



**SPORT
NEW ZEALAND**

Dear Club Secretary,

New Zealand Polocrosse Inc

www.nzpolocrosse.com

NOTICES TO CLUBS JANUARY 2021



**Please forward information on to your members.
If you miss the date for EOI (due to holidays etc) please
still forward your interest ASAP**



COACHING CAMP

Open to all ages and abilities!



To assist in the planning of a Coaching Camp the Board is calling for **Expressions of Interest** from any players that would like to attend - please send names and playing ability to the Board Secretary by **Sunday 3rd January 2021** please e-mail: nzpolocrosse@gmail.com

Coaching Camp is open to ALL Players / ALL ages / ALL Playing abilities

Dates - Thursday 21st January and Friday 22nd January at Otorohanga grounds
(Prior to the Juniors & Intermediates competition on the Saturday / Sunday)



Proposed days activities: Thursday afternoon (on horses) Friday (groundwork, ball skills, umpire's session, horsemanship etc) **Cost:** tbc but will be minimal .



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR BARASTOC COMPETITION: 16th to 18th April 2021



New Zealand Polocrosse has received an invitation from Warwick Polocrosse Club to attend the Barastoc competition at Morgan Park, Warwick on the 16th, 17th & 18th April 2021.

At this stage there is the possibility of competitions for the following - Mens / Womens / Under 21's Mens / Under 21's Womens / Junior Boys / Junior Girls / Master Womens / Master Mens.

The Board would like to gauge what player would be interested in attending IF it were possible to travel to Australia in April - with no quarantine on return to New Zealand.

As a player what team(s) would you be interested in - please list first choice and a second choice if applicable - i.e. if you were Under 21 would you rather play in the Under 21 team or in the Open team. If you are an Open team player but also eligible for the Master which would be your preference?

We do not envision being able to send numerous teams - so are seeking feedback from you as a player as to what your preference would be - if it is even feasible to consider travelling.

Please advise of any interest to the Board Secretary by **Sunday 3rd January 2021**



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR NEW ZEALAND JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIPS



Again, with the uncertainty of Covid 19, it is unknown if New Zealand will receive invitations for, or even be able to take part in, sending New Zealand Juniors to Australia in 2021. Our 2020 recipients Layla Collins, Leah Cox and Taylor Faul have not been able to travel in the last season and the Board are working with the Coaching Panel to find suitable placements in New Zealand for these players to still get some experience.

At this stage, due to travel restrictions and the uncertainty around Covid in Australia, we will not be hosting any Australian Juniors this playing season. However, the Board is still calling for applicants from **NEW ZEALAND Juniors for 2021 the NZ Junior Scholarships** - with applications due in by **5.00pm on Saturday 16th January 2021** please e-mail your application to - nzpolocrosse@gmail.com Although these Junior Scholarship recipients may not get to travel this year the Board is still looking at ways to recognise these players.

CARNIVAL DATES & NATIONAL FIXTURES:

Please note the following changes to the calendar –

Kaikohe and Pouto Polocrosse Clubs would like to advise of the changes to their Carnival dates - Kaikohe tournament will now be 9 & 10th January and Pouto will now be 16 & 17th January



Our National Fixtures are set for the following dates –

➤ Juniors & Intermediates	23 rd & 24 th January	Host: Te Mata Polocrosse Club	Venue: Otorohanga
➤ Roke & Rockwood	27 th & 28 th February	Host: Counties Polocrosse Club	Venue: Glenbrook
➤ Inter Association Champs	19 th & 20 th March	Host: Central Plateau Association	Venue: Tokoroa
➤ Sponsors Carnival	27 th & 28 th March	Host: Kaitieke Polocrosse Club	Venue: Taumarunui

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FORUM:

As advised earlier, the Board is looking to hold a “Discussion meeting”, to talk through various scenarios surrounding the Player Eligibility and Selection Criteria for New Zealand teams. This is NOT a Special General Meeting - there will be no voting or remits being put forward, it is merely the chance to start a plan for further discussion.

The Board would like to allow Associations to put forward their views to assist the Board in working through the many different ideas, viewpoints and scenarios that are floating around out there at the moment.



To ensure that this meeting gives all people a chance to be heard or to ask specific questions (for future discussions), the Board will request that each Association puts forward two delegates to attend this meeting. Each Association will be given a set amount of time to talk, where everyone has the chance to have a say in a controlled environment, it will not be a debate.

The Board asks that each Associations speak with their Club members over the next few weeks and comes to the forum meeting with 3 or 4 bullet points as a cross section of their Club discussions, suggestions, or concerns.

The meeting is planned for Saturday 23rd January 2021 (at the Juniors & Intermediate carnival) at the Otorohanga Polocrosse grounds (upstairs in the Rugby Club rooms) 1/2 hour after the last game of the afternoon has finished. Craig Zielinski will chair the meeting.

UMPIRE NEWS:

Your 2021 Umpires Panel Members are: Tony Schrafft (Chief Umpire) Jesse Kereopa, Patrick Cornelius, Nigel Watson, Martin White, Administrator: Jenelle Coxall

The Umpires Panel have been working together updating the strategic plan and Terms of Reference to reflect the duties and goals of this year’s Umpires Panel. Umpire Coaching Sessions are a feature of this seasons work and the panel kicked off the season holding a session with the Northland Association at the Counties Pre-Season tournament, we are looking forward to being a part of the up-coming coaching camp at Otorohanga prior the Juniors and Intermediates.



The Umpires Grading list for this year is currently being finalised and will be made available to clubs very shortly, this will provide a guide for clubs to choose effective umpires for the various grades of polocrosse and ensure junior/new umpires are well supported.

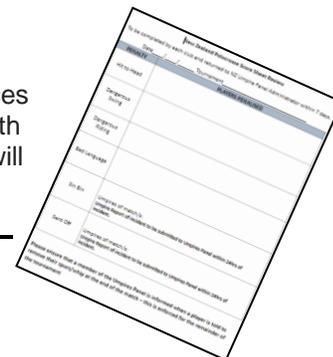
The umpire panel members will be letting umpires know when they are watching a game to provide support and advise during the games.

Keep an eye out on social media for our “Rule of the Week” posts as they will be recommending soon!

If you have any queries regarding Umpiring please approach one of the panel members, they are more than willing to help you out.

SCORE SHEETS FROM CARNIVALS - New Initiative

A new approach to enable the umpire’s panel to view details of dangerous play incidences has been designed with a simple feedback sheet that clubs will be required to submit with their score sheets to Jenelle, Umpire Panel Administrator. These forms and resources will be provided to club secretaries with further information prior to next weekend.



JUNIORS & INTERMEDIATES COMPETITION:

Te Mata Polocrosse Club are hosting this year's Juniors & Intermediates competition at Otorohanga on the **23rd & 24th January 2021**. Entries will be due into the Board Secretary by 5.00pm on the **15th January 2021** – by email to nzpolocrosse@gmail.com . Entry fees will be payable to Te Mata Polocrosse Club.



With the current Junior and Intermediate player numbers, and no overseas players being available, it is imperative that Associations forward ALL available players names when submitting their team for the Juniors & Intermediates competition to assist in putting together composite teams.

Could Associations please also name their Coaches for their teams and name any spare coaches that would be available to coach composite teams.

If any Association wishes to play in their CLUB colours, they need to advise the Board of this when submitting entries – the preference is for Associations to play in their Association colours.

Certificates and awards from the 2020 season will be presented at the is event. Please ensure you return all cups – cleaned and engraved etc.

FUNDRAISING:

Our fundraising committee consists of Nicky Schrafft, Nicky Cornelius, Julie Woodman-Neil, Travis Awburn, Dirk Faul and Sheree Marlow. The main contact for the fundraising committee is Nicky Schrafft e-mail: nicky26@xtra.co.nz

The first major fundraiser has been the Horse Trek organised by Putaruru-Tirau and Travis Awburn is well underway with the calf fundraiser. The committee is now planning for the sponsors carnival.

HORSE TREK: A huge THANK YOU to Putaruru-Tirau Polocrosse Club who organised the first horse trek, with special thanks to Paddy and Nicky Cornelius for offering their property for the trek and all the work they did in preparing this! The trek raised \$3,755.00 and had around 75 riders attending. Thank you to Clubs that provided food or help for the event. Special thanks to Ashhurst Polocrosse Club and Bruce Reynolds for making monetary donations.

NOW who will be next???? There will be a “Trek Pack” put together to assist the next Club with their planning. It would be great to have 2 or 3 of these one (or two) day treks each year. Please contact Nicky Schrafft if you are interested or need help getting started on this.

CALF REARING: Travis currently has had 7 calves donated and is in the process of placing these on farms to be raised. Travis has also secured additional calves to be donated in autumn. If you can raise a calf or know of someone else that could do this on your behalf, for around 18 months, then please let Travis know.

SPONSORS CARNIVAL: The Sponsors Carnival is being held on the 27th & 28th March 2021 and will be hosted by Kaitieke Polocrosse Club. All Clubs will be asked to donate items for the auction to a value of at least \$500 per Club – this can be made up of several smaller items or one or two larger items. When you have your items together please contact Nicky Schrafft. Remember the funds from the Sponsors Carnival goes to all of New Zealand Polocrosse.

SUBS & CARNIVAL LEVIES:

A reminder that anyone playing polocrosse or taking part in Club organised practices etc should be affiliated by now and must have a new seasons (yellow) helmet tag on their helmet.

Carnival levies, including a list of players, must be forwarded to the Board Secretary within 7 days of the carnival along with the \$10 per player Carnival levy payment.

Bank account details for payment are: New Zealand Polocrosse BNZ Account Number: 02-0712-0081910-000

BOARD MEETING SNIPPETS:

To help with the Boards endeavors for transparency there will be brief updates after Board meetings to inform you all of what the Board has been doing or is currently working on.



While everyone else was out doing their last-minute Christmas shopping, the New Zealand Polocrosse Board held a meeting in Cambridge on the 23rd December 2020, with a full turn out of Board members.

The letter to the IPC regarding rules for hosting International events was finalised and has now been sent; some Board members have started the on line training available through Sport NZ; we have managed to collaborate with another sporting body to replace the two defibrillators that NZ Polocrosse had, that we were unable to replace the batteries in, and they have used our old defibrillators as trade ins and have paid for the two new ones that we will share with them (their sport runs in the opposite season to polocrosse) which is a win / win situation for all.

The Board discussed tasks to be completed for the Juniors & Intermediates competition and the need to hold a Coaching Camp, even though there was concern over the number of attendees that this may attract. The Board felt that it was important to provide some form of coaching, even if only for a shorter period of time, and reiterated that the camp was open to all players and all levels of play. EOI for this have been called for. Preliminary discussions about the Roke and Rockwood competition and the makeup of divisions were also had.

The Board has received an invitation to the Barastoc competition in April 2021 and has put this out to the players to see what interest there is in the various divisions, this will then be discussed further with coaches to determine if it is viable to send a team or not, which will also depend on travel restrictions.

The Board would like to see squads named for both the Junior and Intermediate players, with trial games being played, before NZ teams are named; this will be put to the various coaches for consideration.

Russell Tye reported on the progress that the Umpires Panel have made in reviewing their Terms of Reference, Strategic Plan and Annual Plan, the panel has also been proactive in being seen out and about on the fields and talking to players and umpires. It was great to have feedback from Nicky Schrafft on what the Fundraising Committee has done, as reported on in this Notice to Clubs. Gary Malcolm provides a good link between Neil Smith (Coaching Panel Administrator) and the Board. The Board ratified the appointment of the Juniors and Intermediates Assistant Coaches and Selectors and appointed Kayla Murray and Kyla Zielinski as the Publicity Officers to work under the guidance of Andrew Fowler.

The Audited 2020 Financial Statements have been received from SILKS Auditors, and although there is a difference of \$12,500 in the final equity between these and the draft accounts tabled at the AGM, this is mainly due to transactions that took place after the end of the financial year being coded back to the correct year and the reclassification of some funds (Intermediates auction monies). The Audit Management letter was tabled and discussed with no unjustifiable areas of concern being raised.

The Board received confirmation from Sport New Zealand of their partnership investment with New Zealand Polocrosse of \$10,000 per annum being renewed from the 1st July 2021 through to 30th June 2024, subject to agreement of initiatives for this period. This is great news for our sport! Along with this investment schedule New Zealand Polocrosse has also received a one-off Reset Rebuild investment of \$5,000 to assist in rebuilding capacity that was lost due to Covid 19. Some of the Reset Rebuild funds will be used to assist coaches, umpires and management work on a plan to provide united coaching and umpiring during this time of limited international competition. All funding received from Sport New Zealand requires reporting back to show what initiatives the funds were used for.

Most Clubs paid their affiliations and Club levies on time, and Carnival levies are now starting to come in. The membership base currently sits at 249 down significantly from the end of season total of 308 for 2020. The decline has been evenly spread amongst the Juniors, Senior and Social members, and of course there have been no overseas players affiliated for this season.

One of the main focuses of this Board meeting was to review the NZ Polocrosse Strategic Plan, which will be updated for 2021 – 2025. This review considered our strategic aims, initiatives outlined in our Sport NZ investment schedule and the changing culture of our sport. The Board made good progress in identifying the aims and KPI's and worked on actions required to meet these over the coming 5 years. Although still in draft form, this should be ready for adoption at the next Board meeting.

The Board is seeking feedback from the stakeholders on the discussions had at the conference around Player Eligibility. The Board has decided to hold a forum on the Saturday afternoon of the Juniors & Intermediates competition with two delegates from each Association being able to attend and put forward 3 to 4 bullet points for the Board to take away and discuss. This is not a Special General Meeting; no remits will be formed and no voting will be undertaken – it is merely an information gathering exercise as a starting point for future discussions. The Board meeting concluded at 2.35pm.

COACHING SYLLABUS:

If any members would like to start their Coaching qualifications (Level 1) then please contact the Coaching Panel Administrator Neil Smith - by e-mail at neilsally10@gmail.com



RACQUET & BALL PURCHASES:

People are able to purchase racquets, balls, grips etc from Beth Peaker - please ensure you make payment for these directly into the New Zealand Polocrosse bank account as soon as possible after purchasing and reference your name and what you purchased. New Zealand Polocrosse BNZ Account Number: 02-0712-0081910-000

PUBLICITY, FACEBOOK & WEBSITE:

Kayla Murray and Kyla Zielinski are now our new Publicity Officers and they are doing a great job with the facebook page and Instagram. Be sure to check out the "Throw Back Mondays" on facebook for some great memories! The website is in the process of being updated. If you have photos, flyers, information or anything of interest please get it through to these lovely young ladies by e-mail to nzpolocrosse.publicity@gmail.com Please copy the NZ Secretary in on any carnival flyers or information that you want distributed to Clubs – NZ Secretary email address nzpolocrosse@gmail.com



Please remember that the New Zealand Polocrosse face book page is viewable by all, possible sponsors, new and potential members, and other equestrian sports etc so please keep the content, and comments, of a "nice" nature.

NEW ZEALAND JUNIOR & INTERMEDIATE ASSISTANT COACHES, SELECTORS & MANAGERS:

The Board is pleased to confirm the appointment of the Selectors and Assistant Coaches for the Juniors and Intermediates.



New Zealand Intermediates

Coach:	Jarrod Richardson
Assistant Coach:	Beth Peaker
Selectors:	Jarrod Richardson & Beth Peaker
Manager:	TBC

New Zealand Juniors

Coach:	Rick Murray
Assistant Coach:	Shaye Williams
Selectors:	Rick Murray & Lionel Gundry
Manager:	Lionel Gundry

ADVERTISING ON THE WEBSITE:

Website advertising package includes your company logo on the rotating slider at the bottom of the main web page; your logo on the Sponsors page with a link to your website and a post on the NZ face book page promoting your company all for only \$250.00 for 12 months. Please contact –

nzpolocrosse.publicity@gmail.com or nzpolocrosse@gmail.com to secure your space for the coming season.



NEW ZEALAND JUNIORS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS:

Juniors need to be nominated by their Association and also have signed approval for nomination from their parent or guardian. The player's present playing ability is to be taken into account, along with their ability to mix with people. Their application should contain references from their school and a summary of their involvement in polocrosse and their future polocrosse aims – as per the By Law below –

Junior Scholarship Criteria

- Juniors are to be nominated by their Association along with signed approval for nomination from their parent or guardian. Proof of age may be requested.
- The nomination is to be approved by the Coaching Panel.
- In the event of more than one nomination being received the Coaching Panel should make a recommendation to the Board.
- Present playing ability is to be taken into account.
- A reference as to character and endeavour is to be requested from the school that is being attended at present, or past.
- The ability to mix with people is to be taken into account.
- The length of time that the nominated person has been involved, along with their aims towards polocrosse in the future is to be considered.
- The Board will provide 50% of airfares to Australia (internal flights at recipient's expense) and cost of a windcheater type jacket with appropriate monogram.
- All Junior Scholarship recipients must have comprehensive travel, medical and sports insurance prior to travel. The Board will reimburse 50% of the insurance cost.
- All Clubs that put forward a recipient for the Junior Scholarships must be willing for their Club to host a recipient Junior Scholarship, or to find a suitable host, if their Club's Junior player should be selected. The host family must be of a suitable caliber
- Host families, or their Club, will be responsible for all / any Carnival entry fees for the Junior Scholarship player that they are hosting, unless the Carnival Host Club decides not to charge for these players. There is no entry fee required for the Junior Scholarship players in the Juniors & Intermediates competition.

