

Memo

TO: NZWLA and NZLA members

DATE: 20 April 2020

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) NZL High Performance Update 20 April 2020

Since NZ Lacrosse's last communication on COVID-19, New Zealand has declared a State of National Emergency and introduced a 4 level COVID-19 alert system. These alert levels are determined by the Government and specify the public health and social measures to be taken in the fight against COVID-19

At 4pm today, 20 April, the NZ Government announced a decision to move from Alert Level 4 to Alert Level 3 from 11.59pm on 27 April for an initial period of 2 weeks.

At this stage, on guidance from Sport NZ and the information provided by NZ Government, NZ Lacrosse (NZL) believe that Alert Level 3 also restricts recreational activity to a level where Lacrosse activities may not take place. Therefore the position communicated by NZL on 19 March will remain in place in Alert Levels 3 and 4.

While New Zealand remains at an Alert Level which restricts recreational activity to the point where Lacrosse may not take place, New Zealand Lacrosse (NZL) will maintain the position of no Lacrosse activities. This includes all Lacrosse trainings, games, tournaments, leagues and face to face workshops at community, school, university and high performance levels.

The NZWLA and NZLA are continuing to review the situation, under the guidance of Sport NZ and the NZ Government, and any changes to this position will be communicated as soon as possible.

In light of the unknown time frame and ongoing nature of these restrictions, NZWLA and NZLA have taken the decision to review it's High Performance activities planned for 2020. This includes:

- The Senior New Zealand Women's team (NZBLAX) and their campaign for the [2021 World Lacrosse Women's World Championship](#)
- The Senior New Zealand Men's team targeting the Qualification Tournament for the 2022 World Lacrosse Men's World Championship

### **NZBLAX**

The NZBLAX Training Squad are currently in Phase One of their World Championship campaign. After discussions with High Performance staff and players, the NZWLA has taken the decision to cancel the remainder of Phase One.

Instead, Phase Two is expected to commence from August 2020 with a Foundation Weekend training and selection camp. All players eligible to compete at the World Lacrosse World Championships are invited and asked to attend this weekend to become part of the NZBLAX Training Squad. Players who are unable to attend, but still wishing to trial (including those based overseas), will be considered based on discussion with the NZBLAX Head Coach.

The NZBLAX Staff, NZWLA High Performance Director, and NZWLA Executive recognise that this may be a significant blow for our players, however the health and wellbeing of our players and staff is at the forefront of our decision.

An updated NZBLAX Campaign Calendar is being created based on this decision and will be released when and where appropriate. In light of this new COVID-19 world, this will include considerations to:

- 1) Player and staff health and wellbeing
- 2) Players' economic security (Job and Academics)
- 3) Dedicated focus to maximise performance at World Championships
- 4) Global uncertainty including health, economic, and freedom to travel

While all in person team activities will be postponed at least until August 2020, the NZBLAX Phase One training squad are continuing to prepare for the World Championships. This includes personal at home training, virtual team workouts, mental health skills and support, and virtual team building activities.

Players who have been participating in Phase One have been notified and will receive further information relating to this decision.

### **World Games**

In light of the [recent announcement by World Lacrosse](#) on the postponement of the World Games until 2022, NZWLA are taking the time to review its approach to this tournament. More information will be shared over the coming months.

### **Senior NZ Men's Team**

At this stage, training for the NZ Senior Men's Training Squad remains postponed. NZLA are awaiting an update from World Lacrosse as to the APLU Qualifying Tournament expected to be held in New Zealand in September. Further communications will be made once a decision has been made around this. Players are being updated with specific information related to this.

### **Summary**

These decisions have not been reached lightly and NZL has sought guidance and feedback from its players and High Performance staff.

Over this time, NZL continues to prioritise our members' health and wellbeing, alongside compliance with Government requirements.

In the meantime, NZ Lacrosse (NZWLA and NZLA) continue to monitor information and changes to Alert Levels, and will provide updates as and when advice and guidelines change, and restrictions on recreational activity are lifted.

We encourage our NZL Community to continue to interact and engage with your teammates and Lacrosse friends virtually, engage in physical activity cleared by the Government and be creative in your at home training - be it workouts, wall ball, stick tricks and/or watching game tape.

Stay safe, stay healthy and Kia Kaha.

### **Up to date information is available through the following websites**

New Zealand Government:  
<https://covid19.govt.nz/>

Ministry of Health:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Sport New Zealand: <https://sportnz.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases-and-updates/articles/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-update>

World Health Organisation:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

2021 World Lacrosse Women's World Championships

<https://www.worldlacrosse2021.com/>