



Tuesday 17th March 2020

Statement on Coronavirus COVID-19

On Tuesday morning, March 17, the Tasmanian Government declared a public health emergency for the State. As a result, Hockey Tasmania has taken the decision to temporarily close its grounds in Hobart and Launceston and suspend all hockey competitions and activities state-wide until further notice.

This decision is taken in response to the declaration of a public health emergency and to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community, to protect those who are likely to experience more severe symptoms, or are at greater risk such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. These steps are essential to reduce the demands on our health system so that it can function effectively.

Furthermore, the Under 15 National Championships to be held in NSW, and the Under 18 National Championships to be held in Launceston, both in April, have been cancelled. This was in consultation with Hockey Australia and other member states. These tournaments will not be rescheduled.

The only consideration for these decisions was the health and well-being of our members and the broader Tasmanian community.

Suspension of competitions will have financial implications on HT and the clubs. The financial impact is under review and members will be informed of the financial implications once it has been determined and are working closely with the clubs and key stakeholders in relation to this matter.

Hockey Tasmania will continue to monitor the situation closely and review all decisions as things change. This is a rapidly changing public health emergency and we will respond appropriately based on the advice from the Health Department.

At this moment the 2020 season has not been cancelled. The review process is ongoing and constant and will be conducted in association with the clubs, stakeholders, and relevant agencies. We will have a clearer picture of the situation in Tasmania by the start of April and we will be able to then begin to assess issues such as the potential date for resumption of season 2020 competitions, registration, and subscription fees.

We would like to thank our hockey community for their patience and understanding in this matter and encourage all members to treat each other with compassion and respect. It is in these unprecedented times like these that we need to pull together and support one another.

Stay safe.

From,

Damian Smith
CEO Hockey Tasmania

Ken Read
Hockey Tasmania Chair

And the entire Hockey Tasmania Board.