



# CROQUET NEW ZEALAND TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES 2021/22 SEASON



Updated: September 2021

## Contents

Purpose .....	2
Background .....	2
Application of these Guidelines .....	2
Key Information and Contact Details.....	3
Resumption of Croquet New Zealand Tournaments .....	3
Registration Process.....	3
Open Entry Tournaments.....	4
Tournament Confirmation / Cancellation.....	4
Move to Alert Level 2 – pre tournament .....	4
Move to Alert Level 2 – mid tournament .....	4
Moving back down the Alert Levels .....	4
Island Championships .....	4
Entry Fee Reimbursements.....	5
Cancellation of Event Prior to it beginning .....	5
Cancellation of Event once started .....	5
Withdrawal from the Event .....	5
Travel and Accommodation Costs .....	5
Contact Tracing .....	6
Personal Hygiene .....	6
Face Coverings .....	6
Invitations, Arthur Ross Final & Don Reyland Stars Final .....	6
Invitations .....	6
Selection:.....	6
Playing the Invitation: .....	7
Cancellation of the Invitation: .....	7
Refunds: .....	7
Arthur Ross Memorial Final & Don Reyland Stars Final.....	7
Playing the Arthur Ross or Don Reyland Stars: .....	7
Cancellation of the Arthur Ross or Don Reyland Stars: .....	7
Refunds: .....	8
Disclaimer.....	8

## Purpose

In March 2020, New Zealand entered into the Covid Alert Level System in response to the global pandemic. As we ascended through the Levels to the top, Alert Level 4, there was a lot of uncertainty and confusion around what could and could not be done at each Level.

This uncertainty has provided challenges for everyone as we attempted to navigate these unprecedented times. As we de-escalated through the Alert Levels, more clarity has been provided around each level which has helped provide a better understanding and certainty.

The emergence of the Delta variant in New Zealand prior to the 2021-22 season resulted in New Zealand going into another Covid Alert Level 4 lockdown and the Alert Level restrictions being updated to reflect the highly transmissible nature of this variant of Covid-19.

The purpose of this document is to provide some certainty for CNZ Members as to under what conditions CNZ tournaments will go ahead during 2021/22. Additionally, this document also outlines the process should New Zealand need to ascend back up the Alert Levels once play resumes.

## Background

Following the Prime Ministers announcement that we would move to Alert Level 4, Croquet New Zealand announced that CNZ tournaments and workshops would not resume until we entered Alert Level 0.

Since this announcement in late March 2020, there have been a number of updates to the definitions and descriptors of the Alert Levels and what restrictions are in place at each Level. It is now apparent that competitions could resume safely under Alert Level 1. CNZ's previous decision has been revisited based on the new information available.

To assist with this decision, some players who participated in CNZ tournaments during 2019/20 were surveyed to ascertain whether they would be comfortable playing CNZ tournaments under Alert Level 1 and what barriers they envision might limit their ability to participate.

As the Delta variant emerged in New Zealand during August 2021, the same players mentioned above, along with CNZ Tournament Managers and Associations were surveyed again to gain an understanding of whether or not the guidelines needed to be updated for the 2021/22 season. The feedback received was discussed by CNZ staff and the Tournament Committee before updating these Guidelines.

## Application of these Guidelines

Croquet New Zealand believes that for a national tournament to proceed, all eligible croquet players must be afforded the opportunity to enter and participate. This means that the entire country would need to be at Covid Alert Level 1 (and meet the remaining guidelines within this document) for any open entry tournaments to proceed.

Following feedback from players and Associations, Island Championships can proceed in 2021/22 provided the entire Island is at Covid Alert Level 1. Entry will be limited to players from that Island.

CNZ acknowledge that there are some tournaments that are different to the open entry tournaments such as the Invitations, Arthur Ross Final and Don Reyland Stars Final. A section has been added to this document in February 2021 to clearly state CNZ's process with these tournaments.

## Key Information and Contact Details

This document has been compiled based on information that has been sourced from the official Covid-19 website and the Sport New Zealand website in conjunction with the results of the two player surveys, comments from the 2021/22 CNZ Tournament Managers and comments from Associations. The information within this document is correct as of the day it was sourced and may vary if the country moves in and out of the various Alert Levels.

For more information on the Alert Levels please visit the following websites;

[covid19.govt.nz](https://covid19.govt.nz)

[Sportnz.org.nz](https://sportnz.org.nz)

Contact numbers;

Healthline (Covid) – 0800 358 5453

Healthline (all other enquires) – 0800 611 116

Croquet NZ – 04 916 0258

## Resumption of Croquet New Zealand Tournaments

Based on the feedback received from the players and Associations and the guidelines provided by the Government, Croquet New Zealand tournaments **will maintain the requirement of Alert Level 1 to proceed.**

How tournaments will be managed if New Zealand moves in and out of different Alert Levels is addressed under the [Tournament Confirmation / Cancellation](#) section of this document.

## Registration Process

The registration process for CNZ Tournaments in 2021/22 will remain the same as previous seasons, via the online portal. Registration information is available on our website.

## Open Entry Tournaments

This includes the GC Nationals, GC 3+, NZ Open, Women's GC Tournament and Men's and Women's Championships.

### Tournament Confirmation / Cancellation

As of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, Auckland is at Covid Alert Level 3 and the rest of New Zealand is at Covid Alert Level 2. For CNZ tournaments to proceed, New Zealand would need to return to Covid Alert Level 1 at least 3 weeks prior to the start of the tournament.

This section aims to provide some certainty to Members as to how CNZ will manage any change in the Alert Levels.

#### Move to Alert Level 2 – pre tournament

Should New Zealand enter Alert Level 2 prior to a tournament commencing, all tournaments following this date will immediately be postponed.

Croquet New Zealand will review the situation and make an announcement as to whether the event will be rescheduled or cancelled as soon as possible.

#### Move to Alert Level 2 – mid tournament

If another wave of Covid-19 was to hit New Zealand, it could result in ascending to Alert Level 2 (or higher) without much warning. This could potentially be in the middle of a tournament.

Should the nation move to Alert Level 2 during a tournament, the tournament will be abandoned immediately. This tournament will not be rescheduled and will be declared not-contested for 2020/21.

#### Moving back down the Alert Levels

Should New Zealand ascend to Alert Level 2 (or higher), Alert Level 1 will remain the measure for enabling tournaments to resume again. Croquet New Zealand acknowledge that stating which Alert Level tournaments would resume while definitive, provides its own level of uncertainty.

To assist with players planning, for a tournament to go ahead, New Zealand must be in Alert Level 1 three (3) weeks prior to the start of the event. i.e. The GC Nationals is scheduled to begin on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022. If it gets to the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 and the country is still in Alert Level 2, the GC Nationals would be postponed (CNZ would make an announcement on whether the tournament is cancelled or rescheduled as soon as possible).

## Island Championships

This includes the North Island AC Championships, North Island GC Championships, South Island AC Championships and South Island GC Championships.

Following the survey of players and Associations in September 2021, it was clear that they would like the Island Championships to proceed if possible. The Island Championships can proceed provided the entire Island is in Covid Alert Level 1 at least three (3) weeks prior to the start date. i.e. The

South Island GC Championships is scheduled to be on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. If the South Island is at Covid Alert Level 1 by the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, it may proceed.

Where an Island is at Covid Alert Level 1 and some of the country remains at Covid Alert Level 2 or higher, only players from the Island which is entirely at Covid Alert Level 1 may enter.

Should the Island ascend Covid Alert Levels, the same process will be followed as outlined above for the national tournaments.

### Entry Fee Reimbursements

There are a number of scenarios that could occur throughout 2021/22 which may result in an individual having to withdraw from an event or the event not going ahead. The following scenarios outline when and how a reimbursement can be sort.

For the purpose of the 2021/22 season, this document supersedes the criteria set-out for refunds in the Tournament Regulations where the request is triggered due to Covid-19.

#### Cancellation of Event Prior to it beginning

Should the nation ascend back up the Alert Levels, tournaments will be postponed and potentially cancelled from Covid Alert Level 2. If this is the case, an individual is entitled to a refund of their entry fee by;

1. Making a request via email to [croquet@croquet.org.nz](mailto:croquet@croquet.org.nz)
2. The request is made by no later than 1 week following the scheduled start date of that tournament.
3. The request includes the individuals bank details to process the refund.

#### Cancellation of Event once started

No refund is available once the event has begun.

#### Withdrawal from the Event

The Government advises those that feel unwell to stay home, should an individual have to withdraw because they are feeling unwell, they are entitled to a refund of 50% of their entry fee by;

1. Making a request via email to [croquet@croquet.org.nz](mailto:croquet@croquet.org.nz)
2. The request is made by no later than 1 week following the scheduled start date of that tournament.
3. The request includes the individuals bank details to process the refund.

### Travel and Accommodation Costs

Moving through the Alert Levels is beyond Croquet New Zealand's control. As we have seen worldwide, the virus can spread rapidly and another wave in New Zealand could result in us rapidly moving back up the Alert Levels. Croquet New Zealand is not responsible for any non-refundable costs lost should any tournaments be cancelled or postponed due to Covid-19.

## Contact Tracing

Croquet New Zealand will have a register of participants through the online entry system. However, Clubs will have a QR code available and a manual form for contact tracing. All players, officials and spectators are requested to scan (or record their visit) to assist with contact tracing.

## Personal Hygiene

While Alert Level 1 doesn't have any specific requirements around physical distancing or hygiene requirements, it is up to all of us to remain vigilant to minimise the risks associated with the Delta variant.

It is recommended that individuals continue good hygiene practices which could include cleaning their hands before and after games and where possible, maintain at least 1 metre distance from one another.

## Face Coverings

While face coverings are not mandatory at Covid Alert Level 1, they help to keep everyone safe from the spread of Covid-19.

It is recommended when indoors or where physical distancing is not possible that individuals wear a face covering.

## Invitations, Arthur Ross Final & Don Reyland Stars Final

As mentioned in the Application of these Guidelines section, CNZ acknowledge that these tournaments are different to open entry tournaments. It is possible for a tournament to be held in a region in Covid Alert Level 1, including only players from regions at Covid Alert Level 1 and no one being unfairly disadvantaged by being in Covid Alert Level 2 (or higher).

### Invitations

#### Selection:

All players must be afforded the opportunity to put their name forward, be considered and ultimately selected for any of the Invitation tournaments. What Alert Level someone's region is in will not factor into any decisions made.

#### Playing the Invitation:

If, following the selection process, a region of New Zealand ascends to Covid Alert Level 2 (or higher), the invitation tournament may proceed if;

- a. The selection process was completed when **all** players were able to be considered; and
- b. All players selected, or likely to participate (reserve list) currently reside in a region that is in Covid Alert Level 1; and
- c. The region that the Invitation will be held in is in Covid Alert Level 1.

#### Cancellation of the Invitation:

As there are smaller numbers of participants in the Invitations, CNZ will endeavour to work with these groups to establish specific guidelines. This differs from the open entry process which is specified earlier in this document.

Players will be consulted and will have an opportunity to advise how many weeks notice they would require prior to the tournament as to whether it is being cancelled or not. In the case that there are multiple opinions, CNZ will use the date which would give the players the most notice.

#### Refunds:

Please refer to the [Entry Fee Reimbursement](#) section which remains the same for all CNZ tournaments.

#### Arthur Ross Memorial Final & Don Reyland Stars Final

Each of these tournaments are open to one representative from each Association. Similar to the Invitations, it is possible for all potential participants to be in Covid Alert Level 1 while another region is in a higher Alert Level.

#### Playing the Arthur Ross or Don Reyland Stars:

If part of New Zealand is at Covid Alert Level 2 (or higher), these tournaments can proceed providing;

- a. All Associations that wanted to enter a participant have done so and no one was negatively impacted by Covid-19 restrictions; and
- b. All attending players are travelling from Covid Alert Level 1 regions; and
- c. The region the tournament is being held in is in Covid Alert Level 1.

#### Cancellation of the Arthur Ross or Don Reyland Stars:

These tournaments will have a maximum of 19 participants and CNZ will work with Associations to establish specific guidelines. This alters from the open entry process which is specified earlier in this document.



Associations will have an opportunity to advise how many weeks' notice they would require prior to the tournament as to whether it is being cancelled or not. In the case that there are multiple opinions, CNZ will use the date which would give the players the most notice.

Refunds:

Please refer to the [Entry Fee Reimbursement](#) section which remains the same for all CNZ tournaments.

## Disclaimer

Croquet New Zealand reserves the right to update this document at any time based on any recommendation(s) or updates provided by the Government or any of their agencies, this includes, but is not limited to; Sport New Zealand and Ministry of Health.

If this document is updated, it will be announced on the Croquet New Zealand website.