



December 2020

WOW where has the year gone, I guess Covid took some of it away. 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 in 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. The countdown is on.....

- ◆ **Out 'n about** in the Santa Parades is a great opportunity to get some free marketing for the sport. I hope your Teams and the Association donned Santa Hats and jingled through the streets escorting Santa into town for the festive season. It is 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.
- ◆ **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 an active position within your Association.
- ◆ **Island Championships** are being hosted by Marching Otago and Marching Taranaki in Dunedin and New Plymouth respectively. 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.
- ◆ **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 are 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 contacts) 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.
- ◆ **NZ Championship Entry Forms** will be available on the MNZ website on Monday 14th December after the Island Championships have been held. Closing date for entries is 31st January 2021. 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, the Team have competed in the phases they are entering in at least two days of championships and/or competition in their association and 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** are being refunded to 20 members from Marching Waikato, Taranaki, Wellington, Canterbury, Otago and Southland who introduced new members last season and re-registered again this season. 45 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 10 coaches from Marching Waikato, 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.

- ◆ **Chief Judge Incentive** is for Association Chief Judges or Judge Trainer who progress a Trainee Judge to Qualified Judge status and full membership of Marching New Zealand. Once completed they will receive a \$50 Gift Voucher. A pro-active and successful Association Chief Judge or Judge Trainer can receive more than one Gift Voucher and your Association can benefit from one or more new Judges and one or more dollars in the bank not having to pay for importing Judges.
- ◆ **Association Key Personnel** and contact details listed in the National Directory must be kept up-to-date so remember to notify any changes. The next National Directory will be sent out in the New Year. For privacy reasons, this document is NOT available via the website.
- ◆ **National Calendar of Events** of all competition/activities/events will also be sent out again in the New Year, be sure to advise if your Associations has found a gap and added another event. The list published in the Newsletter and on the website needs to always be correct. You may have seen on the website and on our FB page the list of marching events for the current week, so if your dates in the Directory are incorrect then the dates on the website and FB will be incorrect also. This document IS available via the website on the Association page.
- ◆ **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 and enjoy.
- ◆ **Open Free Choice Day** to restart the season in the New Year. Add it to the calendar of events and have a fun day, or evening, at the local park or even at the beach to get the season restarted. All Teams could participate as they are NOT judged, though they could be guest judged by a judging panel of parents and caregivers using some creative sheets prepared for the event. Add in some games and challenges for the Teams, a shared picnic or BBQ or even snacks and drinks to nibble on when the marching music ends, and the dancing music starts. Make it a FUN time!!
- ◆ **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 includes Financial Reports also.
 - ✓ Add names to the Volunteer Form of any new Volunteers since submitting the previous list and send through.
 - ✓ Remind Teams of the close off date to you for NZ Championship entries to be processed.
 - ✓ Advise the Committee of the date/time/place of the next Committee Meeting
 - ✓ Check the front doorstep for any courier packs from Santa.
 - ✓ Put the bubbles in the fridge
 - ✓ 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 and a very Merry Christmas



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