



Salt 66 2022

Magnetic Island to Townsville Swim

RACE RULES AND INFORMATION

Race Description:

The Magnetic Island to Townsville Open Water Swim was first held in 1954 and is the longest-held long distance open water swimming race in Queensland. 2022 will be the 68th year since this event was first conducted, and the 15th year since the event went “cage-less”.

The swim starts at water's edge in front of Townsville Picnic Bay SLSC, Magnetic Island and finishes at water's edge, in front of the Townsville Picnic Bay SLSC Clubhouse on the Strand Beach, adjacent to the Strand Park jetty in Townsville. The course is almost a straight line, heading south from the island, over a small reef, and after rounding the last buoy approximately 300m offshore, finishes on the mainland. Total race distance is approximately 8km.

The event is conducted by the Townsville Open Water Swimming Association (TOWSA) Inc.

Race Basics: **Sat 30 July 2022, 7.40am start.**

The swim may be conducted by solo swimmers, or in teams of 2 or 4 swimmers. Duos and Teams may change swimmers at any point after the 1km buoy. The buoys are 1km apart as a guide only.

Each solo swimmer must have a support paddler, who may paddle a kayak, canoe, surf-ski, or surf rescue board.

Each team of swimmers (2 person teams and 4 person teams) must have a support paddler and a support motor boat **arranged by you**.

Swimmers must complete a qualification swim / time trial before race entry will be accepted.

Race Entry: Entries close Wednesday 6 July 2022

Entries on-line through the www.towsa.com web site

Solo swimmers: \$200

2 person team: \$350

4 person team: \$610

\$50 from each entry will go towards the supporting paddler's club or nominated organisation. If no organisation is nominated then \$50 will go towards providing water safety to support the conduct of the event.

All applications for refund must be made by 6 July. An administration fee of \$30 per entry will be retained. As a general rule there will be no refunds after this date. Should the race be abandoned due to dangerous conditions, no refunds will be made.

Qualification: Solo swimmers must complete the race in under 3 hrs 15 mins.

As an indication that they can do the distance solo swimmers must complete a 4km swim (open water preferred) within 6 months prior to race day, in a time of less than 1h 35m.

Team swimmers must complete a 2km swim (minimum – open water preferred) within 6 months prior to event day, in a time of less than 48 minutes. Other 'qualifying swims' (eg. Cairns Ironman swim) will be considered by the race committee.

All solo swimmers must be a minimum of 14 years old as at 21 August 2022.

All team swimmers should be a minimum of 12 years old as at 21 August 2022. Swimmers under 12 may be accepted subject to the discretion of the Race Director based on age and proven capability.

Race Briefing & Check In:

Swimmers will receive their event packs, including swim caps, timing chip and paddlers pack at check-in at the **Arcadian Surf Life Saving Club (downstairs) Rockpool end of the Strand**, on Friday 29 July between 4pm and 6pm. Swim organisers will be available to answer questions.

Ferry tickets will be available at the terminal on Saturday morning. A final check, numbering and briefing will be held just before the start of the swim.

On-line Briefing and Frequently Asked Questions is available on the www.towsa.com.au web site.

All swimmers should read these race rules as well as the on-line briefing document.

All paddlers should also read these race rules as well as the on-line briefing document. The skippers of team support boats should read these race rules as well as the on-line briefing document.

Race Details: Sat 30 July, 7.40am start

Organisation:

- The Magnetic Island to Townsville Open Water Swim is conducted by the Townsville Open Water Swimming Association (TOWSA) Inc.
- The event has sports injury and public liability insurance. Swimmers who register for any TOWSA event are considered members of TOWSA and are covered for TOWSA events for 12 months from the date of registration. This includes organised training events.
- Personal medical insurance is the responsibility of individual swimmers and paddlers.

Transportation:

- Solo swimmers and the first swimmer in each team will receive a one-way ferry ticket for transport to Magnetic Island and a one-way bus for transport from Nelly Bay to Picnic Bay.
- Sealink ferries depart from the Breakwater Terminal, Sir Lesley Thies Drive, Townsville (near the Casino). *Please arrive 20 minutes prior to ferry departure.*
- Ferry timetables are available at: http://www.sealinkqld.com.au/ferry_services_informatio/magnetic_island_ferry/ferry_timetable.php
- TOWSA recommends that swimmers catch the **6.30am ferry**, approximately 20 minutes. The free bus will depart from the Magnetic Island ferry terminal at Nelly Bay for Picnic Bay (approximately 10 minutes) from **the 6.30 ferry only**. Swimmers may make their own transport arrangements if they wish.

Swimmer Belongings:

- TOWSA will arrange for solo swimmer personal belongings to be transported from Picnic Bay to the finish line. Swimmers are requested to have a sealed, clearly labelled bag (waterproof preferred), of minimal size, and containing **NO** valuables. Swimmers are recommended to have warm clothes at the finish line. Swimmers will be given a towel at the finish line.
- Duo & Team swimmers are to use their support boats for personal belongings.
- Swimmer's bags will be located under a tent up the beach from the finish line. TOWSA will take all due care, but do not accept any responsibility for the loss or damage of bags or their contents.

Swimming Equipment:

- Swimmers are permitted to use grease, goggles, swim caps, and nose clips.
- Swimmers must use the provided swim cap and display their race number on each arm for the duration of the race.
- Swimmers must use the swim tow float provided.
- **Swimming Australia Rules and Swimming Australia Inclusive Swimwear Policy for open water swim suits will apply for the event.**

- A wetsuit classification is available. Swimmers wearing wet suits or triathlon speed suits may swim and will be considered separate to the non-wetsuit swimmers.
- Fins, paddles, and other flotation aids are not permitted for the race.
- Swimmers will have a timing chip worn on the ankle. A \$50 replacement fee will be charged if the timing chip is not returned.

Start Time:

- A final race brief will be given prior to the start.
- Solo swimmers will start at 7.40am.
- Team swimmers will begin at 7.50am.

Finish Time:

- Most swimmers are expected to finish the race in 1.5hr to 3hr.
- There is a strict halfway cut-off time of 1h 35m (9.15am) for solo swimmers. Any solo swimmers not reaching the halfway point by that time will be retired from the race by an event official under the direction of the Race Director.
- There is a strict finishing cut-off time of 3h 15m (10.55am) for solo swimmers. Any swimmers not finishing by that time will be retired from the race by an event official under the direction of the Event Director and no time recorded.
- Duos and Teams must finish by 11.05am.
- Swimmers will be given event merchandise including towel and shirt at the finish.

Paddlers:

- Each solo swimmer and each team of swimmers must organise a support paddler, who may paddle a kayak, canoe, surf-ski, or surf paddle board.
- Swimmers are to complete all paddler details on their entry form. Paddler details must be complete before race entry will be accepted.
- Paddlers **must** display any provided sponsorship sticker on their craft for the duration of the event and wear their number.
- Paddlers are advised to mark their craft in such a way that they can be easily identified by their swimmer. Flags, balloons, and colourful hats have been used successfully in the past.
- Paddlers are to be the first point of safety for their swimmer. Swimmer contact with the paddle craft is permitted, however swimmers found being towed by the paddler will be at risk of disqualification.
- Swimmers are not to draft behind their paddler. Swimmers found drafting off their paddler will be at risk of disqualification.
- Swimmers who have difficulty in arranging a paddler are requested to contact clubs who have supported the event in the past. Contact details are on the TOWSA website.

- \$50 from each entry will go towards the supporting paddler's club or nominated organisation. If no organisation is nominated then \$50 will go towards providing water safety to support the conduct of the event.
- Many paddlers will also paddle over to the race start. The barge 'Hercules' will have space for 20-30 craft going over to the island. The 'Rhino Dive' vessel will also be available to take some craft. Further details will be provided at the check-in.

Support Boats:

- Each team of swimmers must have their own support motor boat. Personal Water Craft such as jet skis are not suitable.
- Teams are responsible for organising their own support boat.
- Teams are to complete all boat details on their entry form. Boat details must be complete before race entry will be accepted.
- Although paddlers are to be the first point of safety for their swimmer, support boats provide further safety and carry other team swimmers.
- Support boats, for safety reasons, are not to travel directly in front or behind swimmers, and are to maintain a minimum distance of 15m from all swimmers apart from changeovers. Swimmers have absolute right-of-way.
- Swimmer contact with support boats is not permitted.
- Support boats must be seaworthy and licenced to carry the number of passengers who will be involved, including skipper and all team swimmers.
- Support boats must carry all required safety equipment, including lifejackets, etc. and must be fitted with a marine radio and carry a mobile telephone.
- Support boats must display signage showing the team name.

Post Swim:

- Public showers and change rooms are available at the back of the Townsville Picnic Bay SLSC clubhouse on The Strand at the finish.
- Fruit and water will be provided subject to COVID safety protocols.
- Townsville Picnic Bay SLSC clubhouse provides cafe-type meals and is a licensed venue.
- The presentations will take place at approximately 5.00 pm at West End Hotel, 89 Ingham Road West End.

Race Course: **A copy of the course map is on the www.towsa.com web site.**

The race course will be confirmed on Friday 29 July at check-in.

The course commences at Picnic Bay, Magnetic Island, and heads south to the first of the large pink buoys, approximately 500m offshore. Swimmers are to rendezvous with their paddlers by this point.

Swimmers will pass over a small reef, and will head directly for Townsville Picnic Bay SLSC Clubhouse on the Strand Beach, adjacent to the Strand Park jetty, following a line of seven large buoys to the finishing zone.

Team swimmers are to rendezvous with their support boats at the next large pink buoy outside of the reef, approximately 1km from the start. Team swimmers will not be permitted to proceed past this point without their support boat.

All **swimmers and paddlers** must remain to the **left of the buoys** at all times (ie, keep the buoys on your right shoulder). Support **boats** should remain to the **right of the buoys** at all times.

Duo / Team swimmer changeovers must take place by touching hands above the water. The last swimmer in each team is to wear the timing chip. After the first km buoy Team / Duo swimmers may changeover whenever they want too but should do so safely. The halfway point will consist of a large **yellow buoy**.

The finishing zone will begin approximately 300m from the finish, and will consist of one pink buoy. No paddlers or support boats are permitted inside the finish zone. Paddlers may proceed to the beach on the northern side of the finish zone. Support boats may anchor no closer than 400m off the beach (Council By-Laws apply).

Safety: Safety is the primary consideration in this event.

Any incidents are to be brought to the attention of the event officials as soon as possible.

SLSC first-aid providers will be located up the beach from the finish line. Any swimmers, paddlers or others feeling ill should see the first aid volunteers.

All swimmers, paddlers, and boat skippers are to behave in a fair and sportsman-like manner at all times, without any interference or aggression toward any other swimmer, paddler, or boat in the event.

All swimmers, paddlers, and boat skippers are to treat event officials and volunteers with respect and courtesy at all times.

Swimmers, paddlers, and boat skippers are to provide assistance to anyone else in need as soon as possible, and are to advise event officials.

In the event of inclement weather or swim conditions, the event venue may be changed or cancelled prior to commencement at the sole and unquestionable discretion of the Race Director. If, during the event, the event conditions become dangerous or unsafe, the event may be cancelled without notice.

It is important that all participants read and acknowledge the WAIVER, RELEASE & INDEMNITY as well as the COVID-19 TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS.

Swimmers Declaration:

1. In consideration of and as a condition of acceptance of my/our entry in the 2022 Magnetic Island to Townsville Open Water Swim ("the Event") I/we for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and legal personal representatives hereby waive all and any claim, right or cause of action which I/we or they might otherwise have or at any future time have for or arising out of loss of life or injury (including psychological trauma) damages or loss of any description whatsoever (including property damage) which I/we or my/our equipment may suffer or sustain in the course of, or consequent upon, my entry or participation in the said Event howsoever arising except to the extent prohibited by law.
2. I/we hereby release and discharge the Townsville Open Water Swimming Assoc. Inc. ("TOWSA") together with all persons and corporations involved or otherwise engaged in promoting, staffing or operating the Event together with the servant, agents, representatives and officers of any of them including, (without limiting the generality of the foregoing), sponsor organisations, land owners and lessees, promoters and organisers of the Event, together with their respective directors, officers, employees, consultants, contractors, agents, officials and volunteers, from all liability for loss of life or injury, (including psychological trauma), damages or loss of any description whatsoever (including property damage) which I/we or my/our equipment may suffer or sustain in the course of or consequent upon my entry or participation in the said Event howsoever arising except to the extent prohibited by law.
3. I hereby declare that I am medically and physically fit and have undertaken adequate training for the Event mindful of the conditions of an open water swimming event, of the specific route of the course, and of the duration and distance of the swim.
4. I hereby agree that in the event of marine animal sightings, poor water quality, storm, rain, inclement seas or winds, the organisers of the Event have the right to modify or cancel the Event and the entry fee shall not be refundable. Entry fees shall not be refundable for any swimmers withdrawing or not starting the Event.
5. I agree to the race conditions as set by the organising committee.
6. All competitor details will be entered into a database. TOWSA, sponsors and/or any of their related entities may use the entrant's names and official photos for future promotional, marketing and publicity purposes.
7. I/we acknowledge that participation in the Event is an activity as a result of which serious personal injury or even fatalities may be a consequence.
8. By nominating to participate in this, I hereby authorise the Race Director to take whatever action is deemed necessary in the event of an emergency and accept responsibility for any and all costs arising from such action.
9. By registering for this event, I am considered a member of TOWSA for 12 months, and am therefore covered under the association's sports injury and public liability insurance.
10. I have read and understand the race rules and information and the swimmer's declaration.

Townsville Open Water Swim Association COVID-19 Terms and Conditions of Entry and Attendance at Events

All attendees will be required to read these Terms and Conditions and the Event Information before nominating for, or attending the event. Nominating for, or attending the event confirms your acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.

PURPOSE The purpose of this document is to provide COVID-19 terms and conditions for attendees at events and club activities in Queensland.

TERMS & CONDITIONS Townsville Open Water Swim Association (TOWSA) will take reasonable, proportionate steps in accordance with published advice, to respond to the current (known) risks associated with the virus and requires all event attendees to do likewise.

1. I acknowledge that by nominating for, or attending an event I agree to abide by and adhere to these COVID-19 Terms and Conditions.
2. I acknowledge that I must follow all COVID Safe directions related to attendance at an event.
3. As an attendee, I understand that I am responsible for adhering to physical distancing, health, and hygiene guidelines. Including, but not limited to:
 - a) Keep 1.5 metre distance between yourself and others where possible
 - b) Adhere to all designated venue flow, entry and exit points as per event maps
 - c) Stay home, do not attend the event, and seek testing if you have symptoms
 - d) Wash your hands often and cover coughs and sneezes
 - e) Do not share food, drink, or sporting equipment with others
4. I confirm, that neither I, nor any member of my household, is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms or have been in contact with any confirmed COVID-19 cases in the previous 7 days.
5. I confirm that if I return a positive COVID-19 test within 7 days of the event, I will immediately notify my Club and TOWSA.
6. I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to comply with the published Event Information.
7. I warrant that I will provide all required information and that it will be true and correct.
8. I authorise my information to be used and disclosed to relevant bodies where necessary to implement the government directions with regards to COVID-19 and the resumption of sporting activity; in particular for contact tracing purposes as required from time to time.

