



EVENT UPDATE

Hey Team,

We're amped to be able to pass on the news that we have some new dates for the 2021 Tauranga Marathon. However, this is going to be one of those good news stories with a few little gotchas. As much as we'd like to be able to give a cast iron guarantee to deliver exactly the event we planned to, that just isn't possible and some compromises have to be made. Here's how it looks.

EVENT FORMAT: Event Base Now Papamoa

Much though we wanted to produce that iconic journey from the ocean at Papamoa right into the heart of the city, that just isn't going to be possible this year. For one thing, as we get closer to summer, it's no longer viable to start the marathon so late in the morning – a constraint of vital train movements (and despite help from Kiwirail who have done so much to accommodate us). Another thing is that securing the huge resources – particularly traffic management and marshals – is impossible in the tight and nimble timeframes we are now dealing with.

That's why we are moving the entire event to Gordon Spratt Reserve in Papamoa – a superb venue which also played host to the inaugural event in 2017. The courses will be a mixture of out-and-back on Papamoa Beach Road (including the Mount base track for those in the marathon and 50k ultra) and a loop of the various connected inland reserves near the venue. Those in the 10k will get a free bus transfer to their start line whilst all other events will start at or near the finish line. A full set of course maps will be released on the event web site this weekend.

EVENT DATE: October 10 - with October 17 & October 24 Postponement Dates

The ongoing COVID restrictions don't just affect us – every event in the region that has had to be postponed has been scrambling to find a spare spot in the calendar. With an event the size of the Tauranga Marathon, it's a real mission to secure all the assets we need to make the event viable. Many weekends – for many different reasons – are simply not available to us. However, we have managed to secure three consecutive Sundays – **October 10, October 17 and October 24** – where we believe we have the minimum assets secured to produce. We want to thank our key stakeholders – Tauranga City Council and Road Safe Traffic Management – for their unwavering support in this.

Important! We strongly advise all participants to hold off on making any non-refundable deposits for any of these dates. We simply do not know what will be available, but we will aim to produce on the first available level 1 weekend of those three.

WHAT ARE OUR CHANCES?

Hang on, let me just give my mate Ashley a call and get some advice on that! Seriously, you guys know as much as we do. We're all just going to have to be patient and hope for the best. However, there are some very important points we can share with you right now:

1. Tauranga City Council – who have been awesomely supportive in helping us make these plans - have indicated to us that if the event cannot take place on any of these weekends, the next available date would be at least 6 months later. The latest COVID outbreak has put massive pressure on what is already a near capacity city events schedule, and while they would love to be able to accommodate everyone's postponement dates, this is the unfortunate reality of our situation. For that reason, **these three dates represent the "last chance saloon" for the 2021 race**. If we cannot get them away on one of those dates, the in-person event will be cancelled and replaced with a "virtual" event. Urghhh! I know, right?

- Specifically, because of #1 above, we've got to take any chance presented to us. That means that if **Tauranga is at Level 1 but Auckland is not, we will still hold the event** – even though, unfortunately, the many entrants from Auckland (and some of our own race crew) will not be able to join us.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

Everyone registered for the original event is automatically registered for the postponement dates. You don't need to do anything except follow the updates on the web site and social media and turn up to the race. Note that due to the tight frames imposed on us, all participants will need to collect their race number in person. More details will follow on the web site.

If the postponement dates don't work for you then the provisions of our standard Postponement policy apply which you can find here:

<https://runingevents.co.nz/disruption/>

That boils down to two options. Transfer to the virtual event, cover the distance at home and get your finisher medal (and tee, for marathon and 50k entrants) couriered for free, plus get a bonus 50% credit voucher ...
or, take an "almost" free transfer to any of our other events (including the 2022 Tauranga Marathon).

Important! We will not open for online transfers (to virtual race or to other events) until we are confident of a Level 1 move and a viable event date – or until all 3 dates are no longer viable. Watch email, web site and social channels for updates.

BUS TICKETS (& OTHER MERCHANDISE ALREADY PURCHASED)

As the event will now be based at Papamoa, there is no longer any requirement for a bus service from the city.
Anyone who has purchased one of these bus tickets will get a refund directly to their card in the next two weeks.

All other merchandise items purchased will be available for collection at the new race venue. If you are unable to collect (or no longer competing) then we can make arrangements for you to collect it from another of our events, or have it couriered out to you. More details on that will appear on the Running Events postponement policy page soon.

Despite this not quite being *exactly* the event we wanted to produce for you, the team at Running Events are fully charged and raring to produce a great day in the bay - in a stunning location - on a flat, fast and beautiful course. We hope to see you all there.

The REV Team
10 September 2021