



# Flannagan Cup

**Objective:** Swimming Taranaki will organise this annual open water swim as a means of promoting open water swimming and to acknowledge the historical significance of this iconic event

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## Background

1. The Flannagan Cup was first swum in 1916 from Ngamotu Beach to East End. It is Swimming Taranaki's longest running event and oldest trophy. A booklet on the race history was printed in 2006 as a celebration of ninety years.
2. The Flannagan Cup is no longer given to the winner to hold for a year due to its value, but is held in a secure glass case (donated by Mark Goodwin, The Glassman. The Flannagan Cup is displayed at the annual race and presented to the winner allowing for photo opportunities.
3. The Flannagan Cup race day includes the Cup race of 3.6k and supporting races including Junior, Open and Masters races swum over a shorter course of 1.2k. From 2007 additional races have been incorporated including a relay for younger swimmers and a race of 400m for those new to open water swimming.
4. The Flannagan Cup prior to 2018 (?) was a Handicap race. The Cup race is no longer awarded on Handicap conditions however a Sealed Handicap is awarded to a swimmer based on place improvement over a period of 5 successive years.
5. The races are conducted in the port area at Ngamotu Beach. Since 2007 this has been over a rectangular course with GPS co-ordinates **A**(WP3): S39° 03.505; E174° 02.319, **B**(WP4): S39° 03.399; E174° 02.079, **C**(WP5): S39° 03.418; E174° 02.623, **D**(WP2): S39° 03.554; E174° 02.567. *Photograph attached.*

## Policy

1. Swimming Taranaki leads and manages the overall running of this event. A Flannagan Cup Committee (Committee) is responsible for the operational management of the Race. The Committee shall form, on an annual basis following Swimming Taranaki's AGM. The Committee shall comprise members of the Public who have a common interest in the successful running of the Flannagan Cup Event. A member of the Swimming Taranaki Board (Board) shall also be included on the Committee. The Committee shall ensure sufficient organisation is in place for a successful and safe race, reporting regularly to the Board during planning stages and following the conclusion of the Race day
2. Safety of all participants is paramount. A Risk Analysis and Management Plan submitted to Surf Lifesaving NZ (SLSNZ) for approval. An independent Safety Crew (nominated by SLSNZ) will be in charge of Health and Safety during the event.

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## **Operational:**

**The Flannagan Cup committee engage SLSNZ to prepare a Aquatic Management Safety Plan (AMSP). This is the governing safety document by which the event is run.**

1. The Flannagan Cup is swum over a distance of approximately 3.6 kilometres. Competitors must be 14 years and over on the day of the race.
2. The Duncan Laing Junior Race is swum over a distance of approximately 1.2km. Competitors for this event must be between 10 and 14 years on the day of the race. Swimmers may enter either the Junior Race or the Flannagan Cup race but not both.
3. Swimmers in the Open 1.2 k race must be between 15-19 years of age
4. will be swum over a distance of approximately 1200m. Swimmers must be 15-19 years of age on the day of the race.
5. The Masters Race will be swum over a distance of approximately 1200m. Swimmers must be 20 years or over on the day of the race.
6. The 'Give it a Go' Race is swum over a distance of 400m and is for any competitor who wishes to try out open water swimming. They shall not have entered any other race, except for the 200m Relay.  
The 200 metre Relay comprises Teams of three and is designed for junior swimmers proving a safe environment for open water swimming. The swimmer may not enter any other race except the 400m give it a Go Race.
7. The winner of the Flannagan Cup is the first swimmer to complete the race from gun-start to finish on the mat. In addition to the award of the Flannagan Cup a Sealed Handicap cup is awarded to the swimmer making the most significant improvement in finish place over successive races within a five year period.
8. The water temperature should be a minimum of 14°C. Water quality shall be confirmed on <https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/swimming/> during the month leading up to the race.
9. Port Taranaki Limited shall be included in communication lists. They maintain a 24/7 listening watch on VHF Channel 12. A call shall be made at the start of the day to see if there are any harbour shipping movements. These are unlikely to get in the way but it will help to know when they are happening.
10. If the event is cancelled due to any 'act of God or nature', strike, lockout, fire, flood, storm, explosion, revolution, riot, act of war, earthquake, landslide, (pan) epidemic, national day of mourning or any other act or event that is beyond reasonable and foreseeable control, If cancelled, then either i) the value of Entry Fee plus any merchandise may be refunded at 75%, or ii) Entry Fee plus any merchandise may be transferred to the next Flannagan cup event.

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The organising committee reserves the right to cancel the event due to inclement weather, water conditions or temperature.

## Rules

1. Anyone of the correct age for an event is eligible to enter the Flannagan Cup or associated events provided that they are medically fit to swim the event. Swimmers participate in the event at their own risk. Entrants are not required to be members of Swimming Taranaki.
2. The starting and finishing lines are decided upon by the Committee. Where timing devices are worn, then a beach start and finish are adhered to.
3. Swimmers can nominate that they wish to swim without wetsuits for any event. This must be indicated in the registration.
4. The controlling official during the progress of the races shall be the Referee, whose decisions and directions in all cases shall be final.
5. Recipients of trophies may hold them for one year (trophy winners from outside Taranaki will not be given the trophy to take home, it will be engraved with the winners name and kept with Swimming Taranaki), and it will be the recipient's responsibility to ensure that the trophy is returned to the Flannagan Cup committee one month prior to the holding of the next year's event. The recipient is responsible for any damage done to the trophy whilst in his or her care. The trophies belong to Swimming Taranaki or the clubs that award trophies for first club swimmer and cannot be won outright. Swimming Taranaki will ensure trophies are engraved each year.
6. The Referee or Event Safety Crew may remove swimmers from the water if they have not completed the race within 2 hours or for any other reasons they see fit to do so e.g.; swimmer in difficulty, putting other swimmers at risk.
7. All appeals shall be made in writing in the first instance to the referee within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the race, accompanied by a protest fee of \$50.00 which may be refundable. The referee shall thereupon report to the appeals panel, which may make such decisions as seem just. The appeals panel will consist of the referee, the convenor and one other member of the organising committee.
8. Flannagan Cup Team Race: Rules governing the Bill Davis Memorial Shield, to be swum in conjunction with the Flannagan Cup Open Water Swim.
  - To be competed for as a club team event. This can be any type of clubs (competitive, masters, triathlon, etc)
  - Club teams to consist of four swimmers, with up to two reserves permitted to be named with entry.
  - Club teams to be nominated no later than entry closing date.
  - The club winning the Shield is the team who records the lowest number of points, based on the placing of its members in the race. The club holds the Shield for one year only.

10. **Junior Team Race:** Rules governing the Sue Southgate Trophy

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- To swum in conjunction with the Junior Race
  - To be competed for as a club team event
  - Club team to consist of four swimmers, with up to two reserves permitted to be named with entry.
1. Club teams to be nominated no later than closing date or Taranaki Administrator has the right to make up teams and then tell clubs so they can change the names if they choose. No alterations to club teams after handicaps have been disclosed.
  2. The club winning the Shield is the team who records the lowest number of points, based on the placing of its members in the race. The club holds the Shield for one year only.
11. Port Taranaki Limited accepts no responsibility or liability for any person participating in the Flannagan Cup or associated events.
12. During the duration of the race Swimming Taranaki do not have exclusive use of the swim area identified. Jet skis and kayakers may be present in the area throughout the day. They are able to use the normal launch places at the Western and Eastern end of the beach.

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