

Memo to Clubs and Members
From Clubs New Zealand Board
Date 17 March 2020
Subject Coronavirus / COVID-19 Update – Sports Tournaments



Clubs New Zealand Tournaments

Clubs New Zealand has reviewed the latest information available from government agencies including the Ministry of Health (MoH).

Clubs New Zealand has cancelled all Clubs New Zealand Sports Tournaments up until 31 August 2020.

In making this decision the Board of Clubs New Zealand and National Office have taken into consideration the following;

- The health and wellbeing of the Club Community, members, staff and families is of upmost importance.
- The government has advised restrictions on events and gatherings. These restrictions are placed on events with numbers exceeding 500 people and while our events are not likely to exceed this number, we believe a cautious approach is prudent.
- We are aware that a number of our participants sit in the “older” and health challenged or immunocompromised demographics – these are the demographics most at risk.
- A number of participants will be flying domestic routes to get to host clubs for tournaments. This increases the opportunity for exposure to Covid-19 increasing the risk of transmitting the virus to communities where it is not currently.
- We understand and respect the decisions of a number of participants who are questioning their attendance at tournaments.

Clubs New Zealand has not made this decision lightly and we acknowledge that a large number of club members have been preparing for these tournaments for some time. We also acknowledge that many have travel and accommodation commitments that they may not be able to recover.

We wish to remind everyone, that the health and wellbeing of our membership and families is the priority.

Club and Interclub Tournaments and Events

Clubs New Zealand, using the advice of the Ministry of Health, recommends that club events and tournaments at club and community level with low participation (<100) numbers continue until advised otherwise.

If a club is holding a tournament or event, we recommend the following:

- Members should not shake hands, hug etc.
- If any member or participant is feeling unwell, coughing or sneezing – they should remove themselves from the event and self-isolate.
- Members should where possible maintain a distance of 1 meter from other members; and
- Members should wash their hands thoroughly following the Ministry of Health’s guidelines.

Clubs New Zealand insists that these recommendations should be considered by each club and individually; understanding that you will always act in the best interests of your members and community.

This global pandemic is having an impact on everyone. Many events are being cancelled at short notice, but these cancellations are done so with the very best of intentions – protecting our communities health and well-being. It is of upmost importance that during these times we look out for one another and respect the decisions and concerns that members of our communities may have.

We do not know how long the impacts of this pandemic may last or how far they will reach, we will endeavour to keep members of our community updated and informed as information comes to hand.

Thank you

Larry Graham
Chief Executive, Clubs New Zealand