

48 Hours general conditions and guidelines to cover Auckland

Kia ora, and welcome to filming in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland!

To help your team have a great experience filming here, please be mindful of the public, the bylaws, and the environment when filming in public places.

For the duration of the competition, Screen Auckland exempts 48 Hours teams from the usual film permit process in public open spaces. This is an exemption from the paperwork, not from the law - all bylaws and rules still apply. Please consider your impact and the safety of yourselves and the public around you.

Don't film on roads, stop or divert traffic, or put yourself or the public in dangerous positions. Make sure vehicles are driven and parked legally.

Keep footpaths and walkways clear. Gear should never block a path, though it's fine to politely ask pedestrians to hold for a moment while the camera rolls.

If you've got effects, stunts, weapons, or people acting distressed or angry, post crew nearby to reassure passers-by. If your activity could be seen or heard from a distance, consider notifying your local police or fire station.

Filming in front of a business? Check with staff or the owner first, and don't block customers from getting in.

In a reserve, park or beach, follow signposted rules.

The following locations need to be avoided, as they need approvals beyond this exemption, aren't managed by Auckland Council, are under maintenance, or are culturally significant:

- The 14 Tūpuna Maunga (Auckland's volcanic cones, including Mt Eden, One Tree Hill, Mt Victoria, North Head and more) — filming here needs Tūpuna Maunga Authority approval, which can't happen in a 48-hour window.
- Sites and Places of Significance to Mana Whenua — there are more of these across Auckland than we could list. Check the Auckland Council GeoMaps tool before you film, or email us if unsure.
- Waitākere Ranges Regional Park (areas closed under Rāhui and Controlled Area Notice)
- DOC land and the Hauraki Gulf Islands (without prior DOC and iwi approval)
- Aotea Square (without prior approval from Auckland Live)
- Auckland Domain's Wintergardens
- Train/bus stations and ferry terminals
- Road and construction work sites, especially around the CBD
- Waterfront areas — filming at sea must comply with Maritime NZ rules; don't film in a marina without permission (even your own boat); stay out of restricted areas like the Tank Farm and Ports of Auckland wharves; no drones over Wynyard Quarter, marinas, wharves, jetties, or harbour boats

Other filming

Auckland hosts plenty of large productions, some filming on weekends too. A permitted production has priority over its approved space, so be courteous to other crews if you're filming nearby and remember the public's needs above all.

Drones

Pilots must know and comply with CAA Part 101 Rules. For the competition, we'll allow drones up to 1.5kg (think a DJI Phantom) without a permit.

Don't:

- Fly over parked vehicles, footpaths, roads, or motorways
- Fly over a sports field in use
- Fly over Wynyard Quarter or marinas (Westhaven, Viaduct)
- Operate within 20m of other park users, buildings, or overhead wires
- Fly within 50m of livestock, wetlands, or nesting birds
- Fly within 50m of a motorway, or 100m of Auckland Harbour Bridge
- Fly over dry, flammable vegetation
- Fly over neighbouring properties without the homeowner's okay
- Fly at night

Do:

- Be courteous to other park users, beachgoers, and dog walkers
- Keep your drone in full view at all times
- Fly as a shielded operation within 4km of an aerodrome (check Airshare)
- Stick to daylight hours

Keeping safe

Your team must comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, ScreenSafe Health & Safety Guidelines, and the Code of Practice for the Engagement of Crew (The Blue Book). A PCBU (person conducting a business or undertaking), which includes your team organiser or production company, needs to lead on health and safety, including working with other PCBUs to meet their obligations.

Find ScreenSafe guidelines at screensafe.co.nz.

Questions we haven't covered? Email kiaora@screenauckland.com before the competition.

All the best to every team in the 2026 48 Hours Furious Filmmaking Competition. We can't wait to see what you make!