



RACE GUIDE

2026 AUCKLAND SCHOOLS XC SERIES – MARAETAI

Location	Maraetai Forest
Date	10 May 2026
Hosted By	Pohutukawa Coast Youth Academy
In conjunction with	Pohutukawa Coast Bike Club

The purpose of this guideline is to provide on the day event guidelines for the delivery of the 2026 Auckland Schools XC Series at Maraetai, to make it a successful, safe and enjoyable environment for all riders, spectators, volunteers, and organisers.

Item	Contents	Page
1	Key Contacts for Event	1
2	Event Details	2
2.1	Entry Information	2
2.2	Event location and event hub	5
2.3	Course information	6
2.4	Event schedule	6
3	Key safety information	6
3.1	General safety information	6
3.2	Course safety information	8
4	Regulations and equipment	10
4.1	Equipment	10
4.2	Terms and conditions of entry	11

1 KEY CONTACTS FOR THE EVENT

	Name	Email	Phone
Event Manager	Tom Buzink	Tom_buzink@yahoo.co.uk	021 317 635
Safety Officer	Andrea Lukac	alukac@beachlands.school.nz	027 225 9215



College Sport Operations Manager	Hamish Muirhead	hamish@collegesport.co.nz	0212219000
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The EVENT MANAGER will be the main point of contact for all event related matters before, during and after the event. The aim of the EVENT MANAGER is to make sure the event is delivered to the required standard set out in this document.

The SAFETY OFFICER will be the main point of contact for any Safety related planning, incident reporting, or any other H&S related items prior, during and after the event.

Sports departments to contact College Sport Auckland regarding SPORTY and entry related enquiries.

College Sport Auckland contact is for the school sport departments to contact in lead up to the event regarding entries and other key info.

By entering this event, all participants are agreeing to comply with this document and Appendix A - Health and Safety plan.

2 EVENT DETAILS

2.1 EVENT INFORMATION

All entrants must have read, understood and agreed to abide by the information outlined in this Event Manual.

The event is limited to 300 entries. This race is an XCO format race. There are two races which are split by age group:

Race 1 - U15B, U14B, U13B

Race 2 - U20B, U17B, U16B, U20G, U13G-U17G

The cost of the event will be \$70.00 regardless of race length. Entrants under the age of 16 years must have guardian consent to race (given when entering).

The age category of the rider is determined based on their age as at 31st December 2026. Minimum age for entering this race is 11 years old and all riders should be under 20 as of the 31st of December 2026. Rider ages younger than 11 years will require prior approval from the race organisers.

There will be race marshals placed throughout the course for health and safety reasons.



Entries Open	OPEN
Race maps released	Friday 10th April 2026
Racecourse mapping	Saturday 9th May 2026
Race day	Saturday 10th May 2026

We require volunteers. This will be managed through College Sport and information sent out via sport departments and the College Sport Auckland website. We also recommend that rider guardians download the Sporty NZ app from the Play Store. They must confirm their knowledge level of the trail assigned when volunteering.

The age category of the rider is determined based on their age on 31st December 2026.

There will be medals presented to college sport category winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd) on the day. All non-college sport intermediate and primary school students will get certificates for placings.

General Category / Ghost riders – Riders from non-College Sport schools

Riders from Auckland Intermediate and primary schools will be able to enter the Event as General Category Riders.

E-Bikes

While e-bikes are welcome to join in the event, they are not eligible for placing. It must be made clear to officials when registering on the morning of the event that you are participating on an e-bike.

E-bikes are not permitted to assist other participants at any time (for e.g. towing or pushing up hills). If a participant is found to have received assistance from an e-bike they may be disqualified.



Race Entry

Note entries for College Sport eligible riders will be managed via College Sport Auckland.

Auckland entries are to be made through their school sport department. School sport departments enter students through the Sporty platform.

Non-College Sport Auckland Intermediate Schools and primary schools are to enter using the Racetime website.

Race Plates

All riders will be issued with an event race plate. This must be attached to the front of your bike with cable ties. Cable ties will be available at the event. The race plate must be retained for the duration of the series.

A transponder or plate with race ship will be provided on the morning when you register.

If a transponder is provided it must go on the right side of the bike (drive chain side) with the transponder facing outwards. Zip ties and snips will be provided on the day. At completion of the race you must return your transponder into the finish timer at the event hub. No transponder, no time! Lost chips or wilfully damaged chips will be charged at \$150.00.

If a race plate is provided with timing chip, the plate must be retained for all races if you are planning on entering more than one in the series.

Race Registration

Race registration will be held at the Event Hub from 8.00 am – 9.30 am. No entries will be taken on the day. School team managers will register all participants on arrival, notifying officials of any no shows.

Race Results

Official results will be posted on Race Result under the event.



2.2 EVENT LOCATION AND EVENT HUB

The event is located in the Maraetai Forest. Entry will be via the Okaroro Drive entrance. You will need to walk or bike up the Watercare WWTP access driveway to enter the forest.



Parking will be available along Okaroro Drive. A shuttle will be running on the day to transport people if parked far away from the entry gate. Note you will still need to walk/ride up the Watercare driveway to enter the forest.

Maraetai Forest is a privately owned commercial forest. Everything that goes in with you must come out. This includes food wrappers from competitors on course, all plates and cable ties. Please ensure you take all your rubbish with you to dispose in rubbish bins off site.

Food and water

All riders need to bring their own food and water for the Race. There will be a BBQ provided at the end of the event. Volunteers also must supply their own food and drink.

Alcohol, smoke, drug and vape FREE

The entire event and all venues are smoke, drug, vape and alcohol free. Please ensure all your supporters are aware of this. We are running these events in a working forest and no use of any of these substances will be tolerated. Expect to be asked to leave the venue immediately if you ignore this rule.



The forest is a high fire risk area, absolutely NO open flames of any kind, for the safety of everyone.

2.3 COURSE INFORMATION

The XC course will be a mixture of grade 3 and 4 tracks. There will be a 'short' course and a 'long' course.

Riders are not permitted to shortcut a course. The responsibility for following the official stage route lies with the rider. If you do not follow the official stage route you will be disqualified. If a rider exits the course or breaks through tape, they must re-enter at the place they exited or they may be disqualified. Riders are not permitted to willingly alter the course in any way. This includes moving rocks, logs, tape or other natural obstacles.

Due to changes in weather or course conditions, organisers reserve the right to change the course layout at any time leading up to and on the day of the event. Any changes will be notified to competitors via email or on the morning of race day via the race briefing.

Practice & race day

The course will be taped and cleared during the afternoon of Saturday 9th May. Those practising and racing all courses must remember that the forest is live and is a public accessed forest. Whilst the event is happening, we will close all or part of the forest where the event is taking place. Signage will also be erected. We cannot however rule out members of the public that will ignore signage. Marshals will politely request that the public refrain from riding the trails due to the event but please be aware that you may come across other general riders whilst racing.

2.4 EVENT SCHEDULE

The course may be practised before Race Day, however in the awareness of safety, please be mindful of other people on the trails.

Race day schedule ** Subject to change with notice

Registration	8.30 am to 9:30 am
Race 1 Marshal briefing	9:00 am (allows time to move to position)
Race 1 briefing	9.45 am
Race 1 start (U15B, U14B, U13B, approx. 3- minute gaps)	10.00 am
Race 1 – no new laps to be started	11:00 am
Race 2 marshal briefing	10:45 am (allows time to move to position)



Race 2 briefing (U20B, U17B, U16B, U20G, U17G-U13G, approx. 2-minute gaps)	11:15 am
Race 2 start	11.30 am
Race 2 – no new laps to be started	12:45 pm
**Race end	1.30 pm
**Prize giving	2.00 pm

3 KEY SAFETY INFORMATION

3.1 GENERAL SAFETY

PCBC are committed to providing and maintaining health and safety standards by ensuring that all risks and hazards associated with the Event are adequately identified and managed to prevent harm from occurring to the event staff, participants and all other personnel involved.

The safety of the riders, officials, and volunteers have been included in the event planning. The event planning includes (but is not limited to) track selection, course inspections, course marking, directional signage, hazard warning signage, communications and first aid provisions.

Cycling events carry some inherent risk and competitive races are strenuous by nature. To be able to compete, riders should be in sound physical and mental condition. The rider's health and welfare is of paramount importance. By entering in this race, the rider is declaring that they are in good health, are in an appropriate physical and mental condition to safely and have the appropriate level of skills to complete the race.

It is important to note that, while every effort will be made to ensure a safe and fun event, PCBC and event officials are unable to guarantee competitors safety over the entire course. Should any participant note any hazards that could affect the event and attendees or experience an accident/incident on race day, please report this to the H&S Officer, course Marshall, or anyone on the Key Contacts list provided.

Competitors enter the event at their own risk.

First aid

PCBC will provide a paramedic and a medic vehicle for the race who will provide first aid support for this event. The nearest urgent medical centre is East Care Urgent Care Medical Centre, 560 Botany Road, Golflands, Auckland 2013. Schools to ensure they have a basic first aid kit for minor injuries.



Potential hazards

While participating in this event please be mindful of potential hazards set out in our health and safety document (Appendix A) and take all necessary precautions. Potential Hazards in the forest include but are not limited to:

Riders on tracks beyond their ability	Collision with another competitor(s), officials, members of the public, animals, or object (the ground, tree or vehicle)
Slippery, rooty, off camber tracks	Narrow tracks with steep drop offs
Drop offs / Jumps	Fallen trees
Bridges / Timber structures	Walkers / Runners / Dogs
Forest fire	Sunburn
Tree felling debris either side and on trails	Bee / wasp stings
Bike failure	Riders going wrong direction
Isolation	Heat exhaustion and dehydration.
Lost riders (especially young riders not familiar with PCBC Forest)	Traffic on forestry roads

Parent/guardian responsibility

College Sport Auckland participants must be accompanied by a minimum of one adult per school as responsibility of the school team manager.



3.2 COURSE SAFETY INFORMATION

The event courses are designed for XCO mountain biking, and a certain amount of skill is required. By participating in this event, entrants acknowledge that they have a sufficient level of experience and skill to ensure their safety.

The course consists of grade 3 and 4 trails. On the stages the rider may encounter roots, off camber sections, steep drop offs, jumps (all rollable), small drops (with B-Lines), leaf litter, possible fallen branches, puddles, and other obstacles that can be found in a forest. All riders need to be confident in their ability to ride grade 3-4 trails in the wet.

We strongly recommend that new riders visit Maraetai Forest prior to entering as this is easily the toughest race of the series.

It is the rider's responsibility to manage their safety during the Event, to be aware of other forest users and competitors at all times and to make responsible decisions.

The event is held in an outside environment, and weather conditions can be changeable at times. Therefore, ensure that you are prepared for inclement, adverse or extreme (hot or cold) conditions.

All registered competitors must be present at the compulsory briefing ahead of their race start.

All riders must comply with race rules and follow the directions of event officials and marshals.

To ensure your safety, please be vigilant at the start, throughout the course and when passing.

You must not ride up a trail the wrong way (in reverse to the marked course direction).

The course will be marked with arrows or tape. Marshals will be stationed at strategic locations to guide riders, warn for hazards and for health and safety reasons. If you are unfamiliar with the forest, we strongly recommend you download Trailforks or Strava onto your mobile phone.

Any issues on the day please see a Marshall or Race Official.



Withdrawal from the race

If a rider withdraws from the race (due to injury or any other reason), they must report to the Event Hub and advise an official and return the transponder (if being used) at the end of the race. In the event of getting into difficulty on the ride, stop and seek assistance from the next competitor to pass or nearest event official or marshal.

Officials will withdraw or refuse to start any rider who they believe presents a danger to themselves or to other riders. If, after medical assessment and/or treatment, the rider is permitted by officials to re-join the competition then no timing allowances will be made.

Evacuation

In the case of an evacuation, all riders are required to exit the course and forest (via either Rewa Road or Okaroro Drive gates) and report to a marshal.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is important at any level of Mountain biking. We highly encourage you to watch out for your fellow riders, whether they be your mates or not.

Passing

If you catch up to a rider ahead of you and are clearly faster and aim to pass, call out “rider on your right” or simply “rider”, and when you are able, overtake in a safe manner. Riders overtaking must do so safely and not put other riders in danger.

In reverse, if a faster rider, approaching from behind, calls out “rider on your right” or simply “rider” please allow them to pass at the next possible spot that you deem is safe for yourself, and the fellow rider to pass. It is useful to communicate that you have heard and that you are looking for a safe section.

Injured riders / assistance

If you come across someone who requires medical assistance you have a personal obligation to stop and assist. In the case of a crash where someone requires medical assistance this means:

- Ensure the safety of yourself and others. If you have reception call the medic or race manager (number on race map). If serious injury (unconscious, bone sticking out etc.) call 111 and advise emergency services and advise what trail you are on.
- If on a down track, stop the next rider coming down and get them to ride on to the end of the track and find a marshal. The marshal shall arrange for the track to be closed. Ask marshal to call 111 if you don't have mobile and if serious.
- The next rider shall station themselves further up the track and ask subsequent riders coming down the hill to dismount and walk past the injured rider.



- If the injured rider is suffering neck or back pain, do NOT move the injured person.
- Otherwise if safe, move the injured person and their bike off the trail/bottom of the track. Race can then continue for other riders once cleared.
- Attend to the injured rider to support and reassure them until the medics/marshals arrive and you are cleared to go.

In regard to minimal lost time caused by assisting another rider as per the above scenario, in the first instance the participant should attempt to complete the race in the allotted time. If unable to do this due to helping out a fellow rider as outlined in the above scenario, the rider may approach the Event Manager and explain the situation, and may be rewarded with a prorated time. Please make note of the time when helping out.

In all other situations outside of helping another rider due to a medical event or if having been asked by an official, if a participant is found to have received assistance from a bike with towing or pushing etc. they may be disqualified.

4 REGULATIONS AND EQUIPMENT

4.1 EQUIPMENT

Recommended Equipment (Carried on the person)

Spare Tube

Pump

Multi-Tool

Mobile Phone if have one (fully charged)

Bikes

All bicycles must be fit for purpose, in good working condition, and designed for off-rider mountain biking. All bicycles must have two working brakes, one front and one rear. It is the rider's responsibility to ensure that the bike is fit for purpose and race ready on the day. Bikes will not be inspected prior to the race, however they may be subject to random inspection before and throughout the event and those not meeting the above requirements will be forfeited from immediate competition and not allowed back into competition until deemed satisfactory by an official.

Protection Equipment - General

The required protective equipment must be worn at all times during the event, this includes practice sessions and racing.



All protective clothing and equipment used should be designed with the express purpose of being used as such.

Riders are not permitted to wear headphones or other similar music or communication devices during competition.

Please dress according to the activity and conditions on the day and carry necessary fluid and sustenance to see you comfortably through the event.

Please ensure you have read this and have the appropriate protection, as riders not following these regulations will not be allowed to race on the event day.

Protection Equipment - Helmets

Helmets must be in good condition and worn at all times when on a bike, competing or otherwise. All helmets must remain on and properly fastened. Any competitor seen to have removed their helmet, may be disqualified.

Bicycle helmets that satisfy the current New Zealand or equivalent international standards are compulsory in all events.

Other Protection Equipment

Closed toe footwear must be worn at all times while practising and competing.

The following protective equipment can also be worn:

- elbow and forearm protection
- knee and shin protection
- full finger gloves.

4.2 TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Risk

Every sport and recreational event involves physical risk. The type and level depend on variables such as the activity, the location and environment, the skill level and number of participants, the weather conditions and the number of spectators. Whatever your event, it is essential you are prepared by identifying, assessing and managing these risks. Risks to health, safety and well-being are implicit to sport and recreation. Participants must understand and accept that risk is involved when participating in these activities. As the Event Organiser's we have a legal responsibility to take all reasonable steps to support the health and safety of participants, spectators, officials, paid staff, volunteers and the general public. While we have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of all participants, participants and their legal guardians need to be aware of and accept the risks involved.



Cancellation of Events

The event recognises that there is the potential for circumstances outside of their control occurring that could result in the published event format and/or distance being adjusted, cancelled or postponed in the interest of participant and/or officials' safety. The organisers reserve the right to cancel the events in the case of adverse weather conditions. Any contingency plans will be announced via College Sports, Email, and Facebook. Please note that there will be no refunds if any event is cancelled.