

Event Manual

2026 Auckland Schools Downhill Championships



Dome Valley

Saturday 18 April 2026

Hosted By: Auckland Downhill Club (AKDH)

In Conjunction With: College Sport & Auckland
Schools Mountain Biking

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Welcome from AKDH

Welcome to the 2026 Auckland Schools Downhill Championships hosted by Auckland Downhill Club (AKDH). We would like to extend a warm welcome to riders, spectators, volunteers, organisers, and contractors who all play a part in making this event happen.

This manual outlines the necessary information to ensure a safe, successful and enjoyable event.

Event Contacts

Event Director	Ray Barnes	027 291 0566	info@akdh.co.nz
Course Manager	TBA		
Chief Commissaire	Glenn Collins	021 893 371	admin@akdh.co.nz
Health & Safety Manager	Glenn Collins	021 893 371	admin@akdh.co.nz
Race Timing	Sam Thompson	021 560 0940	info@racetime.co.nz
Mechanic	Bruce Davey	021 893 371	bruce@3sixtysports.co.nz
College Sport Operations Manager	Hamish Muirhead	021 221 9000	hamish@collegesport.co.nz

Event Partners



Club Sponsors



Document Version

Version 1.0 (Published 28.01.2026)

Event Schedule

Time	Activity
6.30am	Event Site OPEN Vehicles (Spectators, Volunteers & their riders) have direct access to Event Village There is parking space at the Event Village for 40 vehicles – first in, first served ** No walking or riding down Shuttle Road **
7:00am - 8:30am	Track Walk OPEN Allow 20 minutes to walk the track ** Aim to arrive no later than 7:45am. Riders should enter the top of the track no later than 8am to ensure they make it down to the village in time for registration cut-off and rider briefing at 8:30am **
7:15am	Spectators & supporters can access Event Village via shuttle and track walk
7.30am – 8:30am	Race registration OPEN Collect plates and transponders
7:45 – 8:00am (approximately)	Shuttle Road and Vehicle access to Event Village CLOSED ** All parking now at the top of the hill ** Spectators, volunteers, riders, bikes and gear via shuttle
8.15am	Marshall briefing Marshall Group A shuttle uplift
8.30am	Race registration CLOSED Track Walk CLOSED Welcome/Overview of the day from President Raymond Barnes Rider briefing from Event Manager George Swift
8:45am	Shuttle uplift for practice
9:00am – 11:30am	Practice commences for all age groups ** Minimum two practice runs **
11.30am – 12:00pm	Lunch break
11.45am	Marshall Group B shuttle uplift
12:00am	Race 1 callup and shuttle uplift for riders
12.15pm – 1.15pm	Race 1 start
1:45pm	Race 2 callup and shuttle uplift for riders
2.00pm – 3.00pm	Race 2 start
3.30pm	Prizegiving
4.00pm	Road OPEN for exit Shuttles available for riders & equipment back to hilltop car park

Race Administration

Race Entry

Race entries for Intermediate Students can be completed via the **Register Here** link on the [AKDH website](#).

Race entries for Secondary Students are handled by your school – please enquire with your sports coordinator or teacher in charge of Mountain Biking.

All entrants must be enrolled at an intermediate or secondary school in the Auckland region.

Race Categories and Age Groups

The following age categories for both male and female competitors apply.

Under 13 (“U13”) riders must at a minimum be aged 11 and enrolled in Year 7 at an affiliated school and not have had their 13th birthday prior to and including the 31 December in the year of the race.

Under 14 (“U14”)

Under 15 (“U15”)

Under 16 (“U16”)

Under 17 (“U17”)

Under 20 (“U20”) riders must have had their 17th 18th or 19th birthday between 1 January and 31 December (inclusive) in the year of the race.

School Uniform

Your racing uniform must be in the relevant school's colours, and the logo or name of the school must be displayed. If a school does not have an official racing uniform riders can race in their school PE shirt or plain cycling top and shorts which should, as much as possible, reflect the colours of their school.

NOTE: For school uniforms that do not include long-sleeved shirts, a short-sleeved school shirt can be worn over the top of a plain long sleeve.

Race Registration

Race registration will be held at the Event Village from 7.30 am to 8.30 am.

No entries will be taken on the day.

Race Format

This event will consist of two timed race runs with the fastest time posted as the official result. Times from race one will determine the start list for race two.

Riders **MUST** complete a minimum of two practice runs in the morning session to be eligible to race.

A start list will be available at the registration desk. The start order will follow Cycling New Zealand Schools regulations.

Race Practice

Official practice will be held on Sunday 12 April. Practice is open to both race entrants and the public. This is a paid event and competitors must register through the AKDH shuttle day event page [here](#). To sign up, competitors must be an active AKDH member (cost is \$50) and pay \$30 for up-lift shuttle day pass.

Pre-Practice Track Walk

The race line will be taped Thursday pm for those wishing to track walk on Friday before the race. There are to be no bikes (and no riding) on the defined race track for this day.

The event day track walk session is open from 7:00am to 8.30am. The morning schedule is tight, so if you wish to walk the track please arrive early so that you do not miss the registration cut-off at 8:30am. We recommend riders & spectators start the walk no later than 8am as the track walk can take 20 - 30 minutes.

Race Briefings

The race briefing will start as soon as Marshalls have left for their course positions around 8:30am. Please muster around the Event Village Shuttle car park when called so we can begin the practice session on time.

Timing and Race Plates

All riders will be issued with an event number plate and transponder. Race plates must be mounted vertically in front of the handlebars so the number is clearly visible. Altering, cutting, bending or placing of unauthorised sponsor's logos on number plates may result in disqualification. All riders must display their race numbers during practice and race runs. No plate, no track access.

Transponders must be attached to the non-brake side of the fork and be attached prior to the practice session.

Transponders **MUST** be returned after the race run. Unreturned transponders will be charged to the riders at \$100 per transponder.

Race Results

Interim live results will be announced on the day using my.raceresult.com. Official results will be posted on the AKDH website and Facebook as soon as possible after the event.

Any protests are to be submitted as per section 12.1 of the MTBNZ Technical Regulations and reviewed by the Chief Commissaire (PCP).

Prizegiving

Prizegiving is typically 30 mins after the last rider completes their race run. We will do our best to deliver prizegiving in a timely manner, this may occur before or after the estimated time in the schedule.

Certificates are awarded to the top three of each age group and gender. All prize winners who take their place on the

podium and must wear either their school racing uniform or regular school uniform, and without sunglasses or caps.

Mechanicals

Bike changes are not allowed - all riders must start and finish the event on the same bike with the same number plate.

Withdrawals

Please notify an official if you are withdrawing from the race.

Refunds

Refunds may be issued at the discretion of the Event Manager for intermediate aged riders who can't compete due to medical reasons. Refunds will only be considered before the registration closing date and will be subject to an administration fee of \$15. Secondary Schools entries, please refer to your School.

No refunds will be entered into after the registration closing date.

Event Administration

Rules and Regulations

This event is run under [MTBNZ Technical Regulations](#) and follows [Cycling New Zealand School Rules](#).

No riders are to use any transport other than the official transport supplied by the race organisers for the downhill practice or race sessions.

Only official sweepers and riders are permitted to ride the DH during practice and competition.

Marshalls and Volunteers

Without the support of volunteers these events would not be possible. Every school is asked to supply one Marshall. We will contact team managers and sports coordinators in due course. With enough volunteers we can run both morning and afternoon shifts - approximately 24 volunteers. If you are on the race line, marshalling is a great way to see the action unfold plus you get vehicle access to the Event Village.

Spectators

The course is generally spectator friendly although caution is required in wet conditions. We ask that all spectators are aware of riders on course when crossing the track. Marshalls will be in place at all road crossings – please wait for their guidance before crossing. We prefer dogs left at home. If this is unavoidable, please ensure dogs are leashed and kept away from the shuttle loading zone.

Smoke, Drug and Vape Free

The entire event is smoke, drug and vape free. Please ensure all your supporters are aware of this. Expect to be asked to leave the venue if you ignore this rule.

The Rayonier Matariki Forest is a high fire risk area, absolutely NO open flames of any kind for the safety of everyone.

Contingency Planning and Cancellations

At this time, we have no immediate contingency plan.

The event recognises that there is the potential for circumstances outside of their control occurring that could result in the published event format being adjusted in the interest of participant, volunteer and officials' safety. If inclement conditions exist, all decisions regarding the implementation of the contingency plan will be made by the Event Manager. The organisers reserve the right to cancel the event in the case of adverse weather conditions. Please note that there will be no refunds if the event is cancelled.

Food and Drink

It is recommended that all riders bring their own food and water for the entire day as Dome Valley has no running water.

We will have a coffee cart onsite from early morning and our local crew will be running a BBQ most of the day. Menu includes Bacon butties in the morning; sausages from our local award-winning butcher (Rob at Warkworth Butchery)

from lunch onwards; along with an assortment of cold drinks. All of the club-run food and beverages will be for sale on a cash-only basis, so make sure you bring some!

Toilets

There will be Portaloo's onsite.

Evacuation

Should an event or emergency require a halt to proceedings and/or evacuation, all attendees should make their way to the nearest Assembly Points which are Hill Top Parking (Assembly Point A), Shuttle Turn Around / Track Start (Assembly Point B, Event Village (Assembly Point C) and seek further instructions from an event official or Marshall.

Respect For The Venue

This venue is a privately owned Commercial Forest. Everything that goes in with you must come out. This includes food wrappers from competitors on course, all plates and cable ties. Please ensure you take all your rubbish with you to dispose of when you reach your destination.

Communications

We are fortunate that the event location, from top to bottom, generally has good mobile network coverage.

Event Village Layout



Rider Safety

Racing Rules and Equipment

Please ensure you have read the [MTBNZ Technical Regulations](#) and have the appropriate protective equipment. Riders not following these regulations will be disqualified and removed from the competition.

An excerpt from the MTBNZ manual on protective equipment is copied below for your convenience.

Protective Equipment

The following table specifies the protective equipment required for this downhill event.



	U13, U14, U15, U16, U17	U20
Full Face Helmet	Compulsory	Compulsory
Long Sleeve Shirt	Compulsory	Compulsory
Elbow/Forearm Protection	Compulsory	Highly Recommended
Long or Short Pants	Compulsory	Compulsory
Knee/Shin Protection	Compulsory for short and long pants	Compulsory for short pants
Neck Brace	Compulsory to wear either neck brace or spinal protection	Highly Recommended
Spinal Protection		Highly Recommended
Shoulder Protection	Highly Recommended	Highly Recommended
Protective Eyewear	Highly Recommended	Highly Recommended
Full Finger Gloves	Highly Recommended	Highly Recommended

Parent/Guardian & School Responsibility

All Year 7 & 8 participants must have an adult supporter/guardian at the event for the duration of the event – this may also include a nominated School Sports Manager or Teacher. All students from Years 8 to 13 require a nominated School Sports Manager or Teacher. While every effort will be made to provide a safe and fun environment it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian/school to ensure the overall safety of young riders.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is important at any level of Mountain biking. We highly encourage you to watch out for your fellow riders, whether they be your teammates or not.

Passing Another Rider

If you catch up to a rider ahead of you and are clearly faster and aim to pass, call out “rider on your right” or simply “rider”, and when you are able, overtake in a safe manner. Riders overtaking must do so safely and not put others in danger.

In reverse, if a faster rider, approaching from behind, calls out 'rider on your right' or simply 'rider' please allow them to pass at the next possible spot that you deem is safe for yourself, and the fellow rider to pass. Do not deliberately hold up a faster rider who wants to pass.

THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR DOWNHILL, IF SOMEONE HAS CAUGHT UP WITH YOU – YES, THEY ARE FASTER THAN YOU - SO LET THEM PASS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Injured Riders / Rider Assistance

If you come across someone who requires medical assistance, you have an obligation to stop and assist. In the case of a crash where someone requires medical assistance this means:

- Ensure the safety of yourself and others.
- Stop the next rider and get them to walk back up the trail to inform subsequent riders coming down that there is a rider down on the track and that they "must slow down or stop".
- Ask another rider to ride on and inform the next marshal of the location of the accident.
- If the injured rider is suffering neck or back pain, do NOT move the injured person. Call for help by sending a rider down to the next Marshal.
- If safe, move the injured person and their bike off the trail. The race can then continue for other riders.

If your race run has been affected by an injured rider, please return to the Event Village and report the incident to the Course Manager for consideration.

General Event Safety

AKDH are committed to providing and maintaining high health and safety standards by ensuring that all risks and hazards associated with the Event are adequately identified and managed to prevent harm.

The safety of the riders, officials, volunteers, and spectators have been included in the event planning. The event planning includes (but is not limited to) course inspections, course marking, directional signage, hazard warning signage, communications and first aid provisions.

Please refer to the Event RAMS document for further information.

Should you at any time over the course of this event note any hazards that could affect the event and attendees or experience an accident/incident please report this to the Event Manager or any race officials.

Key Safety Points:

The event course is designed for downhill mountain biking. Some parts of the course are grade 5 but there are features that include gap jumps, drops and chutes requiring a higher degree of technical ability, especially in wet conditions.

By participating in this event, you acknowledge that you have a sufficient level of experience and skill to ensure your safety.

It is your responsibility to manage your safety during the Event, to always be aware of others and to make responsible decisions.

The event is held in an outside environment and weather conditions can be very changeable at times. Please ensure that you are prepared for inclement, adverse or extreme (hot or cold) conditions.

If you withdraw from the race, you must advise an official and where possible report to the timing tent at the finish line.

In the case of an evacuation, all riders are required to exit the course and report to the Event Village to confirm their whereabouts.

Medical & Emergency

Onsite

AKDH will provide paramedics and a Medic vehicle at the Event Village for first aid support. For serious or life-threatening injuries, a Westpac Rescue Helicopter can land at the top of Kraack Road.

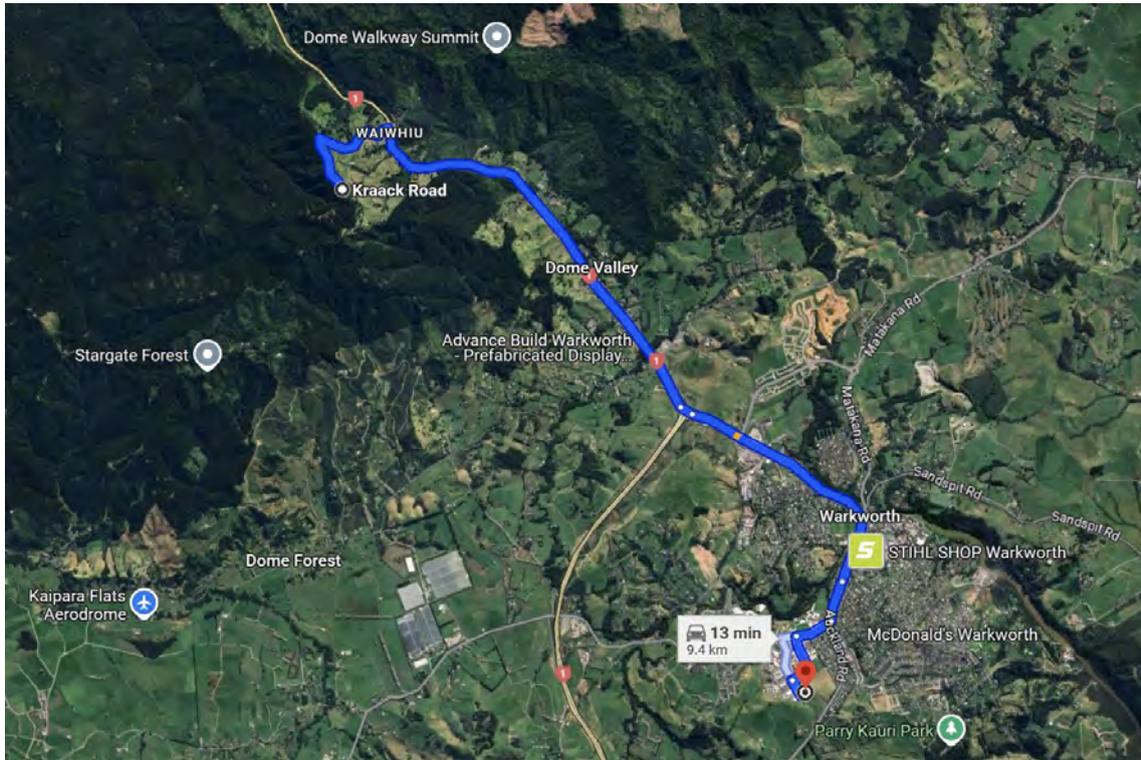
Offsite

For off-site medical assistance there are two conveniently located medical practices.

Health Point Warkworth Directions

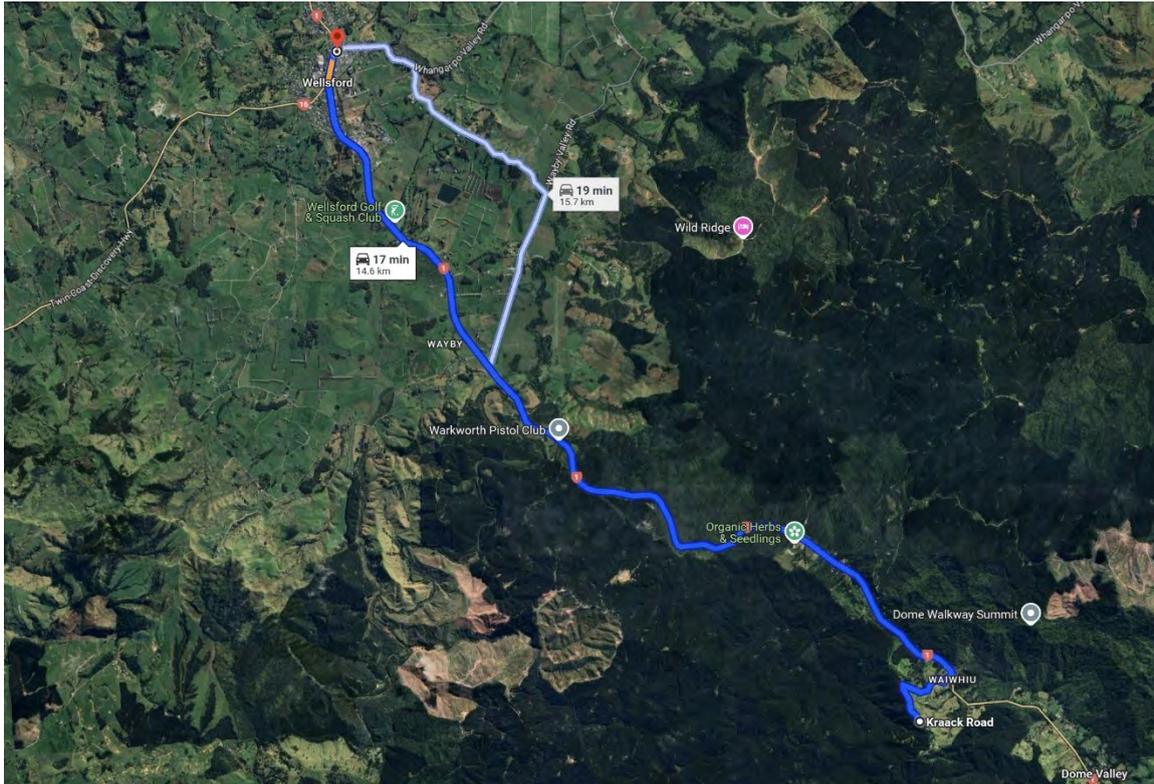
Participants heading south can visit Health Point Warkworth located at 77 Morrison Drive, Warkworth. This is approximately a 15-minute drive from the venue and provides a full range of medical and accident services including X-

ray. Opening hours are from 8:00am to 7.30pm weekdays and 8:00am to 4.30pm weekends and public holidays. Phone. (09) 425 8585



Wellsford Medical Centre Directions

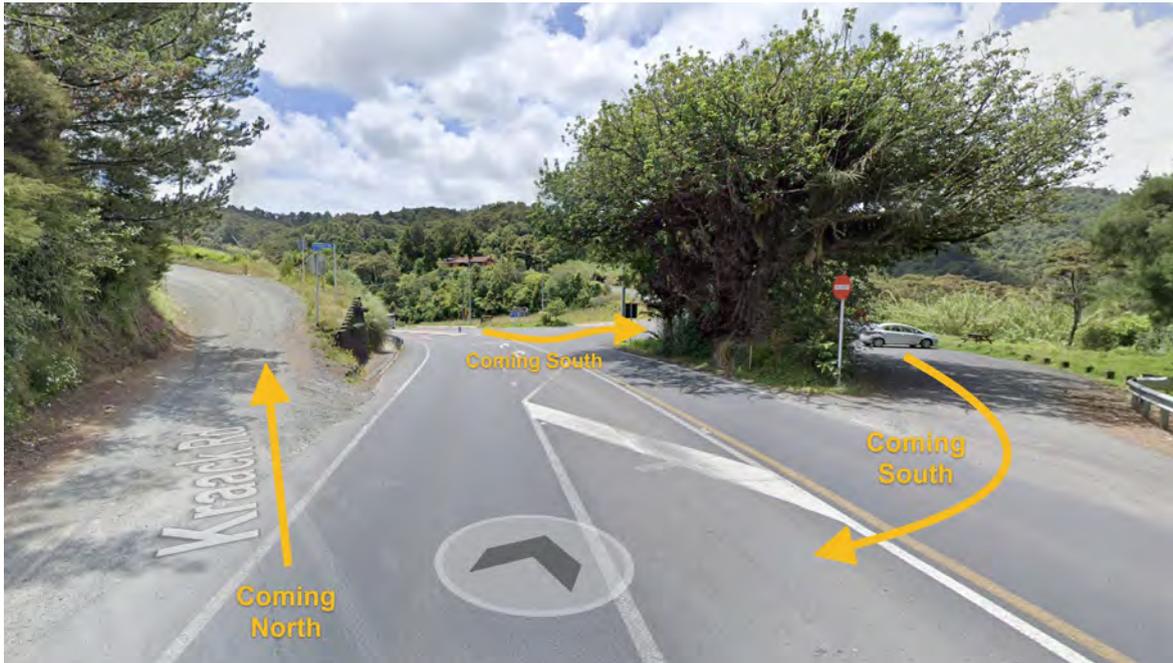
Participants heading North can visit Wellsford Medical Centre located at 220 Rodney Street, Wellsford. This is approximately a 17-minute drive from the venue and provides a full range of medical and accident services including X-ray. Opening hours are from 8:00am to 8:00pm weekdays and weekends. Phone: (09) 423 8086



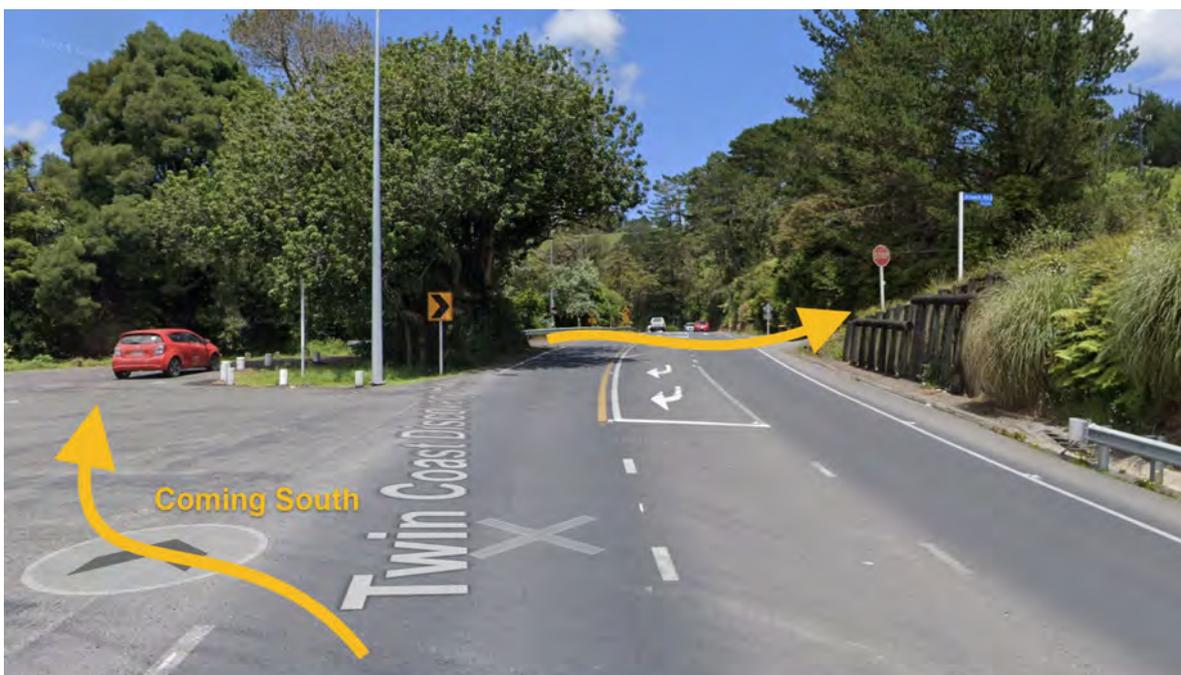
Event Location and Parking

Directions and Parking

Coming north: take the new motorway extension past Warkworth and stay on SH1 (left at the roundabout). Approx 2km on, near the top of dome valley, is the entrance to Kraack Road on the left-hand side - it's a single lane gravel road that just peels up to your left. There will be a black AKDH banner flag on the side of SH1 and event signage.



Coming south: please pull into the lay-by adjacent to the Dome café / Dome walkway carpark, then cross over into Kraack Road when the way is clear – otherwise the hard right-hand turn is too tight for most vehicles.



Follow Kraack Road to the very top, directly below the radio towers – please drive conservatively (30km/hr) on this road as there are several residents that we don't want to make enemies of! At the top you will pass through the forestry gate – please turn headlights on – and follow the various signs saying, "Mountain Bike Event".

Venue Entry

We have limited parking capacity at the Event Village, so encourage carpooling where possible.

As per the event schedule, the forestry gate will be open from 6:30am.

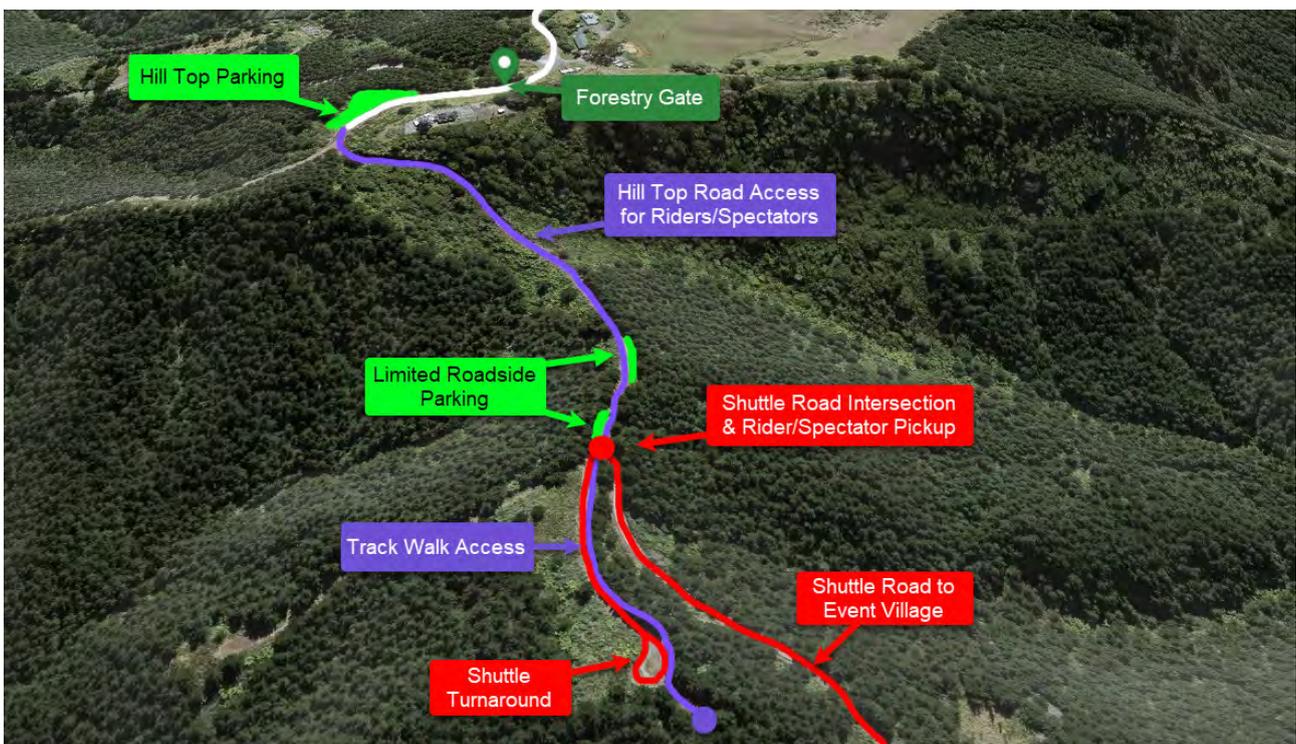
Event Village Access – Spectators, volunteers & riders will be allowed vehicle access to the Event Village on a first come, first served basis. There are approximately 40 vehicle spaces. A 4WD vehicle is recommended - lowered vehicles will bottom out on the shuttle road. If there is lots of rain in the week preceding, we ask that only 4WD vehicles access the shuttle road.

Note: You cannot drive to the Event Village, drop off riders, and then return back up the shuttle road. All vehicles entering the Event Village must remain for the duration of the event and will not be able to leave until after prizegiving is finished.

Vehicle access to Event Village will CLOSE approximately 7:45am or earlier as is determined by availability of spaces. Once full, all vehicles will be directed to Hill Top parking and there will be a short downhill walk/ride to the shuttle which will deliver you to the Event Village.

Hill Top Parking – For those with 2WD vehicles, who need to leave early or who missed the cut off for Event Village parking, you will be directed to stop at the top of the hill where parking is signposted (see illustration below). Riders and spectators can then walk and ride (approximately 300m) to the shuttle road intersection to load bikes & gear for delivery to the Event Village. Supporters and spectators are welcome to complete the track walk or ride in the shuttles.

Note: Riders should not attempt to complete the track walk if they arrive after 8am.



Venue Exit

At the conclusion of prizegiving the shuttle road will be opened back up to all vehicles and a different exit road will be opened part of the way down Kraak Road that exits out into SH1 further north into the Dome Valley, with a much safer transition on the busy (80km/hr) highway. Please DO NOT exit via Kraak Road to the Highway. Be safe!

Race Track Information

Track Access Pre-Race Day

Due to being a small club run entirely by volunteers, we won't be running any shuttles on the weekdays prior. However, AKDH holds regular MEMBER ONLY shuttle days on the weekends to provide easy access to the park's trails. Visit our website to sign up for scheduled shuttle days. We encourage you to join the club with a yearly subscription of \$50. This allows you to enter National Races using AKDH as your affiliated club and access all club shuttle days. More information can be found on the [AKDH website](#).

AKDH Ridgeline Downhill Track

A technical downhill with optional jumps and drops.

Length: 1220m

Decent: 200m

Trail map with Marshall positions.



Marshall Allocations

	Practice (AM) 8:30-12:00	Race (PM) 11:30-3:30
Marshall (Timing)		
Marshall (Riders)		
Marshall 1 (Schlappers Entry)		
Marshall 2 (1st Step Down & Step Up)		
Marshall 3 (Above 1st Chute)		
Marshall 4 (Road Crossing)		
Marshall 5 (Into the Whoops)		
Marshall 6 (Above 2nd Chute)		
Marshall 7 (Road Crossing)		
Marshall 8 (Doubles)		
Marshall 9 (Tree Section)		
Marshall 10 (Last Step Up & Gap Jump)		

Marshall Notes

Marshall 1 (Schlappers Entry): Ensure riders staying on the race line and not running over the corners – will be taped.

Marshall 2 (1st Step Down & Step Up): Relatively flat landing off the 1st step down, younger riders may land offline, especially in the wet. Riders may case the 1st step up if attempting to jump.

Marshall 3 (Above 1st chute): No major features in this area although chute leading down to road can be treacherous in the wet. Primary function of this role is to notify Marshall 5 a rider is approaching, so blow your whistle loud.

Marshall 4 (Road Crossing): Operating Stop/Go for Shuttle drivers. All vehicles give way to riders on track. Use whistle from Marshall 4 to aid timing.

Marshall 5 (Into the Whoops): Fast section with rutts, rocks and roots.

Marshall 6 (Above 2nd Chute): No major features in this area although off camber chute leading down to road is technical and will be treacherous in the wet. Primary function of this role is to notify Marshall 8 a rider is approaching, so blow your whistle loud.

Marshall 7 (Road Crossing): Operating Stop/Go for Shuttle drivers. All vehicles give way to riders on track. Use whistle from Marshall 7 to aid timing.

Marshall 8 (Doubles): Two jumps of which the second requires more speed to avoid casing. Relatively tight right hand berm which can be challenging in the wet.

Marshall 9 (Tree Section): Multiple lines with several prominent trees padded.

Marshall 10 (Last Step Up & Gap Jump): Need to keep an eye on the last two features of the course (last step up and gap jump) to ensure they are clear for the next rider.