

Ring of Fire 2026 – Waiver & Event Terms

Event dates: 27–29 March 2026

Location: Ohakune / Tongariro National Park, Ruapehu

By entering **Ring of Fire 2026**, you agree to the following:

1. Taking Part at Your Own Risk

The Ring of Fire is a challenging event held on Mt Ruapehu's volcanic and alpine terrain. This means: steep climbs and descents, rocks, rivers, scree, possible snow or ice, unpredictable weather, and remote areas where help could take time to reach you.

By entering, you accept these risks and agree that you take part at your own responsibility. The organisers, landowners, sponsors, contractors, and volunteers are not responsible for any injury, illness, loss, or damage (including death) that happens while taking part.

2. Being Ready and Fit

You are responsible for making sure you are fit, prepared, and have trained for the distance you've entered.

- You must carry and use all compulsory gear listed on the event website.
- You must stop and withdraw if you feel unwell or unable to continue safely.
- Relay teams: each runner is responsible for their own leg, and together the team is responsible for finishing the full course.

3. Event Rules

You agree to follow all event rules, including:

- Cut-off times for each section of the course.
- Compulsory gear checks.
- Start wave and relay start time rules.
- Directions given by event staff or marshals.
- No shortcuts, littering, or unsportsmanlike behaviour.
- No outside assistance or pacers unless permitted by the organisers.

The organisers can withdraw anyone from the event if they believe it's unsafe for you or others. If you are withdrawn or miss a cut-off, you must stop racing, hand over your race bib, and follow instructions.

4. Media and Communications

By entering, you agree that your name, results, photos, and video may be used in event promotions without payment. You also agree that your email address may be added to the Ohakune Events Charitable Trust mailing list for event updates.

Your personal information will only be used for event purposes and will not be shared beyond event partners needed to deliver the event.

5. Withdrawals, Transfers, & Change of Distance

If you withdraw from the event or change your distance, you must email [entries@rof.co.nz] before the deadlines below. Transfers can be initiated through your Event Plus registration portal - transfer fees apply.

Withdrawal Deadlines:

Period	Policy
Up to 11:59pm, 15 January 2026	25% refund (minus fees), OR credit to the value of 2026 fee for 2027, OR transfer to another person (\$50 fee).
16 January – 10 March 2026 (11:59pm)	No refunds or credits. Transfer to another person allowed (\$50 fee).
From 11 March 2026	No refunds, credits, or transfers.
Extras (shuttle, dinner, merchandise)	Third Party Merchandise sales are final. All other extras are refundable up to 11 March 2026 (minus \$10 fee). After this, all extras are final.

Change of distance Deadlines:

Period	Policy
Up to 11:59pm, 15 January 2026	Changing to lesser distance: Refund of the difference in cost at time of change request. Changing to greater distance: Difference in cost will be charged at the current entry fee rate for the chosen distance.

From 16 January – 23 March 2026 (11:59pm)	Changing to lesser distance: No refund Changing to greater distance: Difference in cost will be charged at the current entry fee rate for the chosen distance.
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6. Event Changes or Cancellation (Force Majeure)

The event may be changed or cancelled at any time due to things outside the organisers' control (like volcanic activity, extreme weather, natural disasters, government restrictions, or emergencies).

Course Notice: All course routes are subject to change based on weather, track conditions, or operational requirements. Decisions will always prioritise participant safety and environmental care.

This could mean shortening or re-routing the course, delaying start times, or cancelling the event. There is no backup day and entry fees are non-refundable in these situations.

If the event is modified:

- The physical event may proceed with changes.

If the event is cancelled:

- 15% event credit or full transfer to the 2027 event (depending on timing and reason for cancellation)
- Priority entry into the 2027 event.

7. Emergency Evacuation & Insurance

If you require evacuation (by helicopter, ambulance, or otherwise), you are responsible for any costs unless covered by your own insurance.

We strongly recommend that all participants, especially those travelling from overseas, hold insurance that covers trail running events and emergency evacuation.

8. Age Restrictions

Minimum age for all distances (100km, 60km, and Relay): 18 years on race day.

A participant under 18 may only take part if special dispensation is granted by the Course Manager and Event Manager, based on evidence provided by the participant's parent or guardian confirming ability and suitability.

9. Alcohol, Drugs & Health

You must not take part if you are under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or banned performance-enhancing substances.

You also confirm that you will not knowingly race while sick or contagious. The organisers may refuse entry or withdraw a participant who shows signs of illness that could put others at risk.

10. Protecting the Environment

The event takes place in Tongariro National Park, a protected and sacred place. By entering, you agree to:

- Respect the land, people, and wildlife.
- Carry your compulsory gear at all times.
- Take all rubbish with you (this is a cup-less event).

11. Final Agreement

By entering, I confirm that I have read and understood this waiver and the 2026 race rules. I accept full responsibility for my participation and agree to follow all rules and instructions given by the organisers.