

Tuesday 2 July 2024

Mission Estate NZ Cross Country Championships E-News Update

Hi there athletes & supporters,

We are now just under five weeks away from the Mission Estate NZ Cross Country Championships on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August.

We are super excited to be hosting one of our much loved out of stadia events at an iconic location and collaborating with Mission Estate to create a memorable weekend for athletes and supporters.

Mission Estate are symbolically running beside us on this important event for our sport with a range of value packed initiatives to make the weekend a fantastic one. Keep your eye out for these opportunities as we begin to share them over the coming weeks so that we can make this a valuable event for Mission Estate to be involved with and be able to return again for future cross country events. A reminder that every competitor in the championship and paid events will receive a complimentary drink voucher to be redeemed over the weekend at the Mission Estate outlets in the main building.

### **Team Packet Pick Up**

We can now confirm that the team packet pick-up for centre team managers for the Saturday events will be staged in the Gallery Room in the Mission Estate building (entrance through door from carpark) from **2pm to 5.30pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August concurrently when the course is open for viewing.** Team packet pick up will then be available course side next to the start/finish area on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August from 7.30am.

A reminder that all event bibs for athletes competing for their clubs in Saturday events will be placed in the relevant centre team packets. Individual athletes should obtain these from their centre team manager. NZ Club Cross Country Relay team packets can also be uplifted on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2pm to 5.30pm in the Gallery Room, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 7.30am to 9am course-side and 2pm to 4pm and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 7.30am to 9am course-side.**

### **Awards Ceremonies**

In line with our desire for athletes and supporters to experience this special place we will be running our award ceremonies for this year's championships in a different way.

We will have a media wall/backdrop near the finish area with a set of medals for all medalists to have a photo opportunity at the conclusion of their events for their friends, family etc.

The formal award ceremonies for all Saturday individual and team championship competitions will take place in the Chapel function venue in the Mission Estate buildings at **5pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August.**

This will be a fantastic opportunity for athletes and supporters to catch up, relax and socialise after the first day of competition with plenty of dining options with the Mission Estate restaurant facilities.

### **The Equalizer XC – A Race for the Ages**

On Sunday we will be running for the first time a cross country event with a difference to bring the curtain down on the Championships.

As an athlete this will be a unique race you won't want to miss competing in. As a supporter it will be captivating viewing.

A dash for cash handicap race for the ages.

Here's how it will work.

The distance will be 2km.

All individual championship winners - male and female in each grade from Saturday competition will earn a place on the start line for The Equalizer. All athletes need to confirm their intention to compete by 4pm Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. If an individual championship winner cannot compete their place will roll down to the 2<sup>nd</sup> place getter, 3<sup>rd</sup> place getter etc. until all spots are taken.

Grades with male and female gold medalists earning their ticket to compete are as follows:

**Under 16, Under 18, Under 20, Senior, Masters 35-39, Masters 40-44, Masters 45-49, Masters 50-54, Masters 55-59, Masters 60-64, Masters 65-69, Masters 70+.**

**There will be up to 24 athletes competing in the race.**

Handicapping will be done by a pre-selected panel of experienced handicappers to provide a level playing field for all competing athletes.

There will be a minimum of \$1,500 in cash prizes on offer for the race. This will include primes (cash prizes) for race leader/gender leader at 500m, 1000m and 1500m and first, second and third across line for each gender. Full details of cash prize allocation will be released in the next fortnight.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Napier.

In Running,



Jason C  
Head of Out of Stadia Events