



## **Review of the International Event Entry Process**

As part of the current review of the [Cycling New Zealand Position Statement on International Travel](#), Cycling New Zealand (CNZ) has committed to also undertake a review of the International Event Entry Process (IEEP) that was established following the previous Position statement review on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

### **Background**

CNZ established the IEEP to ensure riders' and their families are fully informed of the risks of traveling at this time (primarily with regard to Covid-19), prior to participating in events overseas. The IEEP was also developed to assist CNZ in fulfilling their health, safety and wellbeing obligations and their duty of care to its members.

This process and the measures included in the IEEP applies to any athlete or official support personnel requesting entry or being selected into international events where Cycling New Zealand, as the National Federation, has entry jurisdiction.

The IEEP is made up of three critical parts.

#### **1. Event Risk Assessment**

The first step is for CNZ to undertake an Event Risk Assessment before making any conditional selections. If the Event has met and/or demonstrated an appropriate level of care and mitigation then riders will be conditionally selected and will be required to submit an International Event Entry Application (IEEA)

#### **2. An online risk mitigation workshop**

In this workshop (either live or pre-recorded) CNZ run through the information required to complete IEEA and highlight any high risk areas for riders and their family to consider based on the Event Risk Assessment.

#### **3. Individual event entry application (IEEA)**

The applicant should be able to provide evidence that they have an informed understanding of the risks associated with international travel at the time of the application, how they intend to mitigate (as reasonably practicable) any Covid-19 (and any other) risks while at the event, and that they have reviewed, understood and signed the Informed Consent section

#### **4. Online Health Monitoring**

For those riders who are entered into an event, there is a requirement to complete a daily health monitoring survey from when they arrive at the event to when they depart. This takes less than 2mins to complete and provides an overview of their health at the event that is reviewed by CNZ daily.

As at 1 October 2021, CNZ have reviewed 12 events with 10 being approved, and 2 being declined, and have processed 48 individual applications to attend international events.

### **Review Process**

The following factors were considered when reviewing the IEEP.

- Cycling New Zealand continued duty of care responsibilities
- Feedback from riders and the different levels of risks (perceived or real) for those living abroad vs. those based in NZ
- Advice from an external Risk Advisor
- Legal advice
- Other risks (in addition to Covid-19), like social and political unrest in certain countries, as well as other environmental factors that could present a risk to those attending.
- The global vaccination roll-out and the extent to which Covid-19 is still considered a socially critical disease
- What risks are reviewed in the initial risk assessment and any review process if an event is assessed as RED.

These factors are discussed in more detail below:



Consideration	Comment
<p>Cycling New Zealand continued duty of care responsibilities</p>	<p>CNZ continues to have a duty of care when endorsing any event entry or travel. This does not change regardless of the impact or risk of Covid-19.</p> <p>Through this process, it has also highlighted the need for CNZ to consider other risks outside of Covid-19 when endorsing entries and travel.</p>
<p>Feedback from riders (those living abroad vs. those who are residing in NZ)</p>	<p>Feedback from riders has been mixed as was expected with any new process. The process has been accepted and supported more by those riders who are based in NZ and are looking to travel long-haul to compete. Likely due to the management strategies of elimination from the NZ government so their exposure to 'living with Covid' is limited so the requirement to have them fully understand and be prepared for some of the risks has been greater and more unknown at the time of application.</p> <p>In comparison to those riders who have been based overseas for some time and who have been living with Covid-19 in a wider community sense for a longer period and Covid-19 it is likely no longer considered a socially critical disease. "It is a part of the way they now live daily". Many of these riders are also part of teams that have protocols in place and are racing regularly at other events with COVID measures in place.</p>
<p>Feedback from Risk Advisor</p>	<p>There has been some really good uptake by many riders, majority of these are based in NZ.</p> <p>Some riders are not keen on the process, but they have learnt along the way that this is just part of competing and entering a sanctioned event now. This additional layer of 'administration' is something they are facing in other areas of living and racing abroad.</p> <p>Since the inception of the IEEA process a lot has changed around the world, and in NZ, and we need to adapt and change along with it; which is why it is important that there are regular reviews of this process. A significant shift since April is that many countries are now opening up and living with COVID, rather than trying to eliminate it.</p> <p>Having the IEEA in place is an important step to looking after the wellbeing of staff and riders and is something that needs to be in place for future events, even after the pandemic is considered to be of lower risk.</p> <p>The assessment of an event would change as NZ moves more to living with COVID, rather than elimination. The next stage would be an interim change as COVID is still considered to be a global pandemic. So it would be a shift towards looking at the way countries are working with</p>



	<p>vaccinations and the reduced risks for riders that have been vaccinated and/or are living offshore.</p> <p>A further review should be consider once NZ moves into a management stage of Covid-19 and the government endorses international travel again.</p> <p>There is also a need to look at how the process of the event assessment and IEEA can be streamlined so it can be managed in-house to ensure it is more sustainable financially moving forward.</p>
<p>Legal advice</p>	<p>Advice received states “it would be prudent for CNZ to act as if they are governed by the HSWA and ensure riders are adequately protected and safe while overseas”. CNZ is also the responsible organisation to the UCI for any for acts or damage done or breach of rules or protocol by those attending the event so should do what is reasonable practicable to ensure those attending fully understand the conditions by which they are agreeing to attend the event.</p> <p>Again, through this process, it has also highlighted the need for CNZ to consider its duty of care (regardless of Covid-19) for any riders it enters into overseas events.</p>
<p>Other risks (in addition to Covid-19), like social and political unrest in certain countries, as well as other environmental factors that could present a risk to those attending.</p>	<p>Through implementing this process due to the impact and risk of Covid-19, it was evident that there are other risks associated with attending international events that should be considered.</p> <p>Through the Event Risk Assessment some of these factors have been considered and have highlight the need for CNZ to consider these in its duty of care when reviewing each event.</p>
<p>The global vaccination roll-out and the extent to which Covid-19 is still considered a socially critical disease</p>	<p><a href="#">44.3% of the world population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.</a></p> <p>Many countries overseas have reduced Covid-19 restrictions and are opening up more opportunities for those who are fully vaccinated. There are also early discussions of this eventuality in NZ.</p> <p><a href="#">Studies have shown that about 95% of people who received both doses of the vaccine were protected against getting seriously ill.</a> That means, if you do catch COVID-19, you’re far less likely to fall seriously ill and less likely to transmit the virus to others.</p>
<p>What risks are reviewed in the initial risk assessment and any review process if an event is assessed as RED.</p>	<p>To provide transparency of the process and to ensure that any decisions are made with the most current information, CNZ should formalise a review process of the event risk assessment. This is mainly for (but not limited to) those events who have initially being assessed as RED.</p>



## Review Outcomes

CNZ continues to endorse the IEEP process with the following amendments:

- Review what is considered and included in the event risk assessment and IEEA to ensure that it is still appropriate including additional non-covid-19 risk factors.
- Introduce a supplementary application form for those who meet the criteria below:
  - Overseas based riders who are fully vaccinated and who have competed, and had an approved IEEA within the past 12 months (Overseas based riders is determined as those who have spent at least 3 months of the previous 12 month period in Europe or the Americas – Fully vaccinated is determined based on the NZ governments definition at the time of the application)
- All riders leaving NZ and any non-fully vaccinated riders who are based overseas will be required to complete a full IEEA regardless of previous applications.
- Riders leaving NZ will still be required to attend or view an Online Risk Workshop, those overseas are no longer required to (but are recommended to) view.
- Introduce a process for any staff (employed or contracted to Cycling New Zealand)
- Define and introduce a process for what is a 'team' application.
- An event will only be reviewed in the first instance if an application for selection has been received.
- If an event is assessed as RED, it will be continued to be re-reviewed on a monthly basis prior to a determined date. This date will be determined on a number of factors, including but not limited to: if riders still wish to attend, where the riders are based, whether entries are for individuals or campaigns. The final review date will be included in the event risk assessment and online.
- Continuation of "at event" online health monitoring.

## Actions to take place on the above outcomes

- CNZ to review the content of the Event Risk Assessment and IEEA application to ensure information is relevant and fit for purpose.
- CNZ to create a supplementary form
- CNZ to record/host a more generic Risk mitigation workshop available to anyone looking to travel and attend an international event.
- CNZ to review the deadline for each event in the case it needs to be reviewed.

## In summary

In addition to other risks, like social and political unrest in certain countries, as well as environmental risks, Cycling New Zealand recognises that the state of the global pandemic is improving in some countries, however the NZ government still advises New Zealanders not to travel overseas. There is an increased risk for those not fully vaccinated and those travelling from NZ who are not exposed to living and travelling in an environment where Covid-19 is likely no longer considered a socially critical disease

The International Event Entry Process continues to assist CNZ in fulfilling their health, safety and wellbeing obligation and should remain in place (with the above recommendations).