



SURF LIFE SAVING®
NEW ZEALAND



Date: 9 February 2024

To: Oceans'24 Clubs

From: Matt Cairns, National Events Manager

Subject: Club Update – Oceans'24: Festival of Junior Surf Lifesaving

The purpose of this Club Update is to provide participating clubs with additional information, on top of the Entry Circular, as you prepare your teams for Ocean's24 from Thursday 22 to Sunday 25 February in Mount Maunganui.

Thank you for your patience. We have been working on a range of initiatives to ensure your athletes have an awesome and safe experience. ERC's a few weeks ago at the same venue gave us a few things to consider and you will see some of those considerations reflected in arena locations, self-marshalling and daily event programmes below.

All the links in this document are available on the [event page of the SLSNZ website](#).

There will be a final Club Update later next week following entries closing on Monday.

Entries Closing Monday

The entry closing date/time have been extended 24 hours from 10.00pm, Sunday 11 February to 10.00pm, Monday 12 February. This will allow Southern and Central Region Clubs an extra day to consider entries and teams following their respective regional championships this weekend.

Entries must be made using the [SLSNZ Online Event Entry System](#). Each club has access to this system and will process entries. Clubs will be invoiced for payment following the event. Please refer to the [Entry Circular](#) for additional information related to entries.

Draft Programmes

We have developed the daily programmes below with a view of getting straight into water events in the morning while the conditions are often best and then hitting the beach in the afternoon.

- [Thursday 22 Feb \(updated 6 Feb\)](#)
- [Friday 23 Feb \(updated 6 Feb\)](#)
- [Saturday 24 Feb \(updated 6 Feb\)](#)
- [Sunday 25 Feb \(updated 6 Feb\)](#)

Please note the following points.

- The programme is subject to change by the Event Management Committee (EMC). Final programmes will be confirmed at 3pm the day before (e.g. 3pm Wednesday for Thursday racing) and posted on the event website and TeamReach, with the location of arenas. This will assist in making good decisions in our changing environment, for everyone's enjoyment and safety.



In it for life

- Listed times are a guide only, to assist clubs with planning. The EMC will communicate updates on start times during the race days using TeamReach.
- Any changes to the event programme will be communicated to Team Managers through TeamReach.
- The numbers bracketed for each race and the number of heats based on 2023 entry numbers. Heat numbers and times will be updated next week after entries close.

Arena and Site Maps

The links below show the locations of arenas for different events. Please note we have identified two location options for Swim, Board, and Diamond events. This is due to a significant shore break on the left side of main beach, as we saw at ERC's recently. We will do what we can to offer good, safe and fair conditions for racing. If main beach conditions are favourable for this, we will use Location 1. If we feel Location 2 is better suited, we will make that call. It is worth noting we have Pilot Bay as another option if conditions require a sheltered space.


- [Location 1 - Swim, Board, Diamond Arenas](#)
- [Location 2 Swim, Board, Diamond Arenas](#)
- [Tube Rescue and Board Rescue Arenas](#)
- [Beach Sprint and Beach Relays](#)
- [2km Beach Relay](#)
- [Beach Flags](#)

Scratching and Self-Marshalling

We have started running events using self-scratching and team changes by clubs using Waves. This worked well at ERC's and we have made some small adjustments so it works even better at Oceans'24.

We aim to re-open access for clubs in Waves next Wednesday. You will be able to scratch athletes and make team changes up until 1pm the day before. At that point, the Admin Team will draw events for the following day, to go with the final daily event programme and site map confirming arena locations.

We understand there may be a few scratchings on race day due to injury etc however we ask clubs to scratch everyone they know won't be racing before races are drawn. Not doing so will result in low heat numbers and unnecessarily lengthen your time on the beach each day. This will be particularly noticeable on the track and rescue events where we are limited to 9 lanes.

With pre-drawn events, clubs will be able to view heats using Waves Results, where drawn events will appear as "active"  .

A more detailed process for how this will work on the day will be provided in the final club update next week.

Run Swim Run/Run Swim Run with Fins

Like Oceans'23, participants in the U11 & U12 divisions will have the option to wear fins for the run-swim-run event.

This will provide added confidence and competence for the youngest age groups while acting as a start point for progressive skill development towards the tube rescue in the U13/14 divisions and becoming a lifeguard in the future.

Surf Race Finishers Medal

Everyone that completes the surf race will receive a unique medal.

Putting a foot on the line at Oceans and finishing a race is an accomplishment in itself and SLSNZ believes that recognising and rewarding this will provide a sense of pride, incentive for all participants and further encourage the development of swimming and lifesaving skills.

The event will still progress from heats to a final with the usual medals for top three placegetters.

Composite teams

Please continue to use the composite team expression of interest (EOI) in Waves. Those who entered in the Composite Team EOI will be available to be in composite teams on race day. Event Management will work with Team Managers on the day to form teams. We will provide more detail on this process and the improvements we have made to do this efficiently in the final club update next week.

It is worth noting that we intend to prioritise the following considerations where possible when forming teams.

- Keeping club members together
- Merging clubs from the same district (particularly smaller clubs where the kids train together)
- Making sure kids who may have missed out on a previous race (uneven numbers etc) don't miss out again.

Team Reach

We will be using the TeamReach App for event comms. This will commence following the final club update next week and run through to the conclusion of the event.



Group Name: Oceans 24

Group Code: Oceans24 (no space)

Event Merch

Event merchandise presales will be available on the event page next week. We will also provide further information on the process for ordering and picking up merchandise at the venue. NZ Uniforms will aim for a next day pick up for orders before mid-afternoon.

Final Update

I will be sending a final club update on Wednesday next week. This will include the following areas.

- Programme update, including heat numbers and updated timings.
- Site and logistics and location updates.
- Key Event Management personnel for clubs to know.
- Long-range weather and ocean forecast and potential implications.
- Key times for clubs – trailer drop off, tent set-up, manager meetings.
- Confirmed times for scratchings, team changes.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Ngā mihi nui

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