner Placement

Swimming New Zealand will have signage in and around the facility; this signage takes precedence for position over regional and club banners. SNZ reserves the right to remove any banners that are not in appropriate areas or conflict with signage and/or sponsors.

Opening Ceremony – Mexican Wave

Prior to the start of racing in the first session, every club will line up around the poolside and take part in an opening ceremony Mexican wave. Each Junior festival zone will have a competition to who can create the loudest and most fun Mexican wave as well as trying to achieve to the golden 100 seconds without a break.

Themed Session

Jungle Safari Theme

The Sunday afternoon session will be themed. There will be spot prizes for the best dressed people, which will be awarded from the dress-up walk past at 2.45pm. Please congregate at the marshalling area.

PB Ribbons

After each swim, each swimmer should speak to their coach to see if they achieved a PB. If they have, that swimmer will receive their ribbon from their coach.

Medical Information

Service	Address	Phone
Anglesea Clinic Urgent Care	3 Thackeray St, Hamilton	07 858 0800
Hamilton Family Dental	1359 Victoria St, Beerescourt	07 214 5987
Vercoe Rd Pharmacy	35 Vercoe Rd, Beerescourt	07 849 3805
X-Ray, Pacific Radiology	6 Avalon Drive, Nawton	07 847 5753
Physio, Active +	543 Te Rapa Rd, Te Rapa	07 282 1624
Waikato Hospital	Pembroke St, Hamilton East	07 839 8899
Emergency – Fire, Police, Ambulance		111
AED	Waterworld Hamilton, Reception & outside Hydroslide	