



# NEW ZEALAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ROAD RELAY FESTIVAL

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026



## NEWSLETTER ONE

To All New Zealand Secondary Schools

**WELCOME** - *Nau mai, haere mai, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.*

Welcome to the **3<sup>rd</sup> NZ Secondary Schools Road Relay Festival** to be held at **Hamilton City Hawks Club, Waikato Riverbank, Hamilton**

### KEY DATES

- **Monday 27 July** – Event entries open for Individual School Teams and Interprovincial Teams
- **Thursday 27 August** – Entries close for Individual School Teams
- **Monday 31 August** - Provisional Entries close for Interprovincial Regional Teams
- **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**
  - 11.30am – Course inspection and Team pack collection
  - 12.30pm - Team managers briefing at start hub
  - 1.00pm - First Race Starts
  - 2.30pm Interprovincial team packs available from TIC for Day 2 interprovincial event
  - **7.00pm - Final Declarations online for Interprovincial team**
- **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September**
  - 9.00am - Interprovincial team final late Changes
  - 10.00am - Interprovincial Relay first event start
  - 12 noon – Event concludes with prizegiving and race packs returned

### EVENT INFORMATION & RULES

The following information outlines the competition rules for the NZSSAA ROAD RELAYS FESTIVAL

- ✓ **Day 1: INTER-SCHOOLS ROAD RELAYS EVENT – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**
- ✓ **Day 2: INTERPROVINCIAL REGIONAL ROAD RELAYS EVENT – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

The following are the rules and procedures for both events

### AGES and DIVISIONS

All grades are the same for both the Individual Inter Schools Relays and the Interprovincial Relays.

The grade divisions will be **Year 9, Junior** and **Senior**. Each age division there will be a **Mixed, Girls** and **Boys** teams' competition. Separate **Para** events will be held for all above grades too.

Mixed teams must include at least two girls in the four team members with no set running order.

Age divisions eligibility are;

**Year 9 Only:** Have turned 13 and U15 years @ 31 December in the year of the event.

**Juniors/Para:** Have turned 13 and U16 years @ 31 December in the year of the event.

**Seniors/Para:** U20 years @ 31 December in the year of the event. (ORS funded Para Athletes Under 22)

*Any athlete can run 'up' a grade e.g. A Y9 girl can compete in a junior or senior or mixed relay team*

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 11:30am – 12:30pm**

- ✓ Course open for inspection and a light jog. Schools are asked to not arrive before 11:00am please.
- ✓ Managers Packs will be available in the TIC Hub at Hawks Clubrooms, 499 Grantham Street, Hamilton
- ✓ Packs will only be issued to team managers and not individual athletes.
- ✓ As there is no Manager's meeting, any technical questions should be asked at the TIC Hub.

***Race starts will be determined by the Race Director after entries are received and there may be progressive start times within each division***





# NEW ZEALAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ROAD RELAY FESTIVAL

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026



## NEWSLETTER ONE

- **1.00pm Boy's Race Starts** – *Final start times to be determined*  
Provisional Start Times: 1.00 pm Senior Boys 1.01pm Junior Boys 1.02 pm Year 9 Boys
- **1.35 pm Mixed Race Starts**  
Depending on entry numbers race start times will be 1 minute intervals like Boys or integrated with Girl's event.
- **2.10pm Girls Race Starts**  
Depending on entry numbers race start times will be like Boys at 1 minute apart  
*All Para teams will race at advised times depending on entry numbers as appropriate*

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September

- **10.00am** - Interprovincial Relay first event start. Races will follow same format as Day one
- **12 noon** – Event concludes with prizegiving, and race packs with all bibs to be returned

### COURSE, TEAMS and DISTANCES

The event shall comprise of four athletes each athlete completing over the distance of **2.5km** on an out and back course with the four legs totalling approx. 10km overall for the team. In 2026 there will be a central hub for the changeover. The course will be the same for both days, Inter Schools & Interprovincial Relay

### ENTRY PROCEDURES

See separate Information sheet at [www.nzssaa.org.nz](http://www.nzssaa.org.nz) for School teams and Interprovincial teams

### ATHLETE & TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Athletes competing in the relay need to be bona fide enrolled students in the school team they are representing.

- ✓ **Mixed Relays** Teams are to be made up of 2 boys and 2 girls from a single coeducational school.
- ✓ Single gender schools may apply to the **NZSSAA Events Coordinator** for entry to join with another single gender school provided both school rolls are under 250 pupils each and the schools are from the same locality.
- ✓ Athletes who have entered and competed in their individual schools' team in the Thursday Interschool Relay events are all eligible to compete for their Interprovincial teams. Where, the opportunity exists, an athlete must first represent their own region either in their own or an older age group.
- ✓ Athletes from smaller provinces may run in another neighbouring regions team if their own region is not entering a team in their grade and they cannot be used in an older team.  
However, this team will not be eligible to receive awards unless the combination of regions has been approved by NZSSAA. The NZSSAA relays coordinator should be made aware of any teams using athletes from outside of their own region.
- ✓ Regions can enter multiple teams in any grade (i.e. A Team, B team, C Team, D Team etc) although only the top finishing team will be eligible to receive awards.
- ✓ Every endeavour will be made for All teams to have their time and placing recorded in the official results.
- ✓ No athlete can compete more than once on Day two.
- ✓ Teams that don't have the required number of runners should just run until all their runners have had one turn each or one athlete runs two legs consecutively.
- ✓ If an athlete is unable to compete on the Thursday, their Relay Team Manager must request a dispensation from the NZSSAA Entry Co-Ordinator to allow them to compete.  
This would only be approved in exceptional circumstances as the intent is that all athletes will compete on Day one [Thursday] for their school before again competing on Friday for the region.





# NEW ZEALAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ROAD RELAY FESTIVAL

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026



## NEWSLETTER ONE

### REGIONS for INTERPROVINCIAL EVENT:

|                           |                           |              |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| ➤ Northland/North Harbour | ➤ Whanganui               | ➤ Tasman     |
| ➤ Auckland                | ➤ East Coast North Island | ➤ Canterbury |
| ➤ Counties Manukau        | ➤ Manawatu                | ➤ Aoraki     |
| ➤ Waikato BOP             | ➤ Wairarapa               | ➤ Otago      |
| ➤ Taranaki                | ➤ Wellington              | ➤ Southland  |

Participation in these events 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.

School Sport NZ Eligibility and Regulations apply for this event. The regulations are available at <https://www.schoolsportnz.org.nz/Sport-1/Events/eligibility-regulations-1>

It is recommended that Regional Team Managers appoint a separate Assistant Team Manager for each of your teams who can then look after that team's singlets, numbers and timing chips/bibs and record lap times encase there are timing issues.

### UNIFORM

**DAY 1. Inter Schools Relay** – Athletes need to compete in their individual school's uniform.

**Day 2. Inter Provincial Relay** - Athletes need to compete in a Regional/Provincial uniform.

### IDENTIFICATION BIBS OF AGE GRADES

A race bib number is required to be used to help with the identification of the different age groups.

The number needs to be attached to the front and back of an athlete's singlet and will display the team number/region and the age group of the athlete.

*See separate document for an explanation of the race numbers and how to identify the teams*

### AWARDS

Where possible Awards will be awarded approximately 10-15 minutes after each event to the first three placed teams in each division.

