



Mount Pacific Downwind

Significant changes were made to the Event Information; Race Rule, Terms & Conditions; and Event Entry Form on the 1st December 2009 to incorporate Stand-up Paddle Boards. Any changes made after this revised material was posted on the webpage are noted in red below.

Event Information...

Event Registration Venue & Times – Entrants will be able to register at one of the two following times.

1. Pre-entries (received by mail or email before the cut-off) and all late entries - between 7:00 - 9:00 pm on Friday 19th February 2010 **at the Rip Curl Store, 138 Maunganui Road, Mt. Maunganui.**
2. Pre-entries only - between 7:00 - 9:00am on the morning of Saturday 20th February 2010 **onboard the Spirit Of Tauranga Charter Boat Birthed at Salisbury Wharf, Pilot Bay, Mt. Maunganui. No late entries will be accepted on the morning of the event – there will be no exceptions.**

Craft Launching, Start Order & Time – Paddlers (kaihoe) will be transferred in between the vessels and start in three waves based on the class of craft paddled.

1. Stand-up Paddle Boarders (SUP's) will be first to cross over to the barge and un-rack their boards. They will all assemble (irrespective of category) on the barge ramp facing in the direction of the finish and start on mass at the **drop of a green starters flag and** sound of the ships horn, by jumping off the ramp into the water with their boards. The rough start time for the first wave is 12:30pm.
2. Ocean Canoe or Waka Ama (OC1) paddlers will be second to cross over to the barge and un-rack their craft. They will be directed to unload their craft from the racks then jump of the ramp into the water with their craft straight away. Once mounted on their craft, OC1 paddlers (kaihoe) are advised to all immediately assemble (irrespective of category) on the water alongside of the barge, facing out to sea and paddling gently into the swell to maintain their position. The race start line will be an imaginary line between the bow (front) of the barge and an official safety boat parallel with this. All craft need to be gathered behind the start line facing out to sea into the swell, not in any other direction (no exceptions). **A red starter's orders flag will be raised 1 minute before the start. 15 second before the start this will be replaced by a Green Flag.** OC1 paddlers (kaihoe) will than start on mass at the **drop of the green flag and** sound of the ships horn. The rough start time for the first wave is 12:45pm.
3. Surf Ski paddlers will be third and final group to cross over to the barge and un-rack their craft. Like the group before them, they will be directed to unload their craft from the racks then jump of the ramp into the water with their craft straight away. Once mounted on their craft, Surf Ski paddlers (kaihoe) are advised to immediately assemble on the water alongside of the barge, facing out to sea and paddling gently into the swell to maintain their position. The race start line will again be an imaginary line between the bow (front) of the barge and an official safety boat parallel with this. All craft need to be gathered behind the start line facing out to sea into the swell, not in any other direction (no exceptions). **A red starter's orders flag will be raised 1 minute before the start. 15 second before the start this will be replaced by a Green Flag.** All Surf Ski paddlers (kaihoe) will than start on mass at the **drop of the green flag and** sound of the ships horn. The rough start time for the first wave is 1:00pm.

Course Description – After following the starting instructions, paddlers set a direct straight line course paddling and riding the swells 25km back to the finish line located on Mt. Maunganui Main Beach - to the sheltered side of Moturiki Island (or otherwise know as Leisure Island). **Paddlers (kaihoe) must paddle within 20 meters of land when rounding Moturiki Island on route to the finish.**

Official Safety Boats – There will be a number of official safety boats (including the barge, charter boat, private motor boats and inflatable's) on the water, each with different roles. Whilst they are there to help those in distress, they cannot be everywhere at once. Therefore all paddlers (kaihoe) should be competent at self rescue (remounting their craft). A private lead boat will accompany the leading craft and the 'Deliverance' barge will act as the tail end boat accompanying the craft at back of the field. The 'Spirit of Tauranga' charter boat (along with other possible escort boats) will be around to continually monitor and sweep the field, assisting with pick-up of anyone in need. The Coast Guard & Harbour Master may also be on the water, with a watchful eye over the field during the race. The Mount SLSC inflatable Rubber boat (IRB) will also be on duty in the finishing stages close to the shore. Your personal safety is their priority, it is not the duty of safety boats to recover craft or gear and they will not take responsibility for any damage or loss to craft, paddles (hoe) or gear in the event of assistance or non-assistance. Those picked up by an official safety boat, and/or items of equipment recovered, will be transported to within a short distance from shore in the calm waters of Pilot Bay. Paddler's (kaihoe) who are picked up must immediately report their withdrawal to the officials or timekeepers at the finish on Mt. Maunganui Main Beach before reuniting with their support crew.

Prize Giving – The prize giving will take place in the courtyard at Mondo Mexicano restaurant - 147 Maunganui Road (the access way is a few doors along from the Mount Post and Copy Centre) beginning approximately 6:00pm.

Race Rules, Terms & Conditions of Entry...

Support/Escort Boats (Kaiawhina) Guidelines

Entrants have the option of providing a Support/Escort Boat (Kaiawhina). It is the responsibility of the paddling crew (Kaihoe) and/or their Club to organize such support.

All accompanying motor powered support/escort boats (kaiawhina):

1. must be of sufficient power to travel faster than the competitive craft they are supporting/escorting.
2. have to be of an adequate size to safely take the complete paddling crew (kaihoe) of the craft they are supporting and be able tow the craft.
3. need to carry sufficient fuel to complete the journey out to the start line and back to the finish in the worst conditions expected.
4. should comply with Maritime Safety Authority laws/requirements.
5. must carry compatible communication (VHF radio or cell phone) with the craft they are supporting.
6. are required to maintain visual contact with the craft they are supporting at all times so immediate action to preserve the safety of the craft and its crew (Kaihoe) is possible.
7. should stay clear of the start and at least 50m clear of any craft in the first 10 minutes of the race (provided visibility is able to be maintained with the paddler (kaihoe).
8. can only follow behind or to the side (but not within 20 meters) of their respective paddle craft they are supporting for the remainder of the race.
9. in line with Maritime Safety rule 91.6(1)(a) must slow to 5 knots within 50 meters of any other vessel or person in the water **not related to the event.**

10. in line with Maritime Safety rule 91.6(1)(b) - should remain 200m from the shore to provide a safe area for swimmers and other recreational users along the shore.
11. should show courtesy to all competitive craft, so not to interfere with the race (i.e., getting in front or too close, to help or hinder as a result of boat wash/wake).
12. are not permitted to assist with any prohibited paddler changes.
13. must offer assistance to all craft & paddlers (kaihoe) in distress or in an emergency.
14. are recommended to have a person trained in First Aid onboard if possible.

Give-way to Large Vessels

All competitors craft, support/escort boats and official safety boats associated with the event are to keep well clear of any large vessels. DO NOT cross in front of any large vessels entering or leaving Tauranga Harbour. These vessels (over 500 grt) have the right of way under bylaw 6.3.4.