

It is with great disappointment that we have had to cancel the North Island Secondary School Skiing and Snowboarding Competitions for what is now the fifth successive year.

Both Pure Turoa and our organizing teams have been holding off, continually hoping for snow and modifying what options we had available in an effort to offer an acceptable competition. The earlier canceling of some smaller district competitions were indicative of what could happen. Then this recent warm weather and rain lessened what suitable racing areas would be available. It is disappointing that the new ownership team of Pure Turoa won't get to experience the event particularly with the enthusiasm shown with event back on the Turoa slopes.

Pure Turoa will still be honoring the 2025 season pass Spot prizes from all the official entrants received this year. Watch the NISSSC website (nissc.nz) for the names of those lucky entrants.

We have been faced with some of the worst snow conditions that I can recall since our first year in 1980, suffice to say we have only had to cancel on a couple of occasions previously due to lack of snow.

At the end of the day, I think everyone would agree that a substandard/unsafe event that likely would not have catered for the range of skiing abilities that we have would be worse than no event. It is with a heavy heart that the decision to cancel has again had to be made.

I would like to thank those who have already put a great deal of time and effort into getting us to this stage at least. We operate under a charitable trust (The Laurenson Trust), so my thanks to fellow Trustees for their efforts, Bevan Thompson from Bevanz Event Services in Taupo, who has co-ordinated all the Health and safety aspects and who would have been chief of Race in skiing had the racing gone ahead, Malcolm Haig for his role as co-ordinator and chief of race for the snowboard competition. Several jobs like data entry, secretarial type work, bib sorts/repair etc. have also had huge hours put in.

With regards money paid in and refunds, as per the skiing entry form:

"In the event of the competition being cancelled before it starts due to circumstances beyond the control of the management committee (eruption or no snow for example), individual competitor fees will be refunded with the team fee held to cover administration costs".

Similarly with Snowboarding:

"If through circumstances beyond the control of the organising committee the competition is unable to proceed, entry fees will be refunded less any portion of the entry fee required to cover event costs to that stage."

We have again been able to avoid some costs by holding off and by receiving several donated hours. Clearly with lower entry numbers, the \$100 team admin fee alone is unlikely to cover costs but the Trust will be able to cover any deficit through to 2025. You will receive a full refund for all tickets purchased, a full refund for all competitor entry fees. Our treasurer Sue will require the bank account number forwarded to us in order that she can transfer funds across to the appropriate

accounts. Use the NISSSC email address of nisssc.snowsports@gmail.com. Some schools may opt to leave a credit going forward. If this is the case, please let us know. For those that have not forwarded their entry fees yet Sue will arrange an invoice for you to pass to your school admin.

On a positive note, with skifield ownership sorted, we have already had some planning with Pure Turoa regarding next year's competition and are pleased to announce that entries for 2025 will be available on line very soon.

John Laursen

Chairman (The Laursen Trust)