



## Memo

Date: 6th November 2020  
To: All Affiliates, Regions and Members  
From: Dean Russell - General Manager  
Subject: General Manager's Message- Junior State Cup Update

Good morning all and we hope you are all well.

We know many affiliates are already preparing for the 2021 Junior Representative season and notably the Junior State Cup.

As such, it is timely we provide an update on where the Junior State Cups are situated. First and foremost, we are still planning for the events to progress.

However, it is only fair to advise all that logistically, and under the current the Public Health Orders (PHO), the Northern and Southern Conferences present far more significant challenges than all our other events combined.

We have previously submitted to NSW Health a submission for exemption from the public gathering regulation of 500-persons via what is termed discrete zones or groups. This is a physically divided area that would allow up to 500 persons in each Zone at any one time. We applied for an exemption for Country Championships, State Cup, Junior State Cups and Junior Regionals.

The Health Minister, the Hon Brad Hazard, has approved our submission for discrete zones, but **only for State Cup**. The approval came too late for Country Championships. NSW Health advised the reasons behind not receiving an exemption for our 2021 events was only on the basis that the current **PHO is repealed on December 24** and no exemptions can be provided beyond that date until a new PHO is put in place. They have been advised that we need to reapply for the exemptions post the new PHO.

So where does that leave us right now?

Firstly, in an incredibly difficult position, given the timing of our event and the date of the PHO being repealed and the time a decision on a submission might take over the Christmas New Year period. Especially with no advice yet as to whether the new order will be more relaxed around public gathering numbers.





Given this uncertainty around what the new orders might look like and the need to give timely advice to affiliates, we have had to make some **tough decisions now based on the information currently available**. That is the current PHO and the provisions of our exemption for State Cup.

The primary concern and what all affiliates need to keep front of mind is the allowable number of persons on the venues at the events.

At the 2020 Junior State Cup in Port Macquarie we had more than 12,000 persons on the venue and in Wagga Wagga over 10,500 persons. As we write this memo today, we would only be able to have 500 persons (players, team management, event officials, referees and spectators all included) in total on the venues at any one time. We would note that if we apply the mechanics of the submission presented to government and it was granted the still under the public gathering restriction of 500 persons, the following will apply:

- at Port Macquarie we would be able to have 2000 persons on the venue at any one time via discrete zones and
- at Wagga Wagga we would be able to have 1500 persons on the venue at any one time via discrete zones.

It is essential to understand that if you are in one discrete Zone, **YOU CAN NOT** move into another Zone. You must come onto the venue move straight into your Zone, play and then leave directly **WITHOUT** interacting, having contact with or moving through another Zone. This does not apply to NSWTA approved officials and Referees who are all deemed to be essential to run the event.

The biggest issue and most significant challenge, especially if the public gathering order remains at 500, will be allowing parents/siblings onto the venues. It simply reduces the number of teams we could accept into the event. If you take a one parent per player ratio, we then would as a minimum have to cut acceptances by 50%. Hence the public gathering number in the new Public Health Order will be critical to our plans. However, we are unlikely to know what this might be before December 24.

It has been very evident through Vawdon Cup that parents will ignore the one parent rule and have both parents, several kids, and on some occasions, grandparents attend. This places the event at major risk of being shut down should an inspection occur. For your knowledge we have had three (3) inspections through Vawdon Cup, a further inspection at Country Championships and have been advised to expect the same at State Cup.

This is the issue that is keeping me awake at night.



## **DECISIONS ALREADY MADE**

### **Development or second teams.**

For the 2021 Junior State Cup, we will not be able to accept development or second teams. We would encourage those affiliates who look to select these teams to still recognise players in a format best suited for your Affiliate and if possible, enter them into the lead-up gala days that might take place.

### **Under 8's**

We will not for the 2021 Junior State Cup run an under 8's division.

### **Finals Series**

For 2021 only the two winners of divisions in the Conferences will be invited to the State Final to play a best of three series.

### **Arrive Play Leave**

The event will be set up with strict safety precautions and will be played under the NSWTA Arrive, Play, Leave Protocol.

## **CURRENT CONSIDERATIONS.**

### **Parents/Spectators**

This is the most concerning issue in relation to where the PHO sits right at this moment. It would be disappointing for both the parents as well as the NSWTA if we found ourselves in a position of their not being able to come onto the venues. The consideration right now is purely around meeting the PHO public gathering numbers as they currently stand. We also recognise that it also provides logistical headaches of moving children off and on the venue safely for the affiliate, the parents and the NSWTA. What the new PHO post December 24 outlines and our ability to gain an exemption if required will be key in any determination here.

### **Alternate venues within the LGAs**

We are discussing with both LGAs possible venues within the towns that we might be able to move divisions to. We do need to temper this notion with two elements. One is having the human resources to run the events of this size at separate venues. The second is the referee resources required across two venues. Should what occurred in 2020 with both venues being 70 and 60 referees short it will be an impossibility to split venues.

### **Event to be played in Sections**

All games and divisions likely will have to be played in sections under the current PHOs and only if we received an exemption. This is based on our experiences thus far in staying within the PHO protocols. Also needing to consider the logistical requirements to move people on and off the venue, the traffic management plan required to accomplish this and the ability to



get games played teams **WILL NOT** permitted to have game debriefs at the fields. The time gap between games will not allow this, and after their Section, they must **IMMEDIATELY** leave the venue.

### **Change over**

Due to the current PHOs and only if we received an exemption allowing for games to be played in sections, the changeover times between sections will likely need to be **1 hour 30 mins**.

Due to the size of the venues, the need to move people off and on ensuring we do not breach the PHO an hour and a half break is needed. It is likely all teams and team management **MUST have vacated** the venue within **30mins** immediately at the competition of their section games. Teams and Team management **MUST not come on to** the venue until **40mins** before the commencement of their Section.

### **Affiliate Coordinator**

Each Affiliate will be allowed to have one Affiliate Coordinator who will be deemed as part of the NSW Officials. This person will have access to all Zones. The Affiliate coordinator must be the same person for the whole weekend. They will **always need to be on-site** to aid in dealing with any issues with their Affiliate.

### **Referees**

Even without COVID and restrictions that might be placed upon us, we cannot have a repeat of 2020 where we were a combine 130 referees short. Given the pressure to deliver the event under the PHO and the Arrive Play and Leave Protocol, team nominations **WILL NOT** be accepted, without meeting the required referee compliance as per the conditions of entry.

### **Team Bond**

Based on experiences through Vawdon Cup and Country Championships where Affiliates nominated teams only to keep withdrawing them, slowing the processes of getting out timely information to all affiliates, a team bond will be applied. This bond of \$200 per team will be payable on the nomination. The bond will be returned post-event should the nomination proceed unabated. Should a team be nominated and then withdrawn, the bond will not be returned. Should NSW be forced to remove a team due to the constraints of the event, the bond will be returned immediately.

### **Tents**

Given the need to adhere to the current PHO with the event to be played under the **Arrive Play Leave Protocol**, Affiliates **WILL NOT** be permitted to have their traditional marquees on site.

### **Management of Numbers.**



With the constraints of COVID 19 impacts, the current circumstances, and PHO, the following will need to apply in managing numbers on the venue at any one time. Teams will be **limited to 17 persons maximum**. This is **14 players and three team management**. If a team is carrying a medical person, this person will be counted in the 17. For U/10s Teams will be **limited to 13 persons maximum**. This is **ten players and three team management**.

#### **COVID-19 Amendments.**

We anticipate that there will still be a need for COVID-19 Addendums to the playing conditions for the event.

#### **NSWTA Medical Personnel.**

Given the need to adhere to the PHO requirements along with the Arrive Play Leave Protocols, the NSWTA Medical team will only be **treating in-game injuries**. They **WILL NOT** be available pregame strapping or preventative treatments in 2021.

Affiliates should ensure that all pregame treatments are preformed offsite prior teams arriving at the venue dressed ready to play.

We will continue to monitor the situation throughout the State, NSW Health, the Office of Sport and Sports NSW. We will communicate any, changes to COVID-19 Safety Plans or Public Health Orders that impact on our sport.

Best wishes, and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dean Russell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dean Russell  
General Manager