# **Summary of Board Meeting**

# **19 November 2021 via Zoom**

This is the second of these summaries prepared to provide transparency on Board matters and provide club members with an overview of our discussion, an update on progress on key initiatives and any other matters of interest to the SONZ community. In this meeting the key points to note were:

***Covid-19 and vaccinations.*** There was a full discussion by Trustees on the risk assessment and consultation undertaken by the CEO with Staff, Volunteers and Athletes. It was agreed that the new Covid Protection Framework (CPF) when implemented, effectively will place mandates on arenas, events and gatherings for people that are fully vaccinated. However the Board has an obligation under the Health and Safety Act and needs to determine what the duty of care is and what is needed to keep everyone safe.

A robust policy is now being finalized and will be presented back to clubs and staff soon – most likely via a Zoom call. As with all other SONZ responses to Covid, we are currently managing Covid in a fluid situation and although the policy will be determined by current conditions, it will be kept under review to ensure that our thinking is keeping pace with change.

***Update from Athlete Leader*** - Representative Grace Payne. Grace reported that the Athlete Input Council (AIC) met in early November and the next meeting is scheduled for February. AIC members have been active in their regions supporting each other through online quizzes on Kahoot, setting up Whats App groups to be able to reach out to more athletes, reaching out to athletes to help with coaching opportunities and visiting schools (Covid permitting).

In the Upper South Island region, Hamish sent out a survey to his fellow athletes to get feedback on what athletes felt was/is working well in their training and sport and what can be improved. It has been suggested that other regions could do this too. Great initiative and way to get feedback directly from athletes.

**Their World** is a Global Children's Charity, Grace has become an ambassador for this charity – an initial two-year appointment. The Global Youth Ambassador is used to connect and network, share ideas and create change in the education sector and gain more advocacy sector.

***Policies and papers for approval.*** This meeting gave final approval to a wide range of policies developed during the year, and acknowledged another set of draft ones. To date the organisation has not had these policies documented, and it is increasingly important to do so. The Board approved the following policies:

* Employment related matters policy
* Leaving the organisation policy
* Misconduct and disciplinary matters
* Business Continuity Plan
* Performance Appraisal Policy
* Training and Development Policy

***World Winter Games 2023 update***

The potential of attending the World Winter Games in Kazan, Russia was discussed. It was noted that Russia is experiencing significant cases of Covid currently and there is some concern about the transparency of reporting. There are currently just under 1,000,000 cases over a 28-day rolling period. Low vaccination rates, and a lack of confidence that the reporting is accurate provides us significant concerns about Russia's ability to provide a safe environment for our athletes.

Due to the current environment and the timeframe that clubs have to raise funds it was agreed that SONZ would not send a team to the World Winter Games in 2023.

## **Who we are**

You can find out who is on the Board at [www.specialolympics.org.nz/about/the-board](http://www.specialolympics.org.nz/about/the-board), and the formal and informal committees, their composition and the remit of each committee. Additionally:

* the schedule of Board meeting dates (6 during the year) will be published on the Special Olympics website. Before each meeting the meeting agenda will be published, again on the Special Olympics website, so members can see what is being discussed.
* after each meeting we will send out a summary like the one above.
* Online webinars – to be hosted 3 or 4 times a year (starting in 2022) with one or more Board Trustees – to which any and all members are welcome to attend, ask questions and hear updates from the Board directly.

***Working together.*** Your Board sets the direction of SONZ and your executive team gets the job done. Along with the grassroots organisation at club level we all want to work together so that we can be a stronger organisation to meet the many challenges that we face on a daily basis. The Board looks forward to sharing with you more effectively this vision for the future and how we’re going to get there together.