



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Thursday, 1 April 2021

Subject: 2021 Interstate Softball Challenge Cancelled

Following the COVID cases and subsequent lockdowns throughout South East Queensland and the Northern Rivers of NSW in the past week, Softball NSW (SNSW) in conjunction with Softball Queensland (SQLD) has had to regrettably cancel the 2021 Interstate Softball Challenge which was scheduled for April 14 through to 17 in Lismore.

The decision for the cancellation was one that considered all of the variables and risks in delivering an event in the current COVID environment which would involve large gatherings of both communities. This event was scheduled to join together various communities from around New South Wales and Queensland and that would potentially create further COVID related issues whilst being hosted in the Northern Rivers.

It has been determined that the overall risk was too high for both SNSW & SQLD to deliver an event with the looming threats of further COVID outbreaks potentially occurring. As always, the health and safety of our members and community remain paramount.

Understandably, this is a significant blow for the community and most importantly our athletes that were scheduled to participate in this competition. We know that this is another lost opportunity for these athletes having dealt with so many challenges throughout the past year, and our thoughts are with them at this time.

Softball NSW CEO Daniel Rushworth shared his disappointment "This is another significant blow to our athletes and officials that have been working so hard for the past few months, this was an opportunity to look forward to since the cancellation of the National Championships. To have this taken away is heartbreaking for all involved and we are so appreciative of their efforts and their family's commitment to our sport and pathways. We will continue to work towards providing positive pathway outcomes for them. We are now working quickly following this decision to provide an alternative option for them in the same time period"

Softball QLD CEO also shared his disappointment "Our players and officials have been training hard over the past few weeks and so looking forward to the "State of Origin" softball exchange in Lismore" However with so much uncertainty across South East Queensland and Northern NSW, it was important to put our athletes and officials and the wider community first in coming to this decision. Softball QLD is very appreciative of our volunteer officials, players and families for hanging with us in trying to provide this opportunity."

Both SNSW & SQLD will be independently considering alternatives to their respective programs and this information will be advised in due course.

If you have any questions, please contact.

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