



20th March 2020

FIXTURES SUSPENDED

The Bundaberg Hockey Association Inc Board has made the unfortunate decision to suspend ALL fixtures and trainings. I cannot stress enough that this is **NOT** a cancellation of the season, rather an opportunity to help minimize the spread of the virus before the season gets into full swing in what are very uncertain times.

We have taken guidance from our governing bodies - Hockey Australia, Hockey Queensland, the Government and our members to ensure that we have made an informed decision based on the information available and have considered the health and wellbeing of our hockey community as a whole. Whilst the Minister for Sport has in face encouraged the continuation of community sport, there are guidelines associated with that which makes running the competition difficult. Sport plays a significant role in people's social, physical and mental wellbeing and that contributed to a tough decision making process. Especially considering how hard many of our members have worked to be chosen to represent their State.

This decision was not an easy one and the Board discussed several options in an attempt to keep the competition going, including making decision on a week by week basis. However, this is extremely difficult when the situation is so fluid and constantly evolving. The Board will monitor the developments closely over the next few days and weeks to come and should the situation improve - we will have our members back playing as soon as humanly possible.

In terms of the competition moving forward, depending on the suspension period, we do have the option of extending our season due to the cancellation of several State and National Championships providing extra weekends throughout the year. We also have the option of running double header weekends over Friday, Saturday and Sunday. If the suspension is prolonged, the Board will reassess in due course to determine the best outcome for you as members and The Bundaberg Hockey Association as a whole.

At this stage we will look at a possible restart to the season on 19/04/2020. We will hold a general meeting prior to this to assess the situation.

On behalf of the Board please take care. If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact us. Please take this time to think of ways to fundraise for the Association when this is all over and if you have any ideas on how the rest of the season could run, please let us know.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in what has been a very difficult time.

Des Barrett
President