



UPDATED ANNOUNCEMENT

Corvid-19/Coronavirus Effects All Events Postponement Decision

Thursday 19th March 2020

Note:- All below is subject to change and review. Further update will follow.

The national and international responses to the rapidly deteriorating Corvid-19 Pandemic need to be adhered to by the smaller entities such as the bowling communities in New Zealand. For very sound and well thought through reasons much of the world's social activities are temporarily closing down. In some countries even schools, restaurants, similar establishments and sports events have been compulsorily closed. We shouldn't be surprised if New Zealand soon follows suit, with the government expected to announce, by tomorrow, guidelines on gatherings such as weddings, funerals, club activities and such events.

We repeat that this is a serious social environmental health issue and will affect bowlers throughout New Zealand. The overall principle for health safety is based on the nationwide governmentally promoted "social distancing" approach to containing the spread of the virus. This is especially important due to the demographic vulnerability of the bowling community

After the announcement of 18th March, the Bowls Kapiti Coast Centre Board has been informed by Bowls NZ that they believe that the 100 people <u>restriction on gatherings was insufficient</u>. The Board now agrees.

- ❖ Bowls Kapiti Coast states that gatherings of more than 50 people are un-acceptable at any event within the Centre's area.
- Kapiti Coast Centre events have been indefinitely postponed.

These events are Novice (1&2yr) Singles 21 March

Mens & Womens Open Singles 28-30 March the North vs South representative event 1st April Mens & Womens Open Pairs 04-06 April

Other future events will be considered in the near future.

Replacement dates will be considered once the pandemic has abated.

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- ❖ We require all member clubs to postpone any and all events that exceed 50 people, the count including non-players and support personnel, in a single location.
- We expect the individual organising clubs to announce the postponement of their events.

24-25 March These should include:- Melva Ritson Womens Graded 4s Seddon Shield

08 April

Events from 10th April will be consider in the near future.

We also expect all Centre Affiliated Clubs to cancel, postpone or restrict in numbers all other regular club run events, galas, gatherings and activities.

In these difficult times it is important to recognise that co-operation and support is a two way thing and that the Centre's resources, limited as they may be, can be used to assist those clubs, now and going forward, that actively support the Centre's difficult but firm decision regarding the health and wellbeing of the greater bowling community.

The Bowls NZ website remains a useful source of independent information as do a number of government health sites. Don't be afraid to check on facts rather than relying on scuttlebutt.

As announced on 18th March, the Centre will provide, and Clubs are expected to provide, "no penalty withdraws", with refunds to all players due to cancelations caused by the Corivid-19 situation.

The hygiene and "social distancing" notes from the 18th March announcements remain valid. We repeat again that all Clubs need to be aware that it is not just the games of bowls that must be considered in relation to the health safety issues, as in addition to the players, umpires, markers and officials, consideration must be given to catering/kitchen staff, bar staff, administration and especially to the services these people provide with the handling of cups, glasses, cleaning items etc. It is not just game personal contacts that need to be minimised but clubhouse and social area interactions that need to conform to the "limited personal contact/social distancing" requirements.

While we are firm in the Boards hard decisions to date, regardless of any unpopular response, we still expect everyone to be considerate of others, including their views and opinions, during these trying and unpreceded times, and are prepared to frankly discuss any points raised.

Other changes or decisions will be notified as and when they are made by the Board.

Graham Fairburn Chairman – Bowls Kapiti Coast Inc Wayne Watts Administrator – Bowls Kapiti Coast Inc