



2024  
**ANNUAL  
CONNECTION**  
CONEXIS



TE AWAMUTU 22-24 OCT

**LINE MECHANIC & CABLE JOINTER**

COMPETITION INFO  
[ANNUALCONNECTION.CO.NZ](http://ANNUALCONNECTION.CO.NZ)







2024  
**ANNUAL  
CONNECTION**  
CASTLETON PARK, TE AWAMUTU

# COMPETITION INFO

## 2024 HOST SPONSORS

**Waipā Networks** owns and operates the lines, transformers and substations that deliver power to more than 40,000 customers in Waipa region. We're 100% owned by the Waipā Networks Trust on behalf of the community, delivering reliable energy services and solutions for our community's growing needs.

Our history goes back to over 100 years ago when Te Awamutu and Cambridge's Electric Power Boards were set up. They joined forces in 1993 and were finally named Waipā Networks in 1998. Fast forward to today, and we're proud to work with Connexis and The Lines Company to co-host the Annual Connection 2024, a three-day competition showcasing the skills of line mechanics and cable jointers.

**The Lines Company** is proud to keep over 18,000 customers connected to electricity throughout the King Country, Ruapehu District and Central Plateau. Our network covers an area of 13,700 square km with over 4,500km of power lines, providing safe and reliable electricity to homes, businesses, and the community. We employ over 140 staff, with around 80% of our hunga (people) living locally on the network.

Join us as we showcase the work of these incredible professionals who keep our lights on. It's not just a competition – it's an opportunity to witness these experts in action, understand the complexities they conquer daily, learn more about the industry, and explore potential career paths.



## ANNUAL CONNECTION

Annual Connection connects, celebrates, and showcases the people and companies of the Electricity Supply Industry.

The best Cable Jointers and Line Mechanics come together, from across New Zealand, for this three-day competition and event. The competition is hosted in an environment that showcases the skills and technology that are practically and physically required to keep the power flowing.

There is plenty happening on the sidelines too, with industry exhibitors showcasing the latest in technology and innovation and careers insight sessions with schools.

Finally, the event closes with a night of celebration with the Competition Awards and the Connexis Excellence Awards Dinner. The Connexis Excellence Awards recognise the hard work and commitment it takes to skill up by rewarding the best and brightest trainees in Energy and Telecommunications. Annual Connection's Cable Jointers and Line Mechanics competitions are also announced here.

## SUPPLIER EXPO

Being part of the Annual Connection Suppliers' Expo offers a unique opportunity to show your support for the industry you serve and align your brand with your customers.

The event provides a unique opportunity for brand exposure at what is the highlight of the Electricity Supply Industry, as well as networking opportunities to a wide range of stakeholders including key decision makers.

### THE KEY OBJECTIVES OF ANNUAL CONNECTION

- Showcase and promote the Electricity Supply Industry
- Promoting best practice in health and safety
- Promote, recognise and reward workforce skills, expertise and training.
- Showcase new technologies and innovation



## LINE MECHANIC COMPETITION RULES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1.

### Rules of Eligibility

To compete in this competition, you must have a team of four.

- Three of the team members must be New Zealand registered line mechanics with current practicing licenses.
- The fourth team member must be a trainee line mechanic on an approved New Zealand line mechanic pathway.
- If the team or team members are from outside of New Zealand and do not hold New Zealand qualifications and practicing licenses, then the organising committee (at its sole discretion) will consider and approve entry based on the following criteria;
  1. Line Mechanics must provide evidence that they hold the New Zealand equivalent qualifications as registered Line Mechanics and/or hold New Zealand equivalent practicing licenses in their local jurisdiction and;
  2. They hold a current competency in CPR/First Aid and Pole Top Rescue procedures and;
  3. They have current competency at operating crane trucks and;
  4. They can provide recent evidence of their testing for safety procedures used in completion of the work.

New Zealand Trainee line mechanics that completed their last block course prior to the competition may still compete as TLM providing, they are still registered with the Electrical Workers Registration Board on the limited learner's license.

International Trainee Line Mechanics will need to provide evidence to satisfy the organising committee (at their sole discretion) that they are on a similar approved pathway to completing Line Mechanic qualifications in their local jurisdiction.

### Other Key Criteria

All competitors acknowledge in entering that they will need to be familiar with and comply with the NZ Electricity Industry Safety Rules as published by the NZ Electricity Engineers Association (EEA) and other relevant NZ Codes of Practice.

2.

### Events

Each team will participate in all events contained in the program.

3.

### Competitor Registration

Competitor registration will be held on **Monday 21 October 2024**. Time and Venue TBC

The team managers of any teams/competitors who are unable to attend registration at this time must advise the Event Manager Hillary Riches, [hillaryr@connexis.org.nz](mailto:hillaryr@connexis.org.nz) as

3.

soon as possible, but no later than **Thursday 17 October 2024**. Unforeseen circumstances will be accepted.

Withdrawals from the competition must be by written notification and emailed to the Event Manager Hillary Riches, [hillaryr@connexis.org.nz](mailto:hillaryr@connexis.org.nz) no later than **1 October 2024**. Competition withdrawals received after this date may be subject to a request to cover associated competition costs incurred by Connexis.

4.

### Judging Guidelines

Industry experts who have experience in line mechanic examinations and competitions have been selected to judge the events and will follow strict criteria. The first aid event will be judged by a recognised First Aid trainer or St John.

Judging will be based on best industry practices and procedures used across New Zealand and industry guides, regulations, and handbooks.

One Chief Judge will oversee and, if necessary, moderate the individual Event Judges to ensure fair and consistent judging across all teams.

There will be a minimum of one judge per team for each of the events.

Competitors can only ask questions of the Event Judges before the individual event begins, after the specification sheet is handed to the teams during the tailgate session, but not during the event.

**Please Note:** *The new SMEI format will be used from 2022*

5.

### Scoring

Team members may be judged as individuals or pairs. However, it is the teams' average score for each event that contributes to their overall score.

Points will be deducted for any infringements as identified on the score sheet.

Where teams are tied, time may be the determining factor. The Chief Judge and Competition Manager may use their discretion to decide on the additional criteria used to determine the results if no other factors from the event judging sheets can separate the winner.

**The Competition Manager and the Chief Judge decision will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.** Additional penalty points will be deducted from teams for the following infringements.

Where teams are tied, time may be the determining factor. The Chief Judge and Competition Manager may use their discretion to decide on the additional criteria used to determine the results if no other factors from the event judging sheets can separate the winner.

The Competition Manager and the Chief Judge decision will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into. Additional penalty points will be deducted from teams for the following infringements.

### Two Penalty Points:

- Not wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Dropping of tools/equipment
- Misuse of tools/equipment
- Knife blade unprotected
- Pole strap dragging on ground
- Untidy work site
- Tape on harness

# LINE MECHANIC COMPETITION

## RULES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

5.

### Five Penalty Points:

- Not being attached at all times
- Ladder not secured before climbing
- Carrying equipment in hands while climbing ladder
- Not using hand line to raise and lower equipment
- Not wearing insulting gloves ground to ground
- Faulty equipment
- Tools, equipment, or vehicles out of test

**Note:** *The penalty points listed above are not exhaustive and the judges will use their experience and industry best practice to identify further potential infringements. Points may also be deducted for improper procedures or safety violations not listed.*

Teams may be disqualified for unprofessional behavior. An Event Judge, Chief Judge or the Competition Manager may disqualify a competitor who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The team manager can challenge the disqualification by requesting a breath screening test or drug screen, which will be carried out by a suitably qualified independent person at no cost to the competitor's company.

### Alcohol Breath Screening Test

Testing will be carried out using a breathalyser or digital alcohol meter that complies with AS 3547:1997

If the team member is over 18 years of age and the reading is:

- 250 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath or less, the competitor will continue in the competition.
- More than 400 micrograms per litre of breath, the original decision to disqualify the competitor will be upheld.

There is zero alcohol limit for competitors 18 years of age or under

### Drug Screen

Drug screening will be in compliance with AS/NZS 4308:2008. If the result is:

- Negative the team will continue in the competition.
- No-Negative the original decision to disqualify the team will be upheld.

6.

### Disputes

With the exception of Rule 5.5 only competitors can lodge a dispute. The levels of authority for any dispute or disciplinary action are as follows:

- Team Member
- Team leader
- Event Judge
- Chief Judge and Competition Manager. Any decision made at this level will be final.

7.

### Health & Safety

It is the responsibility of companies to ensure their employees are not under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the event.

All competitors and team managers must attend the following briefings, which will be held at the competition venue (Times may be subject to change)

- **22 October at 7am**
- **23 October at 7am**
- **24 October at 7am**

8.

Before beginning an event, each team must complete a tailgate and put in place the control methods identified on the tailgate.

All competitors must wear PPE and use tools and equipment that are appropriate for each task.

All accidents/incidents must be reported to the Competition Manager.

### Tools, Equipment, vehicles and PPE

Competitors must use a full-body harness that complies with AS/NZS 1891.4:2009. Lower body harness/safety belts (i.e., traditional line mechanic belts) will not be permitted.

It is the responsibility of competitors to ensure their PPE, tools, vehicles and equipment are safe, currently "in test" and appropriate for the tasks they will have to carry out during the competition.

Any equipment found to be faulty or out of test will be removed and the team will incur penalties. Competitors should ensure they have copies of test certificates available as judges may request evidence for relevant equipment.

9.

### WEATHER

In the event of extreme or arduous weather conditions like lightning, high winds or heavy continuous rain, a decision to cancel, delay, postpone or proceed will be made by the competition manager.

10.

### COMPETITION AWARDS PRESENTATION AND INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE AWARDS DINNER

The Competition Awards presentation and excellence Awards Dinner will be held on the final day of the competition, 24 October 2024, at 6.00pm. Tickets are required to attend this event and can be purchased from the Event Manager prior to the evening.

All teams are expected to attend this event. There will be no announcement of the top three competitors at the competition.

Connexis as the event owner will be enforcing host responsibility. **Competitors and guests who are visibly intoxicated will be asked to leave the premises and will not receive a refund of their ticket price.**

11.

### FILMING AND PHOTOS OF COMPETITION EVENTS

Competition Chief Judges and Connexis Event Management will have the discretion to ask competitors or associated support people to refrain from taking photos/videos in or around the competition arenas that is deemed to be at the disadvantage of other competitors.

**The competition has official photographers (Still & Video- Aerial Drone) and no other photographers will be allowed into the competition arena. The flying of drones inside the arena and outside the arena within a distance of 10m from the arena fencing is strictly prohibited.**

12.

### COVID-19

Connexis, is committed to COVID-19 Ministry of Health guidance and will take responsibility to stay up to date regularly and consistently with Ministry of Health guidance prior to and during the event.

The event management plan will be circulated to all competitors prior to the event outlining all details around Covid and other health & safety policies related to the event.



## CABLE JOINTER COMPETITION RULES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### 1. RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

To compete in this competition, you must be:

- New Zealand registered Cable Jointer with current practicing licenses.
- If the Cable Jointer is from outside of New Zealand and does not hold New Zealand qualification and practicing license, then the organising Committee (at its sole discretion) will consider and approve entry based on the following criteria:
  - Cable Jointer must provide evidence that they hold the New Zealand equivalent qualifications as NZQA/EWRB registered Cable Jointer and/or hold New Zealand equivalent practicing license in their local jurisdiction and:
  - They hold current competency in CPR/First Aid procedures and:
  - They can provide evidence of recent Live LV jointing and HV jointing experience and:
  - They can provide recent evidence of their testing for safety procedures used in completion of the work.

Trainee Cable Jointers may be approved to enter the competition provided the organising Committee is satisfied (at its sole discretion) that the Trainee is far enough along on his pathway and sufficient knowledge, skills and experience to be able to complete the expected tasks in the competition competently and safely.

#### Other Key Criteria

All competitors acknowledge in entering that they will need to be familiar with and comply with the NZ Electricity Industry Safety Rules as published by the NZ Electricity Engineers Association (EEA) and other relevant NZ Codes of Practice.

### 2. EVENTS

Each competitor will participate in a minimum of eight events.

### 3. COMPETITOR REGISTRATION

Competitor registration will be held on **Monday 21 October 2024** Venue and Time TBC.

Any competitors who are unable to attend registration at this time must advise the Event Manager Hillary Riches, [hillaryr@connexis.org.nz](mailto:hillaryr@connexis.org.nz) as soon as possible, but no later than **Thursday 17 October 2024**. Unforeseen circumstances will be accepted.

Withdrawals from the competition must be by written notification and emailed to the Event Manager Hillary Riches, [hillaryr@connexis.org.nz](mailto:hillaryr@connexis.org.nz) no later than **1 October 2024**. Competition withdrawals received after this date may be subject to a request to cover associated competition costs incurred by Connexis.

### 4.

#### JUDGING GUIDELINES

Industry experts who have experience in cable jointing and assessment have been selected to judge the events and will follow strict criteria. The first aid event will be judged by a first aid provider.

Judging will be based on best industry practices and procedures used across New Zealand and industry guides, regulations, and handbooks. These include but are not limited to:

One Event Judge may judge up to two competitors at a time.

The Chief Judge will oversee and if necessary, moderate the individual Event Judges to ensure fair and consistent judging across all competitors.

Competitors can only ask questions of the Event Judges before the individual event begins or during the tailgate session, but not during the event.

**Please Note:** *The new SMEI format will be used from 2022*

### 5.

#### SCORING

**1 (one) or 2 (two) points** will be deducted for minor infringements, for example steps missed in procedures. **5 (five) points** will be deducted for every critical error, for example improper procedures and safety violations. **25 (twenty-five) points** will be deducted for a major critical error.

Points will be deducted for tasks not completed for each event.

A clear safety breach which in normal circumstances could result in death or injury will result in the competitor receiving 0 (zero) points for the event.

The judges may use their experience and industry best practice to identify further potential infringements.

Where competitors are tied, time may be the determining factor. The Chief Judge and Competition Manager may use their discretion to decide on the additional criteria used to determine the results if no other factors from the event judging sheets can separate the winner. **The Competition Manager and the Chief Judge decision will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.**

Competitors may be disqualified for.

- Unprofessional behavior
- Receiving outside assistance after an event starts, including tailgate process

An Event Judge, Chief Judge or the Competition Manager may disqualify a competitor who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The person designated as the company contact on the registration for can challenge the disqualification by requesting a breath screening test or drug screen, which will be carried out by a suitably qualified independent person at no cost to the competitor's company.

#### Alcohol Breath Screening Test

Testing will be carried out using a breathalyser or digital alcohol meter that complies with AS 3547:1997. If the competitor is over 18 years of age and the reading is:

- 250 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath or less, the competitor will continue in the competition.
- More than 400 micrograms per litre of breath, the original decision to disqualify the competitor will be upheld.

There is zero alcohol limit for competitors 18 years of age or under.



# CABLE JOINTER COMPETITION

## RULES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

5.

### Drug Screen

Drug screening will be in compliance with AS/NZS 4308:2008. If the result is:

- Negative the competitor will continue in the competition.
- No-Negative the original decision to disqualify the competitor will be upheld.

6.

### DISPUTES

With the exception of Rule 5.7 only competitors can lodge a dispute. The levels of authority for any dispute or disciplinary action are as follows:

- Event Judge
- Chief Judge and Competition Manager. Any decision made at this level will be final.

7.

### HEALTH & SAFETY

It is the responsibility of companies to ensure their employees are not under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the event.

All competitors must attend the following briefings, which will be held outside the Cable Joints Competition Arena (Times may be subject to change)

- **22 October 2024 at 7am**
- **23 October 2024 at 7am**
- **24 October 2024 at 7am**

Before beginning an event, each competitor must complete a tailgate and put in place the control methods identified on the tailgate.

All competitors must wear current "in test" PPE and use tools and equipment that are appropriate for each event.

The following practices and tools are required for the LV Jointing event:

- Competitors must wear insulated rubber gloves during the entire jointing task barehand techniques will not be accepted.
- Competitors must have an "in test" rubber mat or boots.
- Earth bonds are needed.
- Current insulated tools must be used.
- Current "in test" PPE gear must be worn, including hardhats and eye protection.

In addition to wearing "in test" PPE gear, competitors must wear rubber gloves for the Testing to Ensure Safety event.

All accidents/incidents must be reported to the Competition Manager.

8.

### TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND PPE

Competitors must bring with them basic test instruments, including an insulation tester, multimeter, independent earth tester, a gas bottle (with regulator and correct compression hose fittings) and gun, torque wrench and all other tools, equipment, and PPE they believe are needed for the tasks they will have to carry out during the competition.

It is the responsibility of competitors to ensure their PPE, tools and equipment are safe and currently "in test".

Competitors with faulty or out of test PPE, tools or equipment will not be allowed to

9.

### WEATHER

In the event of extreme or arduous weather conditions like lightning, high winds or heavy continuous rain, a decision to cancel, delay, postpone or proceed will be made by the competition manager.

10.

### COMPETITION AWARDS PRESENTATION AND INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE AWARDS DINNER

The Competition Awards presentation and excellence Awards Dinner will be held on the final day of the competition, 24 October 2024, at 6.00pm. Tickets are required to attend this event and can be purchased from the Event Manager prior to the evening.

All teams are expected to attend this event. There will be no announcement of the top three competitors at the competition.

Connexis as the event owner will be enforcing host responsibility. **Competitors and guests who are visibly intoxicated will be asked to leave the premises and will not receive a refund of their ticket price.**

11.

### FILMING AND PHOTOS OF COMPETITION EVENTS

Competition Chief Judges and the Event Manager will have the discretion to ask competitors or associated support people to refrain from taking photos/videos in or around the competition arenas that is deemed to be at the disadvantage of other competitors.

**The competition has official photographers (Still & Video- Aerial Drone) and no other photographers will be allowed into the competition arena. The flying of drones inside the arena and outside the arena within a distance of 10m from the arena fencing is strictly prohibited.**

12.

### COVID-19

Connexis, is committed to COVID-19 Ministry of Health guidance and will take responsibility to stay up to date regularly and consistently with Ministry of Health guidance prior to and during the event.

The event management plan will be circulated to all competitors prior to the event outlining all details around Covid and other health & safety policies related to the event.



## COMPETITION COMMITTEE AND LOGISTICS

<b>Rick Johnson</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Warren Hedley</b>	<b>LM Competition Manager</b>
<b>Matt Southorn</b>	
<b>Jonathan Ackroyd</b>	<b>CJ Competition Manager</b>
<b>Paul Godfrey</b>	
<b>Andrew Wooles</b>	
<b>Craig Brown</b>	<b>Logistics Manager</b>
<b>Richard Inglis</b>	
<b>Dave Edgar</b>	
<b>Hillary Riches</b>	<b>Event Manager</b>

compete. Competitors should ensure they have copies of test certificates available as judges may request evidence.



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# COMPETITION INFO

## ANNUAL CONNECTION COMPETITION AWARDS

THURSDAY 24 OCT

The Competition Awards presentation will award the winners in each event, except for the top three competitors, who will be honoured at the Connexis Excellence Awards dinner. The Competition Awards is a free event for attendees and their supporters and will be held immediately before the Connexis Excellence Awards Dinner.

## CONNEXIS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

THURSDAY 24 OCT

The Excellence Awards are a celebration of the best and brightest trainees working in the Electricity Supply and Telecommunications industries. They also recognise those who have made a significant contribution to the industry through their enthusiasm and commitment to industry training. It is attended by many of the key influencers in the industry.

### The Excellence Awards include:

- **Distribution Trainee of the Year**
- **Generation Trainee of the Year**
- **Transmission Trainee of the Year**
- **Telecommunications Trainee of the Year**
- **Advanced Trainee of the Year**
- **Investing in Youth Training and Development**
- **Overall Trainee of the Year**

All line mechanic teams and cable jointer entrants are expected to attend the Excellence Awards, where the overall runners up and winners of the line mechanic and cable jointer competitions will also be named.

Connexis will be enforcing host responsibility. Competitors and guests who are visibly intoxicated will be asked to leave the premises and will not receive a refund of their ticket price.



## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in and around Te Awamutu is limited. Please contact Hillary 027 565 1961 to discuss

## E V E N T S C H E D U L E

MONDAY 21 OCT SET UP		TUESDAY 22 OCT DAY 1		WEDNESDAY 23 OCT DAY 2		THURSDAY 24 OCT DAY 3	
9.00am	Supplier Expo Load In	(TBC)	Competition Commence	(TBC)	Competition Commence	(TBC)	Competition Commence
(TBC)	Competition Registration	8.00am	Official Opening Competition	8.00am	Supplier Expo Open	8.00am	Supplier Expo Open
5.00pm	All Supplier Expo stands set up	8.00am	Supplier Expo Open	4.00pm	Competition Conclude	2.30pm	Competition Conclude
		4.00pm	Competition Conclude	4.30pm	Supplier BBQ on Site	6.00pm	Connexis Excellence Awards
							Announcement of Top Three Line Mechanic and Cable Jointers (Ticketed Event)



2024  
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**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:**

Hillary Riches [hillaryr@connexis.org.nz](mailto:hillaryr@connexis.org.nz)

[www.annualconnection.co.nz](http://www.annualconnection.co.nz)