



# 2026 Junior Festivals – Aquaknights

## Pre-Competition Information Book

Accurate as 20 February 2026

## Welcome from Swimming NZ

Kia ora swimmers, coaches and managers,

On behalf of Swimming NZ and the events team in Hawke's Bay, welcome to the 2026 Junior Festival – Aquaknights being held this week. We are excited to be hosting this event at Hawke's Bay Regional Aquatic Centre; we can't wait to welcome you all!

To assist you with your final preparations, we have put together this document outlining all the key details you need to know about to help you across the festival. It promises to be an exciting weekend of racing, and we look forward having you.

Thanks for being part of the competition, and best of luck for your final preparations and racing throughout the week. We can't wait to see you in Hawke's Bay.

Nga mihi nui,  
Kate

*Kate Griffiths*

**Kate Griffiths**  
Competitions Manager

## Important Information

### Key Contacts For Event

Role	Name	Enquiry Type	Contact
Competitions Manager	Kate Griffiths	Event Queries	021 246 7440 <a href="mailto:events@swimming.org.nz">events@swimming.org.nz</a>

### WhatsApp Group – Junior Festival Update

We have created a WhatsApp Group that you can join to receive short updates across the week should we require to. This is open to managers, coaches and swimmers if they would like to join.

[Please join the WhatsApp group here](#)

### Good Behaviour

Swimming New Zealand is committed to providing positive swimming experiences for all involved. Across the two days of competition, we trust that all interactions throughout the event will be positive and respectful – please treat others like you would like to be treated.

All participants must comply with our Code of Conduct – [learn more](#)

### Health & Safety

Please remember to encourage good hygiene practices at this event and use common sense to keep yourself and others safe on pool deck.

### Accred & Access To Pool

Access to the pool is via the back entrance at the times listed that doors open with your accreditation. An accreditation volunteer will be on hand to ensure that passes are being presented. If you do not have a valid pass – you will be required to pay the appropriate admission fee. 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 – through cash or invoice to the club.

Please note, no late passes will be issued at the door as per the updated Accreditation Policy 009.

### Seating

There will be no seating plan for this event.

### Parking

Parking is limited at Hawke's Bay Regional Aquatic Centre. Please try and limit the number of vehicles you use to travel into the meet.

## Entries & Results

### Psych Sheets

Psych Sheets have been posted on the SNZ website for this event.

[Click here to view](#)

### Programme & Results

Swimming NZ will complete the programme and seeding over the coming days and post online. Results are available on Meet Mobile throughout the competition.

Team Manager and Coaches programmes for the entire competition will be included in the Event Packs. No additional programmes will be available for sale.

### Session Timelines

The approximate session timelines have been posted on the SNZ website for this event.

[Click here to view](#)

### Withdrawals

Withdrawals for session one should be emailed to [entries@swimming.org.nz](mailto:entries@swimming.org.nz) by Thursday 27 February 12pm. Any withdrawals after this time will need to be submitted at the Resolutions Desk.

### DQs & Protests

Disqualifications will be announced and a copy of the DQ form will be available at the Control Room.

Protests must be submitted to the referee, in writing, on the protest form by the team manager only within 30 minutes following the DQ result posting online. 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 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.

## Competition Information

### Opening Hours

Competition Days (Saturday 28 February – Sunday 01 March)

Morning Sessions – Warm Up from 7:00am, Racing Starts at 8:00am  
Afternoon Session Saturday – Warm Up from 3:00pm, Racing Starts at 4:00pm  
Afternoon Session Sunday – Warm Up from 1:30pm, Racing Starts at 2:30pm

### **Timed Finals**

All events are timed finals.

### **Relays**

Relays will be timed-final. Ribbons will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Swimmers must be entered in individual events to be entered in relays.

The names of the swimmers swimming on a relay must be submitted at least 30 minutes before the start of the session in which the event is to take place, in the order in which they are to swim. The names of swimmers in medley relay events must be listed in order, of the respective strokes. Failure to swim in the order listed will result in disqualification. Substitutions may be made only in the case of a documented medical emergency. Regional relay teams will be able to enter a team as an exhibition race.

Please note: any swimmers who have entered individual events at the 2026 Junior Festival Competition will be permitted to swim in relay teams. We encourage every swimmer at the competition to participate in relay teams for their club.

### **Marshalling**

Self-marshalling will be employed during all sessions. Swimmers are asked to be in the marshalling area 4 heats prior to their event. For all 50m events swimmers need to be in the marshalling area 6 heats prior to their event.

### **Victory Ceremonies**

Ribbons shall be awarded for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd New Zealanders in all events for each group – 10 & Under, 11 years, 12 years. 12 & Under for swimmers with Disability.

The victory ceremonies will be held at the end of each session. Please listen to the announcer during the competition.

Dress standard and protocols for victory ceremonies:

- Club or regional t-shirt, jacket, or sweatshirt.
- No caps or goggles.
- Shorts, trousers, or skirts must be worn.
- Shoes must be worn.
- No towels to be wrapped around the waist

### **Rules**

The Junior Festivals will be delivered in accordance with Swimming NZ Policies and NZ Swimming Rules.

[Click here for more information](#)

### Strapping

Swimmers with strapping must provide documentation from a relevant registered health practitioner or physiotherapist and be reviewed by the Technical Director prior to swimming. Any swimmers without such documentation may not be permitted to swim.

### Accreditations

All accredited persons (coaches, officials, team managers and staff) must have their accreditation on them and present their pass to access the competition building via the accredited entrance. Please wear your accreditation around your neck.

If a coach or team manager is seen to be using somebody else's accreditation, this accreditation will be removed for the remainder of the event.

Please note that you won't be providing lanyards for 2026, so you'll need to bring your own for the competition.

### Club Packs

Team event packs can be collected from the accreditation desk located at the swimmer's entrance on Saturday 28 February from 6.45am, these must be collected by team managers.

### Accreditation Hours

Competition days during warm-up times

## Don't Miss Any Of The Action

### Spectator Tickets

Spectator tickets are available for purchase online via Humanitix. Session programmes will be available online via the event Webpage.

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

\*Not including GST and booking fees

[Click here to purchase spectator tickets](#)

### Livestream

This event will not be livestreamed but plenty of spectator seats are still available.

### Dress-Up Theme

Cartoon Characters Theme for the dress-up before the start of the last session on Sunday afternoon. There will be spot prizes for the best dressed people, which will be awarded from the dress-up walk past at 2.15pm. Please congregate below the blocks.

### **Teamline– Merchandise**

Teamline will not be at this event. They will courier any pre order t-shirts directly to you.

## **Policies & Other Important Information**

### **Photography & Videography**

Photos and videos will be taken throughout the competition. All athletes and spectators have agreed to allow photographs, videos, and audio recordings to be taken by accredited SNZ contractors to be used for any legitimate purpose by SNZ. If you have any concerns please contact [events@swimming.org.nz](mailto:events@swimming.org.nz).

Spectators agree upon entry that photographic, video or audio recording equipment is prohibited for any purpose which may include, without limitation, video and/or audio recorders, camera tripods, monopods, or lenses with a total focal strength of greater than 300mm and commercial digital video equipment. The SNZ Event staff will, at their sole discretion, determine whether or not an item is intended for personal or commercial use.

### **Team Manager Guidelines**

To assist Team Managers with their preparations, we have provided a guidelines document.

[Click here to view](#)

### **Accreditation Policy (009)**

As accredited persons for these championships, please be aware you'll comply with this policy

[Click here to view](#)