

1 May 2021

To All Australian Curlers,

As Australia has not qualified for the Olympic Qualification Event in either of the Men's or Women's disciplines, Australia is eligible to send a Men's and Women's team to the Northern Hemisphere autumn 2021 Open Men's/Women's World Curling Federation (WCF) Pre-Olympic Qualifier event. To determine what team will be given first preference to compete at this event, the ACF Executive, in consultation with the Athlete Commission, will refer to Eligibility Document V2.0. As part of that process, the ACF is considering the feasibility of holding a National Men's and Women's competition now that the Australian/NZ bubble presents opportunities for un-restricted travel to a location with prepared curling ice.

At the ACF Executive meeting held 27 April 2021, it was agreed to seek input from all Australian curlers as to their intention to compete should a National Championships be held for the Men and Women disciplines. That input along with a close examination of the risks associated with holding a competition during the Covid emergency and the potential liabilities faced by the ACF and the athletes will all factor into a final decision being tabled at the ACF Executive meeting of 11 May 2021.

Should it be determined that a National competition will proceed, the potential locations are Naseby and Dunedin and the timeframe late June/early July 2021. Final dates and location will be determined at the 11 May meeting and will be communicated to all curlers as part of the registration paperwork distribution that will immediately follow the meeting should it be determined that the competition will go ahead.

For the ACF to gain an accurate picture of how many teams could be competing, Australian curlers are asked to send in a non-binding expression of interest in competing at the Nationals should they go ahead. That information needs to be a Team list not just individual submission. **Team submissions and all questions** should be submitted to the ACF Secretary no later than 1159 AEST Monday 10 May 2021 at: [australiancurling@gmail.com](mailto:australiancurling@gmail.com).

It should be noted that the ACF runs all competitions in accordance with WCF rules when there is no direct conflict with ACF rules. In the case of number of players, we will apply WCF Rule C2(k) which requires teams to start competitions with four players. Teams will be allowed to play with three only in extenuating circumstances. In such a case, the Competition Technical Delegate will convene the Nationals Committee of three people to decide whether the circumstances are extenuating. It should be noted that non-attendance of a registered player due to travel restrictions known well in advance will not be considered an 'extenuating circumstance'.

Any National competition held in NZ would operate under the various Covid plans applicable such as the chosen Rink's plan and the systems in place for travel applied by the two governments. Athletes should also be aware that late notice travel restrictions or other Covid 19 imposed restrictions may impact participation and/or a return to Australia post-competition. Those potential restrictions are not known at this time, but athletes must be aware that compliance with Australian and NZ Government directions are beyond the control of the ACF and that there is a realistic risk that athletes may be travel restricted out-bound or in-bound to the competition. The risk is entirely on the participating athletes and the ACF takes no responsibility for the cost or inconvenience incurred. The attached declaration form will be part of the registration process should the competition go ahead. It outlines the hazards presented and the acceptance of risk by the athletes. This form is presented for information only. A final version will accompany the registration forms.

I very much appreciate that this is a difficult decision for all of us. Please weigh up the risks carefully and understand that even if a National competition goes ahead, there is no guarantee that the representative teams will be able to participate in the Olympic pre-qualifying round as there are external factors that may come into play. Nevertheless, be assured that the ACF Executive Committee is doing its utmost to try and position Australia appropriately so that we can field a competitive team if circumstances permit.

Sincerely,



Kim Forge  
ACF President

## COVID-19 Travel Declaration (Example only: do not complete at this time)

In response to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic the Australian Government, via its website [Smarttraveller.gov.au](http://Smarttraveller.gov.au), has declared a travel ban preventing all Australian citizens and permanent residents from leaving Australia unless you have an exemption. This does not apply to travel to NZ at the time of writing.

If you choose to travel and compete internationally it is important you understand the medical and financial risks of that decision.

Listed below are some, but not all, of the risks that you may face if you choose to travel to NZ for a National competition:

1. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus. Symptoms include fever, coughing, a sore throat and shortness of breath. The virus can spread from person to person. There is no current treatment that cures or prevents COVID-19. Overseas travel increases your risk of contracting COVID-19.
2. Overseas travel is likely to involve an elevated risk of contracting COVID-19.
3. Biosecurity measures and travel restrictions are in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. These measures are constantly changing and vary from State to State and Country to Country. These measures may impact your travel plans.
4. COVID-19 is a serious disease that can be fatal or can cause long-term health impacts. As a new virus there are unknown long term respiratory, cardiac, vascular, neurologic implications associated with contracting COVID-19.
5. Individuals with pre-existing disease are at higher risk of serious complications from COVID-19.
6. Contracting COVID-19, will necessitate medical clearance from a specialist before resuming high intensity sport.
7. Contracting COVID-19 may require one or more of enforced quarantine, restricted ability to travel, hospitalisation, ICU admission.
8. Medical treatment overseas could result in financial costs in multiple tens of thousands of Australian dollars per day. It is the responsibility of the traveler to ensure that they have appropriate insurance or other arrangements in place to meet any medically related financial costs that may arise. Insurance policies must specifically cover treatment for COVID-19.
9. Due to the potential for reduced flight availability, athletes wishing to leave from and return to Australia may face large financial costs when booking travel.
10. At present all returning travelers are subject to a 14-day quarantine period on their arrival at current cost of \$2800.00 per period. At the time of this writing, the quarantine does not apply to NZ. However, that situation may change at very short notice.
11. All travelers may be subject to quarantine measures at an unknown cost in the country or region they are travelling to.
12. Insurance policies may not cover flight changes, travel cancellations or mandatory quarantine periods if due to COVID-19 resulting in the potential for large financial costs being incurred.
13. Insurance policies may not cover all medical costs that may be incurred due to COVID-19 (Please check any pandemic exclusions listed in your policy).

By signing this declaration, I understand and accept the medical risks and financial risks that I may face by travelling overseas during this COVID-19 pandemic and agree that I will not hold the ACF liable for any consequences resulting from my overseas travel.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

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PRINT NAME