



2018 Magnetic Island to Townsville Open Water 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. 2018 will be the 64th year since this event was first conducted, and the 11th year since the event went “cage-less”.

The swim starts at water’s edge in front of Picnic Bay SLSC, Magnetic Island and finishes at water’s edge, in front of the 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: **Sun 29 July 2018, 7.40am start.**

The swim may be conducted by solo swimmers, or in teams of 2 or 4 swimmers. 2 person teams must change over at the half way point (4km), and 4 person teams must change over at each 2km point.

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.

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

Race Entry: **Entries close Wednesday 4 July 2018**

Solo swimmers: \$160

2 person team: \$270

4 person team: \$490

\$50 from each entry will go towards the supporting paddler’s club or nominated organisation. If the supporting paddler is not affiliated with a club, \$50 will go towards providing water safety to support the conduct of the event.

All applications for refund must be made by 4 July. An administration fee of \$30 per entry will be retained. There will be no refunds after this date. Should the race be abandoned due to dangerous conditions, no refunds will be made.

Qualification: Swimmers must complete the race in under 3 hrs 30 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 45m. Team swimmers must complete a 2km swim (minimum – open water preferred) within 6 months prior to event day, in a time of less than 52 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 on the day of the race.

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

Race Briefing: Collection of swimmers package and the race briefing will be held at the West End PCYC, corner of Hugh and Harold Streets, West End, Townsville on Sat 28 July, from 1pm. The formal briefing will commence at 2pm and take about 30 minutes with questions encouraged.

The race briefing is **compulsory** for all swimmers.

The race briefing is **compulsory** for all paddlers accompanying out-of-town swimmers.

The race briefing is **compulsory** for skippers of team support boats.

The race briefing is **recommended** for all other paddlers.

Swimmers will receive their event packs, including event merchandise, swim caps and ferry tickets at the race briefing.

Race Details: Sun 29 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 (towel, dry clothes, etc.) to be transported from Picnic Bay to the finish line. Swimmers are requested to have a clearly labelled bag (waterproof preferred), of minimum size, and containing no valuables. Swimmers are recommended to have a towel and warm clothes 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.
- **FINA rules for open water swim suits will apply for the event.**
- A wetsuit classification is available. Swimmers wearing wet suits or swim suits which were previously legal, but are now

considered illegal by FINA (Speedo “fast skin”, Blue Seventy “pointzero”, etc.) and 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 may choose to swim with such artificial aids but will not receive an official placing if swimming with such aids.
- 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 1.5h to 3h.
- There is a strict halfway cut-off time of 1h 45m (9.25am) 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 30m (11.10am) 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.
- Duos and Teams must finish by 11.20am.

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.
- 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 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 Magnetic Island Swim website.
- \$50 from each entry will go towards the supporting paddler's club or nominated organisation. If the supporting paddler is not affiliated with a club, \$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. Further details will be provided at the briefing.

Support Boats:

- Each team of swimmers must have a support motor boat. Personal Water Craft such as jet skis are **not** suitable.
- Teams are responsible for organising their own support boat. Swimmers who have difficulty in arranging a support boat are requested to contact the TOWSA committee who will be able to provide the contact details of boaties who have provided their services in past years.
- 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 20m** 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:

- Showers and change rooms are available at Picnic Bay SLSC clubhouse on The Strand at the finish.
- Fruit and water will be provided.
- Picnic Bay SLSC clubhouse provides cafe-type meals and is a licensed venue.
- Presentations will take place on the lawn outside the Picnic Bay SLSC clubhouse commencing at approximately 11.45am.

Race Course:

The race course will be confirmed at the race briefing.

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 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 1.4km 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.

Support boats should remain to the **right of the buoys** at all times.

Team swimmer changeovers must take place by touching hands above the water. The last swimmer in each team is to wear the timing chip. 2 person teams must changeover at the 4km (halfway) point. 4 person team changeovers are to take place at the 2km, 4km, and 6km buoys. Emergency changeovers are permitted.

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.

St Johns First aid volunteers 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.

Swimmers Declaration:

1. In consideration of and as a condition of acceptance of my/our entry in the 2018 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.

