New Zealand Secondary Schools Orienteering and Rogaine Championships

Thursday 16th – Sunday 19th July 2026

Bulletin 1

Peninsula and Plains Orienteering Club is looking forward to welcoming orienteers from across New Zealand for four days of fantastic navigation sport. We welcome all year 7-13 students, whether this is your first time orienteering or you are aiming to take out the Championships! Parents and supporters are also encouraged to take part in the public races.

These New Zealand Championship events are sanctioned by School Sport NZ and supported by Orienteering New Zealand. Stay up-to-date at the event website: www.nzssochamps.nz.
Please contact us at PAPOschools@gmail.com with any queries.

Programme

Over four days we have different disciplines to test your navigation skills: a Relay, Long and Sprint orienteering events, and a Rogaine event to cap it all off.

Event	Date	Event Location/Map	First Start Time
Relay	Thurs 16 July `	Kairaki/Pines Beach (near Kaiapoi)	1pm
Long	Fri 17 July	Waikuku (near Pegasus)	10am
Sprint	Sat 18 July	Lincoln University Campus	10am
Rogaine	Sun 19 July	Victoria Park, Port Hills	9.30am

We are indebted to the landowners for granting us access to these fantastic areas and are grateful for their support and help in enabling us to use their land.

Embargoes

Embargoes are in place for the maps being used at NZ Secondary Schools' Orienteering Championships (SSNZOC). An embargo is an out of bounds restriction over specific dates, which prevents athletes accessing competition area prior to the competition taking place. These embargoes apply to all competitors and other persons, to avoid anyone gaining a competitive advantage through recent knowledge of the terrain. All athletes must abide by these embargoes leading up to the events, and anyone breaching these will be non-competitive at NZSSOC 2026. All the embargoes can be viewed at this Google Map link.

Eligibility

These events have been sanctioned by School Sports NZ. To place in the Championships, students must meet the criteria set out in the 2026 SSNZ eligibility regulations. However PAPO is committed to running these events in an inclusive and accessible way, to grow participation of young people in navigation sport .

Young people who do not meet the SSNZ eligibility criteria will have an opportunity to run on all four days and are encouraged to do so. Although they will not be eligible to place in the Championships, they will be recognised appropriately for their performances.

Competition Rules

The New Zealand Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships will be run in accordance with the Competition Rules for New Zealand Foot Orienteering Events and the Special Rules for New Zealand Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships, available on the Orienteering NZ Website.

Any queries regarding rules during any of the Championship events are to be directed to the Controller for the particular event.

Entries and Fees

Student Entries

Student entries need to be made by online via EnterO **by 11.59pm Monday 22nd June**.
ENTER HERE. This link is also available on the event website.

Pay online through the EnterO website. **Payment by credit card only.**

Entry for the team events (orienteering relay and rogaine) should be included in the individual student's entry. Teams do not have to be confirmed at the time of entry.

Students should not be put off entering if they are not sure of forming a team from their school: composite teams are encouraged and will run in a non-championship event.

To satisfy SSNZ requirements for the championship events, a SSNZ roster must be completed and signed by the school principal to confirm all competitors meet the SSNZ eligibility criteria. To do this:

1. Go to the entries by school page: here
2. Choose the school in the dropdown and click 'List' to display a list of students entered.
3. Provide an email address to receive the pdf

4. Follow the instructions on the pdf and email the scanned document to PAPOschools@gmail.com **by 11.59pm Monday 29th June**.

The school year groups for the event classes are as follows:

Class	School year
Year 7&8	Year 7&8 (no students in year 6 or below)
Junior	Year 9
Intermediate*	Year 10&11
Senior	Year 12&13

*Orienteering events only. For the Rogaine event, there will be no Intermediate class: Junior class will be for Years 9-11.

Public Entries

There will be races for the general public at the Long, Sprint and Rogaine events.
The Long and Sprint public events will start 45 minutes after the last student begins.
The Rogaine public event will start 30min after the school rogaine champs start (and finish 30min before the school rogaine champs finish).
Courses available are:

Long:
2 red courses
1 orange course
1 yellow course
1 white course

Sprint:
1 long (difficult) course
1 medium (moderate) course
1 short (easy/moderate) course

Rogaine:
2hr event,
individuals or teams of 2-3 or family group

Pre-entry is required and should be made via EnterO (making sure you select the public races and not the school championships entry). The closing date for public entries is **Monday 13th July.**
Entry on the day will be permitted for the Rogaine event only, but with a higher entry fee, so **pre-entry is strongly encouraged.**
Pay online through the EnterO website. **Payment by credit card only.**

Entry Fees

	Relay	Long	Sprint	Rogaine
Student	$20	$30	$20	$25
Public – Adult	N/A	$18	$18	$25
Public – Junior (under 20 or full time student)	N/A	$10	$10	$25 (free for <12yr in team with adult)

- Junior for public race is age 20 or younger or full time-student
- SI card hire: Standard $2/race, SIAC (air): $5/race

Refund policy

In the unlikely event that the Championships are cancelled due to extreme weather or other factors outside of our control, entry fees will be refunded at 90% (with the balance withheld to cover non-recoverable costs).
If the event is postponed, refunds will be offered to competitors who are unable to make it to the new dates.
For competitors who are unable to attend due to injury or illness, the following refunds apply:

- 90% refunds will be available if we are notified before 11.59pm on Monday 22nd June
- 75% will be refunded if we are notified between Tuesday 23rd June and 11.59pm on Friday 3rd July.
- For cancellations after 12 midnight on Saturday 4th July, we are unable to offer refunds.
- We are also not able to offer refunds for “no shows”.

Refunds will be processed after the event.
PAPO cannot take liability for any loss associated with travel or accommodation cancellation.

Selecting the appropriate courses for students

The technical difficulty of the Championship courses will match those recommended by Orienteering NZ for the NZSSOC, see the schools section of the ONZ page on classes. For general information on how to choose the course with the right technical difficulty, see the ONZ page choose the right course.

Please be responsible when choosing which class to enter a student.
Orienteering is a challenging sport and not as much fun when you can’t complete a course because it is too hard. Technical navigational difficulty is a more important factor to consider than the course distance when choosing a class.
For the Long event, if a student has not completed a course at the Championship level for their age group, then they should enter the Standard class.

This is a Championship event and the Championship class courses are set to be as difficult as possible within the guidelines, to test the most able orienteers in each age group.
The Standard class courses still provide a good level of technical and physical challenge.
The Novice class is available for senior students who are new to orienteering.

We estimate that roughly half of the competitors should be running in the Championship class, with the rest running Standard or Novice class.

Event Details

Relay

Date: Thursday 16th July 2026
Map: Kairaki/Pines Beach
Planner: Michael Smithson
Controller: Bruce Steven
Contour interval: 2.5m
Map description: Pine forested coastal sand dunes
Teams: 3 students per team. See below for further information from the ONZ Special Rules for NZSSOC.
Parking: On streets near to the event centre
Distance to Event Centre: 500m
Start times: First mass start at 1pm
Course closure: 4:00pm
Hazards: Other competitors and campus users, cars.

Course	Class	Estimated Winning Time (per leg)	Difficulty
1	Senior Boys	30 mins	Orange
2	Senior Girls	30 mins	Orange
3	Intermediate Boys	25 mins	Yellow
4	Intermediate Girls	25 mins	Yellow
5	Junior Boys	20 mins	Leg 1 and 3 Yellow; Leg 2 White
6	Junior Girls	20 mins	Leg 1 and 3 Yellow; Leg 2 White
7	Year 7&8 Boys	20 mins	White
8	Year 7&8 Girls	20 mins	White

For teams competing in the SSNZ-sanctioned Championship event:

1) Teams must comprise 3 different competitors, all from the same school, none of whom have completed a leg for another team in the relay in the current competition.
2) Girls may run in a boys' team as long as they run the equivalent boys' class. Boys may not run in a girls' team.
3) Year 7/8 students cannot "run up" in the secondary school (Junior/Intermediate/Senior) classes.
4) Within the secondary school competition, Junior or Intermediate students may run up a class.
All other relay team combinations will not be eligible to compete in the Championship event, and will not score points contributing to the Top School competition.

For all other teams:.

1) Mixed boys' and girls' teams will normally run the 'boys' version' of the highest-class runner in the team. However, when the competition is not compromised by non-Championship teams running in the girls' class or in lower classes, this can be permitted at the controller's discretion. These teams should be entered as a 'Full Team' when completing the initial entry forms.
2) Students running in non-Championship teams will be placed in teams of the same class & gender.
3) Non-Championship junior teams may be entered in the year 7/8 relay.

Long

Date: Friday 17th July 2026
Map: Waikuku
Planner: Alister Metherell
Controller: Tim Wright
Contour interval: 2.5m
Map description: Pine forested coastal sand dunes.
Parking: On nearby residential streets in township.
Distance to start: Approximately 700m
Water on course: TBC but likely available for courses 1-6
Start times: Pre-allocated start times from 10am
Course closure: 2.00pm (TBC)
Hazards: Typical forest orienteering hazards of blackberry, prunings, branches at eye level.
Course Note: The competition area lends itself to the middle-distance style of courses, with less long-distance route-choice legs and more shorter distance technical legs.

Course	Class(es)	Estimated Winning Time	Difficulty
1	Senior Boys Championships	45 - 50 mins	Red
2	Senior Girls Championship	45 - 50 mins	Red
3	Intermediate Boys Championship	35 - 40 mins	Orange
4	Intermediate Girls Championship	35 - 40 mins	Orange
5	Senior Boys Standard	35 - 40 mins	Orange
6	Senior Girls Standard	35 - 40 mins	Orange
7	Junior Boys Championship; Intermediate Boys Standard; Senior Boys Novice	25 - 30 mins	Yellow
8	Junior Girls Championship; Intermediate Girls Standard; Senior Girls Novice	25 - 30 mins	Yellow
9	Year 7&8 Boys Championship	25 - 30 mins	Yellow
10	Year 7&8 Girls Championship	25 - 30 mins	Yellow
11	Junior Boys Standard; Year 7&8 Boys Standard	20 - 25 mins	White
12	Junior Girls Standard; Year 7&8 Girls Standard	20 - 25 mins	White

(Depending on entry numbers, some courses may be combined.)

Sprint

Date: Saturday 18th July 2026
Map: Lincoln University Campus
Planner: Christina Freeman
Controller: Martin Peat
Contour interval: N/A
Map description: University campus
Parking: Off Springs Rd to the East - opposite South Drive
Distance to start: 600m from Carpark to the event centre. 200m from Event Centre to Start Area.
Start times: Mass starts from 10am
Course closure: 1.00pm
Hazards: Typical hazards of urban orienteering, including other campus users on foot and in vehicles, and colliding with competitors around blind corners.

Course	Class	Estimated Winning Time	Difficulty
1	Senior Boys	12 - 15 mins	Difficult
2	Senior Girls	12 - 15 mins	Difficult
3	Intermediate Boys	12 - 15 mins	Difficult
4	Intermediate Girls	12 - 15 mins	Difficult
5	Junior Boys	12 - 15 mins	Moderate
6	Junior Girls	12 - 15 mins	Moderate
7	Year 7&8 Boys	12 - 15 mins	Easy/Moderate
8	Year 7&8 Girls	12 - 15 mins	Easy/Moderate

Rogaine

Date: Sunday 19th July 2026
Map: Port Hills
Planner: Greig Hamilton
Controller: Jan Harrison
Contour interval: 5m
Map description: steep hillside with areas of pine forest, native bush and open farmland, extensive foot and bike track network
Teams: 2-3 students per team: girls/boys/mixed. All team members must be in the same class. Note no Intermediate class: Junior class is for school years 9-11.
Parking: TBC
Distance to start: TBC
Water: No water on the course, you will need to carry water for the duration of the event
Start times: Mass start at 9.30am, map handout at 9am
Duration: 3 hours (finish at 12.30pm) for all classes.
Hazards: Members of the public out walking, running or mountainbiking, cliffs/steep banks, pits, tomos, and rocks that may be difficult to see under grass, streams, overhanging branches and sticks at eye level, tree roots, derelict, unstable and hard to see fences, tree material which could slippery or unstable when wet or rotten.
The competition area includes farmland, which means we ask you to be respectful of all farm animals, especially pregnant sheep, and be careful with the farm fences and gates.

Class	Rogaine Duration
Senior Boys	3hr
Senior Girls	3hr
Senior Mixed	3hr
Junior Boys	3hr
Junior Girls	3hr
Junior Mixed	3hr
Year 7&8 Boys	3hr
Year 7&8 Girls	3hr
Year 7&8 Mixed	3hr