

## Chanticleer Situation – May 2019

Auckland Petanque Association has advised that there is a new coach for the Auckland team.

Grant Hackett has replaced Alan Fletcher.

I had an opportunity at the recent PNZ National Club champs to sit down with Grant and discuss the future rules of the competition and explain the concerns raised by the Wellington Petanque Association. Grant was one of the people who put the competition together along with Dirk Winnie and Georgio Vakauta.

We are no closer to an agreement on any proposed rule changes.

The current purpose and player criteria of the competition are as follows:

### **Purpose:**

*To provide a competition for players from each region to develop their game and assist in lifting them to a higher level.*

### **Player Criteria:**

*The competition will be for a team of 12 players from each region divided into 2 categories.*

*6 open players and 6 senior players. There is no restriction on the number of players in the team that must be men or women i.e. there is no minimum number of women required in the team and no minimum number of men.*

*The open team cannot have any players that have represented New Zealand at the open level in the previous 12 months up to the day before the Chanticleer match.*

*The senior team can contain players who have represented New Zealand in the previous 12 months.*

*All players must be current members of a club affiliated to the region they are to represent.*

The issues are as follows:

- The competition was formed to foster and develop players i.e. a development tournament. This requires some of the team members to be relatively experienced to be able to help the “development players”.
- There needs to be clarification with respect to the senior rule that players in the senior team can have represented New Zealand. In my opinion the original idea was that these players have played for New Zealand seniors and not a New Zealand open team.
- If the current rules are adhered to, Wellington will be without 3 players who could and should be playing in this competition on 2019 but under the rules they will not be allowed to play this year. Conversely there will also be 3 players who would not normally be eligible because of the New Zealand open team rule.

Some changes that have been discussed and could be considered are:

- Only 2 NZ players in open and 2 in senior.
- No NZ players at all.
- Take away the senior aspect and have 2 teams. One would be for any players including any NZ players. The other team would be for players who have never represented NZ at all.

The biggest problem will be (and always has been) getting players to travel. When the tournament is played in Wellington there is never a problem for Wellington getting the required number of players. When it is in Auckland it is more difficult to get the required number of players. Auckland has the same problem. It will be interesting to see how easily Auckland get a team together to travel to Wellington this year.

Graeme Morris

Wellington Regional Coach