

## NHRU ANNOUNCEMENT

Following the announcement by Rugby Australia (RA) yesterday afternoon relating to COVID-19 and community Rugby across Australia, and subsequent confirmations received from New South Wales Rugby Union (NSWRU) and New South Wales Country Rugby Union (NSWCRU), the Newcastle & Hunter rugby union zone affiliates (NHRU, HJRU, NRURA and THC) **will place a moratorium on all affiliated and sanctioned community Rugby competitions (including training) throughout the Newcastle & Hunter zones until Saturday, 2 May 2020.**

The sanctioning of competitions is a key responsibility of our affiliates (NSWRU and NSWCRU), along with full compliance with our public health responsibilities around grass-roots Rugby.

During this time, the zone's affiliates (NHRU, HJRU, NRURA and THC) are encouraging clubs and other affiliated bodies to follow public health information and procedures regarding containment of the spread of COVID-19, from the World Health Organisation, Australian Federal Government, Rugby Australia and NSW Health.

The recommended moratorium leaves a window from Saturday 2 May through to September 2020, preserved for local club competitions to be played, if circumstances allow.

Newcastle & Hunter zone officials indicated: -

- 1) This health emergency we're facing and working through is unprecedented and the community Rugby stance by RA, NSWRU, NSWCRU (and in turn NHRU, HJRU and THC) considers all information currently available provided by public health bodies, governments and RA;
- 2) The moratorium on community rugby ensures that stakeholders (players, volunteers, staff, supporters) are not placed in positions of unnecessary risk. Rugby affiliates continue to work through the implementation of policies and procedures that will continue to reduce risk for stakeholders;
- 3) The moratorium on community rugby allows NHRU and HJRU time to plan and implement new participation/competition structures that would allow Newcastle and Hunter stakeholders to participate in rugby within the designated window should circumstances allow;
- 4) Newcastle and Hunter affiliates will continue to work closely with our member Clubs on the best way to assist them during this challenging period; and
- 5) We're mindful that this global health emergency is bigger than sport and the health of the communities of Newcastle Hunter region remain our priority.

We have attached copies of the relevant announcements received from **RA** and **NSWRU/NSWCRU**.

Yours in Rugby,

Bill Clifton - President Newcastle Hunter Rugby  
Kobus (Bok) Hattingh - President Hunter Junior Rugby  
Bob Hawes - President Newcastle Rugby Referees  
Rowan Burgess - Chairman The Hawthorne Club

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## **STATEMENT REGARDING COMMUNITY RUGBY**

MARCH 16, 2020

Today, following a meeting of the National Development Panel, Rugby Australia along with the State and Territory Member Unions have unanimously agreed to postpone all Community Rugby until the first week of May, effective immediately.

This recommendation covers Rugby matches, Rugby training and face-to-face Rugby education courses. Although this decision has not been made lightly, it has been made with the interests of the participants, families and the broader community as the priority.

In arriving at this decision, Rugby Australia and the Member Unions have considered public health information and the advice of the Rugby Australia Chief Medical Officer, Dr Warren McDonald. The group acknowledges that this decision is a more conservative approach than has currently been recommended by the Australian, State and Territory Governments. However, it has been made to provide clarity to the Rugby community in a challenging and disruptive time.

Rugby Australia and the Member Unions are fully committed to supporting the game through this difficult time and the decision will allow for six weeks of planning to deliver a modified season which will commence, at this stage, at the beginning of May. The modified season will vary at a local level to best support the needs of our local Rugby communities.

It is acknowledged that there are a variety of Rugby competitions underway and Rugby Australia will work closely with Member Unions to minimise this disruption.

It is not the intention for this decision to interfere with the non-rugby related activities of our Rugby clubs, such as operation of licensed facilities. Government advice should continue to be followed in this regard. Rugby Australia and Member Unions will also work to increase the opportunity for people to engage in online education to ensure our critical workforces are ready for the recommencement of Community Rugby.

The National Development Panel will meet weekly for the foreseeable future and will review this position and communicate any updates regularly.

**ENDS**

NSWCRU clubs, zones and affiliates - update regarding information Coronavirus COVID-19



Stephen O'Brien <SOBrien@nswrugby.com.au>  
To Stephen O'Brien

[Click here to download pictures.](#) To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

I am sure you have had plenty of questions regarding COVID-19 over the past few days and we appreciate your patience regarding this matter.

SEE BELOW – please circulate to your members and stakeholders!

PLEASE NOTE the following:

- ALL Rugby related activities will be postponed until the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May 2020
  - This includes ALL training, trial matches, competitions and representative rugby
- ALL Rugby related Education (Coach, Match Official, Admin) will be postponed as well

What does this mean for your competitions and pathway?

- COMPETITIONS - Obviously competitions and Representative Pathway are due to start over this period
  - Zones and competitions will need to consider how that looks for the start of your respective seasons
  - Please allow your ZONES and COMP administrators some time to formulate and communicate what will happen in regards to the start your respective seasons.
- PATHWAY - We will plan as if the suspension will be lifted as of 1<sup>st</sup> week of May 2020 but we will update ALL rugby members and stakeholders as information comes to hand
- NSWRU & NSWCRU will continue to work with Rugby AU around the best outcome moving forward
- Information and updates regarding ALL Rugby related activities will be sent on a weekly basis after a National Community Rugby meeting with Rugby AU and Medical Officers

This is obviously not ideal but as you can understand the SAFETY of our Rugby community is paramount.

Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any questions.

Regards,

Stephen O'Brien | Member # 783432

NSW Country Rugby Union - Executive Officer

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