



Little
Athletics
Victoria

2024
NEW ZEALAND
DEVELOPMENT TOUR

AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND

3RD-10TH JANUARY
2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

The 2024 New Zealand Development Tour is an exciting opportunity for athletes from Little Athletics Victoria (LAVic) in the Under 14 and Under 15 age groups. Selected athletes will spend 7 days touring with the LAVic team and will compete at the 2024 North Island "Colgate Games" in Auckland.

Little Athletics Queensland have been attending the South Island Colgate Games for several years and have spoken very highly of the benefits of this tour, not only for athletic development, but also for the social and emotional development it provides to their athletes. Athletes of all skill levels are encouraged to apply as this tour provides a development opportunity for all athletes, regardless of their skill level.

This document provides you with details about the tour, from competition and training information to the team composition and the costs to attend.

Details of how to nominate are listed at the back of this document. If you wish to be considered for selection, simply complete the online nomination form **before 11am on Friday 29th September 2023**.

TEAM COMPOSITION

A team of up to 36 athletes will be selected for the tour. All athletes will need to be registered financial members with LAVic for the 2023-24 season.

Ideally, the 36 athletes will be spread evenly across the 2 age groups (U14 & U15) with 18 from each age group and an even split of 18 Boys and 18 Girls. Where insufficient nominations are received in any of the above age groups or genders, then additional positions may be made available in other age groups/genders.

The team will be accompanied by an experienced Management/Coaching Team of 6 adults (minimum of 2 of each gender) who will be responsible for the Team for the duration of the trip.

Parents are welcome to attend the competition but will not travel or stay with the team.

Selection of the Team is at the discretion of LAVic, and all selection decisions are final. The following selection criteria will be used as a guide by LAVic when selecting the team:

- Athletes that have displayed exemplary behaviour at Centre, Region and State Competitions.
- Commitment to Little Athletics.
- Longevity of service and involvement in Little Athletics.

Winning/Placing at LAVic sanctioned events or being selected as a member of the LAVic State Team or previous tours does not guarantee selection in the Team.

Parents of **Multi-Class athletes** interested in attending, should contact Brett Johnstone (brett.johnstone@lavic.com.au) prior to lodging an application to discuss the suitability of this trip for their child as the Colgate Games do offer Multi-Class events but with limited events/attendance.

TOUR ITINERARY

The following is a basic itinerary for the tour. A more detailed day-to-day itinerary will be provided to athletes and parents once the team has been selected.

Wed 3 rd January	Depart Melbourne for Auckland
Thurs 4 th January	Training and activities in Auckland
Fri 5 th January	Competition – Day 1
Sat 6 th January	Competition – Day 2
Sun 7 th January	Competition – Day 3
Mon 8 th January	Recovery and activities in Auckland
Tues 9 th January	Activities in Auckland
Wed 10 th January	Shopping & Return to Melbourne

COMPETITION & TRAINING DETAILS

The Team will be competing in the North Island Colgate Games, which is run by Athletics New Zealand. These Games are the largest on the New Zealand Children's Athletics calendar with several hundred athletes competing. The competition will be held over three days in Auckland, from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th January 2024.

The competition is conducted under full World Athletics Rules, not Little Athletics modified Rules. A complete list of events and specifications is included further in this document.

As well as individual events, each age group can participate in two team relays – 4 x 100m (male and female) and a mixed gender Medley Relay (5 athletes - 100m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m).

Athletes are expected to compete in all events they have been nominated for (maximum 5 individual events + 1 relay per athlete). When athletes are not competing, athletes will assist at times on the arena as volunteers where required.

The team will have a light training session on the Thursday before the competition and a recovery session on the Monday after competition. All athletes are expected to participate in these sessions.

COSTS

Final costs are yet to be finalised but will be made available when offers of places are sent to athletes. At this stage, it would appear that the cost is **likely to be around \$3,500 per athlete** which will cover the following:

- Return airfares from Melbourne to Auckland
- All ground transportation costs in New Zealand
- Travel Insurance
- 7 nights' Accommodation
- All meals for the duration of the trip
- Competition Fees
- Uniforms
- Tours and other sightseeing activities

The only money that athletes would require is personal spending money (they may wish to purchase souvenirs and we will take them shopping on the final day).

Applications close on Friday 29th September, and we expect to send offers on Monday 2nd October. Once athletes have been selected in the team, they are required to pay a \$1,000 deposit to confirm their place by Friday 13th October. The balance of the tour cost will be payable by Friday 17th November.

Note that the tour will depart from and return to Melbourne airport and travel to and from Melbourne airport is the responsibility of the family and is not included in the cost of the tour.

PASSPORTS

All tour members are required to have a valid Australian passport with at least 6 months validity beyond the return date of the trip (i.e., not expiring before 10th July 2024). If you do not already have a passport, it is your responsibility to get one before departure. The costs of obtaining a passport are not included in the overall cost of the trip.

To apply for a passport, visit www.passports.gov.au or speak to your local Post Office. There can be lengthy delays in obtaining passports at times, so it is suggested that you start this process immediately. It is worth noting that if you are applying for a new passport (not a renewal) then you will be required to provide an original birth certificate along with any supporting documents if you have changed your name at any stage.

If you have a passport that is another Nationality other than Australian, it is your responsibility to ensure that any Visa requirements are met and paid for prior to departure. If you are in this situation, please contact Brett Johnstone (brett.johnstone@lavic.com.au) to discuss.

TEAM MEETINGS

We will likely arrange a Team “meet and greet” prior to departure and all Team Members will be expected to attend. Some provision may be made for athletes living in Regional Victoria. The purpose of this meeting will be for the athletes to meet and get to know each other before going away. It also provides athletes and parents an opportunity to meet your Team Managers before departure.

We will also arrange online (Teams/Zoom etc) meetings as required to enable parents and athletes to ask any questions that they may have.

COLGATE GAMES INFORMATION

Athletes may select up to five (5) individual events at the Colgate Games, which can be Track or Field or a combination of both. Once the final timetable is known, some changes may need to be made to athlete event selections to avoid clashes or overloading the athletes. Please note that the majority of track events have Heats and Finals (and in some instances Semi-Finals).

LAVic will also be selecting some athletes to form Relay Teams in the 4x100m and Mixed Medley Relays.

Athletics New Zealand use the term "Grade" when describing their age groups. "Grade 14" is the equivalent to our Under 15 age group and "Grade 13" is the equivalent of our Under 14 age group. Events available for each Age Group are as follows:

Event	Under 14 (born 2010)	Under 15 (born 2009)
100m	√	√
200m	√	√
400m	√	√
800m	√	√
1500m	√	√
Hurdles	√ Girls 80m / Boys 80m	√ Girls 80m / Boys 100m
Race Walk	√ 1600m	√ 2000m
Long Jump	√	√
High Jump	√	√
Discus	√ Girls 1kg / Boys 1kg	√ Girls 1kg / Boys 1.25kg
Shot Put	√ Girls 3kg / Boys 4kg	√ Girls 3kg / Boys 5kg

HOW TO NOMINATE

If you wish to be considered for selection, please click on the “NOMINATE NOW” button below and complete the online nomination form.

The online **nominations close at 11am on Friday 29th September** and no late nominations will be accepted. LAVic will then consider the nominations and advise all applicants of the outcome by 5pm on Monday 2nd October. In the event that one or more athletes offered a place decline their invitation, then additional offers may be made to those that initially missed out.

NOMINATE NOW

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about the Tour, please contact Brett Johnstone via email at brett.johnstone@lavic.com.au or phone (03) 9960 8609 during LAVic business hours (9am to 5pm weekdays).

Further information about the Colgate Games, including the 2023 Event Information can be found at [Colgate Games | Athletics - NZ \(kidsathletics.nz\)](https://kidsathletics.nz). This site will be updated as 2024 Games information becomes available.