



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

7 May 2020

## **All Australian Curling National Championships Cancelled for 2020 Season**

As you know, the current worldwide situation due to COVID-19, including Australian state and territory border restrictions, business closures and social distancing requirements, have impacted the Australian Curling Federation's ability to adequately plan and host National Championships on dedicated curling ice this calendar year. As a result, the Australian Curling Federation (ACF) must provide an alternative to the Australian National Championships in order to appoint Australian representative teams to 2020/2021 World Curling Federation (WCF) sanctioned events.

The ACF Eligibility and Selection<sup>1</sup> document states "in the event that unforeseen or extenuating circumstances arise, the ACF Executive Committee holds the power to vote and make a ruling on the given circumstance". The ACF has enacted on these powers on 5 May 2020. In consultation with each state member association and the newly formed Athlete Commission, **the difficult decision was reached to cancel the 2020 National Championships for all disciplines that were to be hosted in New Zealand in June and August this year. Therefore, the 2019 National Champions<sup>1</sup> for all disciplines will carry over for an additional year of representation in their respective upcoming 2020/2021 WCF sanctioned events.**

As a National Federation, it is our objective to provide certainty and surety for our national athletes given the predicted implications of this Pandemic. The ACF's mission is: *to assist Australian athletes to achieve sustained competitive representation in the sport of Curling in Olympic, World Championship, and other international competitions consistent with the highest standards of sportsmanship and fair play.* The ACF Executive Committee believes by making a clear decision now, the state member associations, athletes, teams and overarching stakeholders can adequately prepare in these uncertain times.

For the most up to date advice and information pertaining to high performance environments, please visit the [AIS webpage](#), dedicated to providing evidence-based, real time advice in a number of areas, including athletes arriving or returning to Australia, and FAQ's relating to COVID-19. The website also links to other sources of information including the Australian Government Department of Health and WHO situation reports.

We look forward to a return to Curling as soon as possible and wish our community health and safety.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Lange".

President

Australian Curling Federation

<sup>1</sup> Refer to the National Eligibility Document Version 2.0 (see website) <https://curling.org.au/policies-and-documents/> and all players must be current paid members of a state association.