

2026 Jumbo Holdsworth, Holdsworth Jumbo and Hooper Loop Race Pack

Race Day: Saturday 24th January

This document contains all you should need to get to the start line, across the finish line and have a fantastic day while doing it, without any hassles.

There is vital information in this, and some of it will differ from previous years, so even if you've done this race before please make sure you read it all carefully.

A reminder that this race is in a tough and challenging environment. The terrain, weather and effort required to finish, all pose a risk. Make sure you are well prepared and ready for what the race throws at you, including all the requirements below.

If you still have any questions, please feel free to contact me via race@jumbo-holdsworth.co.nz or message via the [Jumbo-Holdsworth Facebook page](#). Note: I won't be available for questions/contacting much on Friday the 23rd or at all on Saturday the 24th due to coverage at Holdsworth campsite - though you can find me or one of the team in person while there!

Race Start and Registration

Registration and gear check are in the campsite shelter to the right of the gate, up the hill.

Registration for Jumbo -> Holdsworth & Holdsworth -> Jumbo opens at 6.30 am.

Registration for the Hooper Loop opens at 7.45 am.

⚠ Make sure to bring your compulsory gear to registration. ⚠

We recommend not having it tightly pre-packed in your pack as this can take longer to check.

Custom Dry bags and T-shirts you pre-ordered will be available at bib collection.

Briefings and race start are at the gate, which is the entrance to the Tararua Forest Park by the main car park.

Black bibs are Hooper Loop

Red bibs are Jumbo -> Holdsworth

Green bibs are Holdsworth -> Jumbo

⚠ Due to sell-out fields, there will be no on-the-day entries, and you will not be able to change races on the day. ⚠

Jumbo-Holdsworth 24km & Holdsworth-Jumbo 24km

Compulsory Race Briefing **7.45 am**

The race starts at **8.00 am**

Hooper Loop 12km

Compulsory Race Briefing **8.45 am**

The race starts at **9.00 am**

All races start from the gate at the end of the Mt Holdsworth DOC campsite. [Google Maps](#)

All races finish at the Holdsworth Lodge - 500 meters up the road from the gate.

Compulsory Gear Requirements

All the equipment below is **MANDATORY**, must be checked, **AND is to be carried with you at all times during the race.**

This is a mountain environment, and you need to be able to keep yourself warm should you get injured and need to wait for help to come.

Jumbo-Holdsworth 24km & Holdsworth-Jumbo 24km

- A map of the course or GPS unit with topo map installed.*
- Survival Blanket or Survival Bag
- Waterproof over trousers OR polyprop/wool long johns
- Polyprop/wool top
- Polypro or Wool Beanie/Buff
- Decent warm gloves
- Jacket with a hood that is seam sealed to be both rain and wind proof
- Cup or Bottle for water - there are no cups at huts on the course**

Hooper Loop 12km

- A map of the course or GPS unit with topo map installed.*
- Polyprop/wool top
- Polypro or Wool Beanie/Buff
- Decent warm gloves
- Jacket with a hood that is seam sealed to be both rain and windproof

Marshals or the Race Director will exercise the right to refuse entry to or disqualify competitors who do not carry the correct gear and comply with safety requirements.

Before carrying on over the tops and it is cold, Marshalls may ask you to put more gear on before allowing you to proceed.

If you are seen to be light while running or at the finish, you may have your gear spot checked.

* It is up to the discretion of the gear checker whether the unit is acceptable or not. Phones are okay if they have proper topo applications and are protected. We will have *some* spare copies of maps available if required, first in, first served.

** Reusable squashy cups are available for purchase at registration for \$2.

Additional Recommended Equipment

We recommend you also have sunscreen, a sunhat, good trail shoes, and, if you plan to take some time, your own water and food.

Poles are permitted but should not be used along the Atiwhakatu valley floor when the pack of runners are bunched up.

Running the race with dogs is not permitted.

Drinks, food, gels etc, are your concern. Water availability will be advised at race briefing as seasonal conditions can affect supply at the huts en route. **There has been an issue at Jumbo with the water collection recently, but DOC assures me this will be fixed in time to not be a problem. I will advise on the morning of the race. Be prepared.**

Bring a picnic rug or chair to sit on afterwards—togs and towels for a swim. Insect repellent is a good idea, as a few sandflies can hang about the river. Bring cash for coffee and some spare shirts we have to sell.

On the Hooper Loop - You pass no huts or streams on this course, so taking your own water is advised.

Course Description and Maps

This course is not marked in the way you may find in trail races around more local races. You are following the tracks put in the forest park by DOC. While many of the tracks are benched/graded and easy to follow, some sections may not be so clear.

It is important you familiarise yourself with the course and what turns and tracks you will be taking. For this reason you are also asked to carry a map with you. If you get somewhere and are unclear where you are going, take out your map and get your bearings.

Jumbo-Holdsworth and Holdsworth Jumbo 24km Courses

[Download the map and profile here](#)

The Jumbo-Holdsworth Trail Race starts at 8 am from the Mt Holdsworth H.Q. car park, Tararua Forest Park. The race proceeds through Donnelly's Flat to join the undulating Atiwhakatu Track to Atiwhakatu Hut (7.5km). From here, a steep ascent commences via the Rain Gauge Track to reach Jumbo Hut (10km [1105m]) before continuing on to reach the Jumbo summit - 1405m.

At the summit, runners make a left turn at the marshalled sign to head south along the undulating main range to Mt Holdsworth Trig (14km [1470m]). From the Trig, runners turn left again to commence the descent via Powell Hut (15.7km) 1160m to Holdsworth Lodge and the finish line via the well-graded Gentle Annie Track.

The Holdsworth-Jumbo Trail Race is the exact opposite, with both events getting divided at the Gentle Annie Turnoff. **Holdsworth-Jumbo competitors will turn left**, and Jumbo-Holdsworth will **turn right**.

The Hooper Loop 12km Course

[Download the map and profile here](#)

The Hooper Loop Trail Race starts at 9 am from Mt Holdsworth Headquarters car park. This race proceeds through Donnelly Flat along the Atiwhakatu Track for 4km and then turns left onto the River Ridge Track (marshalled) to ascend to the Gentle Annie Track junction (650m). Runners will then descend to the Holdsworth Lodge and finish line via the Gentle Annie Track.

The courses are tough and unrelenting. You will have your work cut out for you in many parts, but you will enjoy yourself, trust me.

Facilities, Services and Lunch

Parking is available near the start. Please be aware that this area is popular for campers, trampers and walkers, so the car park can fill up. Please park considerately, look out for fellow runners and their families, and drive slowly. Carpool if possible.

The race finish area at the Holdsworth Lodge is a great place to wait for runners to finish - there is a swimming hole and all the other race facilities are up there.

Camping is available overnight at the DOC campsite, DOC camp fees apply and **you must book beforehand** (no reception available there to do it when you arrive). [See the DOC website for more info](#)

There are various toilet blocks (flush or long drop) located throughout the campsite, with toilets and portaloos available by the registration for the start, and more situated by the Holdsworth Lodge at the finish. (see map).

Coffee and some snacks the cart offers, will be available to purchase at the start and finish, cash only. Proceeds from this go to LandSAR.

There will be a massage therapist ready to help put you back together after your run. Bring \$25 cash for 15 minutes. They can probably arrange a bank transfer if you have fomo....

There will be a free light lunch (BBQ, salad, fruit) offered to competitors from 11.30 am, catered by the [Olympic Harriers Club](#), at the finish. [The Clareville Bakery](#) is generously supplying some tasty berry danishes.

There will be water, lollies and [Tailwind](#) available at the finish, and some shade.

Prizegiving will be held as soon as possible after the last competitor has finished. Should there be a delay causing this to extend past a reasonable time, prizegiving will **go ahead from 1.15**.



Aid on the course

Marshals are situated around the course at various junctions, summits, and at huts along the way.

Jumbo Hut, Powell Hut and Atiwhakatu Hut are marshalled with radios, and here the marshals will take your split times. Make sure your number is visible please.

If you are heading onto the tops and the weather is inclement, we may be stopping you and requiring you to put your wet weather gear on. You must follow all marshal instructions.

At these three huts, there is water in the hut taps to fill your bottles/flasks/cups and lollies available for you to consume/take with you. *

We will have qualified first-aid marshals, a marshal roaming the tops, and a paramedic at Rocky Lookout, available to assist runners on course. Each course has a Tail End Charlie and Marshals from the huts will also walk out behind the runners.

There are also marshals situated at the peaks of Jumbo and Holdsworth, Mountain House turn off and at Rocky Lookout.

We have first responders from Wellington Free Ambulance located at the finish.

On the Hooper Loop, marshals are at the turn-off to the River Ridge track and at Mountain House.

***Note:** Water availability will be advised at race briefing as seasonal conditions can affect supply at the huts en route. **There has been an issue at Jumbo with the water collection recently, but DOC assures me this will be fixed in time to not be a problem. I will advise on the morning of the race. Be prepared.**

You can fill your water in the stream at Atiwhakatu hut.

You must also use your own cup or bottle, we don't provide disposable cups.

This water is untreated, but has never been a problem before, and I have drunk from each hut multiple times in the last 2 months and not had an issue. However, drink it at your own risk.

Race Rules - please read

- Competitors must carry their mandatory gear requirements - as listed above.
- Competitors must follow the instructions of marshals at all times.
- Marshals or first aid volunteers reserve the right to withdraw any competitors deemed to be at risk.
- The Jumbo-Holdsworth Trail Race will have a strict cut-off time of **2 hrs 20 minutes** enforced at Jumbo Hut, any competitor taking longer will not be allowed to continue. However, if a competitor fails to reach the Atiwhakatu hut in **1hr 10 minutes** they will be withdrawn at that point also.
- The Holdsworth-Jumbo Trail Race will have a strict cut-off time of **1 hr 50 minutes** enforced at Powell Hut. Any competitor taking longer will not be allowed to continue.
- Competitors are required to be responsible for the safety of other competitors. Anyone encountering another in difficulty must offer assistance, and then notify the nearest race official so that help can be actioned. A time adjustment will be offered for your assistance - this applies to all races.
- Competitors on the Jumbo-Holdsworth Trail Race may encounter a wait at the 1st swing bridge at Holdsworth Creek, as there is a limit of 1 person at a time to cross. Marshals will help move people across as fast as possible. Welcome to go through the creek, it's a bit of a scramble, you might get half a foot wet, but it may save you 5 minutes. **More info about this below.**
- All runners must remain on established tracks (except for when passing the swing bridge as above) and not damage vegetation by setting your own course.
- All competitors are to display race numbers clearly at all times, especially at checkpoints and the finish - it makes splits/timing quite difficult if you do not do this.
- All food and wrappings are to be carried on a "pack in - pack out" basis. Any runner reported discarding rubbish purposefully will be disqualified.
- Any competitor pulling out of either event for any reason after registering that morning **MUST** report to the base radio controller at race control before leaving the park so their absence can be accounted for.
- All competitors must run the race and direction they are entered for or risk disqualification.
- The Tararua Forest Park will be open and operating, so please be careful and considerate of other track users.
- If the weather and conditions put competitors at serious risk on the original course, then an alternative course will be put in place, it may not be the same length or distance and waves may be required, but the start/finish is the same area. You will be notified of this with as much notice as possible.
- We reserve the right to cancel the race should conditions arise that will place competitors at serious risk.
- **Make sure your number is clear when crossing the finish line.** Do not get offended if the finishing tent staff yell at you to tell them your number. If you are putting your number on your shorts, put on the RIGHT thigh. Do not put your number on your pack.

⚠ Important information about bridges ⚠

First Foot Bridge by Holdsworth Lodge: You are welcome to go through the river instead of the bridge by Holdsworth Lodge (400m from start). DOC has asked that you walk over the bridge instead of running when starting due to the number of people on the bridge at once causing large oscillations. You may have wet feet early if you go through the river, but its faster.

Swing Bridges:

We will have marshals in place to enforce the limit on the swing bridges.

The first of these bridges is 3.5km into the course when running the Jumbo Holdsworth direction, which will inevitably create queues for many runners going that direction.

There is a route into the creek and up the other side marked. If the stream is not swollen and you don't want to wait, you can pass any queue that has formed, and scrambling down and up the other side. If the queue is more than 10 people, this will be faster and I recommend it.

The second bridge with a limit is the 'five-minute bridge' - only a few minutes away from Atiwhakatu Hut in the Jumbo->Holdsworth direction. This bridge is much quicker to cross, and you'll be more spread out here. Please still follow the 1 at a time.

For all limited bridges: Sportsmanship for the faster runners is expected at the swing bridges. If two of you arrive at the bridge within sight of each other, wait on the other side for each other and start again together.

⚠ Important information about Track Conditions ⚠

The course is generally in the same state it has always been, with lots of rocks, roots and mud, and it is still as steep - but it's worth pointing out some exceptions.

There is some windfall on the river ridge track (climb in Hooper Loop), but easy enough to get around.

There is a slip between the east holdsworth turn off and atiwhakatu - it's been there many years, but has had a big change recently - it is safe to move through and the movement has made it a little easier to get through now. It will be taped and is easy enough to follow.

The Gentle Annie track (between Donnelly Flat and Mountain House) has been upgraded since the last race and while in good condition, is still fairly slippery.

As competitors running downhill here are in the last stanza of their race, they are often tired and, as such, are more prone to falling. And the extra speed of running downhill does no

favours if you lose it here. PLEASE be very careful in this section if you are feeling tired. A few moments to take it easy will save you more time than picking yourself off the ground.

There are steps and other parts of the track that have washed out around some man made items put in to make the track better. We will paint this to highlight them as much as possible, but be careful.

⚠ Important information about cut offs ⚠

The race has cut off times in place for your and the marshals on the tops' safety. These times are not that generous. You will need to be fit to make them and finish the course.

Jumbo Holdsworth Direction has two cut off times

Atiwhakatu Hut in **1hr 10mins**

Jumbo Hut in **2 hours 20 minutes**

Holdsworth Jumbo Direction has one cut-off time

Powell Hut in **1 hour 50 minutes**

You will be withdrawn from the race if you do not make it to the marshals at those huts in the cut-off time. You must hand your number to the marshals and return to the finish the way you came.

Once back at the finish, you must inform the base radio controller you have arrived.

Please do not argue with the marshals over this. The cut off times are strictly enforced.

Places and Prizes

Prize giving is expected to go ahead at 1.15pm.
There are the following place categories.

Podium Direction (Holdsworth -> Jumbo)

- 1st/2nd/3rd Junior Men (under 21)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Junior Women (under 21)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Senior Men (under 39)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Senior Women (under 39)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Vet Men (40 to 49)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Vet Women (40 to 49)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Super Vet Men (50 plus)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Super Vet Women (50 plus)

Hooper Loop

- 1st/2nd/3rd Junior Men (under 21)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Junior Women (under 21)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Senior Men (21 to 39)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Senior Women (21 to 39)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Vet Men (40 to 49)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Vet Women (40 to 49)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Super Vet Men (50 plus)
- 1st/2nd/3rd Super Vet Women (50 plus)

Every place getter gets a prize. Only first place gets a trophy.

King and Queen of the Mountains

There is a prize for the men and women who reach the summits of Jumbo and Holdsworth first.

Spot Prizes

There are a bunch of spot prizes from all of our sponsors. Some will be on a list pre-drawn, the major ones will be drawn at the prizegiving.

Powell Sub 1 Hour

Those that reach sub 1 to powell hut get into the 'Sub 1 Club' - where you claim an exclusive hat for doing so. Any subsequent times gains you a badge for that year.

Mid Packer Prize

There is a prize for the man and woman in either the Jumbo Holdsworth or Holdsworth Jumbo that gets closest to the time in the middle of the slowest and fastest time run that day.

Volunteers and Marshals

We rely on a large number of volunteers to help out on the day, through registration, gear check, timing, course set up and marshalling. Please respect their wishes and give them a smile and thank you if you're not too puffed.

Photos

Race photos will be taken by Andrew Turner of [ATPhoto](#) and Charlotte Kloeg of [CK.Visuals](#) and will be provided during the week after the race

Sponsors

This event is not possible without the support of our sponsors, who supply various prizes, spot prizes, and consumables. Please make sure to support them. They are listed below.



TRUST HOUSE®



We also have the support of Olympic Harriers, JK Food Truck, New World Carteron, Holdsworth Restoration Trust, LandSAR Wellington and the Department of Conservation

Holdsworth Restoration Trust

