



New Zealand Canoe Polo Association Incorporated

National League 2019 - Outline of format changes

Below are the major changes to the format for 2019:

- Capping of grades (12 teams per open grade, 8 teams per women's grade).
 - this is due to the ever increasing time pressures of indoor finals
 - to make grades more competitive (less disparity in skill level)
 - to make the skill gap smaller between grades to allow better continuity to teams advancing/retreating through the grades
 - Due to capping we understand there will be competition between teams for entry into their preferred grade. More information around the exact nature of the qualification system can be expected soon.
- Women's C and Open D grades have been established
 - Women's C will cater for women's teams who are still developing and not yet at a stage of wanting to play a nationalised B grade
 - Both grades will cater for the total number of teams in NL as capping will mean possibly too many teams in higher grades as they are capped out.
 - Open D grade will only go ahead if entries are sufficient, otherwise all teams will be accommodated by Open C grade.
- Scrutineering and referees meeting for A & B grades to be held on Friday evening prior to Round 1.
 - it is always a time pressure and compromising trying to do scrutineering during Saturday morning
 - referees meetings haven't happened over the past 2 seasons due to time pressures during the tournament (and fitting it around scrutineering)
- South Island C grade
 - SI C grade teams will have the option of attending finals in Wellington or not. If teams are not attending finals this must be indicated on the entry form.
 - SI C grade rounds 1 & 2 will be open to "social" teams in order to better support and bolster the competition. The exact format for social teams will be determined with consultation of SI clubs. NZCPA reserves the right to decline any social team entries due scheduling requirements or at the competition council's discretion. Social teams will be charged an entry fee to help cover competition costs, the entry fee will be determined once entries are in.
- Clubs hosting NL events
 - In 2019 we would like to invite any club to apply to host a NL event, please refer to document "*2019 NL Event Hosting Application*".
 - The clubs who have hosted events in previous seasons have been excellent and to avoid just simply going back to the same clubs each year the competitions council have decided to open the application process up to any club who wishes to host an event. The competitions council will determine which club is awarded the hosting of each event.