

NZSSAA Cross Country and Cross Country Relay Championships, Hawera, September 19-20

The NZSSAA Executive are pleased to be able to confirm that our championships will be held on the weekend of September 19-20 in Hawera as long as New Zealand is able to remain in Covid-19 alert Level 1. Our date has been accepted by School Sport NZ and fits in well with the changes to Athletics NZ's winter calendar. Please be aware that September 19 is the date of the General Election and those attending the championships who are eligible to vote should consider completing their voting earlier.

Proceeding with the event, should Covid-19 community transmission begin to occur again, will be problematic and those entering must accept that cancellation as a result of Government requirements could yet still occur even up to very close to the championships. NZSSAA will refund all entry fees in the event of cancellation and people booking travel and accommodation should seek the ability to obtain refunds if that happens.

The Local Organizing Committee will have Newsletter 1 available shortly along with a map of the course. Entries will open on Monday July 20 and close on Thursday September 10 and can only be done through an athletes school. Athletes interested in taking part in the individual events on the Saturday should work through their school's Sports Coordinator or Person in Charge of Cross Country to complete their entry. If any difficulty occurs with entering please email oe@nzssaa.org.nz for assistance.

Those taking part in the Cross Country Relays (5 athletes per team each running 2km) on Sunday morning September 20 will be representing their region and teams will be selected and entered by a Regional Manager. The names and contact details of these managers will be made available closer to the event. To take part in the relays athletes must have been entered in one of Saturday's races.

Please consider taking part if you possibly can to celebrate the opening up of school sport at a national level in this difficult time. The course in and around the Hawera Showgrounds is exciting and challenging and we are sure athletes will enjoy the event and their visit to spectacular Taranaki with its stunning mountain and picturesque coastal scenery. The last time our championships were held in Taranaki in 2008 we had 1200 athletes enter and it would be brilliant if we could match that again.

Tony Rogers
NZSSAA President