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# New Zealand Inline Hockey Association

## From the Board

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### FIRS World Championships Communication

New Zealand Inline Hockey has today communicated with the CIRILH Technical Committee for FIRS and advised that New Zealand will withdraw from entering the 2015 FIRS Inline Hockey World Championships. This decision has not been easy. There are several factors influencing the discussions around this decision including the impact of more recent events and information regarding the 2015 event leading the Board to its conclusion based on;

- Date changes ( moved from July to June)
- Venue change (moved from Mendoza to Rosario)
- Travel Costs and uncertainty of competition (due to a number of countries already withdrawing)
- Inadequate planning in respect of event (There would be no guarantees of who is entered until after March 1<sup>st</sup> leaving little time to prepare adequately and increasing costs)

It is indeed exceptionally disappointing to have an international event that is not well planned in advance and with limited information available – yet we are a community passionate about World Championships and the ability to compete at this level.

#### **Where to from here;**

The Board are looking at options to enable our teams continued access to competition. A meeting will be held to discuss (February 14) and players will be advised of outcomes immediately following.

#### **Decision process**

1. What is clear at this stage from the online survey completed on Wednesday, is we have the majority of our players available to consider alternatives without impacting on exams. It is acknowledged that for some the decision to withdraw from FIRS is disappointing, but the Board appreciate the understanding and support shown in making this decision.

The survey process provided a feedback mechanism and preference indicator. However more recent events, with national teams now having withdrawn from FIRS Inline Hockey World Championships in 2015 resulted in more discussion and a decision by the Board leading to the outcome of today.

2. The receipt of the first FIRS Bulletin indicated a closing date of March 1 but also was unable to supply concrete information on hotel availability. To move ahead and enter would expose the players and the association to financial risk as in most cases any airfares booked would have been non-refundable if there was a later decision to withdraw or one of the grades being contended did not attract enough entries.

Once it was known that Canada, Australia, Namibia, and United Kingdom had withdrawn and the uncertainty of other entries our senior players acknowledged and supported the Board's stance.

Clearly, this is a most unfortunate situation and regardless of the Board decision there will be players and parents who will be very disappointed.

NZIHA Board Members, General Manager, Coaches, Competition Committee Chairs, and Regional Chairs have entered in dialogue with various representatives from the community. We sincerely hope that everyone understands we are endeavouring to arrive at the best solution for all teams. Please appreciate Krys has distributed information as fast as it has been received and is inundated (as are others) with incoming phone calls and emails.

The Board wishes to extend their thanks to all volunteers and coaches, for their dedication and hope stakeholders feel they are being listened to through dialogue.

The Board will meet 14 February at which time a decision will be made in respect of NZ teams and alternative options.

In the intervening period NZIHA will work with all parties to ensure clarity of information to ensure fully informed decision making can take place at the the meeting. The NZIHA Board will communicate outcomes following conclusion of the meeting.

Kind regards  
Barbara Baker  
NZIHA Chairperson