



September 2022

To the New Zealand Lacrosse Community,

Can you help ensure the ongoing success of our national lacrosse tournaments?

For those who may not know us, we are Marina Samountry and Max van der Maas and you may have seen us around at New Zealand Lacrosse tournaments over the past few years. We are the NZL Tournaments Coordinators responsible for the kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of our national tournaments. We are writing this to reach out for help from the community to run the future of our national tournaments.

Like many in the community we are volunteers. We are two young people with busy professional and personal lives. Unfortunately, we no longer have the capacity to do the mahi (work) alone and have drafted a [proposed tournament committee](#) to collaborate on ensuring tournaments keep running in a sustainable way and a [proposal](#) with suggested structures for Tournament Directors and Coordinators for the coming year.

We love lacrosse and we love the opportunities it provides. Tournaments are one of the biggest highlights for New Zealand Lacrosse. We welcome innovation and experience from others to freshen up the tournament scene whether you are a parent who has watched from the sidelines or simply a keen player who wants to get more involved.

We also encourage you to put your hand up especially if you are young, eager and willing to learn. As young people ourselves, we have been encouraged by the whanaungatanga (relationship through shared experiences and working together) and goodwill of those in the lacrosse community and have learned a lot. If you are young and want to step up, you will be supported.

If you are interested in being involved with tournaments, please email us at [tournaments@nzlacrosse.nz](mailto:tournaments@nzlacrosse.nz).

A word from Marina:

I have been involved with New Zealand Women's Lacrosse for many years and since at least 2011 in various roles. I have spent the last few years running national tournaments, sometimes while coaching at them as well. I am stepping away to take some time to myself and to finally embark on my long awaited OE. I will be moving to the UK in December. I remember participating in my first NZSS Champs in 2007 and I remember helping to organise the first U18 tournament NZWLA ever held in 2011. I am proud to have shared a part of our tournament history and very keen to make sure they are looked after for our future lacrosse stars.

A word from Max:

I have been involved with New Zealand Lacrosse for 5 years now and like Marina have spent the several years running tournaments, whilst coaching and playing as well. I started my Lacrosse journey playing for NZ in Australia at the U15 Australian state nationals back in 2009. I have played my up through U18s both as a player and a coach. I represented the NZ men's team in 2011 and was named captain in 2018. I am not stepping away from Lacrosse but moving away from NZL tournament work to allow others to step up in this position. This is to allow me to focus my time in other areas such as regional development. In the short term I need to take some time for my own lacrosse journey as the NZ men's team work towards the World Championship. I am keen to see NZL improve and grow and will be around to assist in bringing people into the team.

*Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi.*

With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive.  
We are stronger when we work together.

Yours in Lacrosse,



Marina Samoury



Max van der Maas