



grassroots
trust

Velodrome
New Zealand's Home of Cycling

2026 Information Pack

The Plus Mortgage Trust Battle of the Schools (BOTS) is BACK in 2026! This year, training starts in Term 2 on Sunday 10th May, with Race Day held on Saturday 20th June.

This exciting team challenge is a great way to compete with your friends while trying something new. The event combines track cycling, food trucks, music and prizes, plus a fun six-week training programme with our accredited coaches to get your team ready for race day.

Battle of the Schools is open to all students in Years 5 to 13 who are at least 135cm tall, whether you have ridden the track before or not. Our coaches will teach you the skills you need to ride safely and confidently, helping your team build speed and work together.

Your track accreditation (normally \$100 on its own) is included in the six-week training programme and entry fee. Once you complete the required skills, our coaches can sign you off so you can become a regular track rider and take part in more cycling (like our popular Junior Track programme) at the Grassroots Trust Velodrome.

Please read through the information provided. We can't wait for the fun to begin!

2026 Series Dates

- Entries close: 5pm Friday 24th April
- Training starts: Sunday 10th May (6 weeks of training)
- Race day: Saturday 20th June (details to follow)

Event Format and Training

Team Sprint – 750m

The team sprint is a three-lap race with three riders per team. Each rider leads for one lap before peeling off, leaving the final rider to complete the last lap. The team with the fastest time wins.

This format works well for beginners, as riders may complete one to three laps depending on the team order. Our Grassroots Trust Velodrome coaches will guide you through the skills and race format during the training sessions. Each team is guaranteed at least three races on event day.

Grassroots Trust Velodrome bikes and helmets are included in the entry fee and riders are encouraged to use them. Teams must have a minimum of three riders. A fourth rider is recommended as a reserve in case someone cannot attend, or to rotate riders during the different race rounds.

Rider Eligibility

- Each rider must attend the school they are representing
- Riders must be in school years 5-13 and 135cm tall
- Each rider must attend at least 5 of the 6 training sessions. Catch up sessions are available.
- Track accreditation is included in the six-week training programme. To receive accreditation, riders must complete all required skills during training. If a rider does not complete these requirements, they can still participate in BOTS but will need to complete additional steps before becoming a regular track rider.
- For more information about track accreditation, visit <https://www.velodrome.nz/track-accreditation/>

Categories

There are four rider categories:

AS: Accredited Senior Teams (Years 9-13) *minimum of 2 accredited riders per team*

AJ: Accredited Junior Teams (Years 5-8) *minimum of 2 accredited riders per team*

NS: Novice Senior Teams (Years 9-13) *maximum of 1 accredited rider per team*

NJ: Novice Junior Teams (Years 5-8) *maximum of 1 accredited rider per team*

Training Schedule

- Training runs over six weeks from 10th May to 19th June. Riders must attend at least five sessions.
- Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your session starts.
- If a session is missed, catch up sessions will be available closer to race day. Dates and times will be shared later.
- All riders in the same team must attend the same training time.
- When completing the registration form, each rider selects their preferred training times. A confirmation email will be sent once training times are finalised and we will do our best to accommodate your preferences.
- Please only select the Wednesday 12 to 1pm session if your school has approved attending during school hours. Out of town riders will be given priority where possible.

2026 Training Times:

You will be prompted to provide your top 3 training time choices when you register.

Monday: 6-7 am

Tuesday: 6-7 am

Wednesday: 12-1pm

Sunday: 9:30-10:30am, 10:30-11:30am, 11:30am-12:30pm, 12:30-1:30pm, 1:30-2:30pm

Equipment

If you have your own bike, you are welcome to use it for training and race day. **Gearing for the Team Sprint is 81" (48x16).** The bike must have standard spoked wheels. Velodrome bikes and helmets are included in the entry fee. You may bring your own helmet if you wish, although visors/peaks are not allowed.

Entry Costs

\$120.00 per rider

This cost includes:

- 6 weeks of training with our Grassroots Trust Velodrome accredited coaches
- Entry into 2025 Battle of the Schools Race Day on Saturday 20th June
- Completed accreditation (worth \$100)
- Helmet and bike use
- A special event keepsake
- Prizes and spot prizes!

How to Enter

Head to our Battle of the Schools event page (<https://www.velodrome.nz/battle-of-the-schools/>) and click ENTER NOW.

You will need some pre-organized information to fill in the entry form.

- Team Name
- Each team mates first and last name
- Your preferred team training time
- Your team's category (*refer to the categories paragraph on page 3*)
- Payment will be processed for each individual rider

Poster Competition

This year, we are excited to announce a new poster competition! We are inviting our junior riding community to design the special event poster for the chance to win a free entry to Battle of the Schools plus other prizes. We're channeling concert poster vibes and creating a special keepsake for all riders on race day! See the event website for more details.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about Battle of the Schools, please get in touch with our team:

Junior Program Co-Ordinator Dan: dan.gardner@velodrome.nz

Marketing and Events Manager Lizzy lizzy.crouch@velodrome.nz

We look forward to seeing you on the track!