



Memo

Date: 5th November 2020
To: All Affiliates, Regions and Members
From: Dean Russell - General Manager
Subject: General Manager's Message- State Cup Update

Good morning all and we hope you are all well.

We are pleased to update you on our current situation about the 2020 State Cup. The games are on!

NSW Health has advised us that the Health Minister the Hon Brad Hazard has approved our submission for discrete zones. This means we **will have four (4) zones** across the precinct that can have up to **500 persons at any one time. (including participants, officials)**. While this is a real positive you can understand this still presents several logistical challenges in the delivery of the event to meet both the Public Health Order and conditions of our exemption.

For State Cup, we will have four discrete areas. **The Stadium Zone, Tuffins Creek Zone, Tuffins Airport Zone and West Tuffins Zone.** Given the large numbers of participants at the State Cup and the need to adhere to the PHO and NSW Health exemption and advice, the event **WILL** be played under the **Arrive Play Leave Protocol**. It will also be a **non-spectator event**.

NO spectators will be allowed onto the venue and this is disappointing for both the participants as well as the NSWTA. There have been some disappointing aspects to this Protocol through both Vawdon Cup and Country Championships. To be honest many, including persons of profile, who should know better, flatly have refused to abide by the Protocol or believe the rules do not apply to them. Together with the numbers to be maintained at the event, both have forced our hand in this regard. It has been disappointing so far that these actions of individuals, teams and in some instances, affiliates have put in jeopardy both the State Cup and Junior State Cups.

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.





Before completing your team nominations, it is essential to read below as it may affect some members of your Affiliate from participating.

As it stands at the time of writing, please note the following:

We have received EOI indication of team numbers at 245. While a pleasing result under the logistical constraints to meet the exemption, we will not be able to take that many teams. Under the structure required to run the event we believe 212 will be our maximum number.

Until official nominations come in it is not easy to give a full and concise view of the event, however, below will highlight how the event will need to be run under the PHO and our exemption. It would be right to advise affiliates and teams in 2020 they may not get as many games as in the past, and it may not be possible for Rounds of 16 or quarterfinals to be played. This will be determined by how we fit in the nominated teams into the structure and available time.

Even with the government approval, as advised earlier, there will be a **need to cap team numbers** for this year to be able to fit the structure, both in total numbers and by division. It may also be necessary **to combine divisions** to ensure we can fit into the structure.

Event to be played in Sections

All games and divisions will have to be played in sections. This is based on the indications from the EOI, 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. Further, rounds will be played as 25min turnaround. Teams in a division will come onto the venue go directly to their allocated Zone (participants should be arriving at the venue ready to play) play their matches and leave immediately.

Teams will likely play up to 3 games back to back in a section. Below is an outline of how this will likely operate.

For Zone 2 Tuffins Creek, Zone 3 Tuffins Airport and Zone 4 West Tuffins

Section 1 Friday

Game 1 8am

Game 2 8.30am

Game 3 9am

Section 1 completed by 9.25am

Section 2 Friday

Game 1 11am

Game 2 11.30am

Game 3 12noon

Section 2 Completed by 12.25pm

Section 3 Friday

Game 1 2pm

Game 2 2.30pm

Section 4 Friday

Game 1 5pm

Game 2 5.30pm



Game 3 3pm

Section 3 completed by 3.25pm

Game 3 6pm

Section 4 Completed by 6.25pm

Teams **ARE NOT** permitted to have game debriefs at the fields. The time gap between games will not allow this and at the conclusion of your Section you must **IMMEDIATELY** leave the venue..

The only alteration to this would be for Zone 1 Stadium, which will only have two fields. In this situation, the Men's A and Women's A will share this Zone and games played on Friday and Saturday would be in **blocks**. As an example, the Men's A teams would all come in and play a morning to mid-afternoon block. These games will have breaks. There would be an hour cross over for participants to leave the Zone as being a fully enclosed fenced area it is easier to manage, from logistically and a traffic management perspective. Then the Women's A teams would then come onto the venue and play in a similar format in the afternoon/evening. The following day they would reverse order of morning block and afternoon/evening block. It is important to note that it is likely that games in this Zone would extend into the evening under lights and that we will have to cap the number of teams in both Men's and Women's A division. Teams must come onto the venue at the beginning of the block and remain on the venue until they play their last game of that block.

Depending on team numbers for the event and final structure, we would look to have finals on Sunday for other divisions played in Zone 1 where possible.

Change over

For Tuffins Creek, Tuffins Airport & West Tuffins Zones, the changeover times between sections will need to be **1 hour 30 mins**.

Due to the size of the venue, the need to move people off and on to ensure we do not breach the PHO and our exemption an hour and a half break is needed. This is also to ensure that the traffic management plan currently being revised and discussed with the local authorities is workable. 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** prior to the commencement of their Section.

Minibuses and parking

We are working with the local authorities through a revised traffic management plan to have areas close to the Zones for minibus parking. Teams that have minibus transport will have access to their zones in a lot closer proximity than standard car parking. In our view, we would recommend teams and affiliates investigate the use and hire of minibuses to aid in the **Arrive Play Leave Protocol** and help move persons on and off in time frame required.



Once we have confirmation of the traffic management plan in this regard, we will advise.

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. That person will also receive the one car pass issued to Affiliates this year. That pass will be into P6 (Stadium).

We would ask that you advise us of your affiliate coordinator no later than **Friday, November 13**. A **headshot photo** of the Coordinator must accompany the advice.

Increased Costs

Now that we have approval under the government exemption, logistically, and infrastructure wise, we will see increased costs in the setting up of the venue to ensure we remain compliant. We already know from our Vawdon Cup and Country Championship experiences that NSW Health will undertake an inspection of the venue during the event to ensure that we are compliant with the PHO, our exemption and our COVID Safety Plan. Should we be found not to be compliant, the event will be closed down.

Our experiences at both Vawdon Cup and Country Championships proved that individuals, teams and some affiliates have refused to abide by COVID rules we have had to put in place. This has meant we have to put in place extra logistical and infrastructure support to ensure the event can proceed. These all come at significant additional costs to the event. Therefore, there will need to be a small increase in participant registration fees for 2020.

Referees

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. **Player/coach Referees will not be accepted** for this event. In 2020, given the restrictions placed on the event due to the impact of COVID-19, there cannot be any flexibility in this area.

Affiliates **will be required to accommodate their nominated referees**. Where possible with members from the same household. This is part of a risk minimisation protocol and strategy to ensure that we do not have members from different regions mixing in household-like settings, such as accommodation if hosted by NSWTA. Overnight accommodation settings where facilities are shared by people from different households do hold a greater risk of transmission than outdoor settings.

We encourage Affiliates who can have their participants and referees remain accommodated at home even if this means for this year you have longer travel times.



In taking this decision we will still provide the rebate provided for affiliates of \$120 per referee not accommodated by the NSWTA remains in place. Also, by moving in this direction expenses normally attributed to referee accommodation will be used both for the increased rebate to affiliates and applied against any increased cost to the participant. Therefore aiding in this to be minimised.

NSWTA may be able to assist with sourcing accommodation if required.

No Spectators

Unfortunately, at the 2020 State Cup and the need to meet both the PHO and exemption requirements, the event will be played with **NO SPECTATORS**.

To be precise only participants, registered team management and NSWTA approved officials are permitted onto the venue.

Actions

Due to experiences through Vawdon Cup and Country Championships should individuals, teams or Affiliates **breach the rules in place** for the event or direction by NSWTA officials, action will be taken. This may be but not limited to suspension, have points deducted, games deemed as forfeits, be removed from the competition, or be fined.

We cannot allow selfishness to put the event in jeopardy.

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

There may be the ability in Zone 1- given the block of games rather than sections for an affiliate to have a small marquee no more extensive than 6x3 within the secured area, only for divisions that are allocated to the Zone



Management of Numbers.

With the constraints of COVID 19 impacts, the current circumstances, PHO and exemption requirements, 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 3 team management**. If a team is carrying a medical person, this person will be counted in the 17.

COVID-19 Amendments.

There will be COVID-19 Addendums to the playing conditions, and these will be issued shortly. For those affiliates who did not participate in Vawdon Cup or Country Championships, we have provided for information those we have in place for Vawdon Cup.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW.](#)

NSWTA Medical Personnel.

Given the need to adhere to the PHO and exemption 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 2020.

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

Attractions

While we recognise that even in a best-case scenario that the social aspect of the event will not be as what we are used to or in many cases look forward to, it can, however, present an opportunity. We are sure for many of our participants they have attended the Port Macquarie region on many occasions, and likely they have seen the fields, their hotel, a couple of eating venues and Panthers. With the **Arrive Play Leave Protocol**, many people will have far more significant downtime away from the venue than ever before. We have discussed this with Council, and they will put together several attractions and opportunities for our participants to explore across the region while they have significant downtime in 2020.

We will continue to monitor the situation throughout the State, NSW Health, the Office of Sport and Sport 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', is positioned above the printed name.

Dean Russell
General Manager