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# HOE TONGA PADDLER SERIES

## 2019

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Series Information Pack



## Introduction

The Hoe Tonga Paddler Series 2019 targets primarily W6 teams and aims to provide an offering for waka ama paddler during winter. It has been designed to not only cater for experienced paddlers, but also features short courses for novice teams.

The Series is overseen by Hoe Tonga, but each individual race is hosted and organised by member clubs.

## Time and Date

Date	Race #	Venue	Event Host
25 May (Sat)	Race 1	Dolly Varden Beach	Hawaikinui Tuarua Waka Ama Club
6 July (Sat)	Race 2	Titahi Bay Boating Club	Porirua Canoe Kayak Club
3 August (Sat)	Race 3	Evans Bay Yacht Club	Tunui a te Ika Waka Ama Club
7 September (Sat)	Race 4	Putiki, Whanganui	Te Ringa Miti Tai Heke

A race notice will be available for the series at [www.hoetonga.co.nz](http://www.hoetonga.co.nz). It will contain all up to date information, including notice of any changes.

## Distances and Divisions

Races consist of a long course (12-18km) for senior teams, and a shorter course (6-9km) for junior and novice (1st year paddling) teams. The short course event is long enough to be challenging and not so long as to be daunting.

- Senior teams (long course): men, women, mixed, U23 to M70
- Junior teams (short course only): men, women, mixed, J16 and J19
- Novice teams (short course only): can be made up of any combination of paddlers and age groups (e.g. 5 men and 1 woman, or 4 women and 2 men). They can also include up to three senior paddlers to make up numbers (e.g. steering).

Note that this Series is primarily focused at W6 albeit an additional race for W1 may be offered by clubs.

## Entries

- \$25 per senior paddler (U23 to M70), including senior novice paddlers (1st year of paddling)
- \$15 per junior paddler (J16 and J19)

Senior paddlers are encouraged to assist novice teams (e.g. by steering) in the short course. There is no extra cost for senior paddlers also competing in the short course event.

Entries are to be done online only, by clubs. Clubs will be invoiced. This is the same system used for most events around New Zealand, including the Sprint and Long-Distance Nationals. Entries for each

individual event will close on Saturday the week before the event. This is to ensure the club has time to get all details confirmed (e.g. safety boat numbers).

Late entries will not be accepted. The team roster (specifying which paddlers will compete in each team) has to be completed by the day before the race (normally Friday).

There are no refunds once entries have closed. Clubs (and their teams) will be required to pay the full amount as per the entries received by the deadline.

You can find out who has entered at [www.hoetonga.co.nz](http://www.hoetonga.co.nz).

Please note that all paddlers need to be registered and affiliated with a club and Waka Ama New Zealand.

## Typical Event Programme

It's a guide only! The race programme for each event may differ to the below, and may not be confirmed until entries have been received. If there are changes to the default time frames, this will be notified in the race specific panui by the host club before each race, and posted on the Hoe Tonga website.

7:00am	Venue and team registration open
8:00am	Safety boat briefing
8:30am	Karakia and briefing for race 1
8:45am	Start of short course (race 1)
10:30am	Briefing for race 2
10:45am	Start of long course (race 2)
12:30pm	Pack up

## Rules and Safety

- The series is open to teams from within and outside the Hoe Tonga region
- All teams must arrange for their own W6 (teams are encouraged to share equipment where possible) and safety gear
- As a Waka Ama New Zealand Sanctioned event, the Waka Ama NZ Race Rules apply
- All paddlers must be affiliated to Waka Ama NZ through an affiliated club
- Minimum age for an event in this series (only for non-open ocean, short course) is 11 years of age
- All juniors and novice paddlers must wear an appropriate PFD anytime they are on the water while associated with the event. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- Definition of a Novice team: a minimum of 3 paddlers who are in their first year of paddling, any combination of men and women and age groups.
- Teams may change the division they have entered once online entries have closed (you may wish to do this after seeing the numbers of entries in each division – please advise during sign-in on the day). However, teams cannot change their short course / long course entry (organisers need to know exactly how many teams are in each race for support boat reasons)
- All teams in the long course event are encouraged to wear a club uniform
- W6 must have a spray skirt, 6 lifejackets, tow-rope, flare or cell phone and 2 spare paddles.

- W1 must have all relevant safety gear, as per Waka Ama NZ race rules
- All canoes will have to pass a safety check before racing. Note that there must be NO VISIBLE DAMAGE to any of the canoes used for races, they must be in a good seaworthy condition in order to pass the safety check.
- Competitors should dress appropriately for the conditions
- All steerers and team captains must attend the race briefing
- A waiver form must be signed by all teams/paddlers at sign-in on the day.
- Should teams require assistance during the race, a paddler must hold their paddle up vertically or raise their hand so that an official rescue boat or any passing team can render assistance.
- The Race Director (appointed by the club hosting the event) and his/her officials have absolute control of the event
- All safety boats must have one driver and one support person

## Prize and Points

All participants will also go in the draw for spot prizes, including a new Tai paddle.

Points will be tallied from each race and trophies will be awarded for series winners (three teams with the most points in the respective category). Note that the series winners are determined only by the number of points they accumulate, NOT by often they win in their division. A team could win in their division every time, yet may not become the series winner in their category. This is reflecting the series focus on participation, as opposed to simply performance.

Teams get points, not the paddlers in the teams. You may change paddlers provided that the team name remains the same (some restrictions apply, see below).

Teams must compete in more than half of the races they attend in a particular category in order for that team to be eligible for the series trophy in that category.

Example 1: A team competes in the Master men division in race 1, and in the Open Mix division in the other races. That team will be eligible for winning the “Senior” category trophy even though they have swapped between divisions. This is acceptable because it is not always feasible to maintain the same people for every race.

Example 2: A team competes in the Junior division in race 1 (eg six junior 19 paddlers), in the open men division in race 2 (five junior paddlers and one senior paddler), and in the novice division in races 3 and 4 (three junior paddles and three “novice” junior paddlers). This team won’t be eligible for winning any of the category trophies because they have not raced more than half of their four races in a particular category.

## Points System

### *4 or more teams*

<i>1st</i>	12 Points
<i>2nd</i>	10 Points
<i>3rd</i>	8 Points
<i>4th</i>	6 Points
<i>5th</i>	4 Points
<i>6th</i>	2 Points
<i>Any other placing</i>	1 Point

### *3 or fewer teams*

<i>1st</i>	6 Points
<i>2nd</i>	4 Points
<i>3rd</i>	2 Points



## Safety Check Form W6

Team name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team race number: \_\_\_\_\_

Items	Check
No visible damage to hull or ama (cracks, leaks, etc)	
2x bailers	
1x lifejacket per paddler (Belt Bags are acceptable)	
2x spare paddles	
Skirts	
1x flare or personal locator beacon	
1x towing rope (20m) Rope secured to canoe	
Waiver form signed?	
Safety Check tag on kiato	

**NAME OF OFFICIAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL** \_\_\_\_\_

## W1 Safety Checklist

Canoe Number \_\_\_\_\_

Competitors Name \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	CHECK
1x bailer (unless self-bailing; canoes with foot pumps still require a bailer)	
1x leg leash (sit-on-top only)	
1x lifejacket	
1x spare paddle	
1x flare or personal locator beacon	
Waiver form signed?	
Safety Check tag on Kiato	

**NAME OF OFFICIAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL** \_\_\_\_\_