



# Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands' Association

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## HB21 Covid-19 Response Plan for the National Pipe Band Contest 2021

21 September 2020

### **Document Purpose:**

Provide the framework for the Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands' Association (RNZPBA) to hold 2021 National Contest and ensure appropriate health, hygiene and safety measures are in place to protect competitors, adjudicators, officials and the public under the current Covid-19 pandemic. This outlines the management of the National Contest in a socially responsible way, and we ask all those attending the Nationals to protect our teams, our families and the community.

### **Background:**

In response to the International Covid-19 pandemic, on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the New Zealand government implemented a Level-4 lockdown to eliminate the spread of Covid-19 virus. The purpose of the shutdown was to isolate people within a 'bubble' to prevent the spread of the virus and the loss of life. As of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020, all of New Zealand are in Alert Level 1 apart from the Auckland region which is at Alert Level 2 for several more days at least.

### **Regulations:**

The RNZPBA decision making is based on Risk Assessments completed following the guidelines outlined by:

- The Health & Safety at Work Act 2015
- The Health & Safety at Work Regulations 2016
- Ministry of Health Covid-19
- New Zealand Government [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz) guidelines

## **What are the Parameters for Running the Contest:**

With this ever changing environment we are currently living in and the restrictions the current pandemic impose on us all, we thought it would be prudent to come up with alternative plans on how we will run the Nationals depending on what level the country will be in at the time of the contest.

Currently the whole of New Zealand apart from Auckland are at Alert Level 1 whereas Auckland is sitting at Alert Level 2. The expectation is the entire country will be at Alert Level 1 within two weeks. If Level 1 remains in place for the entire country RNZPBA is able to plan to hold the Nationals on 19/20 March 2021. If there are portions of New Zealand sitting at higher than Alert Level 2 a National Contest could not be held.

For this contest to take place we would need a sustained period of time at Level 1 to give us the confidence to plan for it. If we experience periods between now and March going in and out of levels 2 and above, then this would lead to uncertainty and the strong possibility we would have to cancel the event.

We have obtained guidance from the Ministry of Health in coming up with the following proposed response plan:

- Alert Level 4 – National Contest is postponed or cancelled
- Alert Level 3 – National Contest is postponed or cancelled
- Alert Level 2 – National Contest proceeds on a restrictive basis (refer proposed plan below)
- Alert Level 1 – National Contest proceeds on as normal but adhering to the MOH Guidance

## **What will the Contest Look Like:**

**At Alert Levels 3 and 4:** National Contest is postponed or cancelled

### **At Alert Level 2**

- National Contest will proceed but on a restrictive basis
- The Street March will not proceed
- Public will not be allowed into the venue
- Contact tracing by way of QR Codes will be in place
- Hand washing and sanitiser facilities will be provided
- All bands will play their MSR and Medley only
- All bands will have an allocated time slot to arrive at the grounds
- All bands will adhere to the gathering numbers for this level – this will allow their own supporters to attend dependant on the number in the band
- From arriving each band will be allocated their own tune up area
- Bands to proceed to the final tune up area prior to their events at a predetermined time slot
- Each band will play the MSR followed by the Medley with a short break between
- While bands are at the grounds, they will be under the social distancing requirements as set out by the Covid-19 Alert Level 2 Regulations from officials

- All adjudicators and officials will comply with the social distancing rule – this will require separate write up areas for judges to complete their reports
- The Juvenile event will not proceed
- Playing up dispensations will be withdrawn because members of bands will not be able to intermingle
- The Mace Flourishing and Displays will not proceed
- Mass Band and March Past will not proceed
- Trophy Presentation will not proceed
- Any Social activity will not take place
- Live streaming of the MSR, Medley and results announcement will proceed
- Entry and exit from the grounds for all bands will be controlled to ensure only one band at a time was either entering or exiting the venue

#### **At Alert Level 1**

- National Contest proceeds as normal with all activities in play
- We would practise social distancing in line with Covid-19 rules
- Contact tracing by way of QR Codes will be in place
- Hand washing and sanitiser facilities will be provided
- Individuals / Bands would be expected to follow Ministry of Health guidelines on personal hygiene
- Live Streaming is also happening

#### **What if parts of New Zealand are at different Alert levels:**

- If Hawkes Bay was on Alert Level 3 or greater the National Contest would be cancelled
- If Hawkes Bay was on Alert Level 1 or 2 and other parts of New Zealand on Level 2 then the Contest would proceed under full Alert Level 2 settings
- If Hawkes Bay was on Alert Level 1 or 2 and other parts of New Zealand on Level 3 or higher then the contest would not proceed as a National Contest and the Local Organising Committee would need to decide if they proceeded with a Local or Regional Event

We have no control if or when we move through the different alert levels so trying to pick this fluid situation becomes problematic when committing to bookings for the National Contests. It is each band's responsibility to work with accommodation and flight providers to establish the cancellation conditions and refunds on their forward bookings. The RNZPBA cannot be held liable for any loss of deposits individual bands could incur.