

South Island Schools Cross Country



**schoolsport**
NEW ZEALAND NZSSSC

NESLETTER #1: 31-03-2026

Secondary Schools and Intermediate age students are invited to the South Island Schools Cross Country Festival to be held on Sunday, May 24th at the Old Oreti Sands Golf Course, Links Road, Otatarā, Invercargill. The timing of the Event is designed to give students another level of competition before NZSS in June and to introduce our Intermediate aged runners to a higher level of competition than may otherwise be available in their region. All runners will receive a race number to keep.

Programme

Saturday, May 23th

2:00pm	Public event
3:00pm	Course available for inspection
4:30pm	Athletes and managers/parents get together with guest speaker
4.30pm	Race number collection

Sunday, May 24th

8:30am	Course available	
8.30am	Race number collection	
9:30am	Year 9 Girls	3000m
9:50am	Year 9 Boys	3000m
10:10am	Under 16 Girls	3000m
10:30am	Under 16 Boys	3000m
10:50am	Senior Girls	3000m
11:10am	Senior Boys	4500m
11:40am	Year 7/8 Girls Race	3000m
12 Noon	Year 7/8 Boys Race	3000m
12:30pm	Combined Relays	(3x1km)
1:00pm	School Shield Prizegiving	

Para athletes are encouraged to enter. Para races will be one 1500m lap within the appropriate age group. Individual medals will be awarded.

Prize Giving for age groups will be rolling throughout the day and will be approximately 45 minutes after each age group has finished.

Schools should be aware of the [eligibility rules](#) set by School Sport New Zealand

There is no streaming or recording of the Event. Photos/videos will be taken and published on the Event Facebook Page. The link is attached for all School Principals to signoff around eligibility and media [link here](#).

Entries for the South Island Schools Cross Country remain at \$20 per student. Schools will be invoiced for all entries received.

Entries are now live on AthleticNet (link below).

School personal/managers require a login to enter competitors. Age groups listed on AthleticNet are slightly different to age groups that will be run on the day.

eg: Year 9

Under 16 -Born in 2011 or later

Senior

Year 7

Year 8

[South Island Secondary schools XC Festival - Registration - Cross Country Meet](#)

This Event proved very popular in 2025 and we envision we will have large, competitive fields in 2026. We also wish to maintain the fun, participation element where it is still okay for students who do not see themselves as cross country athletes can still be involved and contribute to their school placing. The final Race on the programme is a relay (optional) where teams need to be a mix of genders, ages and schools with no prizes attached it is supposed to be a fun way to end the racing.

Newsletter 2 will be posted out early in Term 2 with final information.

Please also distribute this [Facebook link](#) to families for all Event information as well as results and photos.

Please mark May 24th on the Calendar for 2026 and plan to be in Invercargill for this exciting South Island Cross Country Festival. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Linda Te-Au

Chairperson Local Organising Committee

South Island Cross Country Festival 2026

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