



December 2018

The countdown is on..... only 23 days until Christmas, and another year almost gone. A good year that has seen marching out in the community, hosting successful Championships and continuing to grow the numbers of Judges, Coaches and participants. And with just 4 more Teams an increase in Team numbers too. So please check that those Open Free Choice participants have got the registration process complete or maybe that new Team wanting to get started is requiring some assistance also. The Island Championships will complete the on-field season prior to Christmas and then all can take a relaxing break before getting back into routine for the build up to year end and the NZ Championships. Before we can break and have the first glass of bubbles there are still some working days and the pre-holiday marching list to complete.

- ◆ **Out 'n about** in the Santa Parades your Teams (and Association, assuming you all donned your Association uniform and joined in) will have been the biggest audience marching will have had in your region this year and thank you all for this promotion. Be receptive to the enquiries that follow, even though we are mid-season, there is always room for a new marcher or interested parent.
- ◆ **Volunteer of the Month**, please, please send through your Volunteer of the Month. We all have Volunteers so please take the time to acknowledge them with a mention in the MNZ Newsletter and at a Christmas get-together is a great opportunity; even Santa can give out a thank-you gift or card of appreciation. Also remember to add the names to your Volunteer Form and send the form through.
- ◆ **Team** numbers registered this season have reached 83 and we ended last season with 86. As above, check that any OFC Teams get assistance to complete the registration process. It would be great if we can get those 4 more Teams and record an increase in team numbers again this year..
- ◆ **Life Members** are members of your Association too, they may not be active as they were in times gone by, but they are still members and can be added to your membership stats. Please complete the Life Members Registration form and send back. There is no fee for Life Members, unless they are holding and active position within your Association.
- ◆ **Association Championships** are the next major event on our Marching calendar and then the New Zealand Championships. Hope all your planning is going well and you have been able to create an event that raises the bar for your participants and spectators. Consider adding a March Past (good practise for Teams going to the NZ Championships) and extend invites to Guests, (Life Members, Sponsors, Sport Trust) and even provide lunch or tea and coffee for them. Make your Association Championships something special, add some finesse and make it enjoyable for all.
- ◆ **Entry Forms** for the NZ Championships will be available on the MNZ website on the 12th December after the Island Championships have been held. Closing date for entries is 31st January 2019. Give your teams a deadline for the entry to be returned to you and make it suitable to your timetable. You may be going away on holiday or have visitors and not the time to do the check and send off entries. The Association must ensure that the Teams have complied with the eligibility criteria and are satisfied participating in the event is financially viable for the Team. Teams must not be returning from the Championships with major fundraising projects to clear incurred debt. Applicable rules are -
 - NZC3-1a/b – all members are registered, have competed in the phases they are entering in at least two days of championships and/or competition in their association, have competed in their own Island Championships
 - RAC5-1/2 – they have been granted permission to travel by the Association and can satisfy the association that the team has sufficient funds in order to meet such commitments.
- ◆ **Association Fee** of \$350 should have already been paid the Host Association of the NZ Championships. Check that the Treasurer has not forgotten to send off the payment to Marching Canterbury who we sincerely thank for hosting the event.
- ◆ **Island Championships** are being hosted by Marching Canterbury and Marching Waikato. Sincere thanks to both Association Committees and all the Volunteers you have recruited and hope that all the planning has been worth it and that all goes well for you on the day. Please send me the Awards List or a copy of the Master Sheets to enable the results to be uploaded to the MNZ website.

- ◆ **Shared Subscriptions** will be refunded to 30 members from Marching Waikato, Hawke's Bay, Wellington and Canterbury who introduced new members last season and re-registered again this season. A member's discount is limited to 50% only, regardless of the number of new members introduced. Thank you to those Associations who promoted the incentive. They all have promoted it again this season + Otago and Southland and we have 33 new members introduced to the sport.
- ◆ **Coach Incentive**, for Coaches who have completed three consecutive years as a practising Coach receive a \$50 voucher. This year we have 13 coaches from Marching Auckland, Waikato, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Wellington, Nelson, Canterbury and Southland who will receive the voucher. Congratulations to these Coaches and to the Associations for providing the opportunity and the pathway for them to achieve the three-years.
- ◆ **Christmas Messages** to your sponsors, valuable contacts, contact person at the Regional Sports Trust, Patron and Life Members, even your Committee, Judges, Team Coaches are a nice way of saying thank you at the same time.
- ◆ **Conviction Check Policy** reminder to follow up with those members still to provide a report. All Association Committee and Team Management Officials are required as per the MNZ Policy to [rove]d a Conviction Check Report with their registration. The Policy is on the website to refer members to you may have questions. Members have had approximately 6months to get a Conviction Check - so we are now at the 'no excuses' timeframe, it was agreed at the MNZ Annual Meeting to implement this season and that meeting was held at the end of June. Please remind your Membership Privacy Officer to advise when checks have been sighted for those early registration processed without the check and to take note of the date of the conviction check notice for the records
- ◆ **Director of Coaching** communications until a new appointment is made are to the Technical Manager at technical@marching.co.nz
- ◆ **Association Meeting in December** with a Christmas theme, if you were able to arrange – have fun.
- ◆ **Clean slate to start the New Year,**
 - 1) Check that Master Sheets, from all competitions hosted in the Association have been sent to the Technical Manager, Director of Coaching and Director of Judging, either in the post or scanned and emailed to technical@marching.co.nz, coach@marching.co.nz judge@marching.co.nz
 - 2) Check that all minutes from Association Meetings have been sent to MNZ and either the minutes or at least the reports from the Chief Judge and Coaching Co-ordinator to the Technical Manager, Director of Coaching and Director of Judging. Remember any reportage if not included in the context of the Minutes to be attached when circulated, that include Financial Reports also.
 - 3) Remind Teams of close off to you for NZ Championship entries.
 - 4) An end of year 'back-up' is done of the computer, including email
 - 5) Put the files away and **turn off the computer**.

Have a great Christmas, a fantastic New Year and safe travels Cheers everyone

Diane

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