

INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUSPENSION OF WATER POLO COMPETITIONS

Information

The NWPC have determined that it will not be possible to fully complete the 2019/20 National Fixtures schedule in the current National Public Health Emergency and operate within government guidelines. Accordingly, all competitions are suspended until 01 September 2020 and may remain further suspended until the National 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 for 2019/20.

1. **National Cups**: As an interim planning measure, all 2020 cup competitions will be rescheduled to be completed by the end of 2020. Entries will only be accepted for the Under 13 and Under 19 competitions. Entries for Under 19 competitions will be sought in May 2020 with national competitions entries for the 2020/2021 season as normal. Under 13 entries will be sought and confirmed in due course. Qualifiers for Under 15 boys and ISC men will be held at the earliest opportunity in September. The planning dates, subject to pools being operational and available, for the 2020 cup competitions are as follows:

a. Senior Cups	22/23/24 October 2020	Bangor
b. Under 19 Cups	TBA November 2020	UL
c. Under 15 Cups	02/03/04 October 2020	Galway
d. Under 13 Development Cup	26/27 September 2020	NAC
e. Under 13 Single Gender Cups	07/08 November 2020	NAC

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.

Male

- a. **Boys Under 16 League** Top 3, mid 3, bottom 3 teams, grouped, to play off on a round robin basis for each group. 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. **MNLD 3** Champions: North Dublin
- c. **MNLD 2** Playoff match: St Vincents v Drogheda
- d. **MNLD 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 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.

Female

- e. **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.
 - f. **WNLD 1** Playoff match: St Vincents v Clontarf
 - g. **WNLD 2** Champions: Tribes
3. **International Competitions:** Ireland Water Polo had committed to partake in various international events which have been impacted.
- a. **EU Nations Competitions** scheduled for March (Junior Women), April (Junior Men) and May (Senior Women) have been cancelled.
 - b. **LEN** have postponed the Under 19 men's (April) and women's (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 and Girls) No response has been received from the competition committee. Ireland will not participate in the event. It is expected that the ASAs for under 14s (YOB 2007) 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. **Interprovincials:** The Junior Interprovincial competitions will be held in early 2021 for the 2020/21 season.

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