



NIPS

**NORTH ISLAND PRIMARY &
INTERMEDIATE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS**

31 AUG — 3 SEPT 2026



[WHAKAPAPA.COM/NIPS](https://whakapapa.com/nips)

Contents

NIPS Competition Information	3
Competition Programme.....	3
Entries and Payments	4
Refund Policy	4
Lift Passes.....	4
Venues	5
Race Office/Registration.....	5
Prizegiving.....	5
On the day communication	6
Team Managers	6
Team Managers Meeting.....	6
Team Manager's 'To Do List':.....	6
Volunteer Course Assistants	7
Volunteer Course Assistant Roles	7
Key Contacts	9
NIPS Race Rules	9
Team Size	9
Draw.....	9
Course Inspection	10
Racing on the Course.....	10
Entrance to the Course.....	10
Reruns / Missed Starts	10
Loss of Momentum	11
Finishing.....	11
Second Run	11
Access to Officials	12
The Teams	12
Team Points	12
Bad Weather Contingencies	13
Clothing and Equipment	13
Awards and Trophies.....	13

Kia ora koutou,

The North Island Primary School Ski Champs (NIPS) celebrated 30 years of the event in 2019, and after bringing back NIPS successfully in 2025, Whakapapa can't wait to deliver an even more memorable event in 2026.

NIPS is an inclusive competition, open to all primary and intermediate students from across the North Island. It gives students a fun & safe opportunity to get involved with Alpine Ski Racing, with seasoned racers uniquely competing alongside school peers.



Chris Bashforth

Snow Sports Manager / Whakapapa

NIPS Competition Information

Competition Programme

	Date	Years 1-4	Years 5-6	Years 7-8
Sun	30/08/26 16:00 - 17:30	Team Managers Meeting - Tongariro Visitors Centre		
Mon	31/08/26	Training Day / *Weather Day	Training Day / *Weather Day	Training Day
Tue	01/09/26	Giant Slalom	Giant Slalom	Giant Slalom
Wed	02/09/26	Parallel Slalom Prizegiving	Parallel Slalom Prizegiving	Parallel Slalom Prizegiving
Thu	03/09/26	*Weather Day	*Weather Day	*Weather Day

***Weather Day – Please be prepared to race on any day that has been designated as a “Weather Day” for your age group.**

These have been designated around other races on the New Zealand Alpine calendar, and to accommodate any potential in weather OR facility challenges during the week.

Entries and Payments

Registrations are now open!

Before you register for the event you will first need to sign up for [Snow Sports NZ membership](#).

If you are signing up for your membership just to enter this event, please be sure to select yes to 'do you wish to compete in Snow Sports NZ' and 'school's events only' to activate your free school's competitive membership. For full step-by-step details on how to sign up for your free membership see the [guide](#).

The password required to sign in to the event registration page will be in your membership receipt email.

If you are an existing 'child competitive' member with Snow Sports NZ please go directly to the event registration page

Registration Fee is \$120 per person and covers both Giant Slalom and Dual Slalom events.

Entries close 24th August 2026 at 3pm.

Any schools wishing to pay by invoice please first create memberships for your athletes on your team managers user profile and then contact info@snowsports.nz to request an invoice for your team.

Refund Policy

Refunds requested prior to the close of entries are at the discretion of the ROC. All refunds will be considered on a case-by-case basis accompanied with a doctor's letter of injury or illness which means the competitor cannot take part in the event.

Entry refund policy for cancelled events:

1. For events cancelled prior to the team captains meeting there will be a complete refund of all paid entry fees. Minus a \$10 SSNZ admin fee and 3% bank fee.
2. For events cancelled by the jury prior to the race start on the day of competition there will be a refund of 1/2 of the paid entry fee. Minus a \$10 SSNZ admin fee and 3% bank fee.
3. If the race is cancelled after commencement of the race there will be no refund.

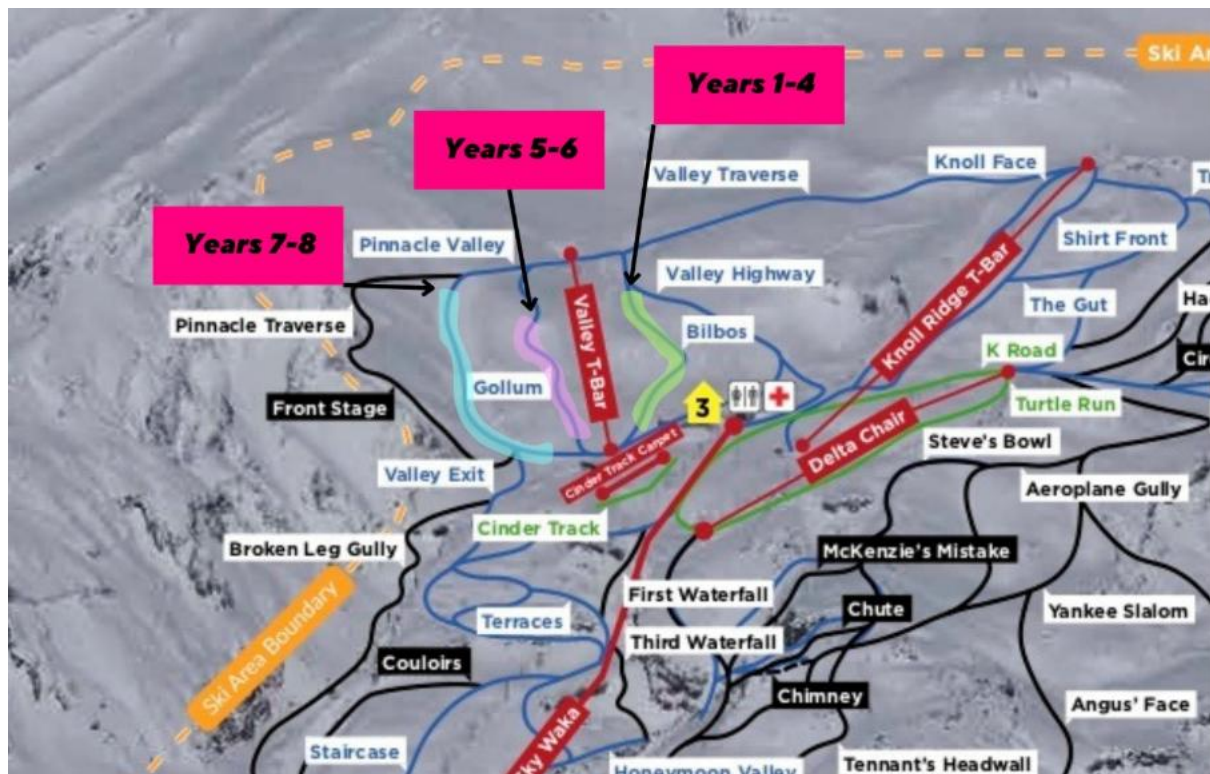
Lift Passes

Lift passes for the event can be purchased through Whakapapa. These passes will be purchased at the Whakapapa Snow School Office for \$119.

Passes are only available for Competitors / Team Managers and 1 Course Assistant who do not have Season Passes. These passes may only be used by the Competitor, Team Manager or Course Assistant.

Venues

Courses likely to be set in the Valley T Bar area. Courses will be determined subject to snow conditions and entry numbers.



Race Office/Registration

Please pick up Team Packs as early as you can. These will include race bibs and lift pass payment/collection.

Pack Pick Up Location – Snow School (the first building on the right as you enter the Plaza area), Whakapapa Ski Area.

Pick up available: Saturday 29th August 2026 and Sunday 30th August 2026.

Prizegiving

Prizegiving is planned for day 3 – Wednesday afternoon at the Plaza, Whakapapa Ski Area. Winning teams not in attendance must make alternative arrangements for the collection of their medals and trophies. Should the weather day on Monday be used, prizegiving will move to Tuesday afternoon for the Primary year groups.

On the day communication

Public announcements will be made on the What's App group.

Team Manager comms will be on WhatsApp. Please click the link to join the Team Managers Info Hub. <https://chat.whatsapp.com/CSMNOog3ssm2Gk2SSI9QIK>

Team Managers

The Team Manager is responsible for the wellbeing of the competitors, ensuring competitors adhere to the rules as supplied and are prepared to race on appropriate and safe equipment for the event.

The Team Manager must be present at the Team Managers Meeting. Communication to the ROC may only be made through the Team Manager.

Contact information of the Team Manager to the ROC must be kept up to date, i.e. if a Team Manager leaves the event the ROC must be notified.

Team Managers Meeting

- Meeting Date – Sunday 30th August 2026
- Check in for the meeting 3:15pm – 3.45pm
- Meeting begins 4pm
- Duration - approx. 45 minutes
- Location - Tongariro National Park Visitor Centre, Whakapapa Village, State Highway 48

The Team Managers Meeting is for Team Managers/Coaches only. The purpose of the Team Managers meeting is for Coaches and/or Team Managers to verify the entries of their competitors, check the planned schedule, hear specific area regulations, safety references to any aspect of mountain and event operations, obtain details of lift access and training areas and hear the weather forecast. It is recommended that a list of key officials be available at the meeting.

Whakapapa will supply access to the safety information relevant to the Whakapapa Ski Area and this event. The meeting should not start until all the entries are verified.

A roll call will be taken of all Schools entered at the Team Managers meeting. A Team Managers Meeting Agenda will be available prior to the meeting. It is compulsory for all School Teams entered to be represented, failure of representation will forfeit team entry

Team Manager's 'To Do List':

- Ensure your athletes are all registered
- Prior to race week, communications will go directly to the Team Manager email loaded into the athletes' registrations.
- Complete your team waiver, name the file with your team's name, and send back to events@whakapapa.com
- Ensure all athletes have completed their event registration online **by 24 August 2026**.
- Check your Volunteer Course Assistant has signed up for a role **by 24 August 2026** and that they have completed their Volunteer Course Assistant Induction.
- Prepare to have a safe week at the event. Follow the Whakapapa Safety Checklist.

- Ensure your competitors have the correct equipment for the week. Rentals can be booked directly here if needed.
- Read the Rules.
- Familiarize yourself, your competitors and the adults helping your team with the Ski Area Map.
- Connect yourself and the adults helping your team to the Whakapapa Events Facebook
- If a competitor is injured or taken ill **after 24 August 2026** please inform the events team who will help you work through solutions.
- Read and agree to the Snow Sport NZ [Peak Respect](#) code of conduct.
- Please plan ahead to support Whakapapa with our Tiaki Promise to care for people, place and culture.

Volunteer Course Assistants

Each team of 2 or more shall provide a Course Assistant, not being the Manager. Please sign your Volunteer Course Assistant up prior to your week of racing. We encourage teams who can provide more than 1 Volunteer Course Assistant to do so. Do this by loading your person into the sign-up genius form sent to you on receipt of your entry and then contacting events@whakapapa.com should you require an additional \$119 pass for them.

Volunteer Course Assistant Roles

As a course marshal you will play a critical role in supporting our young competitors to achieve their racing goals and team dreams. Volunteers staff the race office, help in the start and finish areas, work as gatekeepers and assist with timing, slipping and course setup. You also play a key role in ensuring that the spirit of the sport and competition is maintained. In the end, officials are responsible for providing the best possible experience for our athletes.

The roles listed below are one we require volunteer course marshal to assist with:

Starters Assistant – Dual Slalom

The Starters Assistant will ensure they have the correct competitor in the gate, confirm to the starter that their competitor is ready and will close the start wand after they have left the gate.

Start Marshall

The Start Marshall helps line the racers up in preparation for the start and must be aware of which racer is in the start and which racer is next to start. As per the start list.

Barrier Marshall

The Barrier Marshall ensures that all racers are given the opportunity for an unimpeded start. Coaches, parents, and spectators must keep clear of this area.

Finish Referee

The Finish Referee administers the area between the last gate and the finish area.

They are responsible for checking off the finish order of the racers and accurately recording on the Finish Referee Report Form, the exact order they crossed the finish line and checking that the finish

was completed in accordance with the rules. Their report will be collected by the Referee at the end of each run.

The Finish Referee must be available to racers who are requesting a rerun.

Finish Marshall

The Finish Marshall helps keep the finish area clear of competitors and spectators.

Chief of Gate Judges

The Chief of Gate Judges ensures that all Gate Judges are properly equipped with required materials and fully informed of their responsibilities. He/she organizes and supervises the work of the Gate Judges, designates the gates each Gate Judge will supervise and places them in position.

Chief of Gates will be placed mid-course during the running of the race, with a radio. The radio will be used to relay course information to the Course Referee.

At the end of each run, the Chief of Gate Judges collects the Gate Judges' cards and delivers them to the Course Referee. If a Gate Judge has recorded a fault that may result in a disqualification by the Jury, the Chief Gate Judge ensures that the Gate Judge is available after the run if a protest against the disqualification is filed, and a Jury meeting becomes necessary.

Gate Judges

The Gate Judges are responsible for checking the proper passage of racers through the course. Each racer must go around the gate on the correct side with both feet. If a gate is missed, or a racer falls and stops on the course or loses their ski(s), the racer must immediately exit the course to the side and that run will be recorded as a DNF (Did Not Finish).

Gate Judges will be required to observe between three and five gates, depending

on the type of event. They will record all faults on the supplied gate cards. Drawings of the faults must accompany the faults. The cards will be collected from the Chief Gate Judge at the end of all of the runs. Gate cards must be fully completed by the Gate Judges.

If you need a hand to get prepared, or have any questions regarding your role please contact the events team on events@whakapapa.com

A Volunteer Course Assistant optional drop in will be held on Sunday the 30th of August 5:30-6:30 at the Tongariro National Park Visitor Centre, Whakapapa Village, State Highway 48 to provide an overview of your role and for you to ask questions if you have them.

Whakapapa safety and event personnel will also hold a morning briefing for all volunteers on the mountain pre-race where there will be live updates and information for the day provided.

Please also complete your Volunteer Course Assistant Induction online prior to your race week.

A packed lunch, snacks and hot drink voucher is provided for Volunteer Course Assistants on the day they have signed up for. These packs do not include water. Special dietary options are available (for example vegetarian / gluten free / dairy free/ vegan). Please contact events@whakapapa.com as soon as you can, if you require these.

For details on how best to prepare for your day on the mountain please go to:
<https://www.whakapapa.com/plan-ahead>

Key Contacts

Whakapapa Snowsports Manager	Chris Bashforth	events@whakapapa.com
Snow Sports NZ Event Registration		info@snowsports.co.nz
Chief of Competition	Hannah Hazeldine	hhazeldine@whakapapa.com

NIPS Race Rules

The North Island Primary and Intermediate School Ski Championship is a Snow Sports NZ sanctioned event and will be run in accordance with the [Snow Sports NZ Alpine Competition Rules Book](#) and [FIS International Competition Rules](#) unless specified below.

Team Size

There will be no limit on team size per school. The best 3 results from each school will count towards the school's final score. Years 1&2, 3&4, 5&6 and 7&8 awarded points separately.

Draw

There will be no seeding, instead the competitors will be randomly drawn within their year/gender categories. No consideration shall be given to any points or seeding, given by any other group, club or organisation that runs ski racing or other similar skiing events.

Monday 31st August 2026: TRAINING/WEATHER DAY

This will be a scheduled training day. It will also be considered a weather day for any athletes in Years 1-6, who MUST be prepared to race on this day if required.

Tuesday 1st September 2026: GIANT SLALOM

A timed individual Giant Slalom. If more than one race is completed the athlete's best time of their two runs will count.

Appropriate school courses will be set for each category.

Start order will be Years 1-2 girls, then Years 1-2 boys and so on.

Wednesday 2nd September 2026: DUAL SLALOM

The finishing order from the Giant Slalom shall determine the start list for the Dual Slalom, wherein the 1st vs 2nd fastest racer will race each other, as will the 3rd and 4th racers, and so on through to the final pairs of racers.

Slowest skiers race first, starting with Years 1–2, then Years 3–4, etc. All competitors get two runs (one on each course). If there's an odd number of skiers, the slowest Giant Slalom skier runs solo. Those without GS results follow the start list order.

Bibs from Day 1 will be worn to identify the racers.

For Individual medals the times from run 1 and 2 will be combined to determine the individual ranking by category.

For the Team scores finishing recorder codes: Results are determined by electronic timing

W = Win (4 points), T = Tie (3 points), L = Loss (2 points), D = DNS or DSQ (0 points)

Thursday 3rd September 2026: WEATHER DAY

A weather day has been incorporated into the schedule in the case of a delayed schedule, for all ages.

Course Inspection

Competitors must follow the instructions of the Start Referee regarding acceptable methods of course inspection. Details will be provided at the Team Managers meeting.

Skiing or shadowing a portion of the racecourse in racing fashion during inspection may result in a possible disqualification of the competitor.

When warm-up courses are available, the Managers may recommend that they be used, usually with the Manager's supervision. If competitors free ski to warm up or if they use the practice course, they must remain conscious of the time. It is each competitor's obligation to report to the start on time.

Racing on the Course

After the course is approved by the Jury, and at the request of the Jury, the position of the turning gates may be dyed.

Entrance to the Course

No spectator, parent, teacher, coach or any other person, who has not been appointed as an official by the Race Organising Committee shall enter the racecourse area.

Reruns / Missed Starts

If a gate is missing, the racer must make a concerted effort to pass in a legal manner or else stop immediately, abandon the course and proceed to the Finish Referee to request a rerun. The racer **MUST NOT** cross the finish line.

A racer who is obstructed while racing must stop immediately after the incident took place and make his/her way to the finish along the SIDE of the course and report to the Finish Referee, to request a rerun. The racer MUST NOT cross the finish line.

Missed Starts (or running out of order)

If a lift directly affecting the operation of the race is determined by the Jury to be malfunctioning – the Jury will allow racers to run out of order. This will be related to the Course Referee from the Jury. Dual Slalom – if the Valley T Bar is determined by the Jury to be malfunctioning – the Jury will advise the Course Referee to hold racers until their race opponent arrives.

Loss of Momentum

A racer must maintain momentum throughout the course. DSQs are only made by the Jury in this instance.

Finishing

A racer must cross the finish line of the course in which they started. On both skis or on one ski or with both feet in the case of a fall in the immediate finish area.

The immediate finish area is defined as being within one gate for Giant Slalom and Dual Slalom. A racer losing a ski other than in the immediate finish area must abandon the course.

Once a racer crosses the line, the racer must stop within the finish area. The racer should then proceed out of the finish area as quickly as possible but in a controlled manner in order to make room for the next racer.

Scoreboard and the Official Notice Board

The official notice board will be on the Team Manager WhatsApp Group; this will be where the race protocol will be posted to announce the DSQ's and DNF's.

The Team Manager can request a Jury review of the disqualification. If they have evidence i.e. video, it must be submitted to the Course Referee to review with the Jury. This must be submitted in writing within the fifteen-minute period after the posting or announcing of disqualification. Any request submitted after the expiration period will not be reviewed.

A prompt decision of the review of the disqualification by the Jury will be communicated to the Team Manager.

Second Run

Weather and conditions permitting all competitors will be entitled to a second run. The second run start order for Giant Slalom will be in reverse bib order within their categories.

The second run start of for Dual Slalom will be on the inverse of their 1st run. e.g. if they have completed the blue, they will switch to the red course.

Access to Officials

Relationship with the Jury and Start and Finish Referees:

The Jury may allow a start for a delayed racer, one who was not present or who was not ready when called into the start gate. In cases of doubt, the Jury allows provisional starts for delayed racers; the Jury also has the authority to allow provisional reruns when requested by a racer or Team Manager.

In order to consider the validity of a request made for a provisional start or rerun, a competitor may be required to testify before the Jury. A protest of a sanction will also require the competitor's testimony, so the competitor must remain available until the Jury meets and reviews its decision. It is essential that the competitor's Team Manager also be available because the competitor must be represented at the Jury meetings by a manager.

Jury sanctions may include oral or written reprimand, disqualification, suspension, impaired starting position, and/or loss of accreditation; the accumulation of penalties is permissible.

A racer shall only be disqualified if his mistake would result in an advantage about the result, unless the rules state otherwise. (i.e. Gate Fault, Early-Late Start, Illegal Equipment etc.)

The Teams

All athletes representing their school are eligible to be counted into the team result for their category. The top 3 results from each school will be used to determine the school ranking. In the case of a tie the 4th best result will be factored in and so on.

An individual child may be entered provided that the individual entry is signed off, (confirmed) by the principal of that school.

Schools with less than 2 athletes in their team will not be ranked for the School Team trophy but those individuals are eligible for Giant Slalom and Dual Slalom individual medals.

All schools can have an unlimited number of athletes – however, if numbers per category exceed 140 athletes, those entered after the first cut off may be declined. South Island school teams may apply to the ROC to compete. Combined school teams are not permitted.

Homeschool athletes are not eligible for school team awards but are for individual results.

Only athletes enrolled in NZ schools are eligible to enter.

Team Points

Ski Categories

- Year 1 & 2 Boys
- Year 1 & 2 Girls
- Year 3 & 4 Boys
- Year 3 & 4 Girls
- Year 5 & 6 Boys
- Year 5 & 6 Girls

- Year 7 & 8 Boys
- Year 7 & 8 Girls

Points are awarded separately for boys and girls in each category of the Giant Slalom and Parallel Slalom divisions. In each division the time is calculated from the fastest to the slowest with any did-not-finish (DNF) being included in the total number of competitors.

The total number of competitors in each division, shall be divided into 20 equal groups, insofar as that is possible; thereby creating the number/group of competitors to be awarded 20 points, 19-points, 18-points; and so on down to 1-point. DNFs will receive 0 points

Final team placings are calculated based on the total of the 3 highest scoring team members after day two of competition. GS and Dual Slalom results combined.

In the event of a place tie, the 4th competitor's GS points will be considered. Should this still not bring a result, the 3rd competitor's GS will be considered, and so on using, 2nd competitor and 1st competitor until such time as a result can be confirmed.

Bad Weather Contingencies

Should weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of all competitors racing the Giant Slalom; the year group will be deemed completed only if all the athletes in one category have raced. The remaining year groups would be postponed to the weather day.

The event schedule will be moved around subject to the available terrain and weather conditions and forecast. Primary aged competitors available and ready to race on Monday the 31st of August, and all competitors should be available to race on Thursday the 3rd of September. These days will both be used as contingency days where necessary, and officials will make calls not limited to weather and terrain factors, that dictate using alternative dates within this window.

Check the snow report each day for Whakapapa. Available from 6:30am onwards.

Clothing and Equipment

Whakapapa Ski Area can have inclement weather. It is the responsibility of the Team Managers and parents to ensure the competitors are dressed accordingly.

GS / Speed / Ski Race Suits can be worn; however, the Team Manager is responsible for this decision.

It is the responsibility of the Team manager and parents to ensure the competitor's equipment is appropriate and safe. Especially skis and binding settings. Helmets designed for snow sports must always be worn on snow. No attachments may be on the ski helmet. I.e. no cameras/ go pros.

Awards and Trophies

The North Island Primary & Intermediate Schools Snowsports Champs, is a "Teams" event, focussing on the performance of the whole of a school team and not just the individual.

Trophies are presented to:

Years 1-2 Team 1st Place

Years 3-4 Team 1st Place

Years 5-6 Team 1st Place

Years 7-8 Team 1st Place

The school team medals will be presented to the 1st 2nd and 3rd place getting teams in each category, the top 3 athletes who points have counted towards this school team result will be awarded those medals.

Ski Individual Medals will be presented to: First, Second and Third Placegetters of the Giant Slalom and Dual Slalom.