

Croquet New Zealand Tournaments at Red

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Background:

As of 11.59pm on the 23rd of January 2022, all of New Zealand moved into the Red setting of the Covid Protection Framework (CPF). This was in response to the new Covid-19 variant, Omicron, emerging in the community.

Following this announcement, Croquet New Zealand undertook a review of the CNZ CPF Tournament Protocols to ensure they were fit for purpose. This document supersedes the 2021-22 CNZ CPF Tournament Protocols for tournaments operating under Red settings.

Important Websites & Contact Details:

Websites:

[Ministry of Health](#)

[Covid-19](#)

[Sport New Zealand](#)

Contacts:

Covid Healthline: 0800 358 5453

Croquet New Zealand: Jake Inwood (CE) - 027 580 3158

Process:

The following aspects were taken into account when considering CNZ tournaments under Red settings (in no particular order):

- SNZ / Government Guidelines
- Capacity Limits at tournaments
- Facemasks
- QR Codes
- Travel
- Isolation Requirements
- Plans if there is a positive case
- Vaccinations
- Government's Omicron Plan
- Participant / Volunteer safety
- Indoor v Outdoor management
- Individuals' desire for tournaments to continue
- Plans if there is a close contact

The review process has included talking with Managers, Hosts, Sport NZ, Covid Healthline, having the Managers consult players, and reviewing the Covid-19 guidance including the new Omicron plan.

Disclaimer:

The information used in this document was accurate at the time of writing and subject to change as we learn more about the Omicron variant or community transmission increases. CNZ reserves the rights to update this document at any time, with updates being notified on the CNZ website as soon as reasonably possible.

If any aspect in this document conflicts or contradicts the official health advice, the official health advice should be followed.

Where tournaments need to be cancelled, or players / volunteers are required to isolate, Croquet New Zealand is not liable for any costs incurred by individuals. Individuals are encouraged to read this document, in conjunction with official advice, and make the appropriate decision for their situation.

CNZ Tournaments at Red:

Based on a thorough review of the Sport New Zealand CPF guidelines, and discussions with the Covid-19 Healthline, CNZ believe it is possible to hold CNZ tournaments safely under the Red settings of the CPF.

However, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of participants and volunteers, several restrictions are in place while the country is at Red. These restrictions are outlined in this document.

All attendees at the tournament are expected to comply with the guidelines set out in this document and with all directions of the Manager. Failure to do so will lead to exclusion from the venue and, for players, the competition.

Vaccinations:

Croquet New Zealand tournaments require individuals to have their My Vaccine Pass (MVP). This requirement enables the event to proceed under the Red Covid Protection Framework setting.

The Manager, or their delegate, will be responsible for checking individual's MVP and have the right to refuse entry should an MVP not be presented. If a participant cannot produce their MVP they will be removed from the tournament and their entry fee will be forfeited.

To provide as much protection as possible, individuals are encouraged to get their booster shots as soon as possible.

More information on vaccinations can be found on the Covid-19 website, [here](#).

Capacity Limits:

Under Government guidelines for Red, the maximum number of persons permitted to be present at an event is 100. To enable CNZ tournaments to proceed safely, we must plan to operate clearly under that number – it is not a target but a strict limit.

The capacity limit for the tournament is for the duration of the event and cannot be changed from day to day.

To ensure we maintain a safe environment, CNZ tournaments will be limited to the following people:

1. Volunteers & Officials (which will be kept to the minimum number required to successfully deliver the tournament).
2. Players and one (1) invited guest for each player.
3. CNZ Staff (when necessary).

Please note that the invited guest of a player must follow all Covid guidelines and instructions which are applicable to the players and must be the same person for the duration of the tournament. In this document, where the term participant or player is used, this encompasses the guest of the player as well.

Each player should notify CNZ by 5pm on the Thursday before the event begins of their invited guests name and contact number. This list will be forwarded to the Manager to ensure players guests can enter the premises and that the capacity limit guidelines are adhered to. It may also be shared with Health Officials to assist with contact tracing if necessary.

The dates for the upcoming events to notify CNZ are:

- NZ Open → Thursday, 10th February 2022
- Women's GC → Thursday, 17th February 2022

CNZ understands that this may be disappointing for some individuals who wanted to watch top level croquet and support their loved ones. The steps outlined above will minimise the risk to participants and volunteers as it limits the number of people present during the tournament and will assist with contact tracing if it is required.

Masks

As of 11.59pm on the 3rd of February, stricter mask rules come into effect to help protect against the spread of Omicron.

A face covering will need to be an actual mask and attached to the head by loops around the ears or head. Face masks are **encouraged** whenever you leave your accommodation.

Under the Red settings, face masks are mandatory at events if there is not exclusive use of the venue (i.e., a controlled entry / exit point).

Face masks may be removed while:

1. Actively playing.
2. Sitting eating or drinking.

Volunteers and Officials are deemed to be workers under the Health Act and are required to wear medical grade masks whether or not there is a controlled entrance / exit system.

Should the Club be fenced, with a controlled entry / exit point, it would be deemed to have exclusive use of the venue. In this scenario, face masks are still encouraged but are not mandatory (except for volunteers and officials – see above).

If the Club is in a public domain, or venue, and it is possible for anyone to walk through, face masks will be mandatory for everyone as mentioned above.

The Manager will inform attendees on the morning of the first day of each event which scenario applies to that Club. Unless you are specifically told otherwise by the Manager, you should consider face masks as mandatory.

More information on face masks can be found on the Covid-19 website, [here](#).

Contact Tracing

It is a requirement for every venue to display a QR code and to have a manual contact tracing form available for those that cannot scan in using the QR code.

Everyone in attendance at the venue must sign in each day using the QR code or manual contact tracing form. This includes signing in again should you have to leave the venue for any reason.

In addition to the above, Croquet New Zealand will maintain a list of participants and their contact details in case there is a need to carry out contact tracing. Croquet New Zealand may give this information to Health Officials to assist them with carrying out their duties. If players have concerns with this, they should contact croquet@croquet.org.nz immediately.

Managers are encouraged to keep a list of all volunteers that assist each day, including contact details, to assist in contact tracing if required.

Clubrooms

To minimise the possibility to be in close proximity to others, access to the club rooms may be restricted or limited based on its size. The Tournament Manager will notify players prior to the start date on any specific requirements.

As such, to help minimise the risk of transmission, the following should be considered:

- Maintain physical distancing (at least 1.5m from others at all times)
- Draws / lawn allocations should be, where possible, posted outside and players should avoid congregating around the draw.
- Lunches, morning teas and afternoon teas should be taken outside.

Good Hygiene Practices

To help keep all individuals safe, all attendees are encouraged to maintain good hygiene practices including (but not limited to):

- Regularly wash your hands.
- Cough / sneeze into your elbow.
- Stay home if you are sick or feel unwell.

Travel

Some individuals will travel to participate in CNZ tournaments. Whether that be driving, crossing the Cook Strait, or flying. CNZ encourages all participants travelling on the Cook Strait ferry or flying to review their trip and ensure they are familiar with all rules and regulations of their travel provider.

There may be some restrictions / disruptions during this period and a plan should be in place should travel requirements need to be changed for whatever reason. Any changes are at the cost of the participant.

Isolation

All participants, particularly those travelling, should be aware of the isolation rules should they get Covid-19 or become a close contact while at tournament. This may drastically impact their ability to travel home as they may be required to isolate there.

Current isolation requirements:

- Covid-19 Positive: A minimum of 14 days, including 72 hours symptom-free. Any household members (if staying with other players) will need to remain in isolation for at least 10 days after the positive case has been released.
- Close Contact: 10 days from last exposure, including getting a Covid test immediately, on day 5 and day 8 after the last exposure.

For more information on isolating, visit the health.govt.nz website, [here](#).

What happens to a tournament if someone attending tests positive for Covid-19?

Despite all the steps put in place to mitigate the risk of individuals getting Covid-19 while at the tournament, there are scenarios away from the tournament venue which might lead to exposures.

If an attendee at a CNZ tournament tests positive for Covid-19 while at the tournament, the tournament will automatically be cancelled. CNZ will work with Health Officials to notify all attendees and will provide the support required.

In this scenario, it is important that all attendees are aware of the Isolation requirements (see above) and contact 0800 358 5453 with any questions or concerns.

NB: Health Officials will work with affected individuals to develop care plans including requirements for isolation.

What happens to a tournament if someone attending becomes a close contact?

Despite all the steps put in place to mitigate the risk of individuals getting Covid-19 while at tournament, there are scenarios away from the tournament venue which might lead to exposures.

If an attendee at a CNZ tournament is notified as a close contact, they should notify CNZ and the Tournament Manager immediately. The tournament will be suspended until the initial test is returned. If the test is negative, and no other exposures or close contacts have been identified, the tournament may resume.

If the close contact is a participant, they will be removed from the draw.

NB: Health Officials will work with affected individuals to develop care plans including requirements for isolation.

NB: This may result in the draw being amended to reflect these changes.

Refunds

Croquet New Zealand acknowledge that this is a very uncertain time and is providing many challenges for everyone. If a player wishes to withdraw from the event due to the Covid-19 enforced restrictions, they should submit a written request to croquet@croquet.org.nz.