



2026 Swimming Wellington

Matiu / Somes Island Open Water Challenge

Sunday 1 March 2026

Location - Matiu / Somes Island to Petone Beach

For the first time Swimming Wellington will be hosting the iconic Matiu / Somes Island Swim this summer. The event will begin at Somes Island wharf, and will span the distance of 3.2km back to Petone Beach. Your event entry will include a ferry ride from Queens Wharf or Days Bay Wharf to Somes Island, and an island visitor fee. The iconic landmark in the centre of the Wellington Harbour provides the ideal starting point for a 3.2km swim back to Petone for moderate - experienced level swimmers.

Entries Open: 1 December 2025

Online Entries Close: 24 February 2026

Early Bird Entries: Before 1 January 2026

Events

<u>Distance</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Start Time</u>
3.2km	Male, Female	12 -15 (Junior), 16 - 34 (Open), 35+ (Masters)	8.30am

Registration at Queens Wharf, East by West ferry terminal: 6.00am - 6.30am (Departure at 6.30am)

Registration at Days Bay Wharf, East by West ferry terminal: 7.00am - 7.30am (Departure at 7.30am)

No personal belongs are permitted on the ferry as Somes Island is a biosecure area, wetsuits are encourage for this reason.

Swimmers briefing: 8.00am at Somes Island Wharf

Event Manager: Kim Hancock - kim@swimwn.co.nz

Updated 20 February 2025

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Meet Conditions

1. Entry Pricing

	Earlybird Entry Before 1 January	Entry Before 1 February	Entry Before 24 February	Entry From 24 February or Race Day Entry
	3.2km			
Registered SNZ	\$70	\$80	\$85	\$100
Recreational	\$80	\$90	\$95	

2. Entry Process

SNZ Members:

Enter online via the SNZ database, which will include completion and signing of an e-waiver. For all entrants under the age of 18, the waiver must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian. See waiver form for more information.

Social:

Enter via the OneTime registration site, as displayed on the event page Scorching Bay Challenge. For all entrants under the age of 18, the waiver must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian. See waiver form for more information.

3. Caps & Wetsuits

Caps will be provided at registration.

Wetsuits are optional. It is recommended that participants should use wetsuits for open water swimming competitions in water with temperature below 20C.

4. Events

Distance	Gender	Age Groups			Start Time
3.2km	Male, Female	12-15 Juniors	16-34 Open	35 + Masters	8.30am

5. Racing Rules

The race will start at Somes Island wharf, and will be over a course identified by buoys. The finish line will be located on land at Petone Beach. Under extreme weather conditions the Technical Director may amend the course (including shortening the distance of races) on the day. No swimmer may be accompanied in the water by another non-competing swimmer at any stage of the race. If a swimmer leaves the water or makes contact with a boat, he/she shall be disqualified. The Technical Director's decision is final on both any changes to the course and any swimmer disqualifications.



6. Timing

Electronic timing chips are required to be worn on both wrists and will be given out at registration. Swimmers will be required to pay \$50 per chip if it is lost/not returned.

7. Timetable

Competitors must register within the designated registration time and attend the race briefing. Race numbers, caps and timing chips will be given out at the registration station. The registration location will be confirmed nearer the time of the event and will be published on the Swimming Wellington web page for the event.

Distance	Registration	Briefing	Racing start
500m	6.00am - 6.30am (Queens Wharf) 7.00am - 7.30am (Days Bay)	8.00am	8.30am

8. Alterations / Abandonment

The Technical Director may alter starting times or cancel the event due to bad weather, and may abandon the event after the official start for safety reasons. If the event is cancelled after Monday February 24th, 5.00pm, participants can use the entry as credit towards any other Swimming Wellington open water event. If the event is cancelled prior to Monday February 24th, 5.00pm a full refund will be processed. Swimming Wellington reserves the rights to refuse entry to any person. Swimming Wellington and the Technical Director may remove or prevent someone from starting or completing the event at their discretion, and any decision made is final.

9. Photography

Participants who have entered this event agree to allow images (e.g. photography, video, etc.) to be taken by accredited media approved by Swimming Wellington. Images are only to be used for legitimate purposes by Swimming Wellington in accordance with the SNZ Member Protection Policy. Club photographers should seek prior approval from the Meet organiser prior to the start of the meet, as per the Swimming Wellington Photography Policy.

10. Results

Results will be posted via URL link on the Swimming Wellington website as soon as possible after the conclusion of the event.

11. Medals

Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd for all events. Participation medals will be awarded to all swimmers who participated in the event. Medal ceremonies will take place at the end of the event.



12. Water Safety Guidelines

- Swimmers are responsible for their own physical condition and are urged to train appropriately for the event (be able to swim the full distance and have open water swimming experience) and have a medical check prior to entry if required.
- It is important to note that, while every effort will be made to ensure a safe and fun event, organisers and crew are unable to guarantee swimmer safety
- Water safety personnel will be patrolling the course for the duration of your event
- Medical staff will be on-site with staff and resources
- A swimmer deemed incapable of completing the course in a satisfactory condition will be brought to shore by water safety personnel
- If assistance is required during the swim, swimmers are required to raise one arm so water safety personnel can assist. If this is not possible, the swimmer should roll onto their back to float in a relaxed position and try to alert a lifeguard
- In the event of a withdraw, please alert a clearly marked event official. Timing chips need to be returned to indicate the withdrawal
- All swimmers should be vigilant when swimming around buoys and passing other swimmers
- Swimmers are recommended to wear a wetsuit for assistance with buoyancy and warmth