



Wellington Hockey Association
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Wellington City Council
Gambling Venues Policy
P O Box 2199
WELLINGTON 6140

1st October 2020

RE: WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL GAMBLING VENUES POLICY -WELLINGTON HOCKEY SUBMISSION

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for giving Wellington Hockey the opportunity to provide feedback on the above policy.

This submission is on behalf of Wellington Hockey and our affiliated clubs and outlines our views on the proposed changes to the Gambling Venues Policy.

The preferred position of the Hockey Community is Option C – No changes to the current arrangements relating to gaming machines and venues in Wellington.

BACKGROUND

Wellington Hockey is based at the National Hockey Stadium in Berhampore where we have three Hockey turfs that are the hub of our community.

We provide Hockey opportunities to more than 4,000 Hockey players, 49 clubs, colleges and schools in the Wellington Region.

Our clubs that are based in the Wellington City Council area are as follows:

Island Bay Hockey Club
Wellington Indians Sports Club
Brooklyn Geckos
Northern United Hockey Club
Harbour City United Hockey Club
Karori Hockey Club
Karori Junior Hockey Club
Tawa Titans Hockey Club

Tawa Junior Hockey Club
Victoria University Hockey Club

Wellington Hockey prides itself on its vision and mission which are:

Vision: Inspiring a lifelong love of Hockey

Mission: Making great Hockey happen

Our strategy statement is as follows:

WHA is a trusted, reliable community partner. We are here to support our community.

Benefits of Class 4 gaming to the Hockey Community

The community funding model currently used to distribute Class 4 gaming is working well.

The money we receive goes directly back to our community to ensure that our members can continue to enjoy the sport they love at a reasonable cost.

If the Wellington City Council introduce a sinking lid policy to gaming machines, the amount of money our community can access will diminish over time. This will have a negative impact on what we as a Regional Sports Organisation can offer our community as well as what our clubs can offer their members.

Currently some of the areas Class 4 gaming is helping the Hockey Community are:

- Support for our power bills – we pay approx. \$60,000 per year in electricity with the majority going on floodlights.
- Community programmes – funding we receive enables us to go into schools and introduce children to Hockey and provide Have a Go opportunities for many.
- Contributing towards salaries, wages – we simply would not exist without the support received in this area.
- Helping with the costs of our representative teams travelling to tournaments – without this support there would be many children who would not be able to participate.
- Facilities – many upgrades to our facilities would not be possible without funding support.

Many of our clubs apply for Class 4 gaming to help towards their training and game fee costs.

This money is passed on to Wellington Hockey to help cover the cost of the lease fees charged by Wellington City Council for the hire of the National Hockey Stadium. This cost in 2020 was \$110,000.

Any reduction in Class 4 gaming proceeds will have two significant outcomes:

- Cost will become a barrier to participation which will result in a decline in people being able to enjoy our sport
- The ability for Wellington Hockey and its clubs to be able to continue to pay for its facilities will be put under extreme pressure

SUMMARY

Whilst we acknowledge that the impact of problem gambling can be significant in the community, we also believe that the social benefits of sport and the people that we can impact cannot be underestimated.

We see on a daily basis the importance of sport to people's health and wellbeing, and want to be able to keep providing this to our community without any more financial pressure than we already experience.

CONCLUSION

Wellington Hockey requests that the Wellington City Council retains the status quo – Option C on the Gambling Venues Policy.

The impact that Class 4 gaming money can make on the Sport and Recreation sector, therefore on the health of Wellington's population cannot be put at risk by choosing any other option.

Our submission is available on our website (www.wellingtonhockey.org.nz) and shared with our members.

Kind regards

Lisa Jones
CEO, Wellington Hockey

With support from Hutt United Hockey Club