

INTER-ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE PROPOSALS

The Badminton New Zealand Inter-Association Committee has created the following discussion document for Associations to consider feedback prior to formal submission to Badminton New Zealand.

Please take the time to read this information and consider how it may impact your Association and your players. We ask that you submit your feedback as an Association, i.e., Badminton North Harbour will collect feedback from their players, and then submit a single submission per age group prior to Sunday, 31st October.

If you would like any further information or would like to discuss any of the below, please contact one of the Inter-Association Committee Members listed at the bottom of the form.

SENIORS – WISDEN CUP & SLAZENGER CUP

The Inter-Association Committee agrees that significant change is required to Wisden Cup, as evidenced by only four teams entering in 2021. In addition, Badminton New Zealand have advised that they will not support the current competition format due to the current unsustainable competition structure.

The Committee recommends that the Combined Wisden & Slazenger Cup format be adopted for the 2022 season. Alternatively, the Committee is open to considering alternative formats.

Combined Wisden & Slazenger Cup

- The competition will begin with a qualifying round, followed by a single group stage.
 - Both Wisden and Slazenger Cup would compete under the same Senior Inter-Association format. This will be aligned to the lower Senior Inter-Association divisions (see page 3).
 - Player eligibility would remain as per 2021.

- Stage 1 – Qualifying
 - Teams are seeded from 1st to 12th.
 - Teams compete in a single tie, winners qualify for Wisden Cup, losers qualify for Slazenger Cup (1st vs. 12th, 2nd vs. 11th, 3rd vs. 10th, etc.).
- Stage 2
 - Both Wisden and Slazenger Cup divisions complete in a single six team group to determine the winner of the respective competitions.
 - The team that finishes 6th in Slazenger Cup will be relegated.

SHOULD THE COMBINED WISDEN CUP AND SLAZENGER CUP FORMAT BE ADOPTED?

	Pros	Cons
Combined Wisden Cup and & Slazenger Cup format	<p>Provides a potential sustainable format for future competitions.</p> <p>Provides an opportunity for all teams to earn the opportunity to compete in Wisden Cup, while ensuring that teams are not forced to compete above their level.</p> <p>Ensures consistency of tie format between all levels of Senior Inter-Association.</p> <p>Larger Wisden team sizes reduces the potential for a single player to heavily influence the result of a tie.</p> <p>Larger Wisden team sizes will increase the atmosphere.</p>	<p>Increased players in a Wisden team may increase the difficulty in fielding a team.</p> <p>Likely eliminates the possibility for the event to be streamed through Sky Sport, due to the increased court requirements.</p> <p>Potential to reduce the quantity of Associations represented in Wisden Cup, as currently only one team is eligible per Association.</p> <p>If a three-team per Association limit is agreed, then there is the potential for all six Wisden teams to be from North Harbour and Auckland.</p>
No, but I do not have an alternative		
No, and I do have an alternative	If you have an alternative, please send to jonathon@badminton.org.nz so that this can be presented to the Inter-Association Committee	

SHOULD ASSOCIATIONS BE LIMITED TO TWO OR THREE TEAMS IN A COMBINED COMPETITION?

	Pros	Cons
<p>Two Teams</p> <p>2022 Teams: NH1, AK1, WTK1, WN1, NH2, AK2, WKO1, OTG1, CAN1, WEL1, WTK2 and STH1</p> <p><i>If STH decline their position, CM will be the next to be offered.</i></p>	<p>Ensures wider diversity of Associations.</p> <p>Ensures that more than two Associations will compete in Wisden Cup.</p>	<p>North Harbour 3 and Auckland 3 will lose their opportunity to compete, which they earned in 2021.</p>
<p>Three Teams</p> <p>2022 Teams: NH1, AK1, WTK1, WN1, NH2, AK2, WKO1, OTG1, NH3, CAN1, WEL1, and AK3</p>	<p>Teams that earned their place in 2021, retain their place.</p>	<p>Potential for two Associations to earn all six Wisden positions.</p>

SHOULD SEEDING BE BASED ON THE NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL RANKINGS, BADMINTON NEW ZEALAND SELECTORS OR PAST RESULTS?

	Pros	Cons
<p>New Zealand National Rankings</p>	<p>Objective measure which is clear to understand</p> <p>Rewards Associations which engage with Badminton New Zealand and Association events</p>	<p>Rankings are not accurate indicators of ability for players who compete in less than four events per year</p>
<p>Badminton New Zealand Selectors</p>	<p>Selectors are well positioned to create accurate seeds</p>	<p>Subjective decision making as opposed to an objective measure</p> <p>Reduces the importance of National Rankings</p>
<p>Previous Year's Results</p>	<p>Teams earn their seeding</p> <p>Objective measure which is clear to understand</p>	<p>Player changes may cause discrepancies between seeding and ability</p> <p>Reduces the importance of National Rankings</p>

SENIORS

The Inter-Association Committee does not believe that significant change is required to Senior Inter-Association below Wisden and Slazenger Cups.

Following feedback from Mainland, Badminton New Zealand and the Inter-Association Committee have agreed that New Zealand Division 3 shall revert to North Island Division 3 and that the Mainland Division 1 winner will compete in a promotion play-off against the highest eligible North Island Division 3 team.

The Inter-Association Committee would like Associations to consider a potential change in format from 11 matches (2x MS, 2x WS, 2x MD, 2x WD, 3x XD) to 12 matches (2x MS, 2x WS, 2x MD, 2x WD, 4x XD). Currently, if a team travels with one reserve (per gender) it guarantees that a player will only compete in a single match per tie. This results in a poor player experience and low value for money. Increasing the tie format with an additional mixed doubles match, would ensure that all players receive at least two matches, thereby enhancing the player experience. The below table highlights potential pros and cons of the change.

WHAT SHOULD THE SENIORS INTER-ASSOCIATION TIE FORMAT BE?		
	Pros	Cons
11 Matches (2x MS, 2x WS, 2x MD, 2x WD, 3x XD)	A clear winner due to an odd number of matches. The current tie format.	If a team travels with one reserve, then a player is guaranteed to play in only one match per tie.
12 Matches (2x MS, 2x WS, 2x MD, 2x WD, 4x XD)	If a team travels with one reserve, then all players can be guaranteed two matches per tie. Ties determined on countback increase the importance of every point.	Offers the potential for a 6-6 draw with a tie determined on countback. Potential to increase the tie duration due to an additional match. Fuller utilisation of courts reduces the chance of spare courts to allow a slow tie to catch up.

MASTERS

The Inter-Association Committee does not believe that significant change is required to Masters Inter-Association.

Following feedback from Mainland, Badminton New Zealand and the Inter-Association Committee have agreed that New Zealand Division 1 & 2 will revert to North Island Division 1 & 2. In addition, the Committee recommends that a North Island / Mainland play-off to determine the National Champion. It is suggested that all play-offs (Senior, Masters and Super-Vets) be played at the same venue, on the same weekend, to ensure a high-quality atmosphere.

The Committee would like Associations to consider if the Masters tie format should align with Veterans and Super-Vets. The key reason to consider this is to reduce team sizes, thereby increasing the ease in which Associations may form Masters teams. Note that the Central Region Division adopted the 9-match format for 2021 and may decide to continue in this format even if the other Divisions do not align.

WHAT SHOULD THE TIE FORMAT BE FOR MASTERS INTER-ASSOCIATION?

	Pros	Cons
<p>9 Match (3x MD, 3x WD, 3x XD)</p> <p>Min. 3 men and 3 women</p>	<p>Smaller team sizes will increase the ease at which Associations can organise teams.</p> <p>Ensures consistency with Veterans and Super-Vets.</p> <p>Central Division 1 has already adopted this format, which will increase the ease of competing in the promotion play-off against Northern.</p>	<p>Potential to reduce matches per player if Associations are not capable of increasing the quantity of teams.</p> <p>Reduced team sizes may reduce team atmosphere and camaraderie.</p>
<p>12 Match (4x MD, 4x WD, 4x XD)</p> <p>Min. 4 men and 4 women</p>	<p>Maintains the current status quo for NZ, Northern and Mainland Divisions.</p> <p>Larger team sizes result in better atmosphere.</p>	<p>Does not address current challenges that some Associations have to form a team.</p> <p>Would create challenges for Central Region to increase team sizes.</p> <p>Maintains a lack of consistency between Masters and Veterans / Super-Vets.</p>

HOW SHOULD A NATIONAL MASTERS PLAY-OFF BE STRUCTURED?

	Pros	Cons
Top 2 North Island and Top 2 Mainland compete in a single group.	Provides the opportunity to determine a National Champion. Three ties per team ensures good value for money.	Potential for a 2 nd placed team to win the National title, due to a one-off weekend.
1 st from North Island and 1 st from Mainland compete in a single tie.	Provides the opportunity to determine a National Champion. Ensures only the best earn the opportunity to compete in the play-off.	A single tie represents poor value for money for the travelling team and therefore increases the potential for the play-off to be cancelled.
No Play-Off	Reduced costs for players.	North Island and South Island Champions, but no National Champions.

VETERANS

The Inter-Association Committee does not believe that significant change is required to Veterans Inter-Association.

Following feedback from Mainland, Badminton New Zealand and the Inter-Association Committee have agreed that New Zealand Division 1 will revert to North Island Division 1. In addition, the Committee recommends that a North Island / Mainland play-off to determine the National Champion. It is suggested that all play-offs (Senior, Masters and Super-Vets) be played at the same venue, on the same weekend, to ensure a high-quality atmosphere.

HOW SHOULD A NATIONAL VETERANS PLAY-OFF BE STRUCTURED?

	Pros	Cons
Top 2 North Island and Top 2 Mainland compete in a single group.	Provides the opportunity to determine a National Champion. Three ties per team ensures good value for money.	Potential for a 2 nd placed team to win the National title, due to a one-off weekend.
1 st from North Island and 1 st from Mainland compete in a single tie.	Provides the opportunity to determine a National Champion. Ensures only the best earn the opportunity to compete in the play-off.	A single tie represents poor value for money for the travelling team and therefore increases the potential for the play-off to be cancelled.
No Play-Off	Reduced costs for players.	North Island and South Island Champions, but no National Champions.

SUPER-VETS

The Inter-Association Committee does not recommend any changes to be made to Super-Vets Inter-Association.

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to consider these important decisions, if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the options, please speak to one of the members of the Inter-Association Committee.

Badminton North Harbour – Glenn Cox – glenn@bnh.org.nz

Badminton Bay of Plenty – Delwyn Cooper - badminton@sportbop.co.nz

Manawatu Badminton – James Veitch - james@manawatubadminton.org.nz

Wellington North Badminton – Lesley Gledhill – lesley@wnba.org.nz

Badminton Canterbury – Lou Satherley - manager@badmintoncanterbury.com