

**AON**

**NEW ZEALAND  
SURF LIFESAVING**



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**CLUB**

**CIRCULAR**

**6-9 March, Midway Beach, Gisborne**

## Event Dates and Location

Thursday 6 March 2025 8:00AM - Sunday 9 March 2025 4:00PM  
Tairāwhiti Gisborne

## Event Purpose

Our vision for the Aon New Zealand Surf Life Saving Championships is to deliver the premier lifesaving sport event, with the athlete experience at its core. We are dedicated to fostering fairness, safety, inclusivity, and the celebration of achievement, all within a vibrant and engaging atmosphere that everyone can enjoy.

## Entry Numbers

With entries closing we are close 1300 athletes with nearly 1000 U15 to Open athletes and 300 masters' athletes!

## Daily Managers Meeting

A daily Team Manager Meeting will be held upstairs each morning at the Midway clubrooms:

- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – 7.15 to 7.30am
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – 6.45 to 7.00am
- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> – 6.45 to 7.00am
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> – 6.45 to 7.00am

## Event Management Committee (EMC)

The EMC consists of the following members:

- **Matt Cairns** – Event Manager
- **Scott Bicknell** – Event Referee
- **Mike Smith** – Event Safety Officer

The EMC is now meeting daily to review plans and implement any necessary changes. We will post updates to clubs on TeamReach as soon as possible following significant decisions.

## Forecast and Alternative Locations

The EMC is considering alternative locations for water events within a one-hour drive of Midway. Alternative venues will only be used if water racing at Midway/Waikanae is not possible on a given day.

We are working closely with a group of five experienced local coaches and water specialists to assess viable options as forecasts evolve daily. The EMC will then balance these insights with logistical, safety, and personnel considerations to determine feasibility. While we

won't share details until necessary, clubs should be prepared to transport craft and tents if required. This may involve split locations.

Additionally, if there is a significant weather event, we will assess water quality at both Midway and any alternative venues before racing to ensure safe conditions for all competitors.

As you can appreciate, this can be a complex balancing act in considering the location and programme of events over a four-day competition.

## **Event Programme and Curtailment Plan**

Given the evolving forecast, the draft event programme remains unchanged at this stage. The key message for clubs is to expect changes and be prepared. The programme is always subject to change based on conditions, and athletes should be prepared to race on different days or at different times if required. Events currently programmed for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, may be brought forward to Thursday at the EMC's discretion.

In the event of challenging conditions, the EMC will prioritise events in accordance with the standard curtailment plan:

- Identifying the most difficult events to run on any given day
- Assessing which events take the longest and may impact the opportunity to complete other races

This approach ensures that as many events as possible can proceed while maintaining safety and fairness.

## **TeamReach**

We will send regular updates through the Team Reach app. If you haven't already, please download it and enter the group code: **AON2025GIS**

## **Liveheats**

Ensure your team managers have access to **Liveheats**, our new event platform. If you are unfamiliar with it, please watch the Team Managers Training video.

Replacement bands can be purchased and activated at the Event Admin office downstairs in the Midway surf club on the day.

## **No Composite Teams**

There are no composite teams for this event.

## **Club Trailers**

Club Trailers can be placed on Centennial Marine Parade behind club tents from 9am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>. The process is.

1. Enter from the Salisbury Rd roundabout end at the road closure.

2. Proceed to the "cub trailer zone". Take advice from any work party present, parking from the surf club end beside the previous trailer and working our way back.
3. Once you have decoupled your trailer and unloaded club tents etc, please exit back out the Salisbury Rd roundabout end of the road closure.

## **Club Tents**

Club Tents can be placed on the grass in the "club tent zone" from 9am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>. No tents are to be set up on the beach due to high tides and the space required for arenas. TeamReach will update

## **Whakatau**

The Whakatau (opening) will take place in front of Midway SLSC.

- Manuhiri (visitors): Assemble in the southwest carpark.
- Local club members & tangata whenua: Assemble at the Patrol Tower end.
- Time: Be assembled by 6:15 am for the karanga (call) and take (challenge) by Rongowhakaata – Ngai Tāwhiri.
- Process:
  - Manuhiri will pass through the Waharoa (gate) near *The Kiosk*.
  - Kaikōrero from both sides will exchange greetings.
  - After a speech by our Board Chair Kelvyn Eglinton we will be singing the national anthem (Te Reo & English).
  - A koha will be laid, followed by hongī/haruru for those on the pae (front seats).

If you wish to take part as Kaikōrero, Kaikaranga, or Waiata tautoko leader, contact Brent Matehaere – Kaihautū at [brent.matehaere@surflifesaving.org.nz](mailto:brent.matehaere@surflifesaving.org.nz).  
For any questions or concerns, please reach out.

Ngā mihi nui.

**Matt Cairns**  
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**Surf Life Saving New Zealand**

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