

19 March 2020

MTBNZ Executive

[www.mtbnz.org.nz](http://www.mtbnz.org.nz)



**Mountain Bike New Zealand statement on COVID-19 and the sport  
and recreational Mountain Biking in New Zealand**

To all Affiliated Clubs and the General Mountain biking Public.

The MTBNZ Executive has been in constant discussion regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, both with Cycling NZ and our wider MTB Community. This is an overarching statement for our Clubs and Riders.

While our sporting activity at a recreational level is dominated by small groups and individual riding activities, our Clubs function within our community. We have been conscious of what effect the Pandemic has on Club function and the ridership.

The COVID - 19 pandemic is a quickly evolving issue, so MTBNZ considers we all need to play our part in keeping our sporting and wider community safe by assisting to limit the spread of the virus. We are continually monitoring the situation, and so this view may change rapidly as we adhere to government policy at all times.

These efforts now, aim to ensure that the sport and life continue as best as possible now and in the future.

**The following recommendations from MTBNZ are for all affiliated clubs.**

- -All Government notifications and Ministry of Health policies must be adhered to at all times. Please see the following link:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

- All gatherings MUST be smaller than governmental limits. However, we also encourage sensible approaches to smaller events and get togethers -Social Distancing is the New Normal.

See:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-advice-public-events-and-mass-gatherings?fbclid=IwAR0B92slLlLalUvWBaayMnemFvg3ecAFK-70C2OG6l9QtKqCQdBcm8z7SA4>

- MTBNZ recommends that all formal club gatherings, where club members feel obliged to participate be postponed until the end of May 2020 or cancelled completely. The aim here is to allow club activities but removes the pressure on members to attend, so members can participate by choice rather than obligation.

This includes

- Dig Days / Working Bees

- Club rides (e.g. Night Rides etc)
- Club race events
- Season or series wrap-up prizegiving events.

We know Clubs are in the best position to decide to manage their activities, based on local information, numbers, support, the health of volunteers and members. If a club chooses to cancel some or all activities, MTBNZ fully supports their decisions. Some clubs have already postponed their larger events.

- MTBNZ recommends Committee meetings use online tools such as free video conferencing on the Club Portal or online apps like ZOOM / Skype.
- MTBNZ recommends using tools such as Strava (<https://www.strava.com/>) for club rides where people can “compete” without physical group riding occurring, this will help maintain the “peer” competitive riding feel of MTB.
- MTBNZ Event Series events were fortunately completed last month. We remain focussed in planning our 2021 Season, and detail will emerge from September 2020 onwards.
- 2020 MTBNZ AGM– MTBNZ had already proposed a ZOOM based AGM. We are considering formally postponing our AGM (usually in May) till later this year to allow for any changes in Govt. policy. We will update Clubs shortly.
- MTBNZ Club Conference - MTBNZ was also in the early stages of proposing / planning an MTB Club Conference, this was likely to be in September 2020. Obviously until group gathering restrictions remain in force, this will remain an “idea”.
- And finally, MTBNZ Executive wishes all its clubs and their members all the best during this trying time, MTBNZ encourages our members to get out and ride, as an ideal way to continue to be active as an individual and as a great way to support a healthy mind and body.

"A bad day on a mountain bike always beats a good day in the office."

[Sacred Rides](#) founder , Mike Brcic

Kind regards



Chris Arbuckle  
President  
Mountain Bike New Zealand