

## **BBNZ COVID Protocols for Tournaments and Weekly Leagues as at 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

The below sets out the regulations and policies that will be in place for BBNZ Tournaments for 2022. These have been formed based on the current government COVID guidelines and everything that has been noted throughout this document, and therefore are subject to change at the discretion of BBNZ in response to changes to public health advice or any Government guideline updates.

Associations are welcome to adopt the below policies for their own local tournaments.

As BBNZ do not run basketball weekly leagues for schools and clubs, the below comments on Weekly Leagues are only recommendations, and each association is encouraged to create their own policies and rules that relate best to their competitions.

### **TOURNAMENTS**

#### **BBNZ Tournament Competition Rules relating to COVID**

- If a player in a team tests positive during the tournament, they will need to isolate for 7 days (as per government guidelines). Please note the 'Team COVID Policies' below as to how teams should manage this.
- The rest of the team will be allowed to continue competing in the tournament.
- Teams will be able to change their team rosters up until the technical meeting as much as needed
- Any referee or match official who tests positive for COVID or who has any COVID symptoms during the tournament will not be allowed to enter the Venue.
- If a team is unable to continue competing in the tournament due to too many cases of COVID, and are unable to bring in any new players, the team will be noted as a 'default' for any of their future games, and their opponents will be awarded the competition points.
- If teams need to withdraw from the tournament in advance of the technical meeting, they will be charged a maximum of 50% of the tournament entry fee.

#### **Team COVID Policies**

Teams must have their own COVID policies in place, to ensure that the health and safety of participants and team management are prioritised while they are attending a BBNZ tournament.

If there is a case connected with a team during a BBNZ tournament, no one involved in their team would be classified as a household contact whether or not they were staying in the same room as the infected person, UNLESS they are directly notified by a relevant public health authority.

Anyone who is identified as a confirmed case or as a household contact will be required to isolate for 7 days.

- When cases do arise, they can travel back to their homes to isolate. However, public transport cannot be used to do this. Therefore, each team's COVID plan must include how cases will return safely to their homes to isolate.
- If returning home is not possible, then teams will need a plan for cases to isolate where they are staying:
  - Cases should be separated as much is practical from others
  - Cases can isolate together

- As the tournament will finish before the 7 days is finished, teams must plan how positive cases will remain in their accommodation to finish their isolation, including who will remain behind, or if a parent will join, a player who is too young to remain by themselves.
- Anyone who is a close contact of that case is not required to isolate. However, as a precaution, teams may choose to ask them to isolate for a period of time following their last exposure to the case. There is no legal requirement for this to occur. A period of seven days from their last exposure to the case is recommended should they choose to isolate (this assumes they are isolating separately from the case).
- Anyone in the group, including close contacts of a confirmed case, who is symptomatic (even if only very mild symptoms) must be encouraged to get tested for COVID-19.

If a member of any team tests positive during a BBNZ Tournament, the team management **MUST** inform the BBNZ Event Lead for the tournament as soon as possible. They will then be able to make contact with any teams that player may have competed against.

### WEEKLY LEAGUES

A reminder that BBNZ does not run and is not involved with your weekly leagues. Below are purely recommendations based on what other sports, organisations, and leagues are currently doing. Associations are encouraged to decide what rules are best for their local competition.

While it may make sense to create particular COVID policies for deferrals/defaults, it may be easier to continue with your competitions current default and deferral rules. A number of weekly competitions do not allow for deferrals or matches to be rescheduled as often it is too difficult to find a time to fit this in. In this case, Game Cancellations could be considered:

- Game Cancellations
  - If a team is unable to compete due to having too many players out with COVID (a particular number should be decided by the association i.e. four or five players, or 50% of the team), they may apply for a Game Cancellation.
  - Game Cancellation application forms should be created and provided to teams in advance of the season commencing
  - The application form should be submitted at least 24 hours before the scheduled game time
  - The team will need to prove that their players have COVID (or have been identified as household contacts), and that they are unable to bring players in from a lower team.
  - If a Game Cancellation is approved by the association, teams should share competition points.
  - If the form is not submitted 24 hours in advance and a team still is unable to compete, this could be considered a default and the team defaulting should not receive any competition points (it could be considered that this team should not lose any points though, if they had players need to pull out last minute with COVID).
- Associations could consider that deferrals/postponements are allowed for certain grades (i.e. Premier Grades) if they feel this would make a large difference to the competition.

- If there are rules around how many times a player can play up for a higher team before officially being considered part of that higher team, associations may need to consider loosening this rule and allowing players to play up an unlimited number of times to ensure games can be played.
- Deferrals/postponements may need to be considered for semi-finals and finals if teams are unable to field a team. If a semi final can not be rearranged to be played before a final, then associations could consider the winner of the last time the team's played to be the team that progresses to the final.