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# **NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS POLICY**

## **For Tournament and National Team Organisers**

Version 0.3

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***Status: For Review***

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# DOCUMENT CONTROLS

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

This document has undergone the following modifications since it was created:

Revision:	Date:	Author:	Comments:
0.1	19/05/2023	Bill Hollins	Initial Release
0.2	28/09/2023	Bill Hollins	Updated after board review and decisions
0.3	14/10/2023	Bill Hollins	Updated with dates based on tournament committee decision

## REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Document	Date

## DOCUMENT CONVENTIONS

## INTENDED AUDIENCE AND READING SUGGESTIONS

NZL Board

Tournament Committee

## 1. OBJECTIVE

This policy is to define the purpose and structure of the various New Zealand Lacrosse (NZL) national tournaments. It is designed to provide the framework for these tournaments going forward.

## 2. BACKGROUND

Traditionally the NZL has run 4 main tournaments at these current times.

1. Senior Nationals – late March
2. U18 Nationals – early March but now moved back to Sept
3. U15 Nationals - October
4. NZ Secondary Schools (NZSS) – during schools' tournament week at the end August

A sixes competition will be needed soon.

At the time of writing there are 2 main areas of Lacrosse being Auckland and Waikato. In addition, Wellington, Christchurch and Manawatu (Palmerston North) have growing programmes. It is of course expected that more regions will become active over time.

The events are normally hosted in a rotation such that each main region has one event a year. Some like the NZSS may be limited to only a couple of regions based on participating schools. This policy does not concern the NZSS as School Sport has strict criteria about participation. But it is suggested that the NZSS still conform to the Tournament hosting/event handbook.

There are also national teams that will be travelling to world events and have often used the tournaments as warm up plus development events. These are the Senior and U20 teams preparing for the World Lacrosse championship and/or qualifiers or a National U18 team preparing for the Australia State Championships.

National tournaments are also a time when all the NZ based high performance players are likely to be in the same place, making training easier and cheaper in terms of travel but there is then potential conflict with the regional teams.

### 3. NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL TOURNAMENT POLICY

The NZL board has provided this policy framework to be used with all NZ national tournaments (excludes NZSS). Any variation should be requested of the board at least 2 months prior to the tournament.

#### 3.1 AGREED PURPOSE

1. To crown the national regional champion.
2. To provide a higher level of lacrosse than is provided in the regional leagues.
3. To develop the high-performance programmes for each region, especially upskilling players for national representative teams.

To enhance the level of play and therefore improve NZL players it is agreed that non regional teams may participate in any tournament, including visiting international teams.

#### 3.2 POLICY FRAMEWORK

1. **National Teams** may participate in the tournaments provided sufficient notice is provided. This is preferably at least 6 months to enable regional team selection and training to be organised.
2. **Regional teams** can ask a player from a national team that is participating to play for them. But it is the player's choice who they play for. Any conflict must be agreed well in advance of the event. If a player is asked to play for both teams, it is preferable that the Head coaches of both teams and the player liaise about the player involvement, but if there is a conflict then **the player will be able to choose** which team they wish to play for. If there is a dispute that cannot be resolved, then the NZL board will be able to make the final decision. Note. The player cannot change teams once the event has started.
3. **Non-Regional teams** can only compete for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. If there is a round robin amongst all teams before finals then the non-regional team can come first and be awarded appropriately, but the final will be between regional teams only.
4. No training for any national teams (except if participating in the tournament, but only for players in that team) is to be planned to occur **during** the tournament dates without the express agreement of ALL impacted regional teams. If the national team would like to train immediately before or during the event and there are players representing regional teams, then this **MUST** be agreed 2 months before the tournament with all affected teams' coaches. If no agreement can be found, then there shall be no training. Care to be taken regards youth playing time as per [NZL U19 Player Guidelines Policy](#).
5. Where regions do not have sufficient players to field a team, they may borrow players from other regions. This dispensation must be approved by the NZL board one month before the event.
6. Tournament organisers must comply with the Tournament hosting/event handbook. (Being Written)

### 3.3 AGE RESTRICTIONS

- *Dispensation for age must be approved by the NZL Board one month before the event.*
- *Align with Lacrosse Australia (and other NZ sports) 1 January of the year of the tournament*

#### **U15 tournament**

*All players must be 15 years of age or younger on 1st January of the year of the tournament. The minimum age is 12 at the 1st January in the year of the event.*

#### **U18 tournament**

*All players must be 18 years of age or younger on 1st January the year of the tournament. The minimum age is 15 at 1st January in the year of the event.*

#### **Seniors**

*Age will follow in line with World Lacrosse current eligibility that is defined in the Event Hosting Manual under Age Eligibility: -. The lower age limit that applies to all WL Events is 15 years of age for Women and 16 years of age for Men. These players must be 15 (W) or 16 years of age (M) on the day prior to the Event commencement.*