

2027

NEW ZEALAND

DEVELOPMENT TOUR

Whangārei,

NEW ZEALAND

6th-13th January 2027

GENERAL INFORMATION

The 2027 New Zealand Development Tour represents an exciting new milestone, offering a fantastic opportunity for athletes from Little Athletics South Australia (LASA) in the Under 14 and Under 15 age groups (**Born in 2013 & 2012**). For the very first time, LASA will be joining forces with Little Athletics Victoria (LAVic) for this joint venture. Selected athletes will spend 7 days touring with the team and will compete at the 2027 North Island “Colgate Games” in Whangārei.

While this marks the 3rd year Little Athletics Victoria have offered this Development Tour, it is the inaugural year for Little Athletics South Australia.

Athletes of all skill levels are encouraged to apply, as this tour is designed fundamentally as a development opportunity for all participants, regardless of their current athletic performance.

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 end of this document. If you wish to be considered for selection, simply complete the online nomination form *before 12:00PM August 31*.

TEAM COMPOSITION

A team of up to 12 athletes will be selected for the tour from Little Athletics South Australia to join the LAVic contingent. All athletes will need to be registered financial members with SALAA for the 2026-27 season prior to departure.

Ideally, the 12 athletes will be spread evenly across the 2 age groups (U14 & U15) with 6 from each age group and an even split of 6 Boys and 6 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 who will be responsible for the Team for the duration of the trip.

Selection of the Team is at the discretion of SALAA, and all selection decisions are final. The following selection criteria will be used as a guide by LASA 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 LASA sanctioned events or being selected as a member of a State Team or previous tours does not guarantee selection in the Team.

Parents of *Multi-Class athletes* interested in attending, should contact Little Athletics South Australia 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 very 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.

Date	Schedule & Activities
Wed 6th January	Depart Adelaide for Auckland. Drive to Whangārei.
Thurs 7th January	Training and activities in Whangārei,
Fri 8th January	Competition – Day 1
Sat 9th January	Competition – Day 2
Sun 10th January	Competition – Day 3
Mon 11th January	Recovery and return to Auckland. Activities in Whangārei and/or Auckland.
Tues 12th January	Activities in Auckland
Wed 13th January	Shopping in Auckland & Return to Adelaide

PARENTAL/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Parents/Family are more than welcome to book the same flights as the team, attend the Games as spectators and sit with the team during the event. Younger siblings (7yo and older) can enter events under their LASA Centre if they would like to participate too. LAVic & LASA will organise a dinner for the Tuesday night that family are also welcome to attend. For the remainder of the trip, it is “team only”

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 Whangārei, from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th January 2027.

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). All athletes will be given an opportunity to compete in at least one relay event.

Athletes are expected to compete in all events they have been nominated for (maximum 5 individual events + 1 or 2 relays per athlete).

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

The final cost per athlete is yet to be determined as we are awaiting final quotes but is expected to be approximately **\$3,500 per athlete plus Uniform costs** which will cover the following:

- Return airfares from Adelaide to Auckland
- All ground transportation costs in New Zealand
- Travel Insurance
- 7 nights' Accommodation
- All meals for the duration of the trip
- Competition Entry Fees
- 2 x LASA Tour t-shirts per athlete
- All tours/activities on the trip
- Souvenir event t-shirt

UNIFORM:

- All athletes will be supplied with a list of required uniform items.
- **The maximum cost of the required uniform items will be \$350**
- Athletes will be required to purchase Uniform items through LASA.
- Any athlete that already has Little Athletics SA State Uniform items (from ALAC or a previous tour etc) will be able to re-use those items.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST ABOVE:

- Colgate Games event program (can be pre-ordered – cost \$15)
- Personal spending money.

Successful applicants will be advised by Thursday 24th September and a \$1,000 deposit will then be required by Thursday 1st October to confirm their place.

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

PASSPORTS

All four 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 15th July 2027). 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 as soon as possible. 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 Kainen Heath (kheath@salaa.org.au) to discuss.

TEAM MEETINGS

There will be one compulsory Team Meeting (venue TBC) on Sunday 4th October. The purpose of this meeting will be for the athletes to meet and get to know each other before going away and for families to be fully informed about the trip. It also provides athletes and parents an opportunity to meet your Team Managers before departure and for athletes to try on Uniform items for sizing.

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

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).

LASA will also be selecting athletes to form Relay Teams in the 4x100m and Mixed Medley Relays. All athletes will be given the opportunity to compete in at least one relay event.

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 / "Grade 13" (born 2014)	Under 15 / "Grade 14" (born 2013)
100m	√	√
200m	√	√
400m	√	√
800m	√	√
1500m	√	√
Hurdles	√ Girls 80m (76.2cm) / Boys 80m (76.2cm)	√ Girls 80m (76.2cm) / Boys 100m (83.8cm)
Race Walk	√ 1600m	√ 2000m
Long Jump	√	√
High Jump	√ (Starting Heights – Girls 120cm/Boys 125cm)	√ (Starting Heights – Girls 125cm/Boys 130cm)
Discus	√ Girls 1kg / Boys 1kg	√ Girls 1kg / Boys 1.25kg
Shot Put	√ Girls 3kg / Boys 4kg	√ Girls 3kg / Boys 4kg

HOW TO NOMINATE

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

Online **nominations close at 11am on Monday 21st September**. LASA will assess the nominations and advise all applicants of the outcome by 5pm on Thursday 24th September. 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 Kainen Heath via email at kheath@salaa.org.au or phone (08) 8352 8133 during LASA business hours (9am to 5pm weekdays).

Further information about the Colgate Games can be found on the Athletics New Zealand website ([HERE](#)). Included on the site are the “Conditions of Entry” (which includes a draft programme of events) and the “Meeting Rules”. This site will be updated as further 2027 Games information becomes available.