

Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty

2025-26 Road & Cross-Country Championships Report

Prepared for the Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty Annual General Meeting

Executive Summary

This report analyses participation in AWBOP's Road Championships and Cross-Country Championships for the 2025–26 season (1 August 2025 – 31 July 2026). Where useful, figures are compared against the equivalent 2024–25 season (Road Championships 2024 and Cross-Country Championships 2025).

- The 2025–26 season recorded 189 entries across the two championship events, from 159 individual athletes.
- Cross Country Championships 2026 was the larger of the two events (97 entries) compared with Road Championships 2025 (92 entries).
- 12 clubs were represented over the season, led by Hamilton City Hawks (50 entries), Athletics Tauranga (35) and Cambridge Athletics & Harrier Club (35).
- Under 14 was the largest single age category (35 entries), followed closely by Masters 35–54 (34), Under 16 (29) and Under 12 (29).
- Compared with 2024–25, total entries were essentially flat (191 → 189, –1%), but the age profile shifted younger: Under 16 entries grew 61% and Under 18 grew 40%, while Senior (20–34) entries nearly halved.
- Of the 160 athletes who competed in 2024–25, 76 (47.5%) returned to compete again in 2025–26.

189

Total entries, 2025–26 season

159

Unique athletes competed

12

Clubs represented

The sections below set out the 2025–26 season in detail, with the prior season shown alongside for context.

About This Report

AWBOP's season is defined as 1 August – 31 July. On that basis, this report's primary focus — the 2025–26 season — covers two championship events — the 2025 Road Race Champs and the 2026 Cross Country Race:

Event	Season	Entries
Road Championships 2025	2025–26	92
Cross Country Championships 2026	2025–26	97
Road Championships 2024 (17 August 2024)	2024–25 (comparison)	94
Cross Country Championships 2025	2024–25 (comparison)	97

2025–26 Season Overview

The 2025–26 season produced 189 entries from 159 individual athletes across the Road Championships and Cross-Country Championships. Cross Country was the larger event, with Road Championships entries slightly behind.

Event	Entries	Share of season
Road Championships 2025	92	49%
Cross Country Championships 2026	97	51%
Season total	189	100%

Male entries accounted for 130 of the season’s 189 entries (68.8%), with 59 female entries (31.2%).

Compared with the 2024–25 season

Total season entries were essentially unchanged year-on-year: 191 in 2024–25 versus 189 in 2025–26, a change of less than 1%. Cross Country participation held exactly flat at 97 entries in both seasons; Road Championship entries eased slightly from 94 to 92.

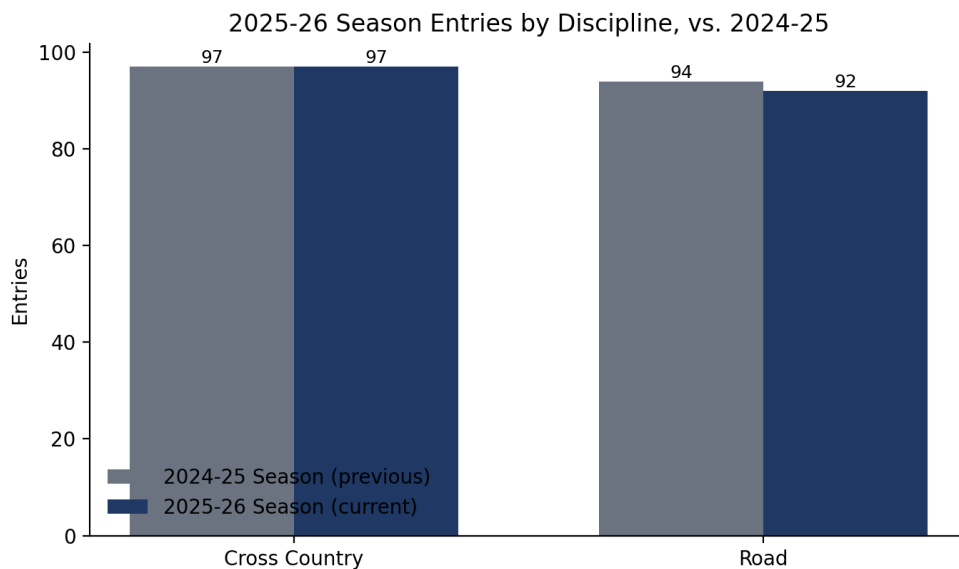


Figure 1: 2025–26 season entries by discipline, shown against the 2024–25 season.

By gender, the 2025–26 season saw a slightly higher share of male entries (68.8%, up from 66.0% in 2024–25). Female entries fell from 65 to 59 (–9%), while male entries rose from 126 to 130 (+3%). This shift is worth monitoring but is not yet a strong trend on two seasons of data.

Age Category Breakdown

Under 14 was the largest single age category in the 2025–26 season (35 entries), followed by Masters 35–54 (34), Under 16 (29) and Under 12 (29). The full season breakdown by age category:

Age category	2025–26 entries
Under 12	29
Under 14	35
Under 16	29
Under 18	14
Under 20	5
Senior (20–34)	16
Masters 35–54	34
Masters 55+	27

Compared with the 2024–25 season

The clearest year-on-year shift is toward younger age categories, particularly through the teenage grades, alongside a marked decline in Senior (20–34) entries.

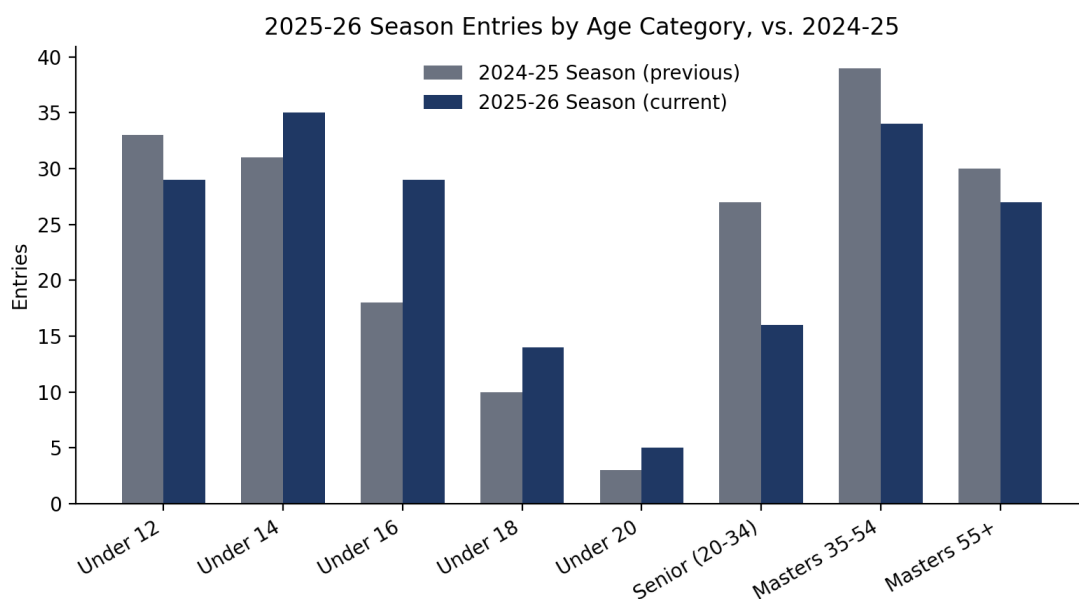


Figure 2: 2025–26 season entries by age category, both disciplines combined, shown against 2024–25.

- Under 16 entries grew from 18 to 29 (+61%), the largest percentage gain of any age band.
- Under 18 entries grew from 10 to 14 (+40%).
- Under 14 entries grew modestly, from 31 to 35 (+13%).
- Under 12 entries eased slightly, from 33 to 29 (-12%), though this remains one of the largest age bands in both seasons.
- Senior (20–34) entries nearly halved, from 27 to 16 (-41%) — the most significant decline in the dataset. This was concentrated in Cross Country, where Senior entries dropped from 9 to just 1.
- Masters 35–54 entries eased from 39 to 34 (-13%); Masters 55+ entries were broadly stable, easing from 30 to 27 (-10%).

The Senior grade decline is worth flagging — it is a small base (fewer than 30 entries in either season) so it is sensitive to a handful of regular competitors not entering, but the scale of the drop across both disciplines suggests it may be worth a targeted follow-up with clubs.

Club Representation

Twelve clubs were represented across AWBOP championship events in the 2025–26 season. Hamilton City Hawks, Athletics Tauranga and Cambridge Athletics & Harrier Club were the three largest contributors by entry count.

Club	2025–26 entries
Hamilton City Hawks	50
Athletics Tauranga	35
Cambridge Athletics & Harrier Club	35
Lake City Athletics Club	15
Papamoa Athletics	11
Frankton Athletic & Harrier Club	7
Te Awamutu Athletics Club	7
Te Puke Harriers	7
Tauranga Triathlon Club	2
St Peters School	1
Te Aroha Athletics Club	1
Whakatane Athletic & Harrier Club	1

A further 14 entries in the season were unattached or did not record a club.

Compared with the 2024–25 season

Club representation broadened this season: 12 clubs were represented in 2025–26, up from 10 the previous season.

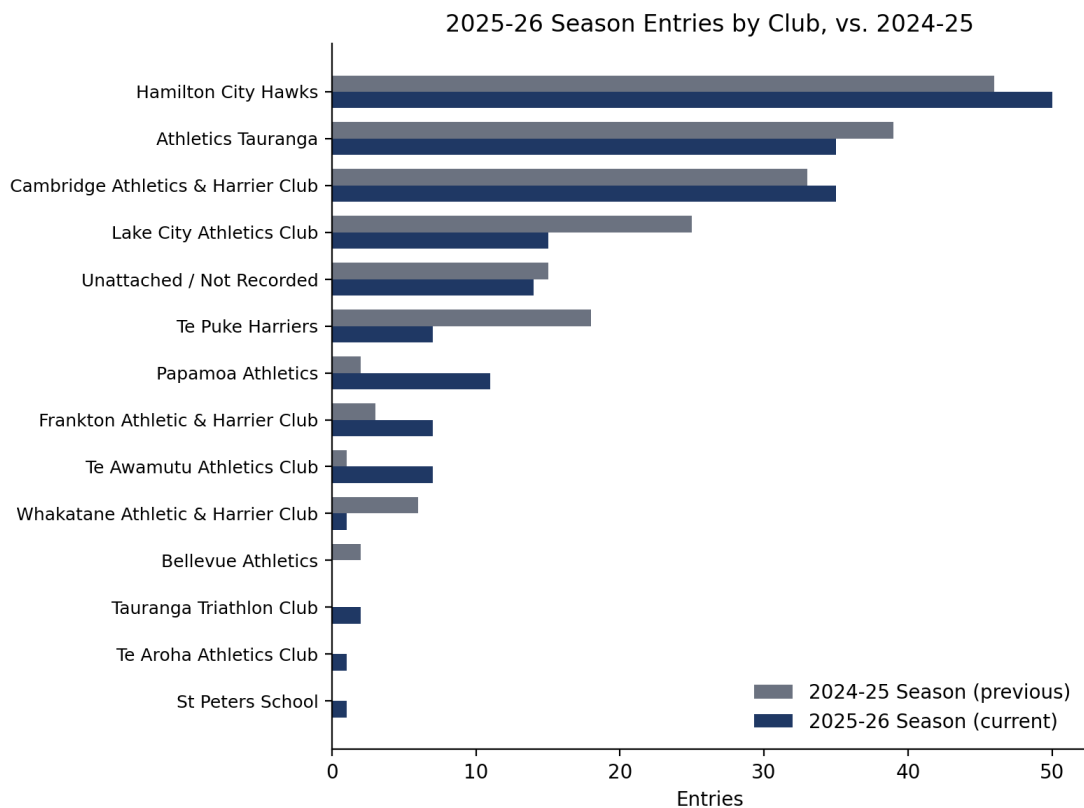


Figure 3: 2025–26 season entries by club, shown against 2024–25. Non-WBOP visiting clubs and unattached entries included for completeness.

- Papamoa Athletics grew from 2 to 11 entries, the largest percentage increase of any club.
- Te Awamutu Athletics Club grew from 1 to 7 entries.
- Frankton Athletic & Harrier Club grew from 3 to 7 entries.
- Hamilton City Hawks, already the largest club, grew from 46 to 50 entries.
- Te Puke Harriers declined sharply, from 18 to 7 entries (-61%).
- Lake City Athletics Club declined from 25 to 15 entries (-40%).
- Whakatane Athletic & Harrier Club declined from 6 to 1 entry.

Athlete Retention

Matching athletes by name across the 2024–25 and 2025–26 seasons (see Data Notes below on the limitations of this method) gives an indicative view of how many competitors returned this season.

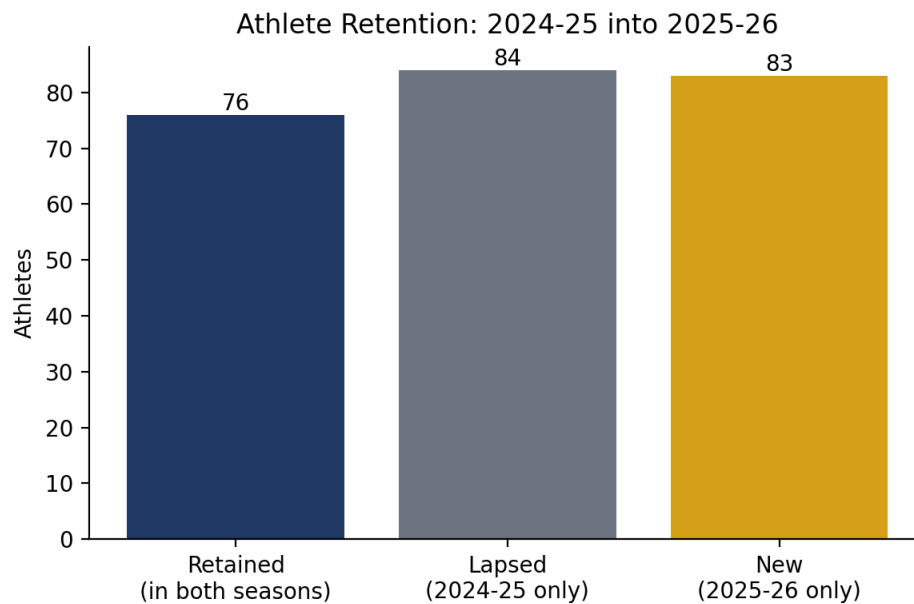


Figure 4: Retention of the 160 athletes who competed in the 2024–25 season.

- 76 of the 160 athletes active in 2024–25 (47.5%) also competed in 2025–26.
- 84 athletes from 2024–25 did not appear in the 2025–26 results.
- 83 athletes in 2025–26 (52% of that season’s field) were not recorded in the 2024–25 results — either genuinely new to AWBOP competition, or returning after a longer break.
- Retention was similar whether an athlete’s primary event was Road (39.4% returned) or Cross Country (39.2% returned) when tracked event-to-event; the higher 47.5% combined figure reflects athletes who moved between disciplines.
- Retention was marginally higher among male athletes (49.5%) than female athletes (43.9%), though both are close enough that this may reflect normal season-to-season variation rather than a structural pattern.
- Around 19% of athletes in both seasons competed in both Road and Cross-Country events — a consistent cross-discipline core.

Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty

2025-26 Track & Field Season – Open Meetings

Prepared for the Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty Annual General Meeting

Summary

This report analyses participation data from all 12 meetings (10 Open, plus 1 Jumps and 1 Throws meeting) run by Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty (AWBOP) across the 2025–26 season, from 18 October 2025 to 21 March 2026. Across the season, AWBOP hosted 1,448 event entries from 324 individual athletes representing approximately 27 clubs (and schools).

The season shows a clear, healthy core programme: sprints, jumps and mid-distance track events consistently draw the largest fields, athletes routinely compete in more than one event per meeting, and a small number of event pairings (100m/200m, Discus/Shot Put, 100m/300m) account for a large share of multi-event entries. Participation peaked in mid-Nov (Open Nov 15, 105 athletes) and eased toward the back end of the season, with the two smallest fields recorded at the final two meetings (Feb 28 and Mar 21).

Key Numbers at a Glance

Metric	Season Total
Meetings held	12
Total event entries	1,448
Unique athletes	324
Clubs / schools represented	27+
Average entries per meeting	121
Average unique athletes per meeting	67
Athletes entering 2+ events at a meeting	58.5%
Athletes entering 3+ events at a meeting	17.2%

1. Season Overview: Meeting-by-Meeting Comparison

AWBOP ran 12 meetings over the season: 8 multi-event Open meetings at Porritt, two at Tauranga Domain, and two single-discipline specialty meetings (a Jumps Meet and a Throws meet). The table below compares every meeting on participation, entries, events offered and clubs.

Fees: The Entry Fee for an athlete to compete at an Open meet was \$10.00, regardless of the number of events entered. This equates to approx. \$5.36 per athlete once system fees and GST is taken. With an average meeting size of 67 (unique athletes), this equates to \$360 of income per Open Meet. With Track hire fees of \$240, along with other expenses, the 2025-26 Open meets did not generate income for the Centre.

Meeting	Venue	Athletes	Entries	Events Offered	Clubs	Entries per Athlete
Open Oct 18 (18 Oct 2025)	Porritt	74	128	10	13	1.73
Open Oct 25 (25 Oct 2025)	Porritt	67	126	11	11	1.88
Open Nov 1 (01 Nov 2025)	Tauranga	81	146	10	12	1.8
Open Nov 8 (08 Nov 2025)	Porritt	77	143	10	11	1.86
Jumps Meet (09 Nov 2025)	Porritt	16	33	3	4	2.06
Open Nov 15 (15 Nov 2025)	Porritt	105	182	10	12	1.73
SJ Throws Nov 16 (16 Nov 2025)	Porritt	39	78	4	15	2
Open Nov 22 (22 Nov 2025)	Tauranga	69	117	10	16	1.7
Open Nov 30 (30 Nov 2025)	Porritt	82	167	12	11	2.04
Open 24 Jan (24 Jan 2026)	Porritt	73	137	11	12	1.88
Open Feb 28 (28 Feb 2026)	Porritt	56	96	11	12	1.71
Open Mar 21 (21 Mar 2026)	Porritt	59	95	9	13	1.61

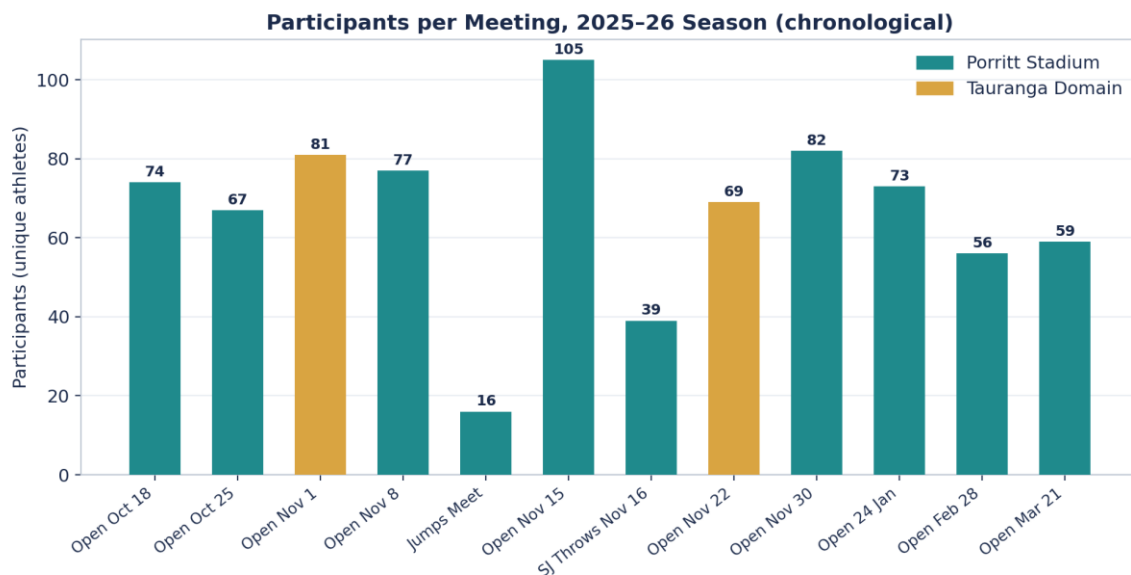


Figure 1. Unique participants at each meeting, in chronological order.

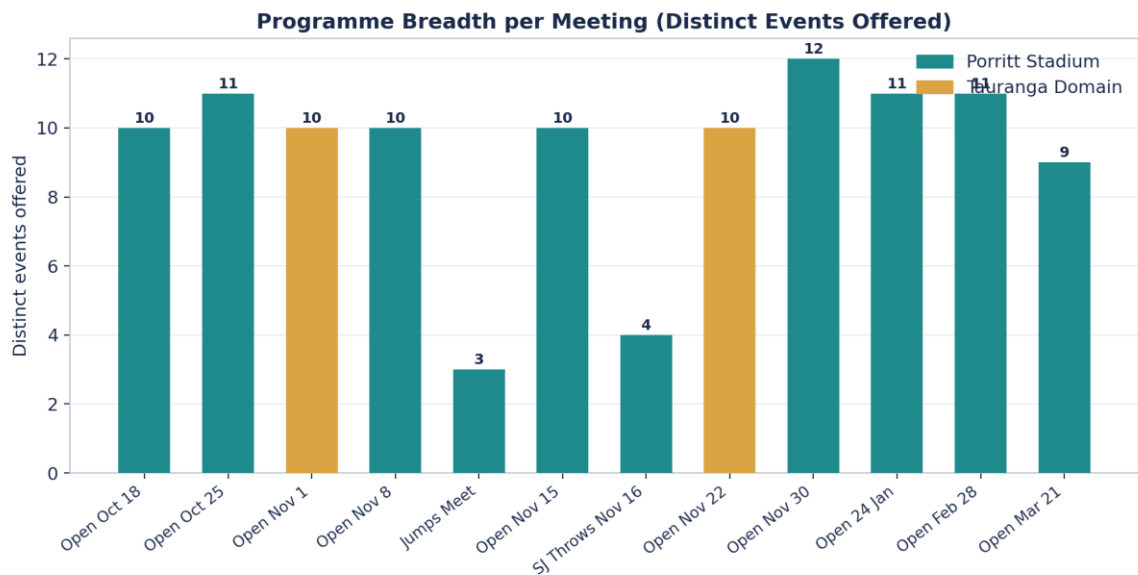


Figure 2. Number of distinct events offered at each meeting.

What this tells us

- Open meetings typically draw 65–105 participants and offer 9–12 events.
- The two specialty meetings (Jumps Meet: 16 athletes, 3 events; SJ Throws: 39 athletes, 4 events) attract a small participation group and lend themselves to athlete development.
- Entries-per-athlete per meeting ranges from 1.6 to 2.1

Planning consideration

A meeting's size and its programme breadth are only loosely linked. This supports designing next season's meetings around a deliberately curated, in-demand event list rather than maximising the number of events offered at each meeting.

Event Income: A revision of entry fee structure should be undertaken, with consideration to Fee Level, multi-event fees, and how Season Concessions could encourage increased engagement.

2. Participation Trend Across the Season

Tracking participants and total entries chronologically reveals how attendance moved through the season, independent of any single meeting's programme.

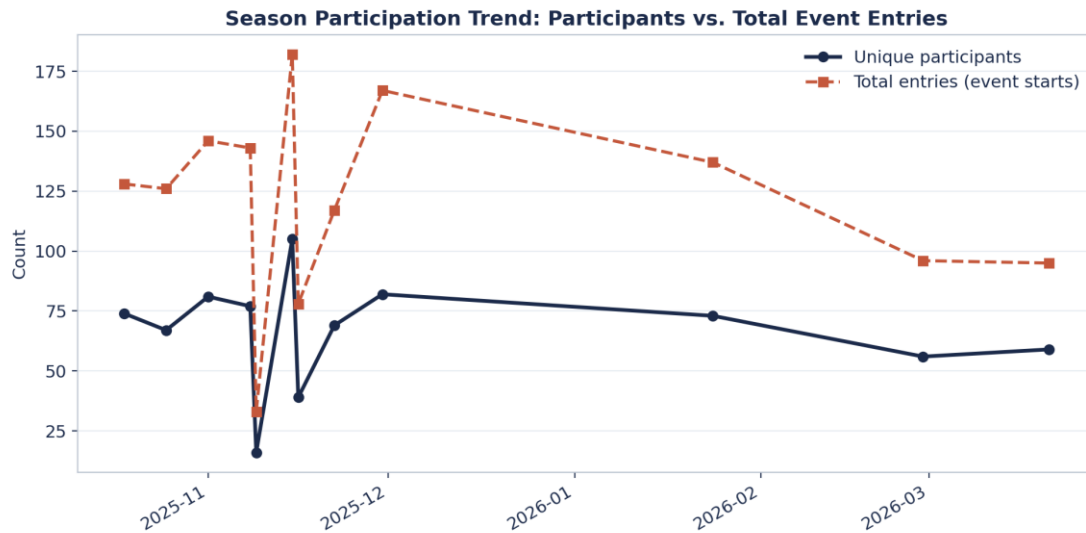


Figure 3. Unique participants (solid) and total event entries (dashed) across the season.

The first 6 meetings (Oct–Nov) averaged 70 participants; the final 6 (late Nov through Mar) averaged 63 — a modest but consistent late-season softening. The two lowest-turnout Open meetings of the season were the final two: Feb 28 (56 athletes) and Mar 21 (59 athletes).

- The season opens and builds steadily through spring (Oct–Nov), peaking at the Nov 15 meeting.
- A short mid-season dip coincides with the two single-discipline specialty meetings, which is expected given their narrower scope.
- Attendance recovers respectably for Open 24 Jan (73 athletes) after the Christmas break, then tails off through February and March.

Planning consideration

The late-summer/autumn meetings (Feb–Mar) are the season's weakest for turnout. Consider how these events would benefit from a stronger drawcard (e.g. a champs-style format, relay events, or club challenge) to lift end-of-season engagement.

School Athletics is in play in Feb–Mar, with many athletes competing mid-week at School, Zones and WBOP SS, prior to NI Champs. Consider if engaging with Secondary Schools is an opportunity, or whether this part of the season is already loaded.

3. Event Demand: What Athletes Want to Compete In

Across all entries, a clear hierarchy of demand emerges. Sprints and jumps (esp LJ) dominate, while several events only attract a handful of entries across the season.

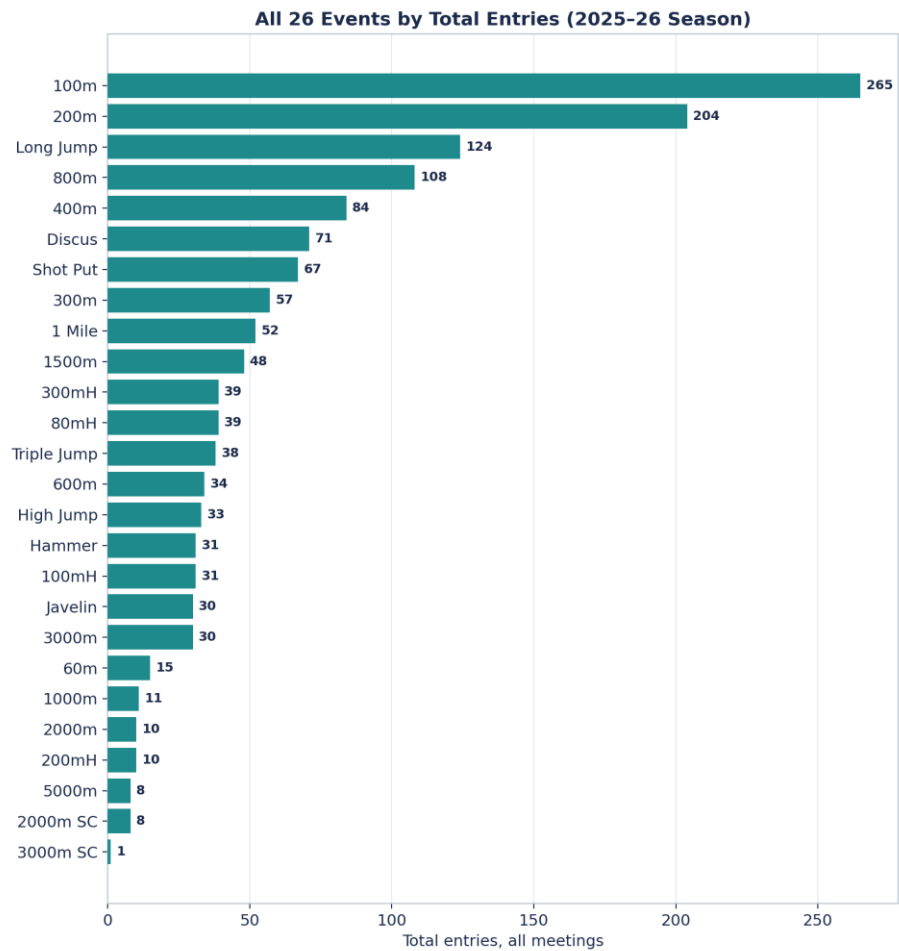


Figure 4. Total entries for all T&F events (26) held this season, ranked (all meetings combined).

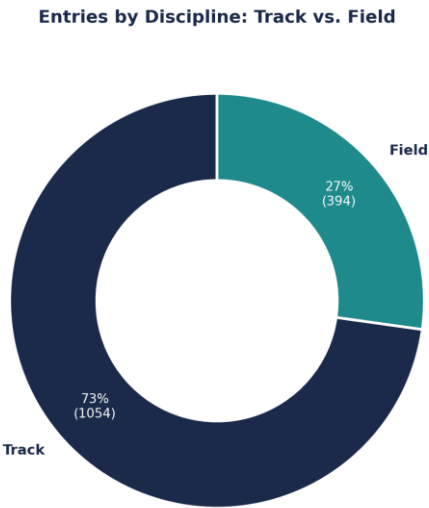


Figure 5. Share of all entries by Track or Field category.

Highest-demand events (guaranteed inclusion candidates)

- 100m (265 entries), 200m (204), Long Jump (124), 800m (108) and 400m (84) are, by a wide margin, the five most-entered events of the season.
- Discus (71) and Shot Put (67) lead the throws; 300m (57), the 1 Mile (52) and 1500m (48) round out the top ten.
- The hurdles group (300mH and 80mH, ~39 each), Triple Jump (38), 600m (34) and High Jump (33) form a solid second tier of demand.
- 3000m (30 entries) sits mid-table alongside Hammer (31), 100mH (31) and Javelin (30) — a respectable, broad-based field despite being offered at only two meetings.
- Track events account for roughly 73% of all entries and field events the remaining 27%.

Lower-demand events (candidates for rotation, not every meeting)

- 60m (15 entries, offered only at Open Oct 18), 1000m (11), 200mH (10) and 2000m (10) each appear at only one or two meetings and attract small fields.
- 5000m (8 entries) and the two steeplechase distances — 2000m SC (8 entries) and 3000m SC (just 1 entry), both offered only at Open Nov 8 — currently function as niche/specialist events rather than broad-participation ones.

Planning consideration

A tiered event structure — a consistent "core" of events offered at majority of meeting (sprints, 800m, Long Jump, Discus, Shot) plus a smaller set of "rotating" events (hurdles, steeplechase, longer track) spread across the season would tighten each meeting's running order.

4. Demand by Grade and Gender

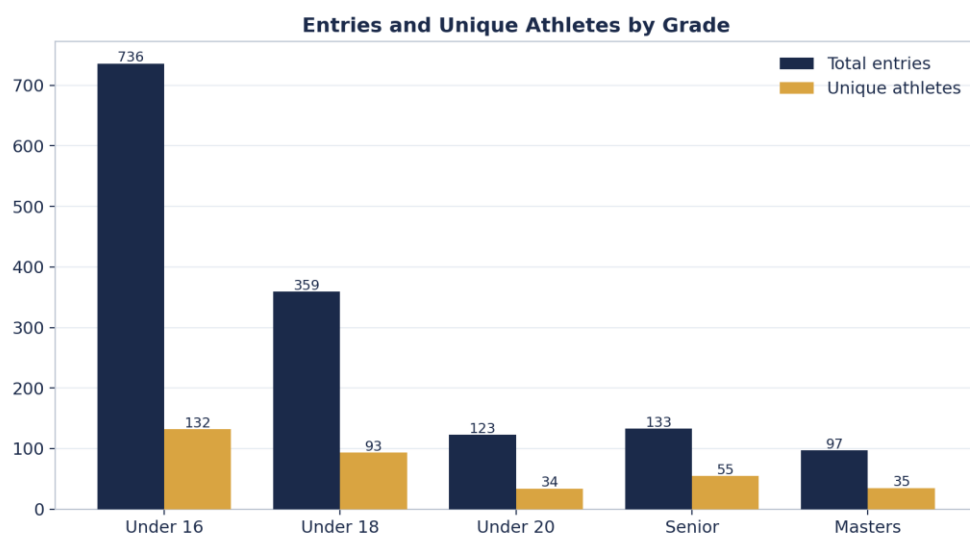


Figure 6. Total entries and unique athletes by grade.

Grade	Entries	Unique Athletes	Most-entered event
Under 16	736	132	100m
Under 18	359	93	100m
Under 20	123	34	100m
Senior	133	55	100m
Masters	97	35	Discus

Under 16 is comfortably the largest grade, contributing over half of all entries and unique athletes. Under 18 is the second largest; Senior, Under 20 and Masters together make up a smaller share.

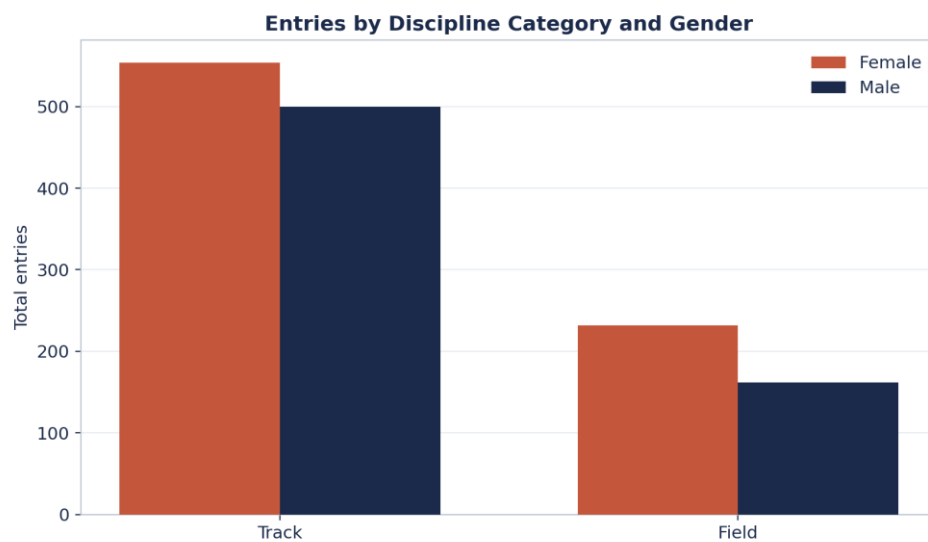


Figure 7. Entries by discipline category and gender.

Female athletes (142 unique) recorded more total entries than male athletes (182 unique) despite the smaller field — females attended more meetings on average (2.7 vs 2.3) and entered more events per meeting attended (2.0 vs 1.6). Female entries skew slightly more toward hurdles and throws relative to male entries, which lean toward middle-distance and jumps.

Planning consideration

Nurture the Under 16 grade which is fundamentally “development” orientated. Build meetings with the development of this grade in mind.

The strong multi-event engagement from female athletes is a genuine strength worth protecting — avoid scheduling clashes between their most-entered pairings (see Section 5) when building the event program.

5. Multi-Event Participation: Pairings and Triples

"Participants" in this section are counted once per athlete per meeting. These figures show that most athletes do not enter just one event — understanding which events they combine is central to building a compact, clash-free schedule.

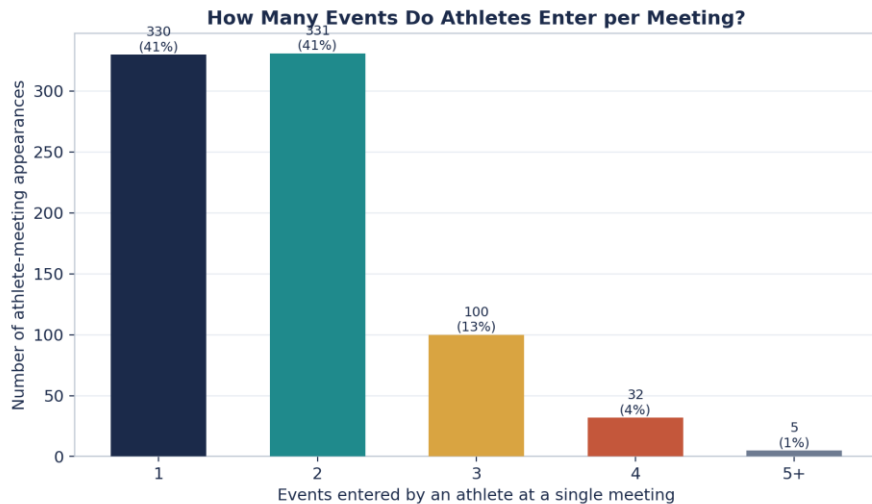


Figure 8. Number of events entered by an athlete at a single meeting (all meeting-appearances, season-wide).

- 41.5% of an athlete-meeting appearance compete in only one event.
- 41.4% compete in two events, and 17.2% compete in three or more.
- On average, an athlete enters 1.8 events per meeting attended.

Most common event pairings

Counting every pair of events an athlete entered at the same meeting, the following combinations recur most often:

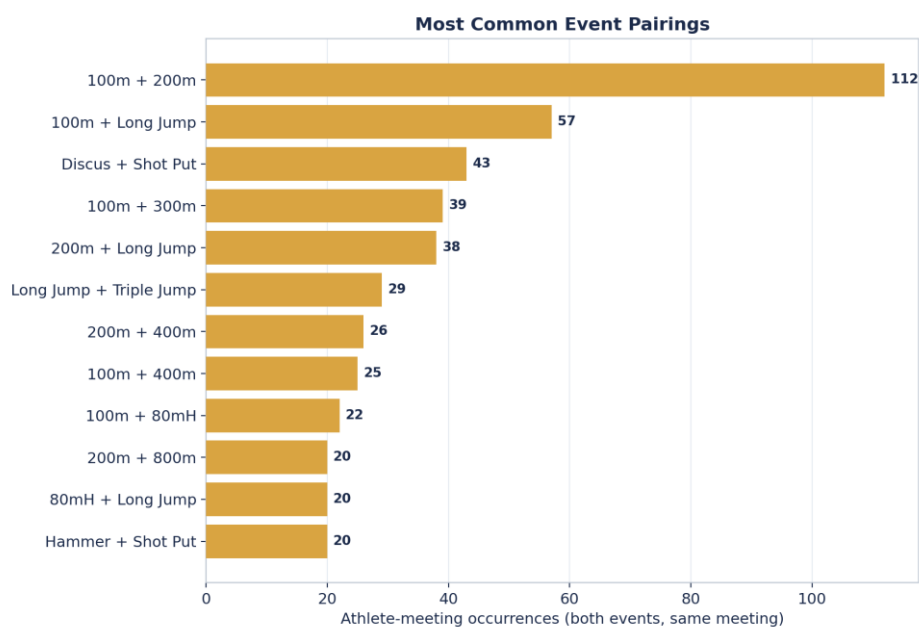


Figure 9. Most frequent event pairings, all meetings combined.

Event pairing	Occurrences
100m + 200m	112
100m + Long Jump	57
Discus + Shot Put	43
100m + 300m	39
200m + Long Jump	38
Long Jump + Triple Jump	29
200m + 400m	26
100m + 400m	25
100m + 80mH	22
200m + 800m	20

Most common triples

Three-event combination	Occurrences
100m + 200m + Long Jump	20
100m + 80mH + Long Jump	11
80mH + Long Jump + Triple Jump	9
Discus + Hammer + Shot Put	9
100m + 200m + Triple Jump	8
200m + 80mH + Long Jump	8
100m + 200m + 80mH	8
100m + 300m + Long Jump	8

Planning consideration

100m/200m, Discus/Shot Put and 100m/300m are the season's dominant combinations, and 100m + 200m + Long Jump is the dominant triple. Consideration needs to be given to how these event pairings are scheduled. Should they be paired back-to-back (or with a minimal gap), or should they be separated by a cool-down then warmup gap?

6. Club and Regional Reach

At least 27 clubs and schools were represented across the season, however, two clubs and 1 school account for the large majority of entries.

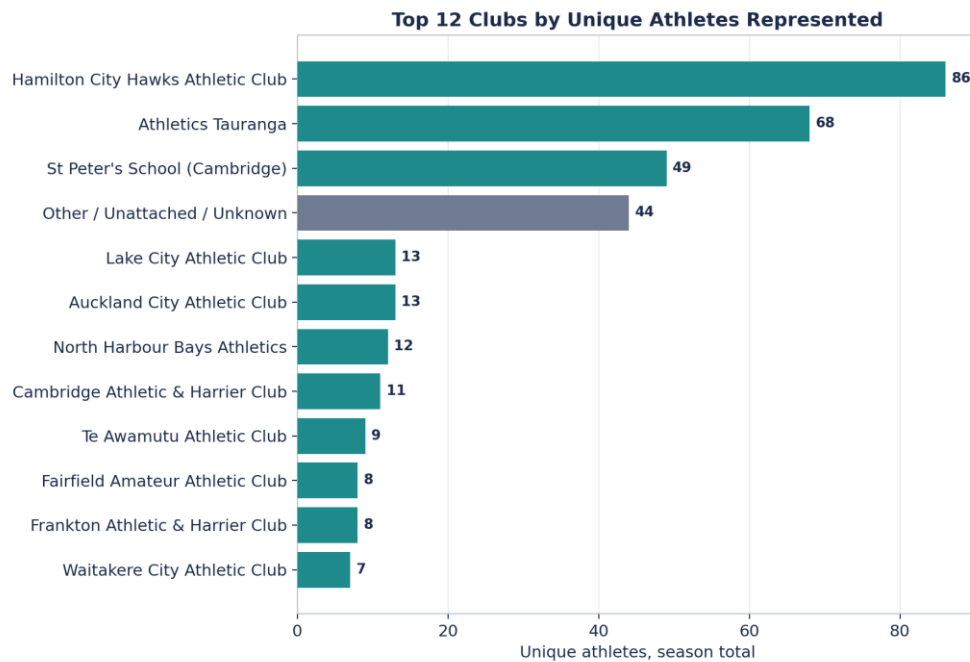


Figure 10. Top 12 clubs/schools by number of unique athletes represented across the season.

Club / School	Unique athletes
Hamilton City Hawks Athletic Club	86
Athletics Tauranga	68
St Peter's School (Cambridge)	49
Other / Unattached	44
Lake City Athletic Club	13
Auckland City Athletic Club	13
North Harbour Bays Athletics	12
Cambridge Athletic & Harrier Club	11
Te Awamutu Athletic Club	9
Fairfield Amateur Athletic Club	8

- Hamilton City Hawks Athletic Club is the largest contributor by a clear margin, consistent with most meetings held at Porritt Stadium.
- Athletics Tauranga is the largest Bay of Plenty contributor, and its athletes turn out strongly for the Tauranga Domain meetings specifically.

- St Peter's School (Cambridge) is the largest single school contributor, reflecting the value of strong secondary-school pathways into the Open programme.
- A meaningful "Other/Unattached " group (44 athletes) reflects a significant number of athletes who remain outside of the club system and need to be considered when promoting events.

Planning consideration

Continuing to run dedicated Tauranga Domain meetings protects Bay of Plenty participation rather than requiring travel to Hamilton for every meeting — this is directly reflected in the strong average turnout at those two meetings.

7. Single-Discipline Specialty Meetings

The Jumps Meet 9 Nov (Long Jump/High Jump/Triple Jump) and SJ Throws Nov 16 (Discus/Shot Put/Javelin/Hammer) are structurally different from the standard Open meetings — each offers 3–4 events, and each recorded a smaller field (16 and 39 athletes respectively) but a higher entries-per-athlete ratio (2.1 and 2.0), meaning the athletes who attend compete in almost every event on offer.

- These meetings work as technical development within a single discipline group, but they are not a substitute for a full Open meeting's participation reach.
- Combining jumps and throws into a single "Field Events Day" (rather than two separate small meetings) could raise the combined field size while keeping a compact, technically focused format.

Planning consideration

A single well-promoted combined field-events day may outperform two separate narrower meetings — worth trialling against a split-meeting approach next season and comparing turnout.

8. Recommendations for the 2026–27 Season

These recommendations are built directly from the patterns above and reflect the objective of a compact meeting that offers variety across the season, with guaranteed space for the most in-demand events.

1. Lock in a core event slate for every Open meeting

Include 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, Long Jump, Shot Put and Discus at majority of Open meeting — these are the season's proven highest-demand events and the backbone of the most common pairings/triples.

2. Rotate the lower-demand events across the season

Spread 60m, 1000m, 200mH, 2000m, 5000m, hurdles variants and steeplechase across a range of meetings. Publish the rotation at the start of the season so athletes and coaches can plan which meetings matter for their events.

3. Schedule the dominant pairings back-to-back

Consider carefully the running order of 100m+200m, Discus+Shot Put, 100m+300m, 200m+400m/800m and the 100m+200m+Long Jump triple. Should these be scheduled with minimal turnaround, reducing the time athletes spend waiting, or should they have longer gaps?

4. Protect and promote the Tauranga Domain meetings

These meetings perform well in turnout. Increase Tauranga Domain events (2 last season) to keep Bay of Plenty athletes engaged and reduce travel commitments.

5. Trial a combined Field Events Day

Test merging the Jumps Meet and SJ Throws concept into one well-promoted combined field day and compare turnout against running them separately.

6. Add a drawcard to the final meetings

Investigate the cause of the Feb–Mar turnout dip and consider a season-closing format to help engagement through late season.

Together, these changes aim to keep every meeting feeling worthwhile and time-efficient for the athletes who attend, and keeping the Officials required per meeting at a manageable level, ensure meeting quality.

Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty

2026 Track & Field Championships Report

Prepared for the Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty Annual General Meeting

Executive Summary

The 2026 Waikato & Bay of Plenty Track & Field Championships were held across two separate days and two venues — Porritt Stadium, Hamilton, on Saturday 31 January, and Tauranga Domain on Saturday 21 February — in contrast to the single Tauranga Domain weekend for the 2025 Championships. This report summarises participation, event programme and club representation from the 2026 results, comparing them against the 2025 results, and sets out observations on the two-venue format to inform planning for 2027.

Across the two 2026 days, there were 165 event categories and 312 result entries, up from 129 events and 237 entries in 2025. At least 147 individual athletes appear in the 2026 results (up from 95 in 2025), and 15 AWBOP-affiliated clubs were represented (up from 10 in 2025), alongside visitors from other regions.

EVENTS HELD	TOTAL ENTRIES	UNIQUE ATHLETES	AWBOP CLUBS REPRESENTED
165	312	147	15
2025: 129 (+28%)	2025: 237 (+32%)	2025: 95 (+55%)	2025: 10 (+5 clubs)

Figure 1: Key participation metrics, 2026 (both days combined) vs 2025. Percentage change shown against 2025.

1. Championship Format: One Venue vs Two

- 2025 — a single Championship weekend held entirely at Tauranga Domain.
- 2026 — split into two separate Saturdays three weeks apart: Day 1 at Porritt Stadium (31 January) and Day 2 at Tauranga Domain (21 February). Together the two days covered 165 distinct events.

1.1 Hamilton Day vs Tauranga Day

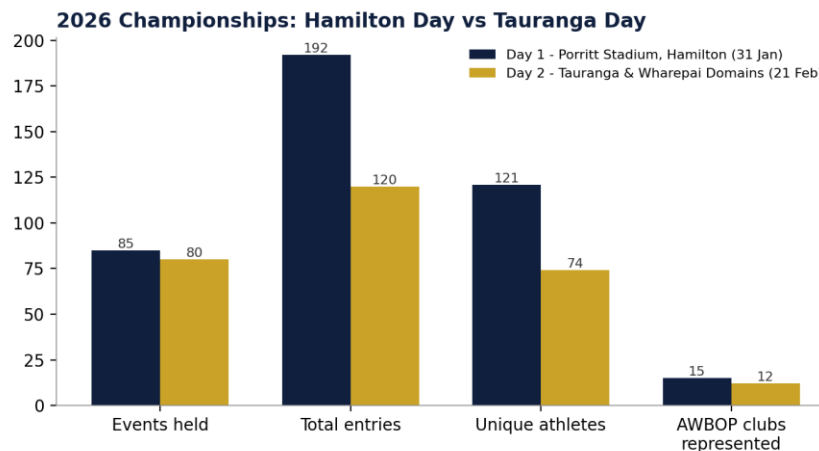


Figure 2: Comparison of the two 2026 Championship days.

Metric	Day 1 — Porritt Stadium. Hamilton	Day 2 — Tauranga Domain
Events held	85	80
Total entries	192	120
Unique athletes	121	74
AWBOP clubs represented	15	12
Visiting (out-of-region) clubs	9	2
Non-scoring entries	27 (14%)	3 (3%)

1.2 Two-Venue Format — What the Numbers Suggest

Of the 147 individual athletes recorded across the 2026 results, 48 (about a third) appear in both the Hamilton and Tauranga day results, meaning roughly one in three athletes needed to travel to both venues to contest their full event programme. The remaining two-thirds competed at only one of the two days — 73 athletes appeared only at Hamilton and 26 only at the Tauranga day.

Pros of the split-venue model: spreads hosting load and travel across both host cities rather than concentrating it in one; the Hamilton day in particular drew strong turnout (121 athletes, 192 entries) with a broad club spread (15 clubs); overall 2026 participation was well up on 2025 on every measure tracked in this report.

Cons of the split-venue model: about a third of athletes faced two separate travel commitments instead of one combined weekend; the Tauranga day drew a noticeably smaller and narrower field (74 athletes, 12 AWBOP clubs, largely Masters and throws-heavy programme) than the Hamilton day.

2. Participation Overview

2.1 Age Grade Breakdown

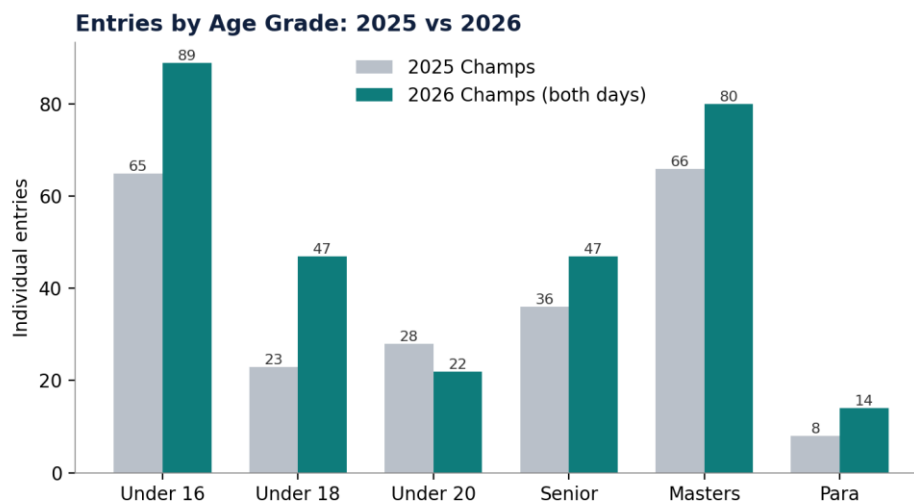


Figure 3: Individual entries by age grade, 2025 vs 2026 (both 2026 days combined).

Age Grade	2025 entries	2026 entries (both days)	Change
Under 16	65	89	+24
Under 18	23	47	+24
Under 20	28	22	-6
Senior	36	47	+11
Masters	66	80	+14
Para	8	14	+6

Growth was broad-based across grades, with the largest gains in the Under 16 and Under 18 grades and a healthy increase in Masters and Para entries. Under 20 was the one grade to record fewer entries than 2025.

2.2 Gender Split

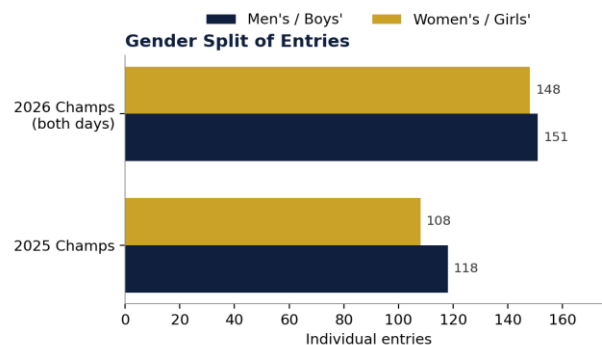


Figure 4: Gender split of individual entries, 2025 vs 2026.

Both years had an even gender split — 151m/148f in 2026 (50% / 50%), and 118m/108f in 2025 (52% / 48%).

2.3 Track, Field and Relay Programme

Category	2025	2026 (both days)
Track events	142 entries	198 entries
Field events	84 entries	101 entries
Relay teams	11 teams	13 teams

1. Club Representation

The two years used materially different formats: Results were recorded for athletes from 15 AWBOP-affiliated clubs across the two 2026 Championship days, up from 10 clubs in the 2025 results. Six clubs appear in the 2026 results that were not recorded in 2025 — Waikato Bay of Plenty Masters, Thames, Papamoa, Taupo, Morrinsville and Te Aroha — while Te Puke, present in 2025, has merged with Papamoa.

Hamilton City Hawks and Athletics Tauranga remain by far the largest contributors of entries in both years, consistent with their status as the region's two largest clubs and their proximity to the host venues.

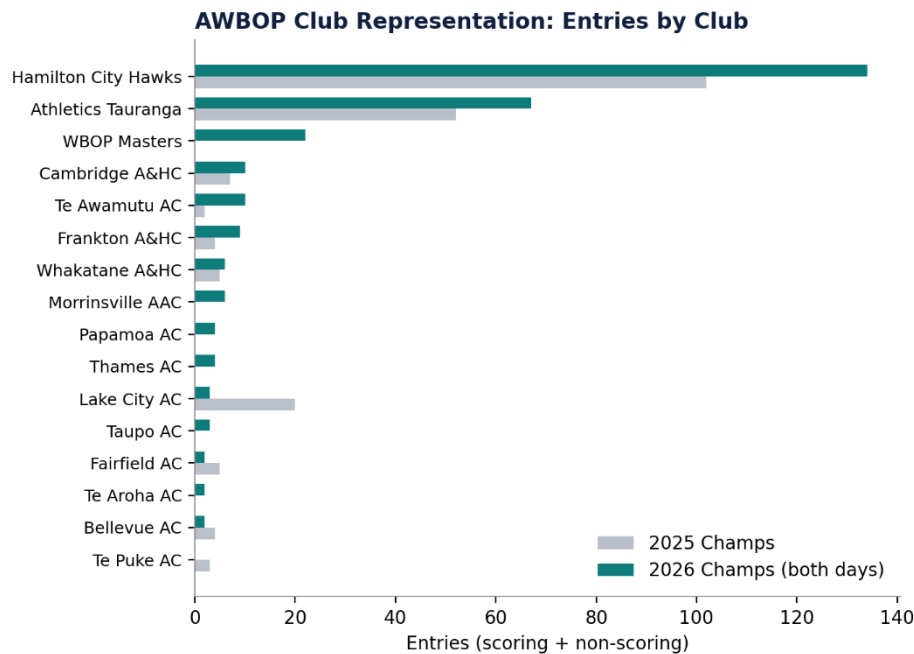


Figure 5: AWBOP club entries, 2025 vs 2026 (both days combined). Clubs ordered by 2026 entries.

3.1 Visiting / Out-of-Region Entries

The Championships attracted entries from clubs outside our region, with 10 visiting clubs across the 2026 results (up from 5 in 2025), including Auckland City Athletics, South Canterbury, Waitakere City, Whangarei, Waiuku Districts, Pakuranga, Papakura, Whippets Running Project and an Australian Masters entry.

4. Performance Highlights

- Danielle Aitchison (T36, Hamilton City Hawks) headlined the Para programme, winning both the 100m (13.89s, Day 1) and 200m (27.75s, Day 2 — 97.95% of the World Para Athletics benchmark score).
- David Trow (M75+/M81, Hamilton City Hawks) competed across the 100m (25.95s), 400m (2:03.24) and 800m (5:03.87) at the two 2026 days — a great example of lifelong participation in the sport.
- Twins Jack and Max Stirling (Under 16, Hamilton City Hawks) went 1-2 in both the 800m (1:59.95 / 2:00.16) and 1500m (4:04.62 / 4:04.97), continuing the progress they showed as Under 16s in 2025 (1500m 4:18.85 / 4:19.53).
- Aimee Ferguson (Senior, Hamilton City Hawks) again completed the women's distance double, taking out both the 1500m (4:31.86) and 5000m (17:38.19) in 2026 as she did in 2025.
- Christine McCahill (W60–64, Waikato Bay of Plenty Masters) had a strong throws day at Tauranga, winning the Weight Throw (13.82m) and Hammer (31.71m).