

---

New Zealand Handball Federation  
PO Box 9697, Marion Square  
Wellington, NEW ZEALAND



11 September 2021

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Handball Federation Incorporated – Executive Committee Annual Report

### President's Address (David Ireland)

It is with great pleasure that I present the NZHF Executive Committee's annual report, covering the period from the 2020 AGM held on 12 September 2020 to date.

It has been a year bookended by the impact of Covid-19 – from the disruption to last year's Club Champs caused by the August 2020 lockdown to the August 2021 Delta lockdown and cancellation of this year's Champs, the threat of sudden disruptions to handball events has never been far away. Being starved of any international handball opportunities in an Olympic year was particularly unfortunate for our high performance programme, with players and coaches alike no doubt even hungrier for some overseas competition over the 12 months ahead, if we ever get to escape the shackles of COVID-19.

Despite the disruptions and near disruptions, there has been a lot of great handball played and initiatives undertaken around the country in the past year. We have placed an emphasis on increasing the flow of communications over the past year with monthly updates and website enhancements, and we trust those efforts have been helpful. On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all our wonderful community of Olympic Handball enthusiasts for their passion and commitment to delivering great handball opportunities for all over the past year.

Each of our key portfolio holders report on their areas of focus below. First up, I want to report on the various governance-related and partnership initiatives we have undertaken over the past 12 months.

#### *Sport NZ and TAB*

A year ago we were already well-advanced in discussions with Sport New Zealand - *Ihi Aotearoa* to be formally recognised as the National Sports Organisation representing Olympic Handball in New Zealand. Not only was this critical to our standing in the New Zealand sports community, it opened the door to us being able to finalise an agreement with TAB NZ. I am pleased to confirm that with the adoption of a new **Anti-Doping Policy**, a new **Anti-Match Fixing and Sports Betting Policy**, and a commitment to update our constitution to align with Sport NZ expectations of a National Sporting Organisation, we were able to gain membership of Sport NZ by the end of 2020, and conclude an agreement with TAB NZ in time for the Men's World Handball Championships in Egypt in January 2021. See our January press release for more details <https://handball.org.nz/news>

#### *Development Fund*

Recognising TAB NZ's community commitment, we established a Development Fund within the NZHF accounts, which is where all payments we receive from TAB NZ are directed. The Development Fund is used to fund handball development-related initiatives around the regions, either as identified by the Executive Committee, or on application from one of our four recognised regional associations. To date, the Fund has been used to fund a supply of junior handballs (still in transit at the time of writing this report), venue hire for junior regionals, venue hire for the Term 4 Canterbury Quakes youth programme, and the Olympics promotion social media campaign.

**[www.handball.org.nz](https://www.handball.org.nz)**

---

New Zealand Handball Federation  
PO Box 9697, Marion Square  
Wellington, NEW ZEALAND



### *Constitution Replacement*

In light of the procedural challenges encountered with the 2020 AGM voting processes and Sport NZ's requirements, at the start of the year we embarked on a consultation process to inform the changes we needed to make to the NZHF constitution, with an exposure draft of proposed constitution changes circulated in March. The proposed changes (in the form of a replacement constitution – thanks to Dentons Kensington Swan for helping out with that) were put to a Special General Meeting on 30 May, and the changes adopted. Key changes made were:

- Clarifying membership criteria and voting entitlements, including formally incorporating recognition of Life Members in the constitutional framework
- Formally recognising Regional Associations as non-voting stakeholders
- Tightening the disciplinary and complaints processes
- Clarifying the Executive Committee's powers to make policies to align with Sport New Zealand policies and procedures
- Updating processes for AGMs and SGMs, including provision for virtual meetings
- Revising the procedure for electing the Executive Committee, including extending the term of office to two years (with provision for rotation) and conferring a right upon Life Members to nominate an Executive Committee member outside the AGM election process.

Given the additional powers conferred on Life Members through the constitutional changes adopted at the SGM, the Executive Committee subsequently resolved to limit nominations of Life Members to no more than one per year, with nominations of Life Members subject to approval at an AGM as per the constitution, and a cap on Life Members to ensure Clubs will always hold the majority vote.

### *Other policies, strategic plan and stakeholder engagement*

The other key governance policies we adopted during the year were the **NZHF Executive Governance philosophy and process**, a **High Performance Selection Policy**, and a **Complaints Policy**. We also refreshed the **Strategic Plan**, adopting a new **Vision** and **Mission**. This included refining the core values of the NZHF to those we felt best summed up what we needed to be about in order to move the organisation forward over the next five years – **inclusive, open, accountable, and fun**. You can find all these in the 'About NZHF' tab of the website – <https://handball.org.nz/about-us>.

We also secured status as a police vetting agency, to enable us to process clearances for prospective coaches for our juniors and school programmes, with NZHF committing to funding 5 checks per Regional Association each year.

### *Partnerships and support*

In addition to the securing membership of Sport New Zealand and inking a deal with TAB NZ, we were delighted to sign up online learning provider International Centre for Quality Pioneers (ICQP) as one of our key sponsors. ICQP have initially funded two complete sets of printed playing kit for our Men's and Women's national rep teams. That sets us up to be able to turn out professionally attired representative teams for one-off events without requiring players to fund the cost of their own kit.

We have also completed a deal with Salming NZ (through Sportify) to supply playing kit for our national representative sides at a heavily discounted rate, and enable anyone acquiring gear through us to benefit from a 20% discount on retail. NZHF is also licensed to sell Salming gear. That will take us through to the start of 2023: hopefully we will get a chance to take advantage of that arrangement over 2022, as opportunities in 2021 have been pretty scarce.

---

New Zealand Handball Federation  
PO Box 9697, Marion Square  
Wellington, NEW ZEALAND



### *The Regions*

One of the challenges for a National Sporting Organisation like the NZHF is to manage expectations as to what we will look after and what is best left to the Regional Associations. We see our core responsibility as ensuring there is a sound framework in place for handball to happen, as well as supporting handball opportunities to be realised in a way that reflects our values. We need to own national events like Club and Regional Champs, but apart from that our role is facilitative, with handball action primarily a function of the Regional Associations to coordinate and the Clubs to deliver.

The changes to the NZHF constitution recognise the significance of the role the Regional Associations play in ensuring the Vision and Mission of NZHF is delivered throughout the country. Their commitment to supporting the objects of NZHF is what ties them to us, and in turn we are committed to supporting them grow New Zealand handball to its full potential.

With that in mind, it has been encouraging to see some of the great work done by our Regional Associations bearing fruit. The growth in Auckland boys' handball has been nothing short of spectacular, thanks to the drive of Auckland Handball. South of the Bombays it's good to see a College league starting up again in Wellington for Term 4 and a continuation of the highly successful College league in Dunedin, with a solid youth development programme also being rolled out in Canterbury in Term 4. It was also tremendous to see the South Island Shield once again successfully coordinated between Canterbury and Otago in 2021, and further traction in the South with the Queenstown Handball Club taking shape.

### Treasurer's Report (Sarah Malledant)

The financial statements for the year to 31 March 2021 have been circulated with this report. In summary, we are keeping our heads above water, but there's not a lot of wriggle room to invest in many initiatives and take too much financial risk. That's why the funding stream we now receive from TAB NZ is so important to us in being able to fund future initiatives through the Development Fund. It didn't have much of an impact on the latest year's financial performance given the first payments weren't received until very late in the financial year, but look to see a more meaningful impact on the current year's accounts.

### Competitions and Youth (Daniel Triebisch)

The youth programme took a bit of a hit over the past year with all IHF-funded youth and junior tournaments cancelled due to COVID-19. The programme of Under 18 and Under 20 developing nations tournaments are expected to recommence in 2022, so hopefully the borders will free up in time to enable us to take part in that. We were privileged to have our Under 18 Boys' Team represent the Oceania Continent Handball Federation at the last Inter-Continental Championship held in Kosovo in April 2019, which now seems a lifetime ago. Hopefully we can get the next generation of handballers in shape for one of our Boys or Girls rep teams to take out the Oceania qualifiers next year and take part in that again – but we are reliant on the IHF for that opportunity to arise.

Closer to home, it was great to be able to hold a couple of more social-based tournaments in May before the indoor season proper took shape – first the Auckland-hosted regional tournament and then the inaugural Junior Cup held in Wellington. It was a particularly good turnout for the Auckland event with male and female teams from around the country taking part, and an excellent social gathering in the middle of it, taking full advantage of a period when social gatherings were able to be freely held. While we weren't able to get the numbers to include a female section in the Junior Cup, it was still encouraging to see some depth emerging in our Under 23 and teenage cohort to contest the Cup.

---

New Zealand Handball Federation  
PO Box 9697, Marion Square  
Wellington, NEW ZEALAND



Unfortunately after much planning and manipulating to make it happen, the Junior Regionals (Under 21) planned for the end of August were stymied by the COVID-19 lockdown, as were the much anticipated National Club Champs for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row.

At the time of writing this report all was still on track for Senior Regionals to take place in Christchurch in October. As the premier competitive event on the domestic handball calendar, we have our collective fingers crossed that Aunty Covid won't ground us for that one.

### High Performance (Tim Rayner)

With no junior high performance programme viable in the absence of an IHF Trophy to build towards, the focus has been on the senior high performance programme this year. COVID-19 has inevitably disrupted our high performance tournament planning. Nevertheless both the Men's and Women's National Training Squads have been in full swing for the past 12 months.

The Men's programme originally had the Asian Champs at the start of 2022 as its focus. Unfortunately with that event scheduled for Iran in January and no prospect of isolation-free travel (or even any prospect of MIQ spots for the team to enable them to come back) we had to pull the pin on that, despite a last minute venue change to Saudi Arabia. A frustrating outcome for one of our most organised campaigns under Fred Han as head coach, with a year of monthly camps left scrambling for a climax before the next two-year cycle starts. At the time of writing this report we were still hopeful of an Exhibition Game at the mid-Canterbury EA Networks Centre in late September – taking handball to Ashburton for the first time as part of its annual Bite Nite Culture Fest. Unfortunately Level 2 gathering restrictions may have the final say on that. We have been in discussion with our Australian counterparts to see if some Trans-Tasman handball action might be possible, but we need to wait for the Trans-Tas bubble to open to see what that might look like.

The Women's squad has been taking shape as well with a number of camps held over the course of 2021 under Tim Rayner. That is very much a developmental programme at this stage as we look to build for the next Asian Women's Champs in 2023. This year's event in Jordan later this month was clearly not an option for us. We have a strong squad of committed athletes, and for once time is on our side to build up to something special.

### Coaching and refereeing (Gaston Fuso)

Quality coaching resources and competent, consistent refereeing are vital to the progression of New Zealand Handball.

At the end of 2020, NZHF was able to deliver some courses for referees and the IHF D license coaching courses, taking advantage of having Eoin Murray as an accredited IHF lecturer here in NZ, and with the support of the NZ Olympic Committee. This year we had the double blow of Eoin moving overseas and a lack of funding from the NZ Olympic Committee. Combined with lockdown disruptions, this meant that running the IHF certifications for coaches was not possible.

The NZHF is in the process of establishing a formal Coaches and Referees registry to record details of the various coaches and referees we have in each region. This register will help us understand in more detail the status of the coaches and referees in the country, and the level and requirements of each Region, as well as keep track of this important resource. This will key to developing an effective strategy for our coaching and refereeing development plan for the future, and establishing a proper coaching and refereeing leadership progression system for NZHF.

---

New Zealand Handball Federation  
PO Box 9697, Marion Square  
Wellington, NEW ZEALAND



### Beach Handball (Willy Silcock)

The beach programme over the summer of 2020-21 provided a highpoint in the handball programme over the past year, taking full advantage of the fabulous (but soon to be renovated) sand courts at Elmwood Park in Christchurch. We had a highly competitive North-South Series in both Female, Male, and Mixed grades.

Last summer provided us with perhaps the largest ever contingent of players to take part in a Beach Handball programme. The path ahead looks very encouraging, with a solid programme planned for the summer ahead to build on the successes of last summer's programme. The prospect of being able to compete in Australia once again with the carrot of another world champs – and Beach Handball being included in the Olympics – provides a real incentive for our beach enthusiasts to get amongst it.

### Final word

The past year has not been without its challenges, and not everything has gone as smoothly as we would have liked. We still have a way to go to get our communications and stakeholder engagements right, but I am very proud of what we have achieved in pulling off a few wins and effecting some significant changes that should help set the organisation up to deliver long term success for New Zealand Handball.

A big thank you to your hardworking Executive Committee – Gaston Fuso, Sarah Malledant, Tim Rayner, Willy Silcock and Daniel Triebisch – for all the hours put in behind the scenes and the support you have provided over the past year. There will be a new look committee for the year ahead with only Tim, Willy and myself standing for re-election, but I am confident that the systems put in place and experiences from the past year will provide a solid platform to build on. We can only hope that the threat of COVID-19-related disruptions and denials of international handballing opportunities will be a thing of the past by the time of the 2022 AGM!

Stay safe

**David Ireland**  
**President, New Zealand Handball Federation**  
president@handball.org.nz  
Ph 021 343 615