

16 April 2020

RE: NZ Secondary Schools Athletics Association Event 20/21 June
SUSPENDED: NZSS Cross Country Championships and Cross-Country Relay Championships

Dear Stakeholders

It is with regret we announce the **SUSPENSION** of the NZSSAA Cross Country and Cross-Country Relay Championships due be held in Hawera on the weekend of June 20/21.

NZSSAA Executive are working with School Sport NZ and in liaison with Athletics NZ on confirming a replacement date. The proposed date is **Saturday & Sunday 19/20 September** subject to possible Alert Level COVID-19 restrictions of the Government and School Sport NZ sanctioning.

This will be confirmed as soon as possible under the current situation we all face in New Zealand. NZSSAA are aware that this weekend has

- no major Athletics NZ events scheduled, and the facilities needed in Hawera are available that weekend.
- Saturday, September 19 is scheduled as the date of the General Election which will be of some inconvenience to voters although postal and early voting, as well as special voting, will be available in Hawera and other Taranaki centres.

The NZSSAA Executive understands the disappointment this postponement will cause our athletes, their families, coaches and managers and schools who will have been preparing and planning to take part. However given the likelihood that significant restrictions on movement and close association in respect to physical distancing with other people and travel restrictions of some form will still be in place into May and June it was felt it was better to provide as much certainty as is possible at this time.

The NZSSAA Executive are very keen to hold the championships this year if at all possible hence the **suspension** decision rather than cancellation at this stage. It is hoped that travel and accommodation plans can be changed to the proposed date without incurring significant expense and disruption but please email oe@nzssaa.org.nz with any concerns you have or issues you encounter.

We look forward to providing an update to our schools and student athletes as soon as we are in position to make a meaningful decision.

Yours sincerely



Tony Rogers
President - NZSSAA