



Date: 4 October 2022

To: Club Chairs

From: Lewis McClintock – National Sport Manager

Subject: Proposed changes to National Competition venues

Consultation Level: RED

What are clubs being asked to consider?

Does your club support SLSNZ National Sport Competitions being hosted at the same location for multi-year terms as outlined in the proposal section of this paper?

What is being proposed?

SLSNZ is proposing that National Sport Competitions, specifically the TSB New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Championships (“Nationals”) be allocated to one location on a multi-year basis.

The multi-year term could either be two years, three years or two years with the option of a third year following a full review.

National Competitions would still change locations, however just not on an annual basis.

If this proves to be successful, SLSNZ would look to consult on a similar approach for National Pool Rescue & IRB competitions.

Where did the proposal come from?

The proposal has stemmed from a range of organic feedback from the membership & staff. Following recommendation from the National Sport Committee, SLSNZ has produced this proposal and is seeking club feedback.

Why is it being proposed?

The National Sport Committee has had “A Great Experience” as one of its guiding principles for sport for the past four years.

Surf Life Saving competitions operate in an unpredictable and largely uncontrollable environment. This, coupled with increased Health & Safety compliance and higher expectations from the membership makes Nationals a highly complex event to deliver while providing consistency and improvement each year.

As we have explored ways to better enhance the experience for all participants we have found that by changing the location of Nationals on an annual basis only added to the complexity of the event and is a potential contributing factor of a poor experience.

Most if not all potential learnings are lost from the previous year meaning much of the focus is spent on navigating the logistical challenges of delivering the event as opposed to implementing meaningful changes in order to improve the overall participant experience.

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The membership is well-served with a variety of participation and performance opportunities at local and regional level and whilst the membership has enjoyed rotating the venue of Nationals each year, we believe we need to investigate every opportunity to reduce complexity, streamline delivery and provide a great experience for the membership at National Competitions - Oceans is a good example of where this approach has been beneficial.

The recent cancellation of multiple regional and National competitions due to COVID has also resulted in a negative impact on membership attitudes and confidence in sport in general and so we need to look at every option to reignite engagement in our National events.

Perceived advantages to a single location/multi-year model

1. By staging the event in one location officials, volunteers, staff and participants can accumulate knowledge of the location, infrastructure & beach conditions which will contribute to more improvements in delivery efficiency & effectiveness as learnings are consolidated each year.
2. One location will allow for better continuity and succession planning for volunteer requirements which will contribute to a more cohesive group of volunteers & officials and therefore a more efficient and enjoyable event. This will be particularly helpful as we rebuild after COVID.
3. The most suitable venue for each event can be identified and utilised.
4. Commercial and community partnerships can be built and leveraged locally - by forming strong local partnerships with suppliers, sponsors, councils, local trusts and Iwi we can bring long term support to events at a time when the membership desire significant improvement in the quality of the events being delivered. A lack of funding is a significant constraint to the desired improvements and so improving income opportunities while controlling costs will help change this.
5. Clubs will be able to simplify their Nationals planning replicating bookings and arrangements over multiple years

Perceived disadvantages to a single location/multi-year model

1. The same members from the same areas will have travel (or not) for multiple years at a time, resulting in a potentially higher relative cost (or benefit) for extended periods, i.e. sharing the pain/gain is over a longer period of time.
2. The travelling membership will not see and experience different parts of the country and beaches each year. Some may only experience one venue in their entire competitive career.
3. The local membership will have a potential advantage of familiarity for multiple years.
4. The host club(s) and their members will have increased volunteer requirement to support event delivery year after year.
5. Lack of visibility of large Lifesaving competitions in other areas for a number of years.

Potential Locations

Previous work by SLSNZ outlined the location specifications required to successfully host Nationals, primarily:

- Beach profile, space & access
- Host city/town location accessibility, accommodation, infrastructure & funding support
- Host club infrastructure & capability

It was identified four locations met the requirements:

- Mount Maunganui (Mt Maunganui, Omanu & Papamoa beaches)
- Gisborne (Midway & Waikanae beaches)
- Ohope
- New Brighton Beach

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Given concentration of geographical profile of the membership and that three of the four locations that meet the hosting requirements are in the North Island, investigations would focus on the North Island beaches, however it is still envisaged that a South Island location would be periodically scheduled between multi-year blocks.

Consultation Process

Due to the nature of the proposed changes this falls under the **RED** category in the [SLSNZ consultation model](#) and will be a two-stage process.

Stage one:

- This proposal will be distributed to clubs to discuss with their members.
- SLSNZ will run online Q & A forums
- Following the forums, SLSNZ will provide clubs with a feedback form to complete.

Stage two:

- SLSNZ will summarise the feedback from stage one and distribute it to clubs and then ask clubs to form a singular club position on the proposal, fundamentally, whether they support it or not.

Following stage two, SLSNZ will communicate the results of the club positions on the proposal.

If the proposal is not supported, National events will continue to move locations on an annual basis. If the proposal is supported, the NSC recommendation is:

- SLSNZ immediately engage with key stakeholders in the identified locations to determine viability of multi-year event hosting.
- SLSNZ outlines how the potential advantages/disadvantages outlined in the proposal as well as any others identified during the consultation process can be achieved/mitigated
- The final decision on the location of Nationals is made by the SLSNZ Board
- Annual reviews of Nationals is completed by the NSC & SLSNZ Board.

Time Frame	Action
October 2022	Information sent to Clubs
November 2022	Online forums & Stage one feedback deadline
December/January	Stage one feedback consolidated and analysed
February 2023	Stage two initiated
March 2023	Stage two complete. Results communicated to membership
April 2023 onwards	If proposal supported, next steps initiated



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