



Cancellation Notice

State Skeet Carnival 2020

QCTA Management would like to present some of the items raised for discussion regarding the decision to cancel the State Skeet Carnival 2020, and the request to revisit this decision. In addition to the worsening and uncertain COVID-19 situation currently experienced in the southern states, a range of issues were taken into consideration.

1. An early decision was made to follow the directive of the Nationals. The main reason for this is due to our Queensland teams. With Queensland State Carnivals in all other disciplines cancelled for 2020, teams to represent at the 2021 Nationals have already been selected in 2019. When the 2020 Skeet Nationals were cancelled, it was clear that if the State Skeet Carnival was to proceed, we would have two teams selected to compete in 2021. We are not prepared to disappoint one entire team who qualified through correct process, by telling them they will not have an opportunity to compete.
2. The QCTA is responsible for governing the sport across the State, in addition to hosting carnivals. We still have a large number of regional clubs who have not re-opened or fired a shot since March. Some are struggling both financially, with no income from shoots, and operationally with a lack of volunteers to assist with imposing restrictions necessary to operate. Our support, effort and assistance are needed for these clubs.
3. Poor attendances were not a consideration for this carnival and this was not part of the decision-making process. This event has been conducted in the past with only 51 shooters and was still considered a good quality and successful event.
4. Variations on the existing format were discussed with regard to the program of events, the question of team selection, and other matters. However, it was decided not to present a State level event under downgraded conditions as it would defeat the purpose of conducting the carnival.
5. Assisting clubs through these times is a high priority for the QCTA. While perhaps not as evident in the SE Zone, many clubs need to rely on attendances at their monthly shoots or 2-day events to help support them through the recovery process. Many clubs need the support of their own members, along with neighbouring clubs, rather than have them travel to support larger State and Zone carnivals.
6. Many clubs who rely on the income from their annual events to survive have missed out on their carnivals due to the lock down. The remainder of the 2020 calendar is already oversubscribed with clubs needing to re-schedule events.

The QCTA does not dictate to Zones but appreciates those Zones that have elected to cancel both their Trap & Skeet Zone Carnivals to support their clubs by making these scheduled weekends available to them to conduct their annual shoots. This will also apply to the weekend allocated to the State Skeet Carnival.

7. We believe Victorian and interstate shooters represent a valuable contingent to our State events. In 2019 two of the four Queensland championship events, AA grade high gun, Two Person Team and various minor places were won by Victorian shooters, which were significant wins. Continuing with the State Skeet Carnival and excluding competitors through no fault of their own is not in the best interests of our sport and would be yet another casualty of the virus restrictions.
8. While clubs are currently authorised to open for competition, many are struggling with off-field regulations and social distancing, as can be seen from presentation photos even within the last two weeks. Re-opening for both practice and competition has not attracted anticipated numbers, indicating that we should be mindful that many Queenslanders in our club system have lost their jobs and are experiencing financial pressures. The responsibility to impose these restrictions, with possibly increased numbers and camping available, lies with the QCTA for State events. With some Councillors unable to travel or in the high-risk group for the virus, this represents an added concern and the need for additional resources and volunteer help.
9. We are navigating through a pandemic with situations that change on a regular basis, as we are seeing in Victoria and now NSW, with directives from Queensland Health continuing to advise against mass gatherings. We do not intend to be complacent, especially considering the percentage of older and vulnerable shooters that participate in our sport, and there is no guarantee that planned events will be able to proceed as scheduled.
10. From a cost perspective for the State Skeet Carnival, Queensland State badges and sashes alone represent an outlay of several thousands of dollars which could not be recovered if the event had to be cancelled at the last minute. That is without consideration for the necessary medallions, badges, engraving, prizes, trophies and other outlay required to conduct the carnival. The QCTA has had no income from any State events during 2020 and it would be considered irresponsible to continue with the State Skeet Carnival given these uncertainties when it is too early to identify the extent of the assistance that may be required by clubs.