



Swimming Nelson Marlborough Country and Town Championships 2026

17th January 2026

Proudly hosted by



Meet Information

The Swimming Nelson Marlborough Country & Town Championships are open to all eligible Swimming NZ members who meet the entry criteria. By participating in these championships, you acknowledge and agree to the importance of the following guidelines:

- comply with the Sports Anti-Doping rules,
- allow photographs, video, multimedia, or film likenesses taken by accredited photographers to be used for any legitimate purpose by Swimming Nelson Marlborough or others that Swimming Nelson Marlborough has approved.

As the event organiser, Swimming Nelson Marlborough is committed to ensuring a smooth and fair competition. We reserve the right to restrict entries to maintain the event's timeline and secure the necessary number of Technical Officials. As always, pool access is free and via the entrance. This document may be amended, so check the [Meet Page](#) on The Swimming Nelson Marlborough website to ensure you have the latest version

ENTRY ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA

- Age of competitors is at 17 January 2026;
- Age groups will be male and female: -
 - 10 years and under
 - 11-12 years;
 - 13-14 years; and
 - 15 years and over.

Except, the 200m Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke, and IM will be scored as: -

- 12 years and under;
- 13-14 years, and
- 15 years & over.

The 200m Butterfly will be scored as male and female: -

- Open

A swimmer may enter a maximum of 7 individual events;

- There are no qualifying times, and
- NT (no times) will be accepted.

The Swimming Nelson Marlborough Country and Town Championships will be swum under Swimming NZ Swimming Rules and Policies with the following specific conditions and criteria.

- The meet will be swum in a short course (25m) pool with manual timing.
- Feet first entry into pool for all backstroke events, no swim backs.
- The one start rule will apply.
- Over the top starts will apply.
- After a race has finished, each competitor is to remain in his/her lane until instructed to leave by the Referee's whistle. While exiting the pool, competitors must swim under the lanes ropes and exit at either side of the pool.
- Swimmers aged 12 years and under shall not compete in a technical swimsuit. A technical swimsuit is one that has bonded seams, kinetic tape, or meshed seams - [SNM Technical Swim Suit Policy](#).
- All events will be Mixed Timed Finals resulted to age groups.

ENTRY DETAILS

Individual Entries Close	11:59pm 11/01/2026	\$9.00
Relay Entries Close	11:59pm 13/01/2026	No Charge

All entries must be completed online through **Fast Lane** or the Swimming NZ Database. Late entries will not be accepted. Completed entries constitute acceptance of the conditions and rules outlined in the competition documents.

There will be **no refunds** for any withdrawals after the publication of the meet programme, however, consideration may be given when a signed medical certificate is provided before the completion of the competition.

VISITORS

Swimmers affiliated to a region other than SNM may enter and compete as visiting swimmers but will not be eligible to win any placing, cup, or title except that, should a visiting swimmer place first, second or third in an event, they will receive a visitor's ribbon.

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS, TIMEKEEPERS AND VOLUNTEERS

- Swimming Nelson Marlborough will endeavour to obtain the necessary number of technical officials. Still, the number on the pool deck may be more or less than the requirement set out in the Swimming NZ approval criteria.
- All entrants must supply a volunteer.
- Indicate your availability by completing the [Duty Form](#) by **Sunday 11th January at 11:59pm**.
- A meeting will be held 15 minutes before each session beside the Recorder's office. Don't forget to bring a water bottle and sunglasses

COACH AND TEAM MANAGER

- All coaches **MUST** be police vetted with results accessible within the Swimming NZ Database.
- Minimum category for Coaches to access the pool deck is 'Volunteer Coach', whereas the minimum category for Team Managers is 'Volunteer'.

A Team Managers meeting will be held 30 minutes before the start of session 1. Each club must have at least one representative at the meeting to ensure all information is delivered back to the team. Club folders can be collected from the Records Office.

RELAYS

- Entrants must have entered, at least one individual event to be eligible;
- Relay entries close Tuesday, 13th January 2026 at 11.59pm.
- Club points awarded the same as for individual events;
- There is a maximum of three teams per club per relay event;
- Teams for mixed 4x50 relays must have: -
 1. 10 & under, 11-12: **any combination of boys and girls**
 2. 13-14, 15 & Over: **2 or more girls.**
- For mixed relays, a swimmer may 'swim up' to a higher age group but in such case may not compete in another mixed relay of the same type (i.e. freestyle).
- Clubs without sufficient swimmers of required age and gender may combine with another club and may submit entries up to 30 minutes after the previous session. Any such mixed club entries shall be exhibition only and shall not score points.

WITHDRAWALS

- Session 1 to be received by Swimming Nelson Marlborough Registrar admin@snm.org.nz by midnight Wednesday, 14th January 2026;
- Session 2 are to be advised to the Recorder by the end of the preceding session;
- Any withdrawals submitted after the above schedule will be subject to Swimming NZ, Withdrawal and Protests, [Policy 008](#);
- All withdrawals must be in writing on SNZ withdrawal form, available in team managers folder and must be submitted by the team manager. Team managers must remain 30 minutes after end of session 1 for any withdrawals that may be received by their swimmers. Withdrawals WILL NOT under any circumstance be accepted by parents of swimmers.
- 'No shows' will incur a fine of \$10. Fines must be paid before a swimmer may enter any subsequent SNM meet.

PROTESTS

- Protests must be submitted to the referee, in writing, on the protest form by the Team Manager, within 30 minutes following the posting of the results of the respective event and must be accompanied by the \$50.00 protest fee (in cash).
- 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 club Team Manager may appeal the rejection to the Jury of Appeals whose decision shall be final. If the protest is rejected, the fee will be forfeited to Swimming Nelson Marlborough, however if the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned.

REWARDS & POINTS

- Ribbons will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners in individual events. Finalist Ribbons will be presented to 4th to 6th place winners to mark their achievements.
- Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be presented to the SNM Country Club swimmers who score the most points in each age group, and to the overall top three swimmers in each age group irrespective of club (visitors not eligible). Scoring will be by the Buchanan Cup point system (SNM Rule T2.5).
- SNM Country Clubs are: Golden Bay, Kaikoura, Motueka, Murchison, and Waimea swimming clubs.

CREST Cup	• Best overall Country Club – highest points using Buchanan Cup points system.
LIFE MEMBERS Cup (Presented by Ted Hockey in 1982) Awarded annually.	• Best overall Country Club Swimmer competing in the SNM Country and Town Club Championships. • Based on points for finals of individual events scored using Hy-tek single year age group points. • Events where swimmers swim up an age group will not be counted. • Contenders must complete events in all four strokes (medley not counted as a stroke). • Winner shall be the swimmer with the highest total Hy-tek points from their top six events.
Ivon Clemett Cup	• Best Overall Town Club – highest points using Buchanan Cup Points system.
Eric Peterson Cup	• Best overall Town Club Swimmer competing in the SNM Country and Town Club Championships. • Based on points for finals of individual events scored using Hy-tek single year age group points. • Events where swimmers swim up an age group will not be counted. • Contenders must complete events in all four strokes (medley not counted as a stroke). • Winner shall be the swimmer with the highest total Hy-tek points from their top six events.

PRESENTATION CEREMONY

- All ribbons will be available for collection from the Records Office, by Team Managers.
- Medal Ceremony will take place at the end of Session 2 on the grassy area to the right of the pool facility.

GENERAL ATHLETE INFORMATION

Session Times

Session 1 – Saturday Morning
Warm Up at 8.30am
Racing starts 9.30am

Session 2 – Saturday Afternoon
Warm Up at 3.00pm
Racing starts 4.00pm

STRAPPING

Athletes with strapping must provide documentation from a relevant registered health practitioner or physiotherapist and be reviewed by the Technical Director prior to swimming. Any Athlete without such documentation will not be permitted to swim whilst wearing the strapping.

SEATING

- No athlete, manager or coach is to stand and/or sit on the pool deck during the competition sessions, use the seating available on the tiered seating to the far side of the pool.
- Spectator seating is available to the left of the pool, next to the changing sheds. No spectators to be seated with teams.

WARM-UP PROCEDURE

- Warm up is to be conducted following [SNM warm up procedures](#).
- Warm up commences sixty (60) minutes prior to the start of each session.
- There are no warm down lanes available until after each session finishes.

MARSHALLING

- Located at the far side of the Learn to Swim pool.
- Only SNM appointed marshal and athletes to be present at marshalling.
- Athletes are to marshal 6 races prior to 50m events and 4 races prior to their event for all other events and remain in the marshalling area.
- All team members are required to marshal for relay events.

RESULTS

- Swimming Nelson Marlborough will have live results via Meet Mobile.
- Meet results will be published on the SNM Meet page at the conclusion of the event.

TIMELINES

Timelines will be included with the meet documents, however, be aware that these times are approximate; races may start before or after the times indicated.

FACILITIES HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

POOLDECK

- During competition, only essential personnel (Technical officials and Timekeepers) are allowed on the pool deck.
- Coaches are to remain in their team area.

GENERAL

- Be careful walking around facility, it can get very slippery.
- To minimise the risk of injury all athletes MUST dry off before walking around facility.
- Fire exits are always to remain clear.
- Evacuation Procedure: if the pool requires evacuation you will be guided by Hampden Street Pool staff, please remain calm and follow their instructions.

Key Reminders

Individual Entries Close: Sunday 11th January 202, at 11.59pm.

Relay Entries Close: Tuesday, 13th January 2026 at 11.59pm.

Duty Sheets: Timekeepers and Technical Officials availability by close of entries.

Entry List to clubs: Monday 12th January 2025.

Competition Programme: Available on SNM Meet page no later than 5pm Thursday 15th January.