

NZ Rowing Championships 2022 Format

In 2021, a new format for the NZ Championships was held after changes were adopted at the 2020 SGM.

It is intended to continually seek to improve the event to:

- 1) Make the event more enjoyable and fun for attendees
- 2) Attract more competitors and spectators to the event

The lenses applied when making changes to the NZ Champs are:

- a) Target cohort - make the event appealing for both those prepared to put in a large season and those looking to participate socially
- b) Racing spectacle - make races exciting and worth watching
- c) Rewarding clubs - club focused and keeping special traditions
- d) Social & atmosphere - fun and sense of rowing community
- e) Club/HP connection - enable club connections while still supporting the showcasing of high-performance racing

Feedback on these changes has been gathered and some refinements to the event are proposed.

Block Format

Very positive feedback was received on the 2021 format and this format is proposed to continue in 2022.

There were a couple of alternatives and changes suggested and these have been considered (including running some finals between Tues-Thurs) but ultimately the existing Tues-Sat block format is

recommended to be used again. Changes in response to feedback are:

- Time has been set aside for the medal ceremonies to ensure that these are conducted with crews present. Medal presentations occur after each race and will run as normal. Finals are in blocks but spaced ten minutes apart with B finals (if required) taking place five minutes before each A final.
- Coxed events have been spread between blocks (and within blocks) which should allow coxswains to do more events. The placement of coxed events in blocks have now been evenly spread between blocks. Coxed events are now placed at the beginning and ends of blocks to enable coxswains to cox two events within a block. However, this may produce clashes in the event of a compressed program.
- Women's sculling events have been rebalanced to avoid clashes.
- It is highly advised that rowers enter only one race per block. Rowers will be restricted from entering, however clashes for rowers entered in two races per block will be ignored by regatta organisers.
- The Rowing Australia 8 lane progression system RA_8_2018 (used at the 2020 NZ Champs) is to be used.

Appendix 1 shows the updated draft schedule and order of events for the week.

Premier Events

Premier small boats (Premier 2-, 2x) - Composites are now allowed (per 2021 AGM rule change). So, there is no proposed change to this.

Dame Four (Women's Premier 4-) - this event was well received with no feedback against it. The origin of the name needs to be explained (see below). It is recommended that this and the Men's Premier 4- format be continued in their current format.

The Draft Format (Premier 4x and 8+) - feedback has been quite positive especially around the creation of exciting racing. There have been a few suggestions for improvement:

- i) Clearer rules up-front as to how the draft works
- ii) Clear rules around other crews ability to compete in the premier events
- iii) Clearer rules as to how coxswains are selected
- iv) How it works with entry into other events in the same block if not selected into draft
- v) Clear rules around number of crews in each event

In response to this, a document has been produced which outlines how the draft operates. This is attached in **Appendix 2**.

Origin of the name "The Dame Four"

The name is derived from the term *Dame* which is an honorific title bestowed upon women with high respect. The term and the race's new traditions have links to historic performances from NZ women's rowing history:

The 1974 crew of Marion Horwell, Robyn Matheson, Elizabeth Cato, Lesley Milne (nee Keys), along with coxswain Vicki Colville became the first New Zealand women's crew to represent New Zealand at the World Championships. They raced at the World Championships on Lake Lucerne in Switzerland in the coxed four. *Damé* being the term used in Switzerland to refer to a woman and this race being competed for in the Premier Four.

Winners of the Dame Four are presented with Greek-style leaf wreaths. These were presented to medalists at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. It was at these games that Caroline Meyer and Georgina Earl (nee Evers-Swindell) won the first NZ female gold medal at the Olympic Games.

Showcase Events

It is difficult to judge the success of these events given the showcase races were not held in 2021. There has been some feedback provided and the following is suggested:

- There were too many events
- It needs to be easier to enter
- It needs to be clear what fees are
- Provide clarity as to the purpose of these events. Are these intended to be added to the NZ Champs list of events? What are the criteria for this?

In response to this, the showcase events have been reduced to eleven events, and these are included in the program in **Appendix 1**.

It should be specified that there are events which are included every year (~~recurring~~) and events which are selected (~~feature~~) as for just this year. The feature events are determined by the winning club of the mixed gender senior 8. These events are specified as *recurring* or *feature* events in appendix 1.

Clarity on the other points can be achieved in the regatta conditions, but in summary:

There is no charge for entering into the showcase events to encourage crews to just turn up and have some fun.

Coxswains will not be required to weigh-in for these events.

There will not be a held start for showcase events and times may not be recorded.

There will be eligibility requirements for entering showcase events . entrants will not require a competition license, however they will need to be registered currently or to have been registered in the past. Entries will need to be entered by a club of record, however there won't be any restrictions on the composition of the crew (with the exception of gender and age).

Clarity on the purpose and how these events become championship events can be covered off by a policy.

Straight Finals

It was intended that the heats for events with less than 8 entries were to be optional for crews in 2021.

This wasn't done due to the compressed schedule (no heats were run for straight finals). Feedback on this change was positive, however it needed to be clearer around the mechanics of the rules.

- Clarity on selection of lanes if the heat is contested. Those that race the preliminary race will draw favourable lanes. Those that choose to not contest the heat and race just the final will draw outside lanes.
- Release entrant numbers before late entries open to enable crews to enter straight final events. If there are between 4-7 entrants in any event, regatta organisers will communicate this to allow late entries in these events to fill lanes.

Both of points can be covered in the regatta conditions. There will need to be other regatta conditions to deal with the mechanics of opting-out, substitutions, scratching and awarding medals if finals cancelled etc.

Social Functions

These were not held in 2021 due to the disruption to the event. Positive feedback for such events continues to be provided.

- Wednesday night A Draught at The Draft event generated considerable excitement and will be held again.
- It has been suggested that a Coaches dinner/social function or the Blazar Bar be run again. We would like to run just the Draft event (and run it well) and then build from there in future years.

Appendix 1 – Draft Race Schedule

ESTIMATED BLOCK TIMES

Tuesday 15 February		Wednesday 16 February		Thursday 17 February	
8:30	BLOCK 1 HEATS	8:30	BLOCK 4 HEATS	8:30	BLOCK 4 REPS
10:30	BLOCK 2 HEATS	10:00	BLOCK 1 REPS	9:30	BLOCK 1 SEMI'S
12:20	BLOCK 3 HEATS	11:40	BLOCK 2 REPS	10:30	BLOCK 2 SEMI'S
14:30	BLOCK 5 HEATS	13:15	BLOCK 3 REPS	11:30	BLOCK 3 SEMI'S
15:50	BLOCK 6 HEATS	15:00	BLOCK 5 REPS	12:30	BLOCK 5 SEMIS
		16:00	BLOCK 6 REPS	13:45	BLOCK 6 SEMI'S
				15:00	SHOWCASE 1

Friday 18 February		Saturday 19 February	
8:30	BLOCK 1 FINALS	8:30	BLOCK 4 FINALS
10:40	SHOWCASE 2	10:10	SHOWCASE 4
11:30	BLOCK 2 FINALS	11:00	BLOCK 5 FINALS
13:40	SHOWCASE 3	12:50	SHOWCASE 5
14:30	BLOCK 3 FINALS	13:30	BLOCK 6 FINALS

EVENT LIST

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6
1 W Int 4+	13 W Nov 4+	24 Opn 1X (P)	35 M Int 4+	43 W Nov 8+	52 Opn 2X (P)
2 W Nov 2X	14 W Int 2X	25 M Nov 4X+	36 W Clb 2-	44 W Int 4X+	53 W Nov 4X+
3 M U22 2-	15 M U22 1X	26 M U22 2X	37 M Snr 4X-	45 M Clb 4X-	54 W Int 1X
4 W U22 2-	16 W U22 1X	27 W U22 2X	38 W Snr 4X-	46 W Clb 1X	55 M Int 1X
5 M Clb 2X	17 M Clb 4-	28 M Clb 1X	39 W Int 8+	47 M Snr 2-	56 M Snr 1X
6 W Clb 2X	18 M Snr 2X	29 W Clb 4X-	40 M Clb 8+	48 W Snr 2-	57 W Snr 1X
7 M Snr 4-	19 W Snr 2X	30 M Prm 2X	41 W Prm 4-	49 M Nov 4+	58 M Clb 2-
8 W Snr 4-	20 W Clb 8+	31 W Prm 2X	42 M Prm 4-	50 M Prm 4X-	59 W Clb 4-
9 M Nov 8+	21 M Int 8+	32 M Int 2X		51 W Prm 4X-	60 M Nov 2X
10 M Int 4X+	22 M Prm 2-	33 M Snr 8+			61 M Prm 8+
11 W Prm 1X	23 W Prm 2-	34 W Snr 8+			62 W Prm 8+
12 M Prm 1X					

SHOWCASE EVENT LIST

Thursday Showcase 1		Distance
1	Mx Gender Senior 8+ (Consistent)	500
2	Men's U27 2x (Consistent)	500
3	Womens U27 2x (Consistent)	500
Friday ShowCase 1		
4	Mixed Love 2x (Selected)	500
5	Men's Masters 2x (Handicapped)	500
Friday ShowCase 2		
6	Mixed Siblings Sculls 2x (Selected)	500
7	Women's Masters 2x (Handicapped)	500
Saturday ShowCase 1		
8	Men's 1x Shoot out (Consistent)	250
9	Women's 1x Shoot out (Consistent)	250
Saturday ShowCase 2		
10	Men's School of Origin 4+/- (Selected)	1000
11	Women's School of Origin 4+/- (Selected)	1000

ESTIMATED FINALS TIMES

Friday 18 February			
8:30	1	W Int 4+	FA
8:40	2	W Nov 2X	FA
8:50	3	M U22 2-	FA
9:00	4	W U22 2-	FA
9:10	5	M Clb 2X	FA
9:20	6	W Clb 2X	FA
9:30	7	M Snr 4-	FA
9:40	8	W Snr 4-	FA
9:50	9	M Nov 8+	FA
10:00	10	M Int 4X+	FA
10:10	11	W Prm 1X	FA
10:20	12	M Prm 1X	FA
10:40	SC4	Mx Love 2	500
10:50	SC5	M Master	500
11:30	13	W Nov 4+	FA
11:40	14	W Int 2X	FA
11:50	15	M U22 1X	FA
12:00	16	W U22 1X	FA
12:10	17	M Clb 4-	FA
12:20	18	M Snr 2X	FA
12:30	19	W Snr 2X	FA
12:40	20	W Clb 8+	FA
12:50	21	M Int 8+	FA
13:00	22	M Prm 2-	FA
13:10	23	W Prm 2-	FA
13:40	SC6	Mx Sibling	500
13:50	SC7	W Master	500
14:00	24	Opn 1X (P	FA
14:30	25	M Nov 4X-	FA
14:40	26	M U22 2X	FA
14:50	27	W U22 2X	FA
15:00	28	M Clb 1X	FA
15:10	29	W Clb 4X-	FA
15:20	30	M Prm 2X	FA
15:30	31	W Prm 2X	FA
15:40	32	M Int 2X	FA
15:50	33	M Snr 8+	FA
16:00	34	W Snr 8+	FA
Saturday 19 February			
8:30	35	M Int 4+	FA
8:40	36	W Clb 2-	FA
8:50	37	M Snr 4X-	FA
9:00	38	W Snr 4X-	FA
9:10	39	W Int 8+	FA
9:20	40	M Clb 8+	FA
9:30	41	W Prm 4-	FA
9:40	42	M Prm 4-	FA
10:10	SC8	M 1x Shoc	250m
10:20	SC9	W 1x Shoc	250m
11:00	43	W Nov 8+	FA
11:10	44	W Int 4X+	FA
11:20	45	M Clb 4X-	FA
11:30	46	W Clb 1X	FA
11:40	47	M Snr 2-	FA
11:50	48	W Snr 2-	FA
12:00	49	M Nov 4+	FA
12:30	50	M Prm 4X-	FA
12:40	51	W Prm 4X-	FA
12:50	SC10	M School	1000m
13:00	SC11	W School	1000m
13:10	52	Opn 2X (P	FA
13:30	52	Opn 2X (P	FA
13:40	53	W Nov 4X-	FA
13:50	54	W Int 1X	FA
14:00	55	M Int 1X	FA
14:10	56	M Snr 1X	FA
14:20	57	W Snr 1X	FA
14:30	58	M Clb 2-	FA
14:40	59	W Clb 4-	FA
14:50	60	M Nov 2X	FA
15:10	61	M Prm 8+	FA
15:20	62	W Prm 8+	FA

Appendix 2 - Premier Eights and Quads Draft System – Nationals 2022

Pre-Event

- Rowing NZ call for individual nominations for the Premier 4x- and Premier 8+ when entries open. Nominations close when regatta entries close.
- Coxswains who wish to nominate will be asked to complete a separate nomination form.
- Eligible athletes need to be senior grade and above.
- Current erg score, a profile photo and recent on-water results will be collected and provided to the crew captains. If choosing sweep then side/both preference is also collected. This is used for both selections and the announcement at the Draught at The Draft function.
- Athletes are able to put themselves forward for one or both draft events. The Premier 4x is in Block 5 and the Premier 8+ is in Block 6. However, these races have been moved to be slightly later than the block races to enable rowers to do both a senior event and The Draft if they so choose.
- Coxswains are to be included in The Draft. It is up to the discretion of the captains to determine when coxswains are chosen.
- There will be four eights and six quads in each event. Empty lanes can be filled by other entries into these events. If there are more than eight entries in total, progression will be run for the non-Draft crews during the week.
- RNZ will arrange the boats for The Draft crews with the support of clubs.
- Rowers can enter more than one race in blocks 5 and 6. However, rowers cannot enter the same event twice, so will need to choose between entering The Draft or a non-Draft entry in each eight/quad event.

The Draft Crew Selection

- The first six rowers across the line in the Premier 1x heats that have nominated for the draft will be team captains for the Premier 4x draft crews. i.e. if there is one heat, top six, if two heats then three from each etc.
- The first four rowers across the line in the Premier 2- heats that have nominated for the draft will be team captains for the Premier 8+ draft crews.
- NB: If athletes have nominated, they must be team captains. If they chose to drop out from the draft they cannot be selected by other captains and the next fastest becomes a team captain.
- Selection occurs on the Tuesday in a selection meeting with the team captains. The team captains will select nominated athletes one at a time in the order of 1, 2, 3, 4, 4, 3, 2, 1 etc.

Draught at the Draft function

- The selected crews will be announced at the Draught at the Draft function which will be held in Cambridge on the Wednesday night.
- The athlete profiles will be displayed and the crews assembled at the event and these will be released online etc.