



**MEMO TO:** Associations, Clubs, Players, Umpires, Scorers and other interested parties  
**FROM:** Softball NZ  
**DATE:** 16 June, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Age Grade National Championships for 2020/21 Season

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This memo has been prepared to highlight some of the key changes to the Softball NZ Age Grade National Championships for this upcoming 2020/21 season.

The Covid-19 pandemic and lock down affected every aspect of our lives, not the least of which the economy and businesses/organisations have felt the full force of this economic slowdown. Softball NZ (SNZ) has been greatly affected with 3 major areas of revenue loss impacting our delivery and including commercial sponsorship, Class 4 funding, and international events with a total accumulated negative impact of \$1m. Add to this a perceived membership reduction for this year of 15-20% and you can start to see the wider impact on the sporting sector.

When Class 4 trust funding was in lockdown, all Trusts lost 100% of their community fundraising capability during this period and will be further impacted in their operational return and in the coming months. In essence, the ability to access charitable funding for all forms of organisations will be problematic, demand will outweigh supply significantly.

Sport NZ have advised all National Sports Organisations to push for more meaningful regional participation events. In order to re-ignite participation in all sporting areas, it is encouraged that these regional tournaments entice a wider audience, and that can be achieved on a more regional basis.

Due to the above, SNZ met with our larger associations to discuss the situation that we face as a community. After much deliberation it was decided that the upcoming season 2020/21 (only), the U23, U18, and U15 National Championships will be removed, and that the three main regions (Northern Region, Central Region, and South Island) will host regional U18 and U15 tournaments. Each region will form a committee with representatives from their own respective associations, and further information will be forthcoming from these committees in regards to dates and the nature of these tournaments.

Softball NZ