

**IMPORTANT EVENT UPDATE: October 19, 2021**

To our runners,

It's been a tough end to 2021 and the on-going restrictions in place to manage the Covid-19 pandemic are not going away any time soon it seems. As an organisation, we've tried to be as nimble as possible in putting events back a few weeks here, a few weeks there, in the hope that things will change for the better. Sadly, in the short term, that appears highly unlikely.

Postponing an event is no easy task. Whilst the team at Running Events are ready to work night-and-day to get an event away, we do rely on three critical elements that are in finite supply and great demand: traffic management, medical services, and marshals. We cannot realistically expect these groups to continually block out their diary for a target race weekend and then change it repeatedly. Added to this, the Auckland events industry is now heading towards a summer where 7 or 8 months of events are going to have to squeeze – we hope! – into 2 or 3 summer months, putting further strain on those valuable resources.

For this reason, we've made the difficult decision to move our remaining 2021 events to new dates in the summer of 2022. We hope that the additional 3 months of breathing room will allow NZ to find a pathway out of covid restrictions and into some sort of new normal.

For the Auckland Half Marathon series, this means both the Devonport Half Marathon and Omaha Half Marathon are being rescheduled. The **2021 Devonport Half Marathon is now set for 27 February 2022** and the **2021 Omaha Half Marathon is now set for 27 March 2022**. This places all races in the series in a neat, two-week gap from each other. Five half marathons in two calendar months? Yes, you can!

We understand the new dates will not suit everyone. There will inevitably be clashes with other events, holidays or happenings. Please understand that we're doing the best we possibly can under difficult circumstances. By moving the dates out by months – rather than weeks – we're giving ourselves the best possible chance of being able to deliver without further changes. As always, if the date changes do not suit your personal circumstances, then virtual options (with medal and entry fee voucher) or transfers to other events are available. Full details are on the event web sites.

We know this news will be unwelcome, but it will probably not be surprising. This has been a tough end to the year for all Kiwis and for now, we just need to get our heads down and ride this thing out. There are two things that we ask all of you to do until we see you again in person;

1. keep on running,
2. if you have not already, please, please, please - get yourself vaccinated. It is clearly our best and fastest way to get back to doing what we love the most.

Take care and we'll see you again next year.

The Team @ Running Events