

Positive Vibes Only

A Collective Approach to Sport in Tokoroa

In 2024, volunteers from various sports clubs in Tokoroa shared concerning experiences of negative sideline behaviour. Recognising the impact this had on young athletes, families and volunteers, the community sought a proactive solution. The **'Positive Vibes Only' (PVO)** initiative emerged as a unifying framework to promote positive sideline behaviour and to help foster a sense of belonging across all sporting codes.



CASE STUDY



Collaborative Launch

A collective of clubs, including Pacific Sharks Rugby League, Forestland Falcons Rugby League, Southern United Junior Rugby Club, Tokoroa Athletic Football Club and the Tokoroa Netball Centre, agreed to launch PVO during the opening round of the 2024 winter sports season. This collaborative approach allowed each club to explore how PVO could align with their unique values and culture.



With support from Sport Waikato, WaiBOP Netball, and WaiBOP Football, clubs were equipped with branded gazebos, flags, signs and stickers to visually reinforce the PVO message.

Volunteers played a key role in setting up environments, distributing materials, and embodying the spirit of the initiative.

Event Highlights

- Tokoroa Netball Centre hosted 66 teams (44 Rangatahi & senior, 22 Tamariki).
- Rugby welcomed 8 Tamariki teams.
- Football featured 46 teams.
- Pacific Sharks and Forestland Falcons hosted a rugby league carnival with 70 teams from across the Bay of Plenty and South Waikato.

The atmosphere was electric - music at rugby league, pink attire for netball umpires, and colourful, spirited sideline supporters. The message to **"Bring the Vibe"** was embraced through dress-ups, chants, and a shared commitment to positivity.

The initiative created a safe, inclusive environment where tamariki, rangatahi, and their whaanau felt a strong sense of belonging. Many families experienced the PVO culture across multiple sports over the weekend, reinforcing the message and strengthening community ties.

Sport Waikato - Next Steps

The focus now shifts to sustaining the momentum:

- Supporting clubs to **embed PVO into their long-term culture**.
- Extending the framework to **schools and kura**.
- Exploring opportunities for **shared resources** that remain in Tokoroa and are accessible across clubs and schools.
- Seek **funding partners** or organisations willing to invest in permanent, community-owned resources - such as signage, event kits, and promotional materials—that can be used across sports and schools to keep the Positive Vibes Only movement alive in Tokoroa.

HIGHLIGHTS

NETBALL

66 teams (44 rangatahi and senior, 22 tamariki teams)

RUGBY

8 tamariki teams

FOOTBALL

46 tamariki teams

RUGBY LEAGUE

70 tamariki teams across South Waikato and Bay of Plenty



positive
Vibes
only



SPORT
WAIKATO
Hei painga mo to iwi