

To all WBOP junior clubs, parents, players, coaches, managers and supporters,

This message is being sent to all WBOP junior clubs this week to ensure everyone is on the same page and we are consistent with how this season is run with new Covid-19 mandates.

The good news is that at the current 'RED' level we are able to train and play rugby!!!!

As you may be aware there are some Covid-19 requirements we must adhere to. At this stage we need to provide the early message to all for clarity. We are still working on the specific details about how things will work on game day and will be contact closer to the season starting.

What we know:

- The NZ government has made it a mandatory requirement to have everyone over the age of 12yrs and 3 months to be vaccinated in order to have up to 100 people in a gathering.
- NZ Rugby has mandated all 15-a-side rugby competitions will be played in My vaccine pass gatherings meaning all players, coaches, team managers and referees are required to possess a vaccine pass to participate in the 2022 season.
- What does this mean for WBOP junior rugby?
- If you are under the 12yrs 3months you will not need a vaccine pass to play in the 2022 season, but once you turn 12yrs 3months you will have to supply a vaccine pass to keep playing in the 2022 season
- Each game will need to be a bubble to work. (100 person limit with all 12yrs, 3mths and over vaccinated)
- All coaches, managers, parents, supporters etc who wish to be within this 100 person 'bubble' on game day must be vaccinated. This is for all rugby U6-U13.
- All players over the age of 12yrs 3months must be vaccinated. If a child turns 12yrs and 3 months after registering, but before the season starts they will need to be vaccinated in order to continue playing.
- Most Rugby venues will have a requirement to be vaccinated to accommodate the 100 person bubble

Each club will send a message on specific details for registration and weigh in etc.

We will have further messaging regarding game day protocols closer to the start of the season.

What we don't know yet:

When the government plans to review the current 'RED' setting.

How the government's 3 phase strategy to deal with the omicron outbreak will affect us.

I understand this may not be the message some of you were hoping for, but in order for us to get kids playing rugby this season it's the only avenue forward. This decision has been made by the WBOPJMC and is to be adhered to by all WBOP junior clubs. I hope that all volunteers on the front line are respected and I appreciate your understanding.

Let's have a great 2022 season for the kids and let our Rugby community show their true resilience.

Regards,
Jason Price
WBOPJMC Chairman