

New Zealand Goldpanning Championship Rules

The rules for the NZ Goldpanning Competitions are based on the competition rules set by the World Goldpanning Association. They have been adapted for New Zealand conditions and limitations that are necessary due to the resources available. Where there is no Rule set specifically for NZ Competitions the relevant Rule set by the World Goldpanning Association will be that which applies.

The Rules are reviewed annually by the NZ Goldpanning Committee (the Committee), a group formed as a sub-committee of the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust. There is an annual meeting in March each year at which the committee is reconfirmed and roles confirmed by those present. Committee membership is open to all current or previous competitors and length of service of Committee members will normally be 2 years with an ability to be re-nominated for the next term. The Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and any other office bearers are appointed by the members of the newly formed Committee.

The NZ Goldpanning Championships will be held annually at a suitable venue on an agreed date each year.

Competition Rules

1. Gold Pan Dimensions

The dimensions for competitors' pans must conform to the following allowances:

1. Maximum diameter is 500mm.
2. Maximum height (depth) is 150mm
3. Internal overhang or grooves in pan must not exceed 15mm.

No other equipment or devices are permitted to be used in conjunction with the gold pan.

2. Number and size of pieces of gold and collection bottles

1. The gold used for the competition will be at least 18 carat with a minimum uniform size of 1.0mm.
2. The number of flakes in each category will be the same.
3. All heats will have a minimum of 5 flakes and maximum of 12 flakes per competitor.
4. All finals will have a minimum of 7 flakes and a maximum of 12 flakes per competitor.
5. Teams' events will have a minimum average of 5 flakes per competitor and a maximum of 8. The total number of flakes per team may be distributed unevenly across competitors.
6. The gold flakes will be seeded into each competitor's bucket of sand out of sight of competitors.
7. The number of flakes in each category must not be known until the end of all the heats.
8. Clean water will be provided for each competitor's tube (bottle).

3. Sand and Gravel

1. The sand and gravel for each category will be the same mix and weight for each round.
2. Normally all skilled classes of adult competitors will each receive a minimum of 10kg and a maximum of 15kg of mix and children's' classes will be a minimum of 5kg and a maximum of 7kg.
3. When practicable, there will be a blend of sand and gravel mix with mix of 5 parts sand to 2 parts gravel.

4. Timekeeping and Penalties

1. For each competitor there will be an allocated timekeeper who will be responsible for keeping an accurate account of the time taken by the competitor and also ensuring the observance with the competition rules.
2. Each competitor is responsible for filling their own tube with water and placing it in the holder prior to panning commencing.
3. The competitor is to collect their allocated bucket of gravel and place it on or adjacent to the wooden support.
5. Prior to the event starting the timekeeper must ensure that their competitor has a clean and empty gold pan and that they have confirmed with them that their stop watch is starting at zero.
6. The event starter will ask each competitor if they are ready prior to starting the event.
7. The event will be started by three commands:

1. **Take your place** – At this command panners will be at their tub and preparing to start.
2. **Get Ready** – Panners should now be positioned ready to start, but they are not permitted to be touching their bucket or pan.
3. **A start command or signal** – The start command may be verbal command or device to signal start of panning and the competitors may commence panning from that moment. Timing devices will be activated at this point and will be running continuously until the individual correctly signals their competition.
8. The timekeepers will stop their devices at the moment the panner correctly signals they have completed panning by taking the actions described below. Stopwatches will not be reset until they have been agreed between timekeeper and competitor and noted on the entry form.
9. In the event of a false start by any competitor the event will be restarted.

5. Panning

1. Competitors may assume any position they wish to wash the gravel from their pans. They may stand in the tubs if approval has been given by the event judge on the day. However this will depend on the location and stability of the tubs.
2. Using only the water in the tubs and their pans, the competitors must wash the gravel from their buckets and extract the gold as quickly as they can.
3. Competitors may remove the gold flakes from their pans at any time.
4. Gravel already washed from the pan and gravel spilled from the bucket or pan must not be introduced or washed. Competitors will face instant disqualification for this offence.
5. It is not necessary for a competitor to wash gravel from their pan prior to capping their tube or bottle however, once signalling they have finished, gravel in the pan must be emptied prior to judging.
6. When a competitor has finished panning they must:
 1. Close the tube or bottle by securing the lid.
 2. Raise their gold pan above their head – at which point their time is stopped and from this point on the competitor must not remove the lid from the tube or bottle.
 3. Place the tube or bottle in their pan. Agree time taken with timekeeper and number of flakes in the bottle, then leave the panning area.
 4. The maximum panning time allowed is 10 minutes and the panners must cease panning at that point. Panning time for the Team event is maximum of 15 minutes.

7. Judging Procedures

1. The timekeeper and the competitor must agree on the number of flakes of gold in the tube or bottle. This is normally achieved prior to entering the judging area and the process involves the competitor counting the flakes in the sealed tube or bottle and nominating the figure to the timekeeper. The timekeeper will agree or if unsure will request a count to be made at the judging point.
2. If there is any dispute regarding the number of flakes in the bottle or tube, the flakes will be placed from the bottle or tube into a pan or other suitable container and the flakes counted in the presence of the competitor, the timekeeper and an independent judging official.
3. When the number of flakes is determined by the judge and the timekeeper in the presence of the competitor, the figure will be entered on the record sheet along with the time recorded when the competitor signalled they had completed gold recovery.
4. A time penalty of three (3) minutes for each and every unrecovered flake will be added to the recorded completion time to establish a final recorded time.
5. The collated panning and penalty times will be the official recorded times for each competitor in each event.
6. Normally, when the competitor recovers more gold than was placed in the gravel, they will be disqualified. However, if it is obvious that a seeding error has occurred (such as when a competitor recovers twice the seeded number) the competitor may be offered the opportunity to complete in another heat or, if this is not possible, they may be awarded the recorded time achieved, subject to the approval of the judging official.
7. When “native” gold may have been recovered, the judging official will determine and rule on the validity of the event/round if the numbers of flakes recovered exceeds the number seeded. When “native” gold is recovered and the number of seeded flakes is not exceeded, the total of the recovered seeded gold is to be counted and the “native” gold excluded.

8. Disputes Procedure

1. When there is any dispute related to the counting of the gold flakes the judging official will make the final decision which will be binding.
2. When a dispute involves the possible recovery of "native" gold, the judging official will rule on the eligibility of the recovery based on advice received and the decision will be final.
3. If there is a dispute over panning times the Event referee may consult with the timekeeper(s), other competitors and refer to records of the event in Order to resolve the issue. When no resolution is possible, the competitor may have the opportunity to pan in another heat, or if that is not possible, the time credited will be determined as accurately as possible using other means and this will be the final decision.
4. When any other issue or dispute arises it will be referred to the Disputes Panel for the event. This group will be formed by the judging official, a senior competitor and a timekeeper. The decisions of the Disputes Panel will be binding.

9. Competition Classes

1. Open
2. Men
3. Women
4. Veteran – 60 or over on day of competition
5. Under 16 – under 16 on day of competition
6. Under 13 – under 13 on day of competition
7. Have-a-Go – inexperienced panners.
8. Traditional Pan – pans supplied
9. Team Event – 3 per team

1,2,3,4,5 are championship events and qualify for entry to the NZ Championships.

10. Finals

Number of entrants in each category in final:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Open | 8 |
| 2. Men | 4 |
| 3. Women | 4 |
| 4. Veteran | 4 |
| 5. Under 16 | 4 |
| 6. Traditional | 8 |
| 7. Team | straight final 8 |

No finals for Have-A-Go and Under 13. Fastest times from heats win.

11. New Zealand Championship

Winners of events 1 to 5 gain entry to the NZ Championships along with the fastest finalists across all 5 events. To fill to 8 entrants.

12. Trophies and Prizes Entitlements and Redemption

1. In order to qualify for the NZ Championship prize of travel to the Australasian Championship the winner must be resident in NZ. To claim the prize the winner must present proof of purchase of travel tickets and accommodation to the Australasian Championship. Attendance must be at the next Australasian Championship event after the NZ event is held unless there are extenuating circumstances and the decision is taken by the committee to allow the prize to be deferred.
2. It is the responsibility of each trophy winner to get their trophy engraved with the year and their name at their own cost.
3. Trophies are to be returned on, or before, the day of the next event. They are required to be polished and engraved.