

Launch Athletics is a new event that will showcase team athletics and deliver an exciting and vibrant experience for participants and fans of Athletics.

Taking place at the AUT Millenium, March 17, 6-9pm. The fast-paced meet programme will see 14-16-year-old athletes exposed to a re-imagined athletics experience, including innovative events, team scoring, music, food, and entertainment running throughout the event. Club and school athletes can enter and will be drafted into four teams, each led by two elite senior athletes. The four teams will compete head-to-head in conventional and unconventional athletics events to decide which team reigns supreme on the night.

### Events:

Launch Athletics will comprise of 10 events across track and field, as well as 3 performance tests.

**Track Events:** 60m, 150m, 300m, 600m, 1000m, Medley Relay

**Field Events:** High Jump, Shot Put, Long Jump, Discus

**Performance Tests:** Standing Long Jump, Vertical Jump, Overhead Throw

### Why these events?

- Expose athletes to a fast-paced program and new experiences.
- Non-traditional race distances provide athletes with the opportunity to record performances that can help in the USA Scholarship recruitment process.
- The performance tests will enable more opportunities to score points, while helping to benchmark key qualities of athleticism.

### Who can enter:

All school and club athletes can enter Launch Athletics. If you are 14-16 years of age at any point in 2023 you are eligible to enter.

### Prize Giving:

Prizes will be awarded to the top-placed teams. Athletes will compete for individual awards on the evening:

- Most Valuable Track Points Scorer for male and female athletes.
- Most Valuable Field Points Scorer for male and female athletes
- Launch Athlete of Meet, male and female.
- Spirit of Launch Award

## Scoring:

- Every point counts in Launch Athletics! Track events will be scored from 1st to 16th place, with times from heats collated and the top placings awarded points.
- Overall placings for field events will be a result of the athletes' total cumulative distance/height from their four attempts.
- Performance tests will have points allocated to distance/height ranges, and will be awarded to athletes who participate in the tests in between their events.
- Bonus points will also be awarded to athletes who achieve a Personal Best\* on the night. To add to the excitement on the night, team captains will have two Powerplays they can use to double their teams' points in one track and one field event.

\*Personal Bests for track events will be converted using the World Athletics Scoring Tables of Athletics.

## Engaging and experienced Team Captains:

Providing athletes with mentors and advice from their peers is one of the most important and effective tools we can provide in the development of a junior athlete. Launch Athletics has brought together New Zealand's top athletes to provide Launch athletes with the best advice on the night and the best team captains.

- **Sam Tanner:** #2 New Zealand 1500m in history, 6th Commonwealth Games 2022
- **Julia Ratcliffe:** Tokyo Olympian, three times Commonwealth Hammer Throw Medallist, Gold Medal, Gold Coast 2018.
- **Holly Manning:** 800m National Champion, US Scholarship to Stony Brook University & the University of Delaware
- **Mitch Joynt:** 2019 Paraworld Athletics 200m finalist, 800m Oceania Record Holder
- **James Steyn:** 2x Pole Vault National Champion, #2 New Zealand Pole Vault in history
- **Tiaan Whelpton:** #4 New Zealand 100m in history
- **Olivia McTaggart:** Pole Vault Oceania Champion, 6th World Indoor Championships 2022
- **Symone Tafuna'i:** Multiple National Sprint Medalist and New Zealand Representative

Notable others: Zoe Hobbs, Bailey Stewart, Hannah Miller, Matt Wyatt, Nick Southgate, Aaron Booth.

