



ATTENTION: All Year 7 & 8 Schools

RE: ANZ Cup & Shield Review Update

Kia ora koutou,

As we signalled earlier this year, NZC has been reviewing the value and values of the ANZ Junior Cup and the ANZ Junior Shield tournaments, in line with our Balance is Better philosophy, and our wish to provide a more healthy, constructive and fun environment for our young cricketers.

Two of the knock-on effects of the current Covid-19 climate is that we have cancelled next month's tournaments due to associated restrictions and concerns, and have been forced to abandon our Balance is Better plan to "test and learn" during the fourth school term, as initially signalled.

Despite this, the overwhelming conviction within NZC is to support the key tenets of the Balance is Better philosophy (particularly in regard to an over-emphasis on early specialisation and talent identification) and to permanently disestablish the annual national Cup and Shield tournaments forthwith.

I am writing to formally advise you of this decision.

For background, "[Balance is Better](#)" is a Sport NZ initiative that NZC and most other major sports in the country officially endorsed, and signed up to, in 2019. It aims to address factors that are currently driving our Tamariki and Rangatahi away from sport, and to create a more inclusive and fun environment – in which more kids can engage, enjoy and prosper.

Instead of these two national school tournaments, we are now investigating a system, in conjunction with our Major and District Associations, in which Year 7 and 8 children can participate in competitions at a more local level - and to this end currently have a working group assessing options.

I will continue to update you on progress in this space, which NZC views as a significant driver in the overall campaign to keep kids in sport for the best possible reasons.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to make contact with your local Association or NZC's community cricket team.

Ngā mihi