

**MEMO TO:** Association Secretaries/Administrators  
**FROM:** Julie Carrel – Events Manager  
**DATE:** 21 April 2009  
**RE:** New Zealand Secondary Schools Finals

As you will be aware the New Zealand Secondary Schools Finals have been moved from the first weekend of the third term holidays to “tournament week” in the secondary schools calendar.

This move was initiated by the NZ Secondary Schools Sports Council as they aim to minimise disruption to the schools through sports events. In terms of player welfare it is also of benefit to our players as we have had several examples of players who have played two solid weeks of badminton (in some cases over 70 matches) which is not ideal.

The competition this year will be played in Wellington 3 – 6 September.

2009 will be the last year that the competition will be played under the zone qualifying system; ie there are 10 teams who qualify for the national finals from the eight zones throughout the country.

As from 2010 it will be **OPEN ENTRY**, with Badminton New Zealand requesting entries in February from all schools. The details of this system are yet to be finalised however Badminton New Zealand will be ensuring that if we have to limit teams that there will still be representation from all the current zones from throughout the country. Associations and or Regions can still continue to run the zone competition if they wish but from a BNZ point of view there will no longer be a need for it.

What this means is that for 2009 Association’s need to work together to find their zone winner. The zone final needs to be played by 1 August with the winner advised to me by the host association. When playing a zone final schools do need to ensure that the players who play in the final are available to play in the national final, ie. they are not committed to representing their school in another sport during tournament week. If they are, I would recommend that they do not participate in the zone final.

**Can all Associations please advise the date and venue of the zone final to me by 1 June.**

The session times for this year will be:

- Thursday 3 September – 3pm – Managers Meeting
- Thursday 3 September – 4pm – session 1
- Friday 4 September – 10am – session 2
- Friday 4 September – 5pm – session 3
- Saturday 5 September – 10am – session 4
- Saturday 5 September – 5pm – session 5
- Sunday 6 September – 9am – session 6. Play-offs places 5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>
- Sunday 6 September – 11.30am – session 7. Play-offs places 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>

At the conclusion of the finals session, approx 2pm there will be prize giving and lunch provided

There will be a fee of per team of \$250+GST for all teams playing in the National Championships, this includes the 2009 competition. Association’s to determine if they pay this cost or pass onto the schools.

All shuttles will be provided. First, second and third place will all receive medals. All players will receive participation certificates