



# HALBERG GAMES 2026

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **What is the Halberg Games?**

The Halberg Games is an annual three-day sports festival open to athletes from 8-21 years, with a physical or visual impairment.

Hosted by the Halberg Foundation, the Games is a unique event in New Zealand and gives athletes an opportunity to enjoy the thrill of competition, healthy comradery and make new friends.

Athletes experience an authentic Games village environment and can try new sports while pursuing further sporting goals. For some athletes the Games may be a steppingstone towards future sporting goals and even representing New Zealand in their chosen sport.

### **Where is the Halberg Games?**

The 2026 event will be held at Kings College, Auckland, with all sports, events, ceremonies accommodation and catering provided onsite.

### **When is the 2026 Halberg Games?**

The 2026 Halberg Games will be held from Friday 10 April to Sunday 12 April in Auckland. The current schedule of activities is:

#### **Friday 10 April:**

- 9:00am - 11:00am Registrations
- 11:30am - Opening Ceremony
- 12:30pm - Sports begin
- Evening - Activities

#### **Saturday 11 April:**

- 8:00am - 6:00pm – Sports

#### **Sunday 12 April:**

- 8:00am - 12:00pm - Sports
- 12:30pm - Closing Ceremony
- 2.00pm - Depart venue

NB: Activities are subject to change, please check back on this website for updates.

### **Who can take part?**

The Halberg Games is open to athletes aged between 8 and 21 years with a physical or a visual impairment. The event provides options for all abilities and levels of participation.

Athletes can represent their region from anywhere in New Zealand and can take part as an individual athlete or if they have a local Parafed attending athletes can also join their local regional Parafed team.

What are the criteria for participating at the Halberg Games? There are two eligibility criteria for the Games:

- Must be aged between 8-21 years at the time of the Games
- Primary impairment must be a physical or visual impairment

### **How do we register?**

To register go to [www.halberg.co.nz](http://www.halberg.co.nz) or contact your local Halberg Adviser and they will support you through the process.

Please note – registrations to open in December 2026

### **How much does it cost to participate?**

The Games are funded by registration fees paid by athletes and supporters, plus sponsorship, donations and grants. As the Games are open to all levels of competitor and we have provided a range of entry options to suit as many people as possible. The registration costs for the 2026 Halberg Games are:

Athletes:

**Full package: \$310 per athlete** This covers;

- Two nights' accommodation and meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) at King's College.
- Airport transfers, competing in all sports events, Games activities including Opening and Closing Ceremonies and Masterclasses.
- A complimentary Halberg Games regional team shirt and athlete pack (if registered before the early bird cut off).

**Meal's package: \$250 per athlete** This covers;

- All meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) at King's College (excluding accommodation)
- Competing in all sports events, Games activities including Opening and Closing Ceremonies and Masterclasses.
- A complimentary Halberg Games regional team shirt and athlete package - if registered before the early bird cut off.

**Entry only: \$100 per athlete** This covers;

- Competing in all sports events, Games activities including Opening and Closing Ceremonies and Masterclasses.
- A complimentary Halberg Games regional team shirt and athlete pack - if registered before the early bird cut of. (Excludes accommodation and meals.

**Day Entry only: \$50 per athlete** This covers;

- Competing in the sports events, Games activities including Opening and Closing Ceremonies and Masterclasses for one day only. Could be either Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

## Supporters:

**Full package: \$310 per supporter** This covers;

- Two nights accommodation and meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) at King's College.
- Airport transfers, Games activities including Opening and Closing Ceremonies and Masterclasses.

**Meals package: \$250 per supporter** This covers;

- All meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) at King's College (excluding accommodation)
- Games activities including Opening and Closing Ceremonies and Masterclasses.

(We encourage friends and family to be involved in supporting the Games but first priority for accommodation will be given to athletes and carers (one carer per athlete).

All registration costs are inclusive of GST and to receive a Halberg regional team shirt you must register by 1 February, 2026

## Changes to Supporter Accommodation Process (One Supporter to One Athlete)

We encourage all friends and family to be involved in supporting the Games. However, due to accommodation being close to capacity at the previous two Halberg Games, the decision was made between the Parafed Network and Halberg to limit families to: **ONE SUPPORTER PER ATHLETE**  
This will ensure that athletes, their whanau and teams are more comfortable and will allow us space to accommodate growing teams in future Games.

If you are a family who requires two or more supporters i.e:

- a single parent with one athlete and one or more siblings,
- an athlete with higher needs requiring two supporters (i.e. both parents)
- extended family who would like to attend

**Please request additional accommodation slots when registering.**

If extra supporter/s need to be onsite, they will be accommodated where possible  
**or**

They can be allocated one of our 30 offsite rooms at offsite hotel (Halberg will be providing shuttles to and from the offsite accommodation for those that fly into Auckland. There will be no additional cost for staying offsite. All meals will be served together at Kings College).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Extra supporter applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. We cannot guarantee a place for all additional supporters.

Every room will be allocated based on accessibility, support needs and team size.

**Our families normally bring multiple supporters every year, can they still come?** Absolutely, this is the great thing about having additional rooms. Suggest that the bigger families try to register earlier rather than later to guarantee they get a room.

## Closing Dates:

- Early Bird Cut Off 1st February, 2026  
To receive a Halberg regional TEAM SHIRT and to register for competition sports i.e. Swimming, Athletics, Table Tennis and Boccia you must register by 1st February, 2026
- Registration Closing Date - 8th March, 2026  
To attend the 2025 Halberg Games you must register by the 8th March, 2026

### **Can supporters purchase a team/supporter shirt?**

Yes any supporters, parents, siblings or team staff can purchase a team/supporter shirt for \$35 as long as they email [games@halberg.co.nz](mailto:games@halberg.co.nz) with their shirt order and shirt size before the 1st of February.

### **Can we arrive the Thursday and stay onsite?**

Yes you can travel to Kings College the day prior to the event starting and stay onsite. For \$150 per person you will be provided with a full dinner, accommodation and breakfast onsite. Halberg can still provide airport shuttles on the Thursday to Kings College. To register for the Thursday night please enter this on the registration form, let your team manager know or email us at [games@halberg.co.nz](mailto:games@halberg.co.nz)

### **Thursday 9 April - Morning education workshops.**

During these workshops, participants will have the opportunity to learn about the importance of inclusion in sports, the various pathways available for disabled athletes, and effective coaching techniques for working with individuals with disabilities. The workshops will be led by experts from other sports and disability sport organisations within NZ ensuring a wide range of perspectives and knowledge in the disability sports field. Coaches, volunteers, sport staff, teachers, and anyone interested in gaining a comprehensive understanding of disability sports are highly encouraged to attend.

The Workshops will be one hour each, allowing for a focused and informative session. Participants can expect to gain valuable insights, and practical tips can be applied to their work in the disability sport space.

### **Thursday 9 April – Afternoon Sport Clinics**

An afternoon of sport coaching clinics delivered by some of the best coaches in NZ. Sports for 2025 are yet to be confirmed but this is an open invite to any disabled athlete aged between 8 and 21 that arrives or is in

## **What do registration fees cover?**

Halberg's aim is to keep the registration fee as low as possible for everyone attending and we source sponsorship to offset some of the costs of the event including the facilities, medical support, athlete/supporter shirts, ceremonies and masterclasses.

Included in the Games registration fee is three days of activities with accommodation, venue accessibility requirements including bathroom facilities, meals, master classes, ceremonies, security, access to medical services, airport transfers and shuttle buses, along with the approximately 20 different sporting opportunities and the associated facilities required for these.

## **I don't want a regional team shirt, can I pay a reduced registration fee?**

The regional team shirts are not included in the overall costs of registration for athletes/supporters. Halberg covers these costs through a sponsor. This is like the athlete/supporter packs everyone receives. For this reason, there is no reduction in the registration fees if a shirt is not provided. This year there will be an option to select a souvenir styled tshirt instead of your regional tshirt.

## **We plan to bring a Motor Home to the Games; can we park it on-site at the School?**

Kings College will allow Motor Homes and camper vans to stay onsite. This will cost \$75 for the weekend—additional to the registration option you choose. Please contact [events@halberg.co.nz](mailto:events@halberg.co.nz) if you wish to choose this option.

## **We want to come to the Games, but we have alternative accommodation arranged?**

The Games is designed to provide a rich experience for athletes – this includes staying in the on-site accommodation and including all meals. If, however you plan on staying offsite we have different registration options for you. If you are unsure of what would suit you and your family, please contact your regional Adviser to discuss further.

## **What sports are at the Halberg Games for 2026?**

For the 2026 event we will have more than 20 sports on offer again. These will include the popular sports such as athletics, swimming, table tennis, archery plus many more.

A full schedule of the sports will be available on this website closer to the event.

For more news and updates, visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/HalbergFoundation>

## **Who do I contact about the Halberg Games?**

You can contact the Halberg Games team on [games@halberg.co.nz](mailto:games@halberg.co.nz) or call 0800 HALBERG.

## Halberg Adviser Contacts

You can also contact your regional Halberg Adviser.

ADVISER	REGION	EMAIL
Tyler Wood	Northland & North Harbour, Waitakere	<a href="mailto:tyler@halberg.co.nz">tyler@halberg.co.nz</a>
Joseph Tyrell	Counties Manukau, Auckland Central	<a href="mailto:joseph@halberg.co.nz">joseph@halberg.co.nz</a>
Lawrence Wilkinson	Waikato and Hawkes Bay	<a href="mailto:Lawrence@halberg.co.nz">Lawrence@halberg.co.nz</a>
Siobhan Terry	Bay of Plenty & Gisborne	<a href="mailto:siobhan@halberg.co.nz">siobhan@halberg.co.nz</a>
Max Pringle	Taranaki, Manawatu & Whanganui	<a href="mailto:max@halberg.co.nz">max@halberg.co.nz</a>
Emma Phelps	Wellington	<a href="mailto:emma@halberg.co.nz">emma@halberg.co.nz</a>
Rebecca Gillett	Canterbury	<a href="mailto:rebecca@halberg.co.nz">rebecca@halberg.co.nz</a>
Zoe Tully	Otago & Southland	<a href="mailto:zoe@halberg.co.nz">zoe@halberg.co.nz</a>

### I'm looking for funding to support my Halberg Games costs?

We understand athletes will need assistance to cover the cost of getting to and attending the Halberg Games. Besides team fundraising, individual athletes or families might consider the following:

Approaching local funders:

In most regions, there are trusts, charitable groups or service clubs that contribute towards registration fees or travel costs for athletes attending the Games. While we do not have an exhaustive list of these, you could try approaching Masonic Trusts, Community Trusts, electricity companies or service clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Altrusa, Zonta, and Round Table. This website might also be useful: [www.community.net.nz](http://www.community.net.nz)

Consider asking local businesses for support:

Approach local businesses and let them know about your plans for competing at the Games, they may be able to sponsor or do fundraising activities for you. If you do get some funds donated or find sponsorship, ensure you thank the donors in writing and offer to give them an update on how you did at the Games

### How are athletes supported during the Games?

The Games are designed to deliver a very broad tournament-style experience for all participants where they can stay in residence and compete against athletes with similar impairments. The Games give athletes a full programme of sports, hostel style accommodation and meals.

We recognise that many of the participating athletes will require individual attention or specialist daily care. The Games are set up to accommodate assistants or carers who are directly involved with the athletes during the Games. They generally stay in the accommodation provided, share meals and join in and support the sporting programme.

An athlete assistant or carer may be a family member, a paid respite carer or support worker or a community volunteer. Team Managers will assist where possible to come up with the best options for each of their athletes and supporters.

Athletes and teams will organise and pay for their own assistants/carers.

### How are the sports events run?

When participants register, they elect which sports they want to take part in. Where required, each sport is adapted for Para athletes.

Most sports include introductory opportunities as well as more advanced levels of competition.

The sporting events and fixtures that make up the Games are run as standard tournament-style competitions.

However, most sports will include an opportunity for anyone new to the sport to have a go with support and coaching.

The sports are run by or in conjunction with representatives from National Sporting Organisations (NSOs). Generally, staff and volunteers from NSOs have received specialist training in supporting disabled sports people.

In addition, the Games are supported by volunteers from across the community including regional sports organisations, sports clubs, service clubs, schools and the general public.

### **What is the classification system for athletes?**

As with other disability sporting competitions, a classification system will be used to ensure the competition is as fair and equitable as possible without requiring a full provisional or national classification for each sport.

The main idea behind classification is that it will minimise the impact of impairments on sports performance and ensure the success of an athlete is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus.

### **All athletes will be classed within the following 6 categories:**

Manual Wheelchair user

Powerchair user

Ambulant

Loss of limb upper body

Loss of limb lower body

Visual impairment

If you are unsure, we can arrange a visit by one of Halberg's Advisers to meet with any families.

If athletes already hold a provisional or national classification for a particular sport, they are encouraged to compete using that class.

Paralympics NZ provisional classifications:

For more information on a provisional classification please visit this website

<http://www.paralympics.org.nz/Pathway/Classification>

If you have an Intellectual Impairment:

Special Olympics New Zealand has the expertise and sports opportunities to provide for young people with an intellectual impairment. Furthermore, they are able to support athletes along the Special Olympics pathway.

Here's a link to their web site - [www.specialolympics.org.nz](http://www.specialolympics.org.nz)

Will there be medical support at the Games?

For all the sporting events, a first aid responder or paramedic will be on-hand if required.

All athletes will need to bring their own medication and medical equipment, and someone who can assist them with any personal procedures.

In the registration form, we'll ask you to let us know about any medical or personal conditions we should know about. This is so we can adequately plan to help you if something happens, and you need medical support.

### **What do I need to bring to the Games?**

Personal clothing, sports gear and team uniform

Specialist sports equipment where required

Toiletries

Medication

Medical and mobility equipment where required

Water bottle and other personal effects

If you're playing Wheelchair Basketball, we would like you to bring your own wheelchair,. We realise however that this is not always possible when travelling, so we will be trying to get some spares from Parafed Northland and Parafed Auckland.

### **What are the opening and closing ceremonies?**

The Games opening ceremony will be onsite at Kings College. All participants, family and friends are invited to join us at the opening and closing ceremonies.

This ceremony will include a march of all athletes dressed in team uniforms as well as any team banners/mascots. The opening ceremony will have a guest speaker (to be advised) and entertainment.

The closing ceremony will be again at Kings College Campus. All athletes will be eligible for medals, trophies as well as certificates of participation.

### **Can I use Respite Care to pay for the Registration Fees?**

In previous Games, some athletes have used Carer Support to pay for athlete registration fees for the Games. Carer Support is a service funded by the Ministry of Health, designed to provide reimbursement of some of the costs of using a support person to care and support a disabled person.

If you plan to use a Carer Support Subsidy to pay for athlete registration fees:

- You must first pay your registrations fees in full.
- You must submit with your registration fees a valid carer support form.
- Once the Games are completed, we will sign and return your carer support form with confirmation of the amount paid
- You can then apply to the Ministry of Health for reimbursement of the Halberg Games registration fees

Halberg Games cannot take responsibility for non-payment or delays in payment by the Ministry of Health.