

The **Oceania Athletics Championships** is an athletics event organized by the Oceania Athletics Association (OAA) for the World Athletics (WA) member associations of the Oceania region. The first Championships was held in 1990 in Suva, attracting 230 athletes from 14 Countries. It was initially conceived as a quadrennial event however after the second edition in 1994, the championships changed to a biennial event.

The National Stadium in Suva was the Venue of the first Championships, which was resurfaced for the Championships. The Championships started with a lavish opening ceremony featuring a Meke performed by over 250 students drawn from two high schools, Ratu Kadavuleva School and Queen Victoria School. One of the highlights of the action on the field, was the men's Javelin Competition, between Fiji's James Goulding and Jioji Nadvo, with Goulding winning with a throw of 71.54m. The sprinting has been a highlight of the Oceania Championships since the first edition, with **Joseph Onika** (SOL) taking the Men's 100m in 10.75 and Bindee Goon-Chew (AUS) taking the Women's 100m & 200m titles. First over the line in the Women's 100m was New Caledonia's Ghislaine Saint-Prix (12.05) running as a guest.

The Championships in 1994, were held at Mt Smart Stadium, in Auckland, New Zealand. Mt Smart was the venue for the Commonwealth Games in 1990, and New Zealand Athletics Great, and current Auckland Mayor at the time, Les Mills hosted a welcome for all athletes and officials. The host team dominated the Championships, winning 27 of the 40 gold medals on offer. However, it was the two Fijian sprinters, Jone Dalai and Vaciseva Tavaga who took both the Men's and Women's 100m and 200m Championships.

After the Championships in Auckland in 1994, the Championships headed to Townsville for the first time in 1996. Townsville would become a pivotal location not just for the Championships, but also the Association in later years. 13 Member Federations won medals at the 1996 Championships, including a first medal for the Federated States of Micronesia. Tonga's Siulolo Liku was the most outstanding athlete of the Championships, she won 3 Gold Medals, the 100m, 100m Hurdles and the Triple and was second in the Long Jump.

The 2000 Championships, held in Adelaide, just prior to the Olympic Games, saw athletes not just from Oceania Federations in attendance. Highlights included Peter Pulu (PNG) winning the sprint double in times of 10.46 and 21.29, James Goulding (FIJ), won another Javelin Title and Brentt Jones (NFI) did the same in the Hammer. Mary Estelle Kapalu took both the 400m and 400m Hurdles Championships, only being beaten narrowly by Nigerian athletes. Anna Po'uhila (TGA), began her climb to the top of the throwing ranks, winning the Shot Put and Javelin.

The Championships returned to New Zealand in 2002, this time to Christchurch, and the Championships was welcomed by a traditional Maori greeting. Peter Pulu won the Men's 100m, into a strong headwind in a time of 10.66 seconds. In the Women's events, it was a breakout for Fijian sprinter Makelesi Bulikiobo winning the 100m, 200m and 400m Titles. Ana Po'uhila (TGA) continued her winning ways in the shot put, winning in an impressive 15.66m.

2004 saw the first two-time host of the Championships, with Townsville hosting the Championships in December. New Zealand dominated on the track, with the exception of the Women's Sprints, which were won by Mae Koime (PNG) in 12.02 and 24.68. Avele Tanielu (SAM) won the 110m Hurdles breaking the Championship Record. Shaka Sola (SAM) won the Shot Put and Discus Throw double in impressive throws of 17.86 and 53.70m – both Championship Records.

Apia Park in Samoa, hosted the 2006 Championships. PNG once again won both 100m events, with Mae Koime defending her title from 2004, and Henry Ben taking the Men's Title. Aunese Curreen (SAM) won a quality 800m and 1500m double. Mowen Boino, won both Hurdles titles, whilst Ana Po'uuhila broke her meet record by over 1m in winning the Shot Put. In the Men's Hammer, there was a new Champion, with Guam's Justin Andre taking the title over Norfolk Islands Brentt Jones by less than 1m.

The Championships headed to Micronesia for the first time in 2008, with Saipan, Northern Marianas hosting the Championships. Young Fijian Leslie Copeland would take out the Men's javelin, whilst Mae Koime would edge out Toea Wisil once again in the Women's 100m. Kiribati's David Birati won the Men's High jump in 1.92m. Salome Dell (PNG) took out the 400m, 800m, 1500m and 3km Cross Country events, whilst Anunese Curreen (SAM) won gold in the 800m, 1500m and the 6km Cross Country.

Cairns, in North Queensland would host the Championships for the first time in 2010. Toea Wisil would break through and win her first Oceania Athletics Championships in the 100m. In the Men's 100m, Australian Liam Gander won in a Photo Finish decision over PNG's Nelson Stone. 18 year old Tahitian Raihau Maiiau would take gold in the Men's Long Jump in a jump of 7.64w only 6cm behind New Caledonian Frederic Erin who was competing as a guest. Leslie Copeland (FIJ) would win the Men's javelin in 75.09m and break his coach James Goulding's Championships record in the process. A high-quality women's hammer throw saw three Australians sweep the medals, with Bronwyn Eagles defeating Gabrielle Neighbour and Karyne Di Marco.

After the 2010 championships there were significant changes in the format of the competition. Now being held as a regional championships (in 2011 and 2012), the associations were divided into two divisions based on their geographical location either east or west. However, the competition was revised back to its original format as an Area Championships in 2013.

The 2013 Championships headed to French Polynesia for the first time. The Regional Australian Team, made its first appearance in the Championships in 2013. Toea Wisil would defeat Patty Taea (COK) in the Women's 100m and would also win the Women's 200m. Sharon Firisua (SOL) would win the Women's 5000m. In a good Championships for the Cook Islands, Tereapii Tapoki would win the Shot Put and finish second in the Discus. In the Men's sprints Banuve Tabakucoro took the 100m & 200m double into headwinds. Australian decathlete Cedric Dubler performed impressively winning the Pole Vault and Long Jump, whilst Samoan Alex Rose took out the shot and discus double.

Rarotonga in the Cook Islands hosted the Championships in 2014. Young Tongan Ata Maama Tu'utafaiva won the Women's Shot Put at only 17 years old, whilst in the Men's it was 20-year-old New Zealander Jacko Gill taking the title in a Championships record of 20.70m. Leslie Copeland would win his 5th Oceania Championships in a row in the Men's javelin. Eugene Vollmer (FIJ) broke the Championships record in winning the Triple Jump. In the blue Riband Men's and Women's 100m, events, Fiji's Banuve Tabakucoro (10.30 – CR) and PNG's Toea Wisil (11.57 – CR) took line honours.

The 2015 Championships returned to Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia. The PNG women dominated on the track, taking out all but 3 Gold Medals. There were record numbers in the Men's sprints, with Banuve Tabakucoro (FIJ) taking the 100m Gold after three rounds, in an impressive 10.22. He was narrowly defeated by Samoan Jeremy Dodson in the 200m 20.57 to 20.68. In the men's Discus, Alex Rose (SAM) and Marshall Hall (NZL) would both break the Championships Record, in a competition won by Rose in 60.95m.

The Championships returned to Suva, Fiji in 2017. Rellie Kaputin (PNG) won three gold medals in the field, winning the Long Jump, Triple Jump and High Jump. Jeremy Dodson and Toea Wisil both took out the sprint doubles.

The 2019 Championships returned to Townsville for the third time, and it was the largest edition to date. Australia and New Zealand sent their strongest team ever to the Oceania Championships in 2019. With a change to the qualification to World Championships and Olympic Games, it meant the Area Championships was more valuable to top athletes than ever before. Highlights include Liz Parnova winning the womens pole vault in 4.60m, whilst Rellie Kaputin (PNG) won the Women's Long Jump and Triple Jump. Julia Ratcliffe (NZL) and Kelsey Barber (AUS) were outstanding in the Hammer and Javelin. Edward Osei-Nketia (NZL) won the most hotly contested Men's 100m final. Whilst Jeremy Dodson (SAM) and Banuve Tabakaucoro (FIJ) bounced back from disappointing 100m runs to finish 1st and 2nd in the 200m. Hamish Kerr (NZL) was the best in the field, clearing 2.30m to take the Men's High Jump.

Mackay, Queensland hosted the Oceania Championships for the first time. The Championships were pushed back a year due to the Global Pandemic. The highlight of the 5-day Championships was the Area Record in the 100m to Zoe Hobbs of New Zealand running 11.08. The Championships saw for the first time Under 16 athletes competing, with the introduction of a Teams Challenge, won by Queensland Athletics Pathways Team.

1990	Suva, Fiji
1994	Auckland, New Zealand
1996	Townsville, Australia
1998	Nuku'alofa, Tonga
2000	Adelaide, Australia
2002	Christchurch, New Zealand
2004	Townsville, Australia
2006	Apia, Samoa
2008	Saipan, Northern Marianas
2010	Cairns, Australia
2013	Papeete, French Polynesia
2015	Cairns, Australia
2017	Suva, Fiji
2019	Townsville, Australia
2022	Mackay, Australia
2024	Suva, Fiji