



# MEMO

**To: Softball NSW Affiliates & Stakeholders**  
**From: Daniel Rushworth Chief Executive Officer**  
**Date: Saturday, 5 September 2020**  
**Subject: Update & Rescheduled Pathways for 2020 & 2021**

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Through this correspondence, Softball NSW is providing an update to our community for the 2020 & 2021 pathway programs for Affiliates and our membership. We acknowledge that this update may require further adaption or possible cancellation dependent upon future government advice in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A combination of factors have required the organisation to adjust our already advertised schedule. The recent inclusion of additional government guidelines and then adjustment to the National Pathway programs through Softball Australia earlier this week, has required Softball NSW to review the entire schedule for events and pathways programs.

To adapt and accommodate both of these recent changes has been challenging, however we are comfortable in the fact that we have been able to adjust our schedule appropriately. Our main priority throughout this process is to ensure that we along with our Affiliate hosts can deliver safe and enjoyable experiences for our members.

Some of these adjustments have created opportunities for Softball NSW to stretch what was to be a heavily compressed schedule for the backend of 2020. We were certainly aware of the significantly impact our Affiliates would and may still experience with their localised competition delivery and participation. We have where possible attempted to avoid significant impact across the entire 2020-2021 Summer season.

We certainly appreciate the support from our community in remaining patient whilst this process has been undertaken.

## Updated Schedule for 2020 & 2021

The following changes are relevant to the previously advised schedule for 2020 along with inclusion of the Under 23's and Over 35's State Championships;

Category	Previous Schedule	New Schedule	Venue
Under 10's State Championship	5-6 December	5-6 December	CNSA
Under 12's State Championship	7-8 November	7-8 November	PCSA
Under 14's State Championship	19-20 September	12-13 December	SDSA
Under 16's State Championship	10-11 October	28-29 November	GRSA
Under 18's State Championship	26-27 September	19-20 December	BISP
Open Women's State Championship	3-5 October	24-25 October	BISP
Open Men's State Championship	3-5 October	31 October & 1 <sup>st</sup> November	BISP
Under 23's State Championship	N/A	16-17 January 2021	BISP
Over 35's State Championship	N/A	23-25 January 2021	BISP

*N.B Over 35's State Championship will be held from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> through to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January. We anticipate high participation in this event and three days will be required. Tuesday January 26<sup>th</sup> is Australia Day and a public Holiday.*

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## Rationale of Changes

1. Events scheduled between August 19 and September 30 that required inter-regional travel were postponed due to advice from the NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant.
2. NSW Health have recommended that no events (where participants would be travelling across regions) should be scheduled for the October long weekend despite being outside of the originally proposed 6-week window of restricted movements for community sport.
3. With the advice as per point 2, Softball NSW chose a cautious approach in case this window was extended and scheduled the first event a further three weeks after. SNSW acknowledge that this could still change yet again following further government advice.
4. After Softball Australia released their updated schedule of National events this now allowed for those pathway events to avoid schedule issues, particularly in reference to proximity of 14's, 16's & 18's events where Affiliates may have players participating across these categories. Furthermore, we have also managed to avoid key life events such as the HSC, School Formals and Schoolies.
5. With the 10's & 12's events, we have made the decision to keep these as the originally scheduled dates.
6. Following advice from our High-Performance Coaches, we have attempted to provide a three-month window of preparation for the 2021 National Championships.

## 2021 NSW & Regional Selection Advice

Due to these various impacts and associated timelines the SNSW Board has temporarily adjusted the [SNSW Selection Policy](#) to ensure that it provides the most opportune and equitable process for the perspective athletes to obtain State/Regional representation.

With the adjustments made for the 2020 State Championships schedule, the process for player selection from these events has also been updated as per below;

### Overall Selection Requirements

- Must be a financial and registered member of a SNSW Affiliate in 2020
- Compulsory attendance and participation in Softball NSW 2020 State Championships for those athletes wishing to gain selection.
- Selection Camps, Academies, State League, Waratah League, Winter League and Development League will not form part of the SNSW Selection Process. Only the State Championships will be considered as the primary selection event.
- All Athletes making themselves available for selection, must have completed the SNSW Pathways Expression of Interest Process (EOI). This process closed on August 31<sup>st</sup>. This process had to be completed by the Athlete themselves or if underage, it would have been completed by their parent or carer.
- Athletes that are unable to attend the State Championships due to injury will need to submit an exemption request and medical report to [ceo@softballnsw.org.au](mailto:ceo@softballnsw.org.au) Failure to provide both of these requirements will render athletes ineligible.
- Athletes that complete the SNSW Pathways EOI and do not participate at the SNSW State Championships will be rendered ineligible for selection.

### Division Specific Selection Advice

#### 2021 SNSW Under 14 Regional Team/Squad Selection

As per previous years SNSW will be selecting three female (two metropolitan and one country) and three male (two metropolitan and one country) teams to participate in the 2021 Under 14 National Championships. For 2021, Softball Australia have rebranded this event as a National Championships,



however Softball NSW will continue to enter Metropolitan and Country teams for the benefit of development.

- Compulsory attendance and participation in Softball NSW 2020 Under 14 State Championships for those athletes wishing to gain selection.
- The Selection Team will choose a squad (up to 50 metropolitan and up to 25 Country Athletes) for both male and female squads for the final selection camp to be held from January 19<sup>th</sup> through to 21<sup>st</sup> 2021 at Blacktown International Sportspark.
- The relative Selection Team will then finalise the teams from the January Selection Camp.

#### **2021 SNSW Under 16 Team/Squad Selection**

- Compulsory attendance and participation in Softball NSW 2020 Under 16 State Championships for those athletes wishing to gain selection.
- The Selection Team will choose a squad of up to 60 Athletes for both male and female squads for the final selection camp to be held from January 12<sup>th</sup> through to 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 at Blacktown International Sportspark.
- The relative Selection Team will then finalise the teams from the January Selection Camp.

#### **2021 SNSW Under 18 Team/Squad Selection**

- Compulsory attendance and participation in Softball NSW 2020 Under 18 State Championships for those athletes wishing to gain selection.
- The Selection Team will choose a squad of up to 30 Athletes for both male and female squads for the final selection camp to be held from January 9<sup>th</sup> through to 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 at Blacktown International Sportspark.
- The relative Selection Team will then finalise the teams from the January Selection Camp.

#### **2021 SNSW Under 23 Team/Squad Selection**

- Compulsory attendance and participation in Softball NSW 2021 Under 23 State Championships for those athletes wishing to gain selection.
- The Selection Team will choose a squad of up to 30 Athletes for both male and female squads for the final selection training/camp (time tbc) at Blacktown International Sportspark.
- The relative Selection Team will then finalise the teams from that training/camp.

#### **2021 SNSW Open Team/Squad Selection**

- Compulsory attendance and participation in Softball NSW 2020 Open State Championships for those athletes wishing to gain selection.
- The Selection Team will choose a squad of up to 30 Athletes for both male and female squads to commence training in 2020.
- The relative Selection Team will then finalise the teams from that training.

#### **2021 SNSW Over 35 Team/Squad Selection**

- Compulsory attendance and participation in Softball NSW 2021 Over 35 State Championships for those athletes wishing to gain selection.
- The Selection Team will choose a squad of up to 30 Athletes for both male and female squads for the final selection training/camp (time tbc) at Blacktown International Sportspark.
- The relative Selection Team will then finalise the teams from that training/camp.



## 2021 Draft Calendar of Events

Following the information presented earlier through this correspondence and the revised National Championship schedule Softball NSW has been able to prepare the 2021 Draft Calendar of Events to assist with Affiliate and individual planning.

### Notes on the 2021 Draft Calendar of Events

- 2021 Under 23's State Championship moved to January to assist the selection process for the National Championships scheduled in July 2021.
- 2021 Over 35's State Championship moved to January to assist the selection process for the National Championships scheduled in July 2021
- SNSW avoided scheduling any events during February-April 2021 to assist with avoiding the 2020-2021 Affiliate Summer competition delivery.
- 2021 Blacktown Junior International Championship is yet to be scheduled due to the issues of international travel and participation
- 2021 Academy Games are still to be confirmed due to the recent adjustment of the 2021 National Championships schedules.
- 2021 Under 10's State Championships moved to May 1-2 to assist with avoiding 2020-2021 Affiliate Summer competition delivery.
- 2021 Under 18's State Championships have been combined to the June long weekend and created at least 2-month buffer between the National Championships to manage athlete burnout. Furthermore, there is an acknowledgement that some associations may utilise the same athletes to participate in this and other categories
- The 2021 Development & Winter Leagues have not been included in the calendar due to athlete burnout, scheduling clashes and pending review of these Leagues. These still may be scheduled in 2021 and further advice will be forthcoming.
- 2021 Under 16's State Championships moved from the traditional May timeline to July and created at least 3-month buffer between the National Championships to manage athlete burnout. Furthermore, there is an acknowledgement that some associations may utilise the same athletes to participate in this and other categories
- 2021 Open Men's State Championships have moved earlier than usual to 7-8 August due to the Open Men's National Championships being held in December 2021

**Download:** [2020/2021 Softball NSW Calendar](#)

### 2021 State Championships Hosting Opportunities

For 2021, the hosting opportunities for Affiliates will be the Under 16 State Championships scheduled for July 24-25 and the Under 14 State Championships scheduled for September 18-19.

Further information in relation to the hosting opportunity will be forthcoming on September 21<sup>st</sup> and confirmation of venues on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

For further information on this hosting opportunity please contact Cathy Kerr via [operations@softballnsw.org.au](mailto:operations@softballnsw.org.au)

### Further Information

For more information on this correspondence please contact Daniel Rushworth via [ceo@softballnsw.org.au](mailto:ceo@softballnsw.org.au) or Cathy Kerr via [operations@softballnsw.org.au](mailto:operations@softballnsw.org.au)