

2026 NEW ZEALAND DEVELOPMENT TOUR



GENERAL INFORMATION

The New Zealand Development Tour is an exciting opportunity for Little Athletics Queensland (LAQ) athletes in the U14 and U15 age groups. It is an annual tour conducted by LAQ with athletes in the Team spending 10 days travelling, training and competing together throughout the South Island of New Zealand, against local athletes from all over the Island. For athletes selected to go, it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience a team environment in a sport where individual performance is normally the focus.

LAQ has successfully conducted this tour for the past 17 years and both parents and athletes who have previously attended speak highly of the benefits of the tour, not just for their athletic development, but also their social and emotional development. Athletes of all skill levels are encouraged to apply, as this tour provides a development opportunity for all athletes, regardless of their skill level.

This document provides you with details about the tour - from competition and training information to the team composition and the costs to attend.

Details of how to nominate are listed at the back of this document. If you wish to be considered for selection, simply complete the online nomination form **before Monday 8th September 2025**.





THE TEAM

A team of up to 30 athletes will be selected for the Tour.

Only full LAQ registered athletes in the U14 and U15 age groups (born 2012 and 2011) are eligible for selection.

The team will be selected solely from those athletes who have nominated. Should nominations exceed 30 athletes, the following selection criteria will be used as a guide. All selections are at the discretion of LAQ.

- Athletes who have displayed exemplary behaviour at Centre, Region and State competitions
- Commitment to Little Athletics
- Longevity of service and involvement in Little Athletics
- Where possible, an even split of male and female athletes
- If the above criteria have been satisfied, priority will be given to U15 athletes due to U14 athletes being eligible to reapply the following year

Placing at LAQ sanctioned events or being selected as a member of the LAQ State Team or previous Development Tours does not guarantee selection in this Team.

A team of five experienced Team Managers will accompany the group on Tour and will be in complete control of the athletes while they are away. Parents do not travel or stay with the team.

TOUR ITINERARY

The following is a basic itinerary for the tour. A more detailed day-to-day itinerary will be provided to athletes and parents once the team has been selected.

10th January	Depart Brisbane for Christchurch, New Zealand
11th - 13th January	Training, activities and explore Christchurch
14th January	Travel to Nelson
15th January	Explore Nelson
16th - 18th January	South Island Colgate Games in Nelson
19th January	Depart Nelson for Brisbane





COMPETITION & TRAINING

Our team will be taking part the South Island Colgate Games in Nelson, New Zealand. This competition is conducted under full IAAF rules, not Little Athletics modified rules. A complete list of events and specifications is included further in this document.

The Colgate Games is the largest competition on the New Zealand Children's Athletics calendar, with up to 800 athletes aged 7-14 years from across the South Island competing. The competition will be held over three days in Nelson, from Friday 16th - Sunday 18th January 2026.

As well as individual events, each age group can participate in two team relays - 4x100m (male and female) and mixed Medley (100m, 100m, 200m, 400m 800m).

Age groups are worked out based on your age as of 31st December 2025.

Athletes are expected to compete in all of the events they have nominate for. When they are not competing, or their competition is finished, athletes will assist on the arena as volunteers, where required.

In the lead up to the Colgate Games, the team will have a number of training and fitness sessions. These include full athletics training sessions (track and field events) as well as general fitness, swimming and stretching sessions. All athletes participate in these sessions.

COLGATE GAMES

Athletes may select up to a maximum of five (5) individual events at the Colgate Games, which can be track or field or a combination of both.

LAQ will also be selecting some athletes to form relay teams in the 4x100m and mixed Medley. If you wish to be considered for a relay event, please make it known on the nomination form.

Entries will not be accepted for the combination of 100m / 1500m or 200m / 800m events. This is a local rule.

Triple Jump and Javelin events are not conducted at this event. Events for each age group are limited to the following:

Event	U14 (born 2012)	U15 (born 2011)
100m	✓	✓
200m	✓	✓
400m	✓	✓
800m	✓	✓
1500m	✓	✓
Hurdles	✓ Girls: 80m Boys: 80m	✓ Girls: 80m Boys: 100m
Race Walk	✓ 1600m	✓ 2000m
Long Jump	✓	✓
High Jump	✓	✓
Discus	✓ Girls: 1kg Boys: 1kg	✓ Girls: 1kg Boys 1.25kg
Shot Put	✓ Girls: 3kg Boys: 4kg	✓ Girls 3kg Boys: 5kg

COSTS

The cost for each athlete will be \$4,600. This amount covers the following:

- Return airfares from Brisbane to New Zealand
- Internal flight from Christchurch to Nelson
- Airport and government taxes
- Ground transportation costs in New Zealand
- Travel insurance
- 9 night's accommodation
- All meals and food for 10 days
- Competition and training fees
- Uniforms
- Tours and sightseeing activities

The only other money that will be required from athletes is personal spending money and the cost for a passport if you don't already have one.

Once athletes have been selected in the team, they are required to pay a \$2,000 deposit within one week - by Wednesday 17th September 2025. The remaining \$2,600 is due by Friday 14th November. Any athlete that fails to pay the required amounts by the due dates will not be able to attend the Tour.

Note that for athletes who live outside of the South East area, travel to and from Brisbane airport prior to the team's departure is not included in the above cost.

PASSPORTS

All tour members are required by law to have a valid passport with at least three months validity for the duration of the trip. If you do not already have a passport, it is your responsibility to get one before departure. The costs of obtaining a passport are not included in the overall cost of the trip.

To apply for a passport, visit www.passports.gov.au or speak to your local post office. There can be lengthy delays in obtaining a passport, so it is suggested you plan this well in advance. It is worth noting that you are required to produce an original birth certificate when applying for a passport.

If you are travelling on a passport of a nationality other than Australian, it is your responsibility to ensure any visa requirements are met and paid for before the team departs.

TEAM MEETING

There will be a team meet and greet held on Saturday 29th November at 9.30am at QSAC, Brisbane and all tour members are expected to attend. Provisions may be made for Regional based athletes, outside of the SEQ area. The purpose of this meeting is for athletes to meet and get to know each other before going away and provides athletes and parents an opportunity to meet your tour managers before departure. Uniforms will also be distributed at this meeting.

LAQ will be presenting important information about the tour at this meeting and it will provide an opportunity for athletes and parents to ask any questions they might have. It also allows athletes to meet and get to know each other and the Tour Managers before the team departs.



HOW TO NOMINATE

Nominating for the tour is simple! If you wish to be considered for selection, please click on **NOMINATE NOW** below, fill in all the relevant details including the events you wish to nominate for, and press submit.

The closing date for all nominations is Monday 8th September 2025. All applicants will be advised within two days of the closing date if they have been selected or otherwise.

Please consider carefully if this Tour is right for your child. We kindly ask that you do not nominate if you have any hesitations or are unsure if you will accept a position if selected.



QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the Tour, please contact Shannon Kruger in the LAQ Office on (07) 3892 9400 or s.kruger@laq.org.au