



**New Zealand Secondary Schools Athletics Association
43rd New Zealand Secondary Schools
Cross Country Championships
Agrodome, Lower A&P Oval, Rotorua
Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th June 2016
*Newsletter #1***

To all New Zealand Secondary Schools,

Welcome to our first newsletter in the countdown to the 43rd New Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships at the Agrodome A & P Oval, Rotorua on the weekend of **Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 June 2016**. We are super excited about hosting this fantastic event in Rotorua for the first time in its long, illustrious history.

We are also delighted to announce **Podium Podiatry and Footwear** as the title sponsor and look forward to working with Matt and the team on some exciting initiatives for the event.

Podium is recognised and respected as the leading retail provider of podiatry and footwear solutions helping young athletes get to the top of the podium. Podium's podiatrists are highly trained, registered health professionals who specialise in foot care and lower limb conditions, working in their in-store clinics 7 days a week. Podium's footwear technicians are trained to deliver a professional service using video analysis to help select the correct footwear for the foot type. The feet are the foundation of the body and they often mirror a person's general health. Selecting the correct footwear will reduce the risk of injury and help to achieve goals. To celebrate their involvement with the NZ Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships 2016, Podium are offering **20% OFF** all of their running spikes so athletes and coaches can be all set for the upcoming cross country season. Purchase online [here](#).

The local organising team would like to call upon entries from your school to take part in this popular and prestigious national event.



Event Organisers:

The local organising team and stakeholders to bring you this event includes:

- Rotorua Lakes Council
- Lake City Athletic Club Incorporated
- Waikato Bay of Plenty Secondary Schools Athletic Association
- Sport Bay of Plenty
- Ngati Whakaue Tribal Lands
- Ngai Tahu Tourism, operators of Agrodome
- Rotorua A&P Association

A friendly reminder that the local organising team is NOT involved in the entry process. All secondary schools intending on having athletes competing need to register their athletes online through the News Zealand Secondary Schools Athletic Association (NZSSAA) website located at www.nzssaa.org.nz.

Topics included in this newsletter:

1. Location & course
2. Participation and affiliation to NZSSAA
3. Age groups
4. Entry procedure
5. Event weekend schedule
6. Athlete's & team manager's social
7. Event merchandise
8. Accommodation & activities
9. Key contacts
10. Your next newsletter

Location & course

The event venue is located at the world famous Agrodome in Rotorua. The course utilises the lower A&P Oval and adjacent Ngati Whakaue Tribal Lands farmland. The event venue is less than ten minutes' drive from the Rotorua inner city. There is ample parking at the venue in two designated parking areas for team vans/buses and the public/supporters for cars.

The course is best described as a combination of flat and moderately undulating farmland. The surface may be wet at the time of the Championships. Spiked shoes are recommended. The course is an excellent one for spectator viewing. We'd love to have friends, family and school personnel here to support competing students. Attached to the NZSSAA webpage are a location map and course map in PDF format. Please download or print these for your future reference.

A course gradient profile and details of obstacles to be positioned on the course will be provided in the May newsletter.



Participation and affiliation to NZSSAA

Participation in the Championships is open to any student Year 9 or above who attends a New Zealand Secondary School. **Year 7 and 8 students are NOT eligible to compete under any circumstances.**

Affiliation with the NZSSAA is invoiced as part of the entry process for the Championships.

Para Athletes (PA) participation is encouraged and athletes wishing to compete can choose one of two entry options:

- 1) 2km PA girls and boys combined impairment race
- 2) Entry into the non-impaired races with their PA and non-impairment placing's being identified

PA competitors can contribute to team's results in the non-impaired races. Medals and certificates will be awarded to Junior Boys/Girls and Senior Boys/Girls place getters in the combined impairment race and in all grades in the non-impaired races.

Age groups

All runners **MUST** have turned/be turning 13 prior to 31 December 2016.

Year 9: Runners must be under 15 as at 31 December 2016 (born on or after 1 January 2002) (An athlete can compete in the year 9 race once only).

Junior: Under 16 as at 31 December 2016 (born on or after 1 January 2001)

Senior: Under 20 as at 31 December 2016 (born between 1 January 1997 and 31 December 2000)

PA: Except for junior and senior above, the senior age for ORS funded students is under 22 on 31 December 2016. Contact oe@nzssaa.org.nz to enter over 20 years of age athletes if you have a problem entering these older athletes.

Entry procedure (Team Managers/Sports Coordinators)

- **Entries open online: Monday 16 May**
- **Entries close online at: midnight Friday 10 June**
- **Do NOT be late with your entries**

After **10 June** any further entries will need to be approved by the online entries administrator before they are added. Late entries are to be emailed to oe@nzssaa.org.nz . There will be a charge of \$10 per late entry added to the schools online account.

Early entry instructions:

- 1) Go to the NZSSAA website www.nzssaa.org.nz and click on <http://entries.co.nz/o/nzssxc2016> .
- 2) A login prompt will be presented to your browser. Enter your assigned username and password to proceed into the system.



3) Please fill in your school information first before making your entries.

If you do not have the schools username and password check with your principal who should be holding a copy of it. If necessary email oe@nzssaa.org.nz to request your information.

Affiliation Fee \$36.00 incl. GST per school, payable with online entries.

Entry Fees \$15.00 incl. GST per athlete, which includes the \$5.00 NZSSAA Travel Fund Levy. Your entries are complete when you have chosen a payment option, produced an invoice and paid.

There are two payment options:

1) By **school or personal credit card**

2) **Direct crediting** into the NZSSAA entries bank account **12-3150-0174691-00**

Please note that you can add additional entries yourself up until entries close, even though you may have already generated an invoice or paid. Simply enter your additional athletes and pay for them accordingly.

Payment by cheque is no longer an option, except for a late payment when the cheque is handed directly to the event organisers at the championships in order to uplift your athlete's numbers.

Please note: athletes will not appear in the confirmed entries list or the programme and will not be able to compete until entry fees have been confirmed as having been paid.

All entry enquires are to be emailed ONLY to oe@nzssaa.org.nz please.

Event weekend schedule

Friday 17th June

1pm – 5pm Course open for inspection (please do not come to the venue/course before 1pm)

1pm – 5pm Managers packs are available for collection at the registration HQ at Agrodome. Packs will only be issued to Team Managers and NOT individual athletes.

Saturday 18th June

8.30am Course opens for inspection. Managers packs available for collection

8.45am – 9.15am Managers Meeting – The Farmhouse, Agrodome

10.00am PA Combined Disability/Girls and Boys - 2km

10.30am Year 9 Girls – 3km

11.00am Year 9 Boys – 3km

11.30am Junior Girls – 3km



12midday	Junior Boys – 4km
12.30pm	Senior Girls – 4km
1.00pm	Senior Boys – 6km
4.00pm	Awards Ceremony at Unison 3 Arena, Rotorua Energy Events Centre

Note: at the conclusion of the awards ceremony there will be a team manager’s meeting/final registration for the regional relay championships the following morning

7.00pm – 10.00pm Athletes Social/Manager Function, Rotorua Energy Events Centre, to be confirmed

Sunday 19th June NZSSAA Regional Relay Championships

9.30am	5 x 2km Girls (All grades combined)
10.30am	4 x 1km Community Charity Relay
11.00am	5 x 2km Boys Relay (All grades combined)
12.00pm	Awards ceremony on the lower oval

Athlete’s social & team manager’s function

Details of the proposed athlete’s social & team coaches/managers function to be held at the Rotorua Energy Events Centre from 7.00pm to 10.00pm on the Saturday evening will be announced in April.

Event merchandise

A selection of merchandise with the 2016 event branding including t-shirts and hoodies will be available to purchase online through Podium Podiatry’s online shop located [here](#). Athletes can purchase through this facility with parental approval. Payments can be made by credit card or online banking.

Merchandise orders can also be made as a group order via the school. A direct link to the order form along with the design and additional information will be available on the NZSSAA webpage in April. The form can then be sent via email to Podium Podiatry and Footwear at info@podiumpodiatry.co.nz or fax to 07 307 8500.

Accommodation & activities

Event Hotel Partner

The Holiday Inn, Whakarewarewa have been appointed as the preferred hotel partner to the Championships.

Conveniently located on the edge of the spectacular Redwood forest, overlooking Whakarewarewa Geothermal Reserve, Holiday Inn Rotorua is the perfect hotel from which to enjoy the Championships and explore this spectacular region.



Please see the link below to the booking page for the event or call reservations

\$149 incl. GST and Breakfast for 2 people in a standard room,

\$169 incl. GST and Breakfast for 2 people in a Superior room

Book your accommodation [here](#)

Rotorua Visitor Centre & i-SITE

The Rotorua Visitor Centre and i-SITE would also like to take the opportunity to introduce their services to you and how we can assist in creating a unique experience for schools and supporters attending the 2016 Podium New Zealand Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships.

What can we do for you?

- Organise quotes, create customised itineraries specific to your needs including accommodation and activities, arrange bookings & vouchers and process all the payments.
- Guarantee the most competitive rates with a 24-hour turnaround.
- Save you time and money by booking through one source rather than individual operators.
- Accommodation options range from shared accommodation starting from as little as \$26.00 per person per night or \$46.50 per person per night including meals, to hotel rooms.
- Activities include:
 - Skyline: Gondola and 2 luge - \$26.00 per secondary school student
 - Agrodome Farm Show - \$15.00 per secondary school student
 - Agroventures - \$25.00 per ride excl. Bungy per person
 - Rotorua Duck Tours – \$32.00 per person
- By booking through the Rotorua Visitor Centre and i-SITE, you reap the benefits of the Rotorua Education Network rates, which are especially designed for school groups visiting Rotorua.

We believe we can be helpful in assisting to arrange your trip to Rotorua by removing the time and hassle of attempting to organise these in-house.

For further information email us at tourism.counter@rdc.govt.nz. Quote booking code **NZSSXC**.

Key contacts

If you have any queries relating to entries please email oe@nzssaa.org.nz.

For general enquiries about the event please email either jason.cameron@rotorualc.nz or christine.hutchison@rotorualc.nz.



Next newsletter

The next event newsletter will be available in mid-May with further updates and information posted on the NZSSAA website as it becomes available.

We look forward to welcoming you to Rotorua in June. Train well!

Yours in Running,

Jason Cameron & Christine Hutchison
Run Rotorua 2016
Organising Team Leads
Podium New Zealand Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships

