

INFORMATION BULLETIN – SUSPENSION OF COMPETITIONS

The NWPC have determined that it will not be possible to fully complete the 2019/20 National Fixtures schedule in the current Public Health emergency and operate within current government guidelines. Accordingly, all competitions are suspended until 01 September 2020 and may remain further suspended until the Public Health Emergency has passed and government guidelines permit resumption of activities. It is recognised that there will be a need to reboot, refocus and recover our sport and clubs will need time and space to regroup and resume club activity and training. It is also recognised that there needs to be a structured approach to bring season closure.

1. **National Cups:** All published dates for 2020 cup competitions are cancelled. We will attempt to reschedule between September and December and will update clubs regarding dates when we are in a position to do so with certainty. In anticipation of rescheduling we are asking for entries for the Under 13 and Under 19 competitions. To facilitate planning we will also be seeking National Competition entries for the 2020/2021 season and will send a separate communication in this regard.

2. **National Leagues 2019/2020:** The intention is that these will be completed during September 2020. There will be different solutions to each league, with equalisation of matches as required. Equalisation of matches is determined by the number of games in a league minus the number of matches due to be played in any playoff.
 - a. **Boys Under 16 League:** Top 3, mid 3, bottom 3 teams to play off on round robin. All teams will be equalised in matches played to 14 matches with points added to determine each group of 3 teams (top, mid, bottom), and total points carried forward to play offs.
 - b. **Girls Under 16 League:** Top 4 round robin play off; bottom 4 round robin play off. Teams will be equalised in matches to 11 matches played with points added and total points carried forward to play offs.
 - c. **Women's NLD 1** Playoff match: St Vincents v Clontarf
 - d. **Women's NLD 2** Champions: Tribes
 - e. **Men's NLD 3** Champions: North Dublin
 - f. **Men NLD 2** Playoff match: St Vincents v Drogheda
 - g. **Men's NLD 1** Top 4 round robin play off, with current top 4 teams to be equalised at 11 matches with points added or deducted and total carried forward to a play off. Current teams 5-7 round robin play off, with teams equalised at 12 matches, with points added or deducted, and total carried forward to play off. Clonard are relegated.

3. **International Competitions:** Ireland Water Polo had committed to partake in various international competitions which have been impacted by Covid-19.
 - a. **EU Nations:** Competitions scheduled for March (Junior Girls), April (Junior Boys) and May (Senior Women) have been postponed.
 - b. **LEN:** have postponed the Under 19 Men's European Qualifying Tournament (April) and U19 Women's European Tournament (August) events.
 - c. **FINA:** have yet to determine a course of action, but it is likely that the Under 16 Girls World Championships in July will be postponed.

- d. **ASA Inter Regional Tournaments (Under 15 Boys & Girls):** No response has been received from the competition committee to date. Ireland will not participate in either event. It is expected that the ASA's for Under 14s will take place in December 2020.

4. **Finance:** Clubs will receive a credit note against pool fees paid for this season, accounting for unplayed matches and playoff matches played in September to offset, in part, next season's pool fees.

5. **Interprovincial Tournaments:** The Junior Interprovincial Tournaments will be held in early 2021 for the 2020/21 season.

This solution affords closure with a level of competition retained, recognising clubs and teams season efforts up to 13th March 2020. Stay safe, see you in September with the new season commencing in Sept/Oct 2020.