

CNZ Player and Manager Feedback

Dear all,

The CNZ Tournament Committee has decided to continue last year's policy of sharing the feedback received after each CNZ event and to comment on what changes, if any, they plan to review for events held in following seasons.

Event: 2020/21 GC Nationals

Venue: Heretaunga Croquet Club

Manager: Sonya Sedgwick

The table below shows the feedback scores for each question together with how this compares to the average for all CNZ events last season.

GC Nationals									
	Str Dis	Dis	OK	Agree	Str Ag	Total	Weighted Avg	CNZ Avg 2019/20	GC Nats 19/20
Format	0	3	4	6	9	22	3.95	4.38	4.00
Number of Games	0	0	6	6	10	22	4.18	4.37	4.27
Manager	0	0	1	7	14	22	4.59	4.50	4.00
Lawns	0	1	2	10	9	22	4.23	3.98	4.64
Likely to attend this tournament again?	0	2	2	7	11	22	4.23	4.09	4.27
Likely to attend tournament in this location again?	1	1	3	8	9	22	4.05	4.02	4.55
Total	1	7	18	44	62	132	4.20	4.22	4.29

Response to feedback

Format - the following feedback was received

- As a 9 handicapper at the beginning of the doubles, I was just happy to be playing
- I enjoyed playing two games of doubles instead of the best of three. I also enjoyed the challenge of playing 19pt games.
- i feel the block play wasn't even
- Blocks followed by knockout. Brilliant!!!
- best of three block play ensures the deserving people make the knockout
- Might have been nicer to have a top 16 KO so more than just the top 2 in the block could proceed to the knockouts
- Was a bit average having only a top 8 but not a massive problem
- Not a fan of 19 point games for plate and 3 pools made the the knockout and who got through weird
- It was good
- Full play each day and after initial rounds you still had something to play for
- Would prefer only 2 days for doubles and extra day for singles which would give the opportunity to have top 16 not 8 so there is an incentive for lower grades players to get further in tournament, also I dislike players choice format
- Although numbers sort of dictated the 3 block format, I do believe the ko should've been a top 16. This makes more sense with players choice.

CNZ TC Response

The number of entries received meant an awkward block allocation. 3 x blocks is not ideal, although the alternative would have meant less-even blocks. There is no perfect format to accommodate 27 players.

A strong theme in the feedback received was that a higher number of block qualifiers (16) would have been preferred - this has been noted. The rationale was that a 16 player KO would have been used in a 32-player event, but with 24 (or 27), it was decided to have 8 qualifiers.

Number of games per day - the following feedback was received

- But the tournament is too long, 2 days for doubles and 4 for singles would be enough for this event.
- some days were to many
- Bo3 with a bye in every block meant a day with only 4 games.
- 3 best of 3 per day is ideal.
- 3 matches a day is sensible as always
- Finished by 1 for the day a couple times
- There was a bit of waiting around, but that may just have been me.
- The plate round robin was too long. 7 19pt games in a day.

CNZ TC Response

The event was recently lengthened based on previous feedback. However, the TC plan to do a

review of the length of this tournament in the coming months, to ensure that it is long enough to provide an appropriate format to find the best player, without being artificially long.

Action: CNZ TC will conduct a review of the length of the GC Nationals.

Lawns – the following feedback was received

- very good
- Heretaunga has one of the best greenskeepers in the country.
- hoops a bit loose at times but overall pretty good
- Fast and reasonably straight. Tony doing a fantastic job as expected
- They were ok. Some tricky curves and patchy speed, but I have played on worse.

CNZ TC Response

Great feedback - well done Heretaunga

Manager - the following feedback was received.

- did well for first time
- For a first time manager at this level she was brilliant.
- Sonya did a great job especially since it was her first time managing, ably assisted by Neil and always willing to accept feedback and suggestions from other players
- Go Sonya
- Easy relaxed atmosphere. Well run
- Despite Sonya's lack of experience, she pulled in help where she thought necessary where a lot of managers would be too proud to do so.
- Morning Tea could have been left out all day

CNZ TC Response

Big thanks to Sonya, and well done on the positive feedback received from managing your first major event!

Other feedback

- It has become a young persons event, the balance of players ages has been lost. Too many games played are unnecessary.
- The refereeing was abysmal by majority of referees. Way, way below standard. Many referees did not know the GC rules! Very poor.
- When we needed to get a ref they didn't come straight away
- I didn't disagree, but Hastings countryside is a pain in the butt to get to
- The standard of players skill may be too high for me to justify the amount to travel and accommodation as I don't feel I am competing.
- Enjoyed my debut experience! :-)
- The club house provided lovely morning/afternoon tea.
- This event needs to be limited to 32, and changed to a 6 day event.
- the social part of the tournament was awesome wish it was like this at other places. i would have liked to have seen a better set of refs there as it was a national event and more qualified

- I would suggest that GC tournaments NOT be held in the Hawkes Bay until they can supply referees of reasonable quality.
- The refereeing during the tournament was absolutely appalling.
- At open tournaments you should expect a high standard of play from the opposition. It is more productive to learn and grow from poor results than to be excessively upset. It also shows disrespect to those other players who attend these tournaments purely for the experience, even knowing they will most likely lose many games, but choose to do so maturely.
- Some geezas pulled out the plate for irrelevant reasons which showed a high level of disrespect toward the tournament and the people who volunteered to help run it. I don't think sight seeing is a suitable excuse for not following through with a commitment you've made.
- Make sure that the amount of pools is more balanced to allow for an equal amount of people in each pool to be put through rather than comparing certain positions across different pools
- I recommend next time checking everyone's handicap card
- Catered food was excellent.
- Something needs to be done to address the standard of referees. They are dwindling in numbers nationwide, and the ones which are left can make questionable calls. I had 3 blatant faults played against me where referees called it clean where it was impossible to be so. On that note, perhaps CNZ need to encourage regional associations for refresher courses and practical examinations, by sending someone around NZ to run these classes in the most hard-done-by areas

CNZ TC Response

CNZ does not regard the abundance of strong younger players as a negative; rather it is something that should be applauded.

There appears to be a lot of feedback on the standard of refereeing at this event. CNZ is committed to improving the standard of refereeing at tournaments. The CNZ Laws Committee were approached on this matter and have provided the following feedback:

1. GC Referee qualifications are increasing (Page 8 of the 2019-20 Annual Report: <https://croquet.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2019-20-CNZ-Annual-Report.pdf>)
2. CNZ acknowledges that there is a wide disparity in the application of the rules and the CNZ Laws Committee is working to establish a Senior GC Referee qualification (similar to what is seen in AC and was announced in the Sept 2020 Croquet Matters: <https://croquet.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Croquet-Matters-Sept-2020.pdf>).
3. CNZ ran upskilling courses at three locations around the country for GC Refereeing when the new rules were announced (2018).

If you would like to provide further feedback in order to help future events, please email croquet@croquet.org.nz

CNZ Tournament Committee