



27 September 2021

Kia ora Clubs

Over the last few months Special Olympics New Zealand (SONZ) and the Clubs that make up our organisation have been consulting on the Relationship and Accreditation Agreement. The intent was to produce an agreement that paved the way for a respectful and trusting relationship between the Clubs and SONZ, where the good of the Athletes was put foremost in our conversations.

We have listened to your feedback from the rounds of consultation with regards to the agreement and the Board now believes we are at a position to present the Relationship and Accreditation Agreement to Clubs for signing. This agreement covers the period 1 November 2021 to 31 December 2022, and we are requesting that you sign this document and return it to your Regional Sports Co-ordinator.

This Relationship and Accreditation Agreement will set out the ground rules for SONZ and Clubs, allowing for two-way conversations to be had between us. The intent of this agreement is for SONZ to actively support the Clubs at whatever level the Clubs would prefer, some Clubs may wish for SONZ to provide major support, while other Clubs may prefer a more hands-off arrangement.

The Relationship and Accreditation Agreement has some necessary clauses that we must abide by from Special Olympics International, such as the annual resigning of the agreement, the 1 : 4 volunteer to athlete ratio and current medicals and police checks.

This document is the start of the journey, it is a living document and will be reviewed on an annual basis and as we build it in and gain trust that the agreement is working for both the Clubs and SONZ. This document once signed, replaces the current Club Rules.

If you have any questions about the Relationship and Accreditation Agreement please contact Carolyn Young in the first instance. Carolyn can be contacted at ceo@specialolympics.org.nz or 021 449 452.

Charitable Trust

There has been much talk around the different options available to clubs to form an independent legal entity, Charitable Trust versus the Incorporated Society. The legal advice that SONZ received was that a Charitable Trust will suit our clubs best, indeed the vast majority of feedback from Clubs is that they also believe that the Charitable Trust setup is the way forward and will allow the Clubs



greater flexibility in carrying out their business. The SONZ recommendation remains that Clubs for a Charitable Trust.

We have included a guide titled “Incorporation as a Charitable Trust – guidelines and suggestions for Clubs” with the appropriate links to assist Clubs in forming their own Charitable Trusts. SONZ will be there to provide guidance and assistance as required while Clubs transit to the Charitable Trust setup. Clubs can begin this process at any time, but we would recommend that, if you have capacity, that you prepare the documentation for change over at the end of the financial year to make 2022 a clean start to the new financial year.

If you have any questions regarding the process to set up a Charitable Trust please contact Josie Fitzsimmons, RSC Director, in the first instance. Josie can be contacted on rscdirector@specialolympics.org.nz or 021 183 7674.

Please find attached the relationship agreement for your approval and signature.

Nga mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Torrance', written over a horizontal line.

Rob Torrance
CHAIR