

Update on the Grade 12/13 Interprovincial Team Competition

Athletics New Zealand in consultation with the Athletics Otago Local Organising Committee have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2022 Grade 12/13 Interprovincial Teams Competition due to be held in Dunedin, Otago on April 17-18.

A slightly modified 2023 event is planned for Easter weekend at the Caledonian Ground in Dunedin. Details will be confirmed in the coming months.

While many Athletics events can be held under the Red Traffic Light Setting, the nature of the Interprovincial Games alongside guidance from Dunedin City Council has led to this decision.

The Grade 12/13 Interprovincial Teams Competition has a unique team focused structure, that includes group accommodation, team competition formats, and social events. It additionally relies on centre led teams committing to significant up front costs associated with the event. The famous Caledonian Ground is a council controlled facility, and guidance from the Dunedin City Council is that any events must keep under a strict capacity limit of 200 athletes, which is unworkable for the event.

Combining the above with the uncertainty around Covid Protection Framework timeframes, and the potential for entire teams to have to isolate for ten days in Dunedin the decision to cancel for 2022 was inevitable. Athletics NZ and the Local Organising Committee felt it was important to make this early call on this event to allow teams to recover any financial outlay and cancel any funding applications currently in process.

Although we are disappointed that this decision needs to be made at this time, it does open up some exciting possibilities for a refreshed look at Interprovincial competition for our athletes in 2023. Team based opportunities are vital for the health of our sport and we want to ensure every athlete has a positive experience that encourages them to remain in athletics into senior grades. The Athletics NZ Youth Advisory Group will have this on their agenda and look forward to sharing ideas with you soon.

Fiona Maisey

[Young People's Lead](#)

Athletics NZ