

Update on thinking as to HJBA in 2020/21

- As we come to terms with the 'new normal'. Hopefully we will be in a position to resume normal Meetings from July, I doubt the restrictions will ease to enable a Meeting in June.
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BNSW is saying that Baseball can recommence in July, 2020 However, that is dependent on decisions by both tiers of Government. I suggest that next Season will not be what we have considered as Business as usual. I am anticipating that it will be the most difficult Season we have ever encountered.

Squads of a maximum of 10 people, including Coaches, able to train. Batting Tunnels with roofs are not to be used. Parents/ Spectators are to remain in their vehicles.

Commencement of Season:

The first decision that we have to make is when to commence the Season. I believe that Winter Sports may well 'encroach' on what have always been Summer Sports dates, ie September. I can understand their dilemma given the disruption to their Competitions this season.

Traditionally, we would commence the Season on 12th September, 2020 and play until 19th December, breaking and resuming again on 30th January, 2021.

For the last few years 7U (U8) TBall Competitions have not commenced until the Saturday after the October, long weekend. I am seriously considering recommending that date, **October 10th, as the Season commencement date for all Competitions**, except for Youth League which can commence on Friday September, 11th, September being a Friday night competition.

Do not want to delay the start of the Youth League Competition given the demands made on those players selected in State U16 team to compete in National Championships.

While I consider it prudent to start the Season later, we do not have to. We are fortunate that we are, apart from Murray Farm and 'overflow' grounds at Caddies Creek, not in competition with Winter Sports for grounds. However, we are reliant on the availability and interest from the same player pool being pulled by winter sports.

Final decision will be made when the Government announces conditions relating to winter sports.

Irrespective of the start date chosen the Final Series will need to commence on 6th March with Grand Final Day being 20th March, 2021. Easter is 'early' in 2021, falling on 2nd April, 2021.

Moving Forward:

Nominations for Hills Office Bearers for Season 2020-21 will close on Tuesday 10th June, 2020. To be voted upon at AGM 8th July, 2020

Constitution: There will be change suggested to Hills' Constitution to permit Meetings using technology

Fees: There will be no increase in the Hills Fees for Season 2010-21. I have not seen a schedule of Fees for BA/BNSW.

Last Season's trophies: Are available for collection from Castle Trophies, 386 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill. Suggest you telephone (9680-3907) before you leave to collect the trophies. Normally they are closed Wednesday.

LL State Championships: BNSW is suggesting that it is wanting to stage the State LL Championships in August. Unsure how practical that will be, largely dependent upon player availability. We shall await further details. Both LL and Pony League World Series have been cancelled for 2020.

Competitions to be offered are as per last Season and will certainly include Intermediate League, even though the strong recommendation being that LL players play in Douglass League (48ftx 70ft) rather than Intermediate League.

T Ball 7U, 8U,

Mod Ball 9U. Daisley League will be offered as initially a T Ball Competition moving in December to Coach Pitch. Petroff will be Coach pitch all season

Live Ball 10U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 17U **Suggested Eligibility dates are**

Youth and Cashmore Leagues September, 2004 to August, 2006 * Allowance for players with DOB between January and August, 2004 to play Youth League and Cashmore West (not Cashmore South) provided they do not play any game in State League including Womens' League or Park Baseball (SMBL or PCBL and the like).

Senior LL September, 2004 to August, 2006

Junior LL September, 2006 to August, 2008

Intermediate September, 2007 to August, 2009

LL September, 2008 to August, 2010

10-11 September 2009 to August, 2011

9U Players born between January, 2011 and December, 2013

8U Players born between January, 2012 and December, 2013

7U Players born between January, 2013 and December, 2015

Rule Changes: Will include a change to Bat Rules, staying with USA Bats. Also Rules that will be specific to Covid 19, no Spitting, no chewing of Seeds, no 'high 5's', wearing of Batting gloves

J Yard