

PRESS RELEASE

Oceania Masters in Paradise, 21-26 June 2020 in Rarotonga has been postponed – date TBC

In light of the developing COVID-19 outbreak and recent 'Pandemic' prescribed by the World Health Organisation, Badminton Oceania and Badminton Cook Islands have decided to postpone the international sporting event; Oceania Masters in Paradise – 21-26 June in Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Despite all of the excitement built up around Rarotonga's first badminton master's tournament, discussions between management and stakeholders has resulted in the postponement with the best interests of the players and the Pacific Region at heart.

As the number of cases grow across the continent, countries are continuing to action policies to either prevent certain nationalities from entering the country or restrict movement elsewhere. Noticeably, New Zealand is a popular transit route for many flights connecting to the Cook Islands, and is imposing more restrictions and policies to tackle the outbreak.

"Whilst this is a disappointing decision to make; it is not a difficult one as it is within the best interest of everyone associated with the event to postpone it until when the situation is under control, allowing us to offer the best possible experience for Master's players", says Badminton Oceania's Secretary General, Julie Carrel.

The Pacific islands face a number of geographic and population-specific outbreak challenges. Having multiple small islands with vast distances between them can make infectious diseases easy to spread but hard to treat. The coronavirus would likely spread quickly through a small, concentrated island population, especially within communities where up to 20 people can live in one house, as happened with a recent deadly measles outbreak in Samoa. The dispersed nature of these islands, meanwhile, could make communicating public health warnings all the more difficult.

These nations' health care systems are also less equipped to deal with an epidemic, with limited resources and facilities.

Text source: <https://slate.com/technology/2020/03/micronesia-drastic-coronavirus-travel-ban.html>

Those who have currently registered to take part in the Oceania Masters in Paradise event are entitled to a full refund of the registration package fee. Please contact events@badmintonoceania.org to arrange a refund.

Player's are advised to contact their local insurance provider for details on flights and the Edgewater Resort for accommodation refunds.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie Carrel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julie Carrel
Secretary General