



December 2019

The countdown is on..... only 3 weeks until Christmas Day, followed 1 week later by the New Year and a new decade. WOW where has the year gone!!! 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 the NZ Championships at the end of March. 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 is a great opportunity to get some free marketing for the sport and with the later Island Championship weekends of 7th & 15th allowing your Teams to participate this year. I hope your Teams and the Association donned Santa Hats and jingled your way through the streets escorting Santa into town for the festive season. It will be the biggest audience marching may get in your region so be ready and 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 are down on last season, down 11 Teams. If you have any Teams still to register and take the field, even in the Open Free Choice Grade offer to help them complete the paperwork and be ready to take the field in the new 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.
- ◆ **Island Championships** are being hosted by Marching Marlborough and Marching Hawke's Bay. 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.
- ◆ **NZ Championship Entry Forms** will be available on the MNZ website on Monday 16th December after the Island Championships have been held. Closing date for entries is 31st January 2020. 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.
- ◆ **Shared Subscriptions** have been refunded to 15 members from Marching Wellington, Canterbury and Otago who introduced new members last season and re-registered again this season. 41 new marchers were introduced through the incentive last year and there are still some claims outstanding. 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.

- ◆ **Coach Incentive**, for Coaches who have completed three consecutive years as a practising Coach receive a \$50 voucher. This year we have 20 coaches from Marching Waikato, Taranaki, Wellington, Marlborough, 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.
- ◆ **Association Meeting in December** with a Christmas theme, if you were able to arrange – have fun.
- ◆ **Clean slate to start the New Year,**
 - ✓ Complete the Life Member form and send through to add to your membership stats.
 - ✓ 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
 - ✓ 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.
 - ✓ Add names to the Volunteer Form of new Volunteers since submitting the previous list.
 - ✓ Check the front doorstep for any courier packs from Santa.
 - ✓ Remind Teams of the close off date to you for NZ Championship entries to be processed.
 - ✓ Do an end of year 'back-up' of the computer, including email.
 - ✓ Turn off the computer and have a well-earned break.

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

Diane



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