

ANALYZED RESPONSES FROM THE SURVEY OF 2023 AMA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Q1 - Are you Female/Male/Other

Answer Choices	Responses	
Male	55.56%	120
Female	44.44%	96
Other	0%	0
Total Respondents:		216

Q2 - What age group were you in at the time of the Championships?

Answer Choices	Responses	
30-34	3.70%	8
35-39	5.56%	12
40-44	5.56%	12
45-49	9.72%	21
50-54	19.44%	42
55-59	12.04%	26
60-64	10.19%	22
65-69	11.11%	24
70-74	9.72%	21
75-79	7.87%	17
80+	5.09%	11
Total Respondents:		216

Q3 – Why did you enter these Championships?

Responses – 213

Some thought this an odd question

- Improve my throwing distances and to win
- Fun, fitness, participation, comraderie, improve personal bests
- Progression through the season – country, state and national
- Wanted an opportunity to break some NZ records
- Challenge myself – something to train for, took up athletics
- They were in Sydney, so thought they would enter
- I'm still fit and competitive – age is no barrier
- Great way to meet interstate colleagues and friends each year
- Wanted to compete at National level
- Wanted to compete in my favourite events
- I enter every year – it's an important event
- Love the experience, test myself against the best in the country
- To beat my interstate rivals
- Compete against women in my age group, win medals and improve
- Be a mentor for my kids and those kids I coach

- This was my first Nationals – know others competing and could share accommodation costs
- Been out of athletics for a long time, lost confidence and was anxious – wanted to challenge myself doing something I love
- New age group, returning to the sport, compete at high level
- To work as a volunteer
- Very little competition in NZ
- Never done Masters at National level, close to Canberra
- Motivation and a goal to work towards
- Was in Australia
- Cheaper than going to Saipan for the Oceania masters Champs
- Wanted to run at SOPAC
- As a preparation for World Championships

Q4 – If you did enter, but did not end up competing, would you share your reasons (eg injury/illness/travel concerns)?

Responses: 77

- Injury
- Injured during the competition, stayed on to help
- Couldn't wait four hours between 60m and 100m
- Tested positive to Covid just before the competition
- Dropped out of 100m due to many events with heats
- Anxious about the marshalling area
- Volunteered

Q5 – How did you travel to the town of the Championships?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Car	53.24%	115
Plane	36.57%	79
Train	7.87%	17
Not Applicable	6.02%	13
Other	2.31%	5
Walked	1.39%	3
Bike	0.46%	1
Total Respondents:		216

Q6 – Did you stay longer to do anything else? How many days did you stay before and after the event and what did you do?

Responses: 197

- Visited family and friends
- Explored national parks, ferry jumped, sight seeing
- Shopping
- Sydney Track Classic

Q7 – What events did you compete in?

Responses: 212

- Across the board
- All the throws
- One or two events

Q8 – How did you rate the athletics facilities you used (eg: the road walks course, the XC course, the throwing cages, the jump pits)?

Responses: 205 – 165 responses were either good, excellent, great etc

Positive	Negative
Mostly good –	Lack of electronic timing at WUT
Grateful there were PV poles available, but would have been nice for more options	Took 10 days to get Pentathlon results
Excellent	Throwing cages not to standard expected at this level
Great	One cage dangerous, circles need renewing
Fantastic	Hammer cage not up to standard at WUT – couldn't adjust for LH throwers, broken
Track was good	Toilets a little stinky
Anything I used seemed to be in good working order	Surprised by smallish size of arena – no change rooms
Very happy with the throwing facilities	PV uprights not in good working order – no drop-down bars for those starting at lower heights
Good except no electronic timing at WUT	Starting blocks old and mutilated
Cross Country course was great	No water at jump pit – sand too dry
OK	Technical failures with measuring, limited warmups
Loved the WUT for throwing – it was peaceful	No range of shot-put sizes, poor range of discus during comp
Good quality facilities overall	More shade at the jump sites and start
Fabulous	Shortage of officials
Main track fabulous, cross country hard as it should be	More toilets, shelter, and change rooms at the XC
Road walk course excellent	Disappointed to see main track empty when events could have been there instead of WUT. No atmosphere or sense of achievement at WUT. Expensive trip for that.
	The star of the 1500m at WUT was from the wrong line
	XC unsafe due to wet conditions
	Not a lot of planning went into the walks course
	Hard to move between venues for both the throws and field pentathlons
	Road walk times and placings were wrong

Q9 – How did you rate the equipment (if any) provided/used for your events?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Poor	4.83%	10
Acceptable	14.98%	31
Good	51.21%	106
Not applicable	28.99%	60
Total Respondents:		207

Q10 – Were you happy with the programming of events at the Championships?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Very satisfied	32.24%	69
Satisfied	48.13%	103
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	12.62%	27
Dissatisfied	5.61%	12
Very dissatisfied	1.40%	3
Total Respondents:		214

Q11 – What could be improved?

Responses: 130

- Nil, no issues
- Evening times for 5000m & 10000m – should not be run in hot conditions/time of the year
- Electronic timing needs to be provided for all races/events
- Results need to be provided immediately after finishing the events, especially the combined events
- More officials
- Medal ceremonies need to be done on ground
- Provide some fruit (bananas for example) to the athletes after finishing an event – to meet the extra cost, an extra \$5 can be charged at time of registration
- Must provide water after finishing an event
- Clash of events needs to be avoided
- More vendors and sponsors on display
- Perhaps the organisers could outsource some of their volunteer work to lessen the stress
- The LOC went out of their way to be helpful, especially with event clashes
- Ensure all officials are aware of needs of masters athletes and are expected to be able to judge a throw properly
- Don't threaten throwers with limits of throws when there are obvious gaps of time in the program and the four days finish early
- No electronic timing and only one person with a stopwatch at the WUT was the biggest failure I've ever seen in an athletics competition. Heartbreaking to say the least
- Evening races for longer distances
- Greater visibility of athletes scratching
- If finals are scheduled but not required (on the day), the final should be at the heat time

- There was insufficient time between my 200m, high jump and 4x100m relay
- It wasn't beginner friendly on the day – I was a little lost where to go just before the events
- Long way to park for some and reimbursement for parking costs was not clear for some athletes
- Longer races as early as possible – end of March in warmer states
- Food at WUT
- Have it all at one venue – better atmosphere
- Have sprint hurdles before sprints – fresh legs for hurdle races
- Have the 10000m on day 4
- Ensure starting blocks are safe and in good working order
- Relay organisation
- Run the 200m sprint on same day as 60 and 100
- Program of events needs to be finalised much earlier
- Updates to schedule to be delivered via digital means
- Throwing events closer together
- Don't have two races on at the same time (1500m going and 400m races started)
- 60m before the 200m
- Very happy with event and timetable
- Sunday afternoon dead – hardly anyone there
- Spread the sprints out more
- Misinformation in shuttle bus as driver didn't know anything about it & did not know where SOPAC was
- Unable to sign in for events online as I didn't have a local Aust cell phone number
- The 1500m and 2000m Steeplechase are always on the same day – more difficult to perform well in both as you get older
- Quality of implements
- Timed finals for all the sprints
- Not having 60m and 100m on same day
- Medal availability and presentation – winners couldn't find out when medals would be handed out. Bemused by low key nature of presentations
- I prefer over Easter
- No timing clock for 10000m at WUT
- Live streaming for public to follow
- Don't put middle distance events close together
- Lack of communication regarding no heats and going to a straight final
- Clearer communication about event location
- Commentary at both venues
- Appreciated the early times for the 10k road walk
- Event could have run a lot quicker. 4 days is way too long. * Improved communication for relays. I didn't know I was required till the last minute and left the track. I therefore couldn't compete. * Have the event at a smaller venue/city/town, it felt empty the whole weekend, no vibe at all. Create more of a festival vibe, add more music playing etc. Start hosting it at well connected Australian city's e.g., Wollongong, Gold Coast, Canberra, Newcastle. More holiday type venues, you'll get more people registering because they'll come for the holiday

with their family. * Send invites or incentives for elite level older athletes to compete. There are a lot of athletes now '30-50' that can compete at Open State & National level that see this event as low profile. I noticed this year a big step up in Sprinters, it would be great to see faster/eliter people compete.

- Clear rules around relays
- Some music at venues when track is quiet
- Too long to wait for the final after running the heats
- Worth looking at the Victorian results hub

Q12 – Would you prefer the 10km Walk, Cross Country be held separately from these Nationals?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	10.53%	22
No	21.05%	44
Does not apply to me	68.42%	143
Total Respondents:		209

Q13 – Combined Events – would you prefer the Throws Pentathlon and the Outdoor Pentathlon be held separately from these Nationals?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	9.86%	21
No	30.05%	64
Does not apply to me	60.09%	128
Total Respondents:		213

Q14 – Would you like to see the smaller States and territories able to join forces to allow more teams to compete?

Responses: 162

Yes – 118

No – 20

Does not apply to me - 22

Add a mixed 4x200mrelay

Adjust the age bands

Q15 – Did you use the on-line check-in app?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	83.64%	179
No	16.36%	35
Total Respondents:		214

Q16 – Did the manual check-in work as a backup for you? If no, what could be improved?

Responses: 133

- Yes, because the on-line system could not cope with phone numbers of NZ athletes
- Yes, as not all athletes received the online app – manual was good
- It didn't work for all events, but it was great when it did
- Not great
- Old phone

- Didn't work – 1500m check-in was annoying and confusing with every official saying something similar, but not helpful at all
- Improve on-line app
- Information given out was often confusing
- Couldn't undo something if you pressed the wrong button, but could be fixed with manual check-in
- Quite a few N/A answers, but most responses were 'yes' and keep both systems

Q17 – With so many heats nit being warranted, would you prefer all sprints as timed finals

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	43.72%	80
No	56.28%	103
Total Respondents:		183

Q18 – Registration process at SOPAC – how would you rate the process at the venue?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Poor	0.48%	1
Acceptable	13.53%	28
Good	42.03%	87
Very good	43.96%	91
Total Respondents:		207

Q19 – Results posting – how would you rate the live results posting?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Poor	22.54%	48
Acceptable	25.82%	55
Good	36.15%	77
Very good	13.15%	28
Not applicable	2.35	5
Total Respondents:		213

Q20 – Officials – how would you rate the officials?

Responses: 209

- Extremely good
- OK
- Excellent
- Amazing
- Brilliant and hard-working
- Good
- Very good
- Fair and polite
- Fantastic
- Good humour in times of stress
- Friendly, helpful and accommodating
- Some poor javelin judges
- Knowledgeable – under pressure and lacking support from volunteers

- Very good and professional at the sites, but rude and arrogant at the results room. Not able to give any help every time I attempted to check points
- Only three judges in the 1500m walk when there should have been five
- The lap counter in the 5000m made an error and jumped from lap seven to lap five.
- When I was told I only had one lap to go, I actually had two.
- Wind gauge readings should be automatic at Nationals in jump events
- Inadequate number of officials
- Positions and running the throws event needs to be looked at – poorly positioned
- Inappropriate behaviour of an official to a volunteer at the Discus ON WUT. Told volunteer they had marked the wrong spot for a throw, even though he was not very close to see the landing mark
- Frustrating when official told us that the medals for the Cross Country were at the main stadium, when they were at the start site.

Q21 – Did you attend the coaches forum? How could we improve the forum?

Responses: 190

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	6.84%	13
No	81.05%	154
Not applicable	12.10%	23
Total Respondents:		190

- Would be better to have in an actual room – less distractions and less noisy
- Limit attendees to one question
- Excellent – great speakers
- Guest speakers not accredited coaches, currently in Masters Athletics

Q22 – Did you attend the awards function? How could we improve the awards function?

Responses: 190

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	13.15%	25
No	75.26%	143
Not applicable	11.57%	22
Total Respondents:		190

- More food
- Insufficient comfortable seating
- Awards went well
- Limit time for speeches and presentations
- PowerPoint photos excellent
- Went well
- Expensive for finger food – cold
- One screen not working
- Have livestreaming
- Didn't like the venue
- Overall function needs improving
- Speeches too long
- Prefer a dinner

- No entertainment
- No recipients
- Better PA system
- Good
- Too expensive
- Suggest paying people to MC, ensure technical is working

Q23 – Did you find the program book helpful?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	25.36%	53
No	2.39%	5
Did not order one – preferred to use the online version	53.11%	111
Did not realise I needed to purchase one when I entered	19.14%	40
Total Respondents:		209

Q24 – Were you happy with the merchandise system using team Elite?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	84.12%	143
No	15.88%	27
Total Respondents:		170

Q25 – Did you enjoy the National Championships?

Responses: 211 plus comments

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	89.57%	189
No	6.16%	13
Total Respondents:		211

- Bibs were excellent
- Disappointed overseas athletes were not recognised as coming from off-shore (unattached)
- Disappointed with unprofessional staff and not knowing results until next day
- Issues with \$60 uniforms
- Medals not handed out on day
- There are Championship rules and they must be followed
- Insufficient number of officials
- Parking
- Slow with results
- Have all events in one stadium
- 10k road walk – poor planning of officials, no shelter, nowhere to safely put bags and personal items
- Contrary to program, men and women started together
- Chief walks judge lacked confidence – appeared unaware of rules
- Insufficient announcing – sprints got it all

Q26 – Will you attend further similar events? Would you encourage other masters aged athletes to come and compete at them?

Responses: 213

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, I will attend	89.57%	207
Yes, I do encourage others		54
No, I won't attend further ones	6.16%	6
No, I won't encourage others		1
Total Respondents:		213

- Limited financially
- No electronic timing – won't come if you can't make certain it will be there
- Not at Easter