

NOTICES TO CLUBS NOVEMBER 2021



Dear Club Secretary,

Please forward information on to your members.

AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2021 AGM:

Thank you to all Associations for completing the 2021 AGM voting via the Survey Monkey.

This was something new for all of us, thanks to Covid 19, and the feedback received was very positive. The survey was easy for delegates to complete and enabled a clear record of proceedings and voting.

All reports, financial statements and remits and be circulated to Clubs and Associations 21 days prior and the draft AGM minutes, with results of voting, have also been distributed to all Clubs and Associations.

The only downside was not having the opportunity for discussion and the conference but, depending on Covid 19 restrictions, the Board is hoping to be able to have some sort of "Mini Conference" during the playing season.

PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT:

The Board is pleased to advise that they have appointed Craig Zielinski as the President of New Zealand Polocrosse and Chairman of the New Zealand Polocrosse Board, with Gary Malcolm being appointed as Vice President. The Board felt that it was important now, more than ever, to have a Vice President in the case of travel / border restrictions between various parts of the North Island.

PATRON:

The Board had pleasure in advising the stakeholders that Lawrence Tye accepted the invitation to remain as the Patron of New Zealand Polocrosse. Lawrence is a Life Member of New Zealand Polocrosse, he has been a member of the NZ Polocrosse Board, as well as holding a multitude of other titles within the sport at various Club, Association and National levels over the many years of his playing career.



BOARD MEMBERS & AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

At the first meeting of the Board the following Areas of Responsibility were designate to the various Board members with their role being to act as a go between for the subcommittees and the Board and to be the recognised Board member for stakeholders to approach to discuss items that fall within their specific portfolio.

Coaching

Umpiring

Publicity / Website

Growth

Sponsorship / Sponsors Carnival & Fundraising

Junior Scholarships and Overseas Liaison

Gary Malcolm

Russell Tye

Andrew Fowler

All Board members

Nicky Schrafft

Russell Tye



COVID 19:

Covid 19 is set to remain in our midst and cause disruption to all our lives. What does this mean for our players, stakeholders, and the future of our sport? It means we must stick together and carry on and make the best possible season we can. It would be great to be able to welcome back our overseas players and to engage in tours but if this doesn't happen, we then look for the positives in our own backyard. With no overseas players being able to visit us in last season we saw lots of new faces, or returning faces, in our national fixtures and the level of coaching within clubs of all members increased.

This year we are hoping to see the return of feature matches and other competitions in the preparation, and hope of, travel and competition returning with our Australian counterparts. The Board has already received invitations from the PAA and along with the Coaching Panel are looking at other invitations that can be extended or accepted.

However, the reality is that travel restrictions and borders may remain in place for a little while yet, or could be reimplemented at any time, and as a sporting body we must abide by Government directives, protocols and laws. This may result in limits on the number of people being able to attend practices and carnivals and is something that is changing all the time. How can we plan around this and mitigate any negative affect this will have on our sport?

**Unite
against
COVID-19**

The Board is looking for stakeholder / player input and suggestions as to how we can manage the situation. What would you like to see happen? How can we run National fixtures? What if numbers are limited for carnivals? If you have any ideas or suggestions, please forward them to the Board secretary by email to polocrosse@gmail.com.

If any of our playing whanau have been adversely affected by the impact of Covid 19 please feel free to contact the Board in confidence. When times are hard, sport is even more important to help keep people connected. Remember to be there for each other and check in on ones you haven't heard from.

So... What does this mean for the here and now???

Affiliations: Any person wishing to play polocrosse must be affiliated to their Club and New Zealand Polocrosse, with affiliations due by the 30th November each year. This doesn't just mean if you wish to play at carnivals – you should be affiliated if you are playing polocrosse at Club practices, playing on polocrosse grounds etc. The Board understands the reluctance of some people to affiliate now, without knowing what the season ahead holds. Will there be carnivals, will there be national fixtures, will there be overseas tours? What will carnivals look like – how many people can attend?

The Board wants to encourage all members -players or social to still affiliate. You must be affiliated to be covered by New Zealand Polocrosse Insurance in the case of any claim; your Club needs members to be affiliated if they are raising funds; you need to be affiliated to be selected for national teams or to take part in national fixtures.

Considering the restrictions that Covid 19 could have on the playing season the Board has agreed on the following –

- Clubs are still to pay the \$150 Club Levy – due by 30th November.
- Clubs are to encourage all members to affiliate paying the below fees –
 - Seniors & Intermediate players \$50.00
 - Junior players \$30.00
 - Subbies Must have name recorded – no fee
 - Social members \$10.00

The above reduced affiliation entitles the player to attend Club practices and up to two carnivals; the remainder of a full affiliation is due prior to playing a third carnival – or playing at a national fixture. There will be no refunds on these affiliations.

The Board appreciates the extra paperwork that this puts on Club Secretaries, and thanks them in advance for doing this.

Carnivals – Each Club will be responsible for deciding if their carnival is able to proceed, based on the current Level / Traffic Light that their region is in. Each Club will be responsible for ensuring they abide by any of the required government directives that the level deems necessary. Information on this is available through the government Covid 19 website [Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](https://www.covid19.govt.nz) or through the Sport New Zealand website (which offers great advice and resources) [Alert level information | Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa \(sportnz.org.nz\)](https://www.sportnz.org.nz). Clubs will have to independently access if it is viable for them to run a carnival, if they are able to (or wish to) provide a meal, how they will manage any limits on numbers attending, and will also need to provide a QR code or manual register for contact tracing. People attending carnivals will need to abide by whatever ruling there is associated to the current Alert Level, Traffic Light, that the area is in. This may mean social distancing, wearing of face masks, scanning in etc. Some Clubs may need to limit the number of teams that they can have playing at a carnival.

Carnival levies to the Board will still be payable but will be at a **reduced rate of \$5.00** for any carnivals held **prior to the 1st January 2022**.

Vaccinations – Currently there is no mandate around sport and sporting fixtures / events – but this is changing quickly! The Board will advise you of any changes to this as they happen. Players and spectators MAY need to provide proof of being vaccinated before being able to enter polocrosse grounds – this is not mandatory yet BUT Individual Clubs are able to enforce this if they wish. From Sport NZ website - *Organisations are entitled to mandate vaccines for any third party who enters their facility (e.g. contractors, visitors, spectators), or enters an event that they are running (e.g. participants). They can do this by making vaccination a condition of entry – no risk assessment is required. There are, however, other factors you may wish to take into account and a process that you may wish to follow to develop your position.* For more details on this please visit the Sport NZ website.

Players wishing to travel overseas will need to abide by government laws that are in place at the time of travel.

Player / stakeholder safety – Above all else we want our players, stakeholders, whanau, and spectators to be safe. If you are sick- stay home; if you can't travel safely, or don't feel safe travelling to venues – stay home. Polocrosse is a family sport but if you don't need all your family attending events – then they too should stay home.



2022 NATIONAL FIXTURES:

National fixtures have been allocated to the following Clubs / Associations –

**Juniors & Intermediates
22nd & 23rd January**

Host - Northland Polocrosse Assoc – to be held at Kaikohe

**Roke & Rockwood
25th & 26th February**

Host – Kaitieke Polocrosse Club – to be held at Manunui, Taumarunui

**Inter Association Champs
26th & 27th March**

Host- Auckland Polocrosse Assoc – venue to be confirmed

National Fixtures will only be held if they are able to be done so in the current Covid 19 Level / Traffic Light operating at the time of the competition and the Board will reserve the right to cancel or postpone any event as needed.

The Sponsors Carnival will be held on 19th & 20th March with the venue to be confirmed.

HORSE TREK: We are still looking for a Club to host the next horse trek. Planning for this needs to be underway soon so if you are interested, please contact Nicky Schrafft - e-mail: nicky26@xtra.co.nz

UMPIRES PANEL

The New Zealand Polocrosse Umpires Panel for the 2021 – 2022 season is Tony Schrafft, Martin White, Jessee Kereopa and Nigel Watson. One additional position is yet to be appointed. Jenelle Coxall remains as the Umpires Panel Administrator. If you wish to contact the Umpires Panel, please contact Jenelle by email - tony.jenelle@outlook.com



COACHING PANEL

Neil Smith remains as our Coaching Panel Administrator with set panels being pre-determined. The Coach Development Team comprises the Coaching Panel Administrator and all NZ Coaches – Shane Hill, Rick Murray and Dean Gower; the Survey Monkey Review Team comprises the NZ PX President, the Coaching Panel Administrator and one other Board appointed person; the Coach Appointment Team is convened as needed and is also a pre-determined make up of members; the Coaching Panel Selection Team & Seeding Team is responsible for selecting teams for the Sponsors Carnival, assists with selection of most improved players and seeds teams for all national fixtures and is yet to be confirmed for this season.



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

NEW ZEALAND TEAMS:

Selectors and Selection Criteria for New Zealand Teams



Selectors and Selection Criteria for all New Zealand teams will be made available shortly. There may be different criteria for each individual tour. The criteria will be set by the Coaches in conjunction with the selectors and the Coaching Panel Administrator and will be approved by the Board. The selection criteria will be publicised at the time of calling for expressions of interest from players.

New Zealand Representative Teams will still be selected to play against New Zealand Opposition teams for our domestic season and coaches are currently working on plans for this.

The Eligibility Criteria was passed at the AGM and is featured below. Please remember that the Board has the authority to grant exemptions as per below.

Eligibility To Represent New Zealand

Any New Zealand player who has represented another country has a 2-year stand-down period before being eligible to represent New Zealand. Any other Nationality, other than New Zealand, is required to be a permanent resident* in New Zealand for 2 years before becoming eligible.

**Clarification - for any nationality, other than New Zealand, the person is considered eligible if they have made New Zealand their place of residence for the past two years - living / working / day to day life, as seen and recognised by others within our sport – namely the New Zealand Polocrosse Board.*

New Zealand Junior & Intermediate Players:

- a) Player must meet the eligibility criteria as per By-Law 6.
- b) Player must be a fully affiliated playing member at the time of selection.
- c) Player must have played in the current seasons Junior & Intermediates competition

New Zealand Open Team Players:

- a) Player must meet the eligibility criteria as per By-Law 6.1
- b) Player must be a fully affiliated playing member at the time of expressing interest
- c) Player must have played in the previous Roke & Rockwood competition and in the previous Inter Associations Championships plus two other carnivals in that same season

World Cup Players:

To be eligible for World Cup selection a player must meet the New Zealand Open Team Player eligibility criteria and must -

- a) Play at 50% of the calendared carnivals in the season prior to the team being named
- b) Meet the selection criteria as laid down by the New Zealand Coach and New Zealand Polocrosse Board

Exemptions

That the NZ Polocrosse board has the discretion to approve exemptions to the criteria on a case-by-case basis.

A list of exemptions to be supplied by the NZPX Board, may include but is not limited to Covid 19, Pregnancy, Illness, Injury, extenuating circumstances such as loss of a spouse, child, parent etc.

The selector / coach has no authority to make exemptions to a player's eligibility this needs to sit solely with the Board as this protects both players and the selectors from conflicts of interest and public criticism.

Proposed Tour to Australia 2022:

New Zealand Polocrosse has accepted an invitation from the Polocrosse Association of Australia for an International Test Series between New Zealand and Australia in May 2022, hosted by the Queensland Warwick Club at Morgan Park. The invitation is for an Opens Mens Team of 7 players, and an Open Ladies Team of 7 players.

Discussions of the Covid 19 mitigation and contingency plans are still to be finalised but this is a great opportunity to start some international competition.

2021 AGM – Information and Results:

The 2021 New Zealand Polocrosse AGM was held by way of on-line voting through Survey Monkey. All Associations had two delegates complete the voting on behalf of their Association; all AGM papers, reports and remits were distributed to Clubs and Associations in the required time frames; all delegates completed their voting within the given time frame. Full draft minutes of the voting have been forwarded to all Clubs and Associations.

The 2020 AGM minutes were passed with no matters arising; all reports were passed; audited financial statements for 2020 and draft financial statements for 2021 were passed, with the auditors being reappointed for the coming year; membership fees remained as the previous season and Lawrence Tye accepted the position of Patron of New Zealand Polocrosse for the coming year.

The following remits were either passed or lost as noted below – for a full explanation of the remit and of the voting please request a copy of the draft minutes from your Club secretary.

Remit A:	Term of Office of Board Members <i>Change to timing of rotation of Board members</i>	Passed unanimously
Remit B:	Teams In Wrong Order <i>Removed as no longer relevant</i>	Passed unanimously
Remit C:	Goal Umpires, Timekeepers & Scorers <i>Positioning of timekeepers' table</i>	Passed unanimously
Remit D:	Policy for Defining Winners When Play Has Been Abandoned <i>Removal of wording and change of wording</i>	Passed 10 / 2

Remit E:	Use of Faceguards <i>Faceguards required for players under 21 years of age</i>	Lost 4 / 8
Remit F:	Eligibility to Represent New Zealand <i>Set eligibility Criteria for different players to represent NZ</i>	Passed 8 / 4
Remit G:	Exemptions to Eligibility Criteria <i>Enabling the Board to give exemptions on a case by case basis</i>	Passed 10 / 2
Remit H:	Overseas Players Residential Term <i>Removal of the 14-day residential term for NZ citizens and NZ permanent residence visa holders</i>	Lost 2 / 10
Remit I:	Change to Eligibility to Represent New Zealand <i>Change of wording relating to permanently residing</i>	Lost 2 / 10

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.



Due to Covid 19 a Zoom meeting was held on the 31st October 2021. The first order of the day was to elect the President (Craig Zielinski) and Vice President (Gary Malcolm) and to then define each Board members area of responsibility (see above). The Board discussed the ability to coopt members on to the Board and identified a need that is missing – to give diversity to the Board, the Board would like to see a young, female, playing member coopted if a suitable, willing person can be found. The Board also thought it would be beneficial to invite our young polocrosse publicity officers to attend a future meeting to see the workings of the Board.

The Board ratified the appointment of the Umpire Panel members and discussed the issue of helmet tags as raised by the Umpires panel; Coaching Panel appointments were ratified along with official the ratification of NZ coaches and some selectors. It was agreed that some positions that had not been filled through Expressions of Interest were able to be filled by appointment of suitable people.

The Board discussed in depth many issues relating to Covid 19 and these will require further discussions as Levels change; contingency plans for national fixtures were discussed, affiliation fees and the likelihood of events / carnivals being able to be held. With travel restrictions and borders in place the Board agreed that, where possible, it would be beneficial to players to have coaches and assistant coaches and selectors based in different regions to ensure that all players still received coaching and were able to be selected for teams – no matter where they were located.

Coaching plans were discussed and the expected invitation from the PAA was also discussed with the Board agreeing for this tour to go ahead if possible (official invitation was received after the meeting). With the Player Eligibility Criteria being passed by the stakeholders, the *Selection Criteria* for individual tours / teams will need to be agreed upon by the Coaches and Selectors and approved by the Board.

The Sport New Zealand Reporting feedback letter was included with the AGM papers for all stakeholders to read – this was a very positive report.

Financial reports, draft budget and accounts for payments were all tabled and passed. The 2021 financial statements are still with SILK Auditors and all additional questions asked by the auditors have been answered.

HELMET TAGS:

The Umpires Panel have recommended that helmets only require tagging once – the tagging is only checking the NZ Standard of your helmet. However, yearly tagging allows the helmet owner an opportunity to check their helmet and to keep a track of how “old” their helmet is. Although the person “tagging” the helmet is not responsible for anything other than the checking of eh standard – it does allow them the chance to have a conversation with someone about the condition of their helmet.

Helmet tags will be supplied to all Clubs Chief Umpires this season – it is up to the individual Club if they wish to retag all of their helmets – or only those helmets that are not tagged or are new helmets. BUT every helmet must have a tag on it. Please also note that these tags are NZ Polocrosse specific – not the ESNZ tags that are required by NZ Pony Club or other Equestrian sports.

FUNDRAISING:

CALF REARING: Travis Awburn oversees this scheme, and this is well underway with the first heifer being sold recently. Thank you to those people that have purchased stock, are grazing stock or supporting the scheme in other ways. Remember this is a long term, ongoing venture so anyone can donate or take part in this at any time.

If you can't graze a calf but still want to support NZ Polocrosse with this fundraising venture, please contact Travis as there are different options available, or you can simply donate funds towards the scheme. If you would like more information, please contact Travis – phone 021 210 2774.



RACQUET & BALL PURCHASES:

People can purchase racquets, balls, grips etc from Beth Peaker. Most people have access to internet banking via their phones so please ensure you make payment for these directly into the New Zealand Polocrosse bank account at the time of purchasing and reference your name and what you purchased.

New Zealand Polocrosse BNZ Account Number: 02-0712-0081910-000



PUBLICITY, FACEBOOK & WEBSITE:

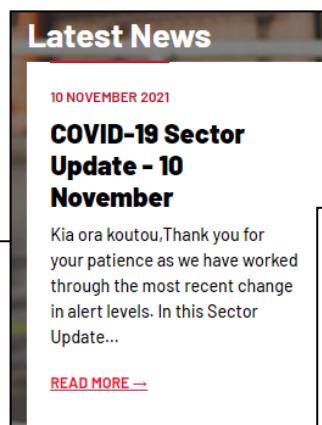
Kayla Murray and Kyla Zielinski are the New Zealand Publicity Officers. If you have photos, flyers, information or anything of interest please get it through to these lovely young ladies by e-mail to nzpolocrosse.publicity@gmail.com Please copy the NZ Secretary in on any carnival flyers or information 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.

Remember that you are able to advertise on the New Zealand Polocrosse website for only \$250.00 for 12 months



Some of the information available on the Sport New Zealand website – with lots of links to other information and resources.



Information for Event Organisers

The Event Sector Voluntary Code provides best practice expectations on running events based on Ministry of Health guidance.

[COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR EVENT ORGANISERS](#)

Alert level information

Pārongo taumata whakatūpato

Alert Level 1

In Alert Level 1 we should be vigilant in maintaining good hygiene practices to minimise the risk of community transmission.

[PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORT AT ALERT LEVEL 1](#)

Alert Level 2

You can do your usual sport and recreation activities if you can do them safely. Gatherings limits and other restrictions apply when exercising and playing sport.

[PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORT AT ALERT LEVEL 2](#)

Alert Level 3

Your Alert Level will depend on where you are in New Zealand. At Alert Level 3 - Restrict - there is medium risk of community transmission and active but managed clusters.

[PLAY, ACTIVE RECREATION AND SPORT AT ALERT LEVEL 3](#)