

Dear Skating Community

Over the past few days the Test & Competition Secretary, Skater Development Director, CEO and the President held discussions with Coaches and with Clubs and provided feedback to the Board. The Board are incredibly mindful of the safety of the entire skating community during the Covid-19 pandemic especially as we are in the midst of our competition season.

During these meetings, many factors were discussed and the key deciding factors are as follows:

- We need to be conscious of our skaters' health and physical conditioning, our officials' health concerns and the safety of our community.
- Coaches identified that it would take skaters at least four weeks' consistent training to be competition ready after a two week or more lockdown.
- Some of our officials and volunteers are unable to officiate under Alert Level 2 conditions. This could impact on the qualifying status of panels and competitions.
- The strict hygiene measures that need to take place at Alert Level 2 to adhere to Government guidelines.
- Address the additional safety requirements for any immunocompromised individuals.
- It is unreasonable to expect volunteers to bear the responsibility for the health of our community.

The Board are cognisant of how difficult the current situation is for everyone and in order to try to ease the pressure of clubs having to make difficult decisions about whether or not a competition/test can be held safely, the Board have made the following decisions with immediate effect.

- For any region in Covid-19 Alert Level 2 or above, club and regional competitions and tests **in that region cannot** be held.
- If **any region in NZ** is in Alert Level 2 or above at the commencement of the National Championships, the National Championships **will not be held**.
- For any region in Alert Level 1, competitions and tests can continue as planned, however skaters from a region that is in Alert Level 2 or above at the commencement of the competition/test may not attend and will be refunded any competition entry/test fees.

During our discussion with clubs, there was a collective decision to seek alternative dates for the remainder of competitions including Nationals. We appreciate the effort clubs and sub associations have made to attempt to secure these alternative dates so quickly. Clubs and sub associations will be confirming the alternate dates as soon as they are able. The following dates will give you an indication of when these competitions may likely be:

- DISC Champs: TBC
- South Island Champs: TBC
- CMFSC Champs: 20th September (no change)
- North Island Champs: 9th – 11th October
- National Championships: 24th – 27th October

The above date for Nationals will be the final date. If one region goes into Level 2 or above at the commencement of Nationals, there will be no further postponement and any entry fees paid will be refunded. The requirement to meet the qualifying TES for each grade as per the Technical Announcement will remain.

We find ourselves in unprecedented times and we would like to remind skaters, parents and coaches of social distancing and good hygiene during practice sessions. The Board are well aware of the disappointment these alterations to our season may cause for skaters, coaches, officials and families but we believe it is in the best interest to keep our skating community as safe as we possibly can.

Kind regards
NZIFSA Board