

GO412/NZSSASRC 2026 Racer Chat #2

Less than two weeks now! We've got a good group coming out to Twizel with 13 3-hour teams, 31 6-hour teams, and 16 teams challenging for the 12-hour title. This includes both youth, schools, and adult teams...it stands to be a fun mix with opportunities for youth athletes to rub shoulders with some very experienced adult racers, and adult racers to witness the raw speed and enthusiasm of some equally gifted young talent. Notably we've got a few local AR legends with deep experience aiming to blast through the 6 hour as a warm up for some international orienteering event across the Tasman, and one of the recently crowned youth adventure racing world champions leading a team to challenge for the 12 hour mixed category, against some very strong competition. It should be a good time.

Heaps of info below. Read the whole thing (please). Here are links to the most important bits.

[Go412 Participation agreement](#)

[Hangi RSVP](#) (to be completed by all teams/schools ASAP please!)

[GoPro Form \(12-hour only\)](#)

[Championship team Roster](#) (in case you haven't completed it!)

Admin

Payment should be made ASAP, for those schools or participants who still haven't done so. I will send up final follow up reminders at the end of the week, but everyone should already have details in the email of the primary contact. If a school needs an invoice prior to making payment, please let me know immediately. I'm going to be super busy 'on course' in the coming weeks and will have less and less time to give towards this sort of admin, so please help me out!

Rosters. Championship teams must provide rosters via email as soon as possible. The roster is the form, signed by the principle/sports coordinator that confirms the eligibility and year of students participating in a championship event. It can be found [HERE](#) or at School Sports NZ website.

Participation Agreement. Teams will need to take a degree of personal responsibility in recognizing and managing the risks inherent in Adventure Racing. A participation agreement will need to be signed by participants and either printed and brought to check-in on Saturday the 19th.

Students participating as part of a schools team can sign the form along with their school representative, (schools will have their own internal procedures for ensuring parents are kept in the loop).

All non-championship youth will need parent signatures if under 18.

We will have participation agreements to sign on-site, but please try to bring with you or sign and send if possible. *If you are a non-championship youth travelling without your parent or guardian to race and don't get the appropriate parental signatures ahead of time, you may not be allowed to race!*

A link to the participation agreement is at the top of this document.

Mandatory gear lists are now final. Please see the event info page on the website to access these lists, or click [HERE](#) (Scroll to bottom)

Jerseys and Numbers: 12 and 6-hour championship teams will only have 3 jerseys per team on account of previous years being a 3p event. A number will be provided for the 4th member. We encourage this 4th member to wear an official team/school jersey/jacket to represent!

3 hour, adult, and youth racers will get numbers to pin on for the race.

The Movie

Whaakata Maori TV will be putting together a television piece about the 12-hour championship event. The producer, our very own James Cameron, has requested POV footage from 12 hour teams to supplement the footage our media crew will be able to get. If your team is able to bring and use a gopro or similar action cam, you can be a bigger part of this sure to be awesome feature. Please indicate your ability by filling out the following form: [GoPro Legend Form](#). This form is also located at the top of the page.

Schedule

Note that the tentative schedule on the original info page has changed. What is below is correct.

All three courses (3, 6 and 12 hour) start at different times. The categories within each course (male, female, mixed, etc) all race simultaneously. An overview map of the three courses will be provided at check-in and discussed at the Saturday briefing. The Racer maps will be available from 1 hour prior to race start (see below for timings).

- **The 12-hour** will start at 6:30 am, just on sunrise. The event will start with a very cold paddle. Come prepared. The 12-hour cutoff is 6:30 pm...sunset. (Maps from 5:30 am).
- **The 6-hour** starts at 9:30 am and finishes at 3:30 pm. (Maps from 8:30 am).

- **The 3-hour** starts at 12:30 pm and also finishes at 3:30 pm. (Maps from 11:30 am).

Finish times are the 'soft cutoff' described in chat #1.

Check-in on Saturday will start from 2 pm and run until 5 pm. Check-in will take approximately 10-15 minutes for 6 and 12 hour teams, and 5ish minutes for 3 hour teams. Teams will not get any maps of the course at check-in other than the overview map (of all 3 courses). The event briefing will occur shortly after check-in closes, at approximately 5:30 pm.

A final email will be sent regarding the location of check-in but it will likely be at an end of the Meridian Rowing Complex. **Note that there is a wedding happening elsewhere on the grounds on Saturday, so please remain respectful the wedding party.**

PLEASE NOTE: Markers/controls will already be in place by the end of next week.

If you arrive early, do not 'explore' the race area or the Twizel surrounds in advance of the race. Some controls may be in place from the middle of this coming week as there are roughly 100 controls to set over a large area (across all events). Teams found 'control' hunting prior to the start of the event may face time equalization penalties or be disqualified if they are part of a championship event.

Course Updates

12-hour: On account of the seasonal variability and late season snow forecast, the higher alpine section that was planned for the 12-hour course has been replaced with a challenging (but lower elevation) rogaine. This makes the 12-hour slightly easier physically, but much harder navigationally—teams with good navigation and teamwork will be rewarded. Slower teams will also be allowed to 'catch up' a bit by omitting points at this later stage section.

6 and 12-hour: Racers in the 6 and 12 hour events should be prepared to get wet—and not just during the paddle. Both the 6 and 12 hour events begin with a paddle. Wetsuits (see chat #1) are required as water temps may be very cold.

6 and 12-hour teams will be allowed two 'gear bins/bags'. See below.

Bag/Bin A: The first bin will be positioned at race start and be accessible immediately after the paddle. Teams can use bag/bin A for dry clothes to put on after the paddle, food resupply, backpacks, etc. Teams will place these in a designated area before race start (up to one hour prior) and drop in a second area before leaving the paddle area. These bins won't be accessible until the end of the race, and can be picked up by teams after or coaches during if this suits. Bag/Bin A must be a single item—duffel, large pack, or bin with working lid, so that everything can be contained before and after accessing it.

Bag/Bin B: 6 and 12 hour teams will be allowed which will be transported by race staff and accessible at a specific location later in the race. This location will be one where teams may get wet and or choose to swim. The gear can be accessed before and after this stage, and teams can leave any non-mandatory gear with this bag/bin during the stage (i.e. they could shed clothes to keep warm layers dry, etc). This can be a smallish bin/bag (bag preferred) and can weigh NO MORE than 20kg for a 4p team and 10kg for a 2p team. Experienced teams may already know that this bag/bin is a bit of a 'trap'--utilizing the full weight means more stuff to sort through, more decisions to make, and thus more time wasted. Sure, a dry pair of socks might be nice on a cold day, 5 hours in, and there is an opportunity to 'go light' on food early and use this as a resupply--but think carefully about what you want to include, maybe paying attention to the weather as well! Bag/Bin B will be transported back to the finish and available for pickup after the race. TEAMS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE A BIN/BAG B!

3-hour racers will not have any bin/bag drops, and will need to carry all mandatory gear from start to finish.

Post Race

Awards for the 3 and 6 hour events will happen as soon as practicable after the event finishes, likely around 4:30. Medals will be awarded to 1st place in male, female, and mixed categories for the schools championship event. Certificates will go to places 2 and 3. We'll also take finish line podium photos which will be available for your school newsletter. Youth and Adult team placements will be announced and you'll get accolades and a hearty round of applause.

12-Hour awards will follow later, around 7 pm, or once the 12 hour race has finished.

Kai, in the form of a post event Hangi, courtesy of the James and the local Marae, will be available from around 4:30ish, after the 3 and 6 hour awards. This is included as part of the race entry fee for participants. Non-participants (parents, TICs, chaperones, etc) can opt to have a meal with the team for \$20. The Kai will be available as 12-hour teams finish, and before their awards.

We recognize that some teams may elect to depart shortly after the event and may not stick around for the Hangi. In an interest of making sure we have enough food, but not too much, we ask that each team fill out the following Hangi RSVP form in order to give us a good idea of numbers. On the form teams can also indicate whether any guests plan to attend the Hangi with them, and provide payment details for this option.

[Hangi RSVP form](#) (also located at top of page)

Safety

A tracking link for the 12 hour (and possibly the 6 hour) will be provided next week.

Cell phone: A reminder that all teams will need a working and charged cell phone, which will be sealed in a plastic bag prior to starting the event. Please bring your own zip lock (make sure it's waterproof). Phones will need to be sealed prior to the event start on Sunday Morning.

Road Rules: It is important to note that there are no road or trail closures on the event. The course has been designed so that racers WILL NOT CROSS any major roadways (highways), or travel along them. However there are areas where the course crosses roads with reduced speed limits and/or travels along rural roadways. **It is critical that riders follow the rules of the road at all times during the event.** Similarly, other trail users should be respected.

Look out for your team and other teams and race smart and safe. The race will not be won or lost by trying to 'beat' traffic at a road crossing!

Hypothermia: While extremely unlikely due to the proximity to shelter along the course and the race duration, teams/racers may be wet and depending on the weather conditions may face prolonged periods of exposure and cold. . Warning signs of hypothermia in adults and teens include:

- Shivering, which may stop as hypothermia progresses. (Shivering is actually a good sign that your heat regulation systems are still active.)
- Slow, shallow breathing
- Confusion and memory loss
- Drowsiness or exhaustion
- Slurred or mumbled speech
- Loss of coordination, fumbling hands, stumbling steps
- A slow, weak pulse

The course is not particularly remote, with most areas on the course within 20 minutes or less of a navigable roadway (3 and 6 hour) or 1 hour for the 12 hour event. Hypothermia is unlikely in any case if you have the right layers (mandatory gear) and are able to keep moving. However, it is important to be aware of the possibility, particularly for 12 hour racers who could potentially be wet off the bat from the kayak section (for example if capsizing). Low daytime temps and precipitation could create dangerous conditions for some individuals, so please check the weather forecast and plan appropriately in terms of your equipment and layers!

Questions?

If you have any questions before race weekend, feel free to get in touch:

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I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Twizel!