



Wellington

OPEN WATER SERIES



2025 Swimming Wellington Oriental Bay Open Water Challenge

Friday 31 January 2025

Location - Oriental Bay

Swimming Wellington takes our Open Water series to Oriental Bay in 2025. The event will be a beach start from the iconic Oriental Bay Beach, with 500m, 1.25km, 2.5km and 5km races.

This scenic beach provides the perfect beach start for swimmers, with local changing rooms, toilets, cafes and bars all within the vicinity. Finish your work week and head down to Oriental to catchup with friends, family or your local swim group and take part in one of the four distances on offer.

Entries Open: 1 December 2024

Online Entries Close: 26 January 2025

Early Bird Entries: Before 1 January 2025

Events

Distance	Gender	Age Groups	Start Time
5km	Male, Female	12 -15 (Junior), 16 - 34 (Open), 35+ (Masters)	4.45pm
2.5km	Male, Female	12 -15 (Junior), 16 - 34 (Open), 35+ (Masters)	4.47pm
1.25km	Male, Female	12 -15 (Junior), 16 - 34 (Open), 35+ (Masters)	4.49pm
500m	Male, Female	7 -15 (Junior), 16 - 34 (Open), 35+ (Masters)	5.30pm

**1.5km, 2.5km
& 5km**

**Registration: 3.30pm - 4.30pm
Briefing: 4.30pm**

500m

**Registration: 4.00pm - 5.00pm
Briefing: 5.15pm**

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

Updated 21 November 2025

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Meet Conditions

1. Entry Pricing

	Earlybird Entry Before 1 January	Entry Before 27 January	Entry From 27 January or Race Day Entry
	500m		
Registered SNZ	\$10	\$20	\$50
Recreational	\$20	\$30	
	1.25km		
Registered SNZ	\$20	\$30	\$60
Recreational	\$30	\$40	
	2.5km		
Registered SNZ	\$30	\$40	\$65
Recreational	\$40	\$50	
	5km		
Registered SNZ	\$40	\$50	\$70
Recreational	\$50	\$60	

2. Entry Process

Registered SNZ:

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.

Recreational:

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. Caps will identify which distance participants will be swimming and must be worn at all times for identification purposes.

5km - Green

2.5km - Orange

1.25km - Yellow

500m - Pink

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
5km	Male, Female	7-15 Juniors	16-34 Open	35 + Masters	4.45pm
2.5km	Male, Female	7-15 Juniors	16-34 Open	35 + Masters	4.47pm
1.25km	Male, Female	7-15 Juniors	16-34 Open	35 + Masters	4.49pm
500m	Male, Female	7-15 Juniors	16-34 Open	35 + Masters	5.30pm

5. Racing Rules

The race will start on the southern end of Oriental Bay, closest to Wellington City, and will be over a course identified by buoys. The finish line will be located on land back at the starting point. 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
5km	3.30pm - 4.30pm	4.30pm	4.45pm
2.5km	3.30pm - 4.30pm	4.30pm	4.47pm
1.25km	3.30pm - 4.30pm	4.30pm	4.49pm
500m	4.00pm - 5.00pm	5.15pm	5.30pm

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 January 26th, 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 January 26th, 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

