



******EMBARGOED UNTIL 9AM (UK Time/GMT+1) WEDNESDAY 29TH JULY 2020******

International Netball Federation Announces Postponement of Netball World Youth Cup 2021

International Netball Federation (INF) has announced that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Netball World Youth Cup will no longer take place in June 2021.

INF, in consultation with the host country Fiji, considered the factors that would need to be in place for the international event to go ahead in June next year. Given the uncertainty regarding factors such as the control of the COVID-19 pandemic and risk to health, closures of borders to visitors, consideration of quarantine requirements and restrictions on global travel, the decision was made to postpone the event based on its June date.

The announcement comes after the recent decision that the Netball World Youth Cup qualifying events, which were due to take place in Africa, the Americas, Europe and Oceania before October 2020, be cancelled and that INF World Rankings be used to determine the qualifying teams for those regions affected.



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The INF will now consult with the netball associations with qualified teams regarding the options for re-scheduling including dates towards the end of 2021 and early 2022.

The Fijian Government have re-confirmed their commitment to hosting the event. The Minister for Youth and Sports, Honourable Praveen Kumar Bala said:

“We remain committed to the sporting aspirations of girls and young women in Fiji and across the netball world. We look forward to hosting this event at an appropriate time when the world is a lot safer, international travel restrictions have eased and when all teams, and Fiji as your host nation, are certain of reaping a just return on their investment into the NWYC 2021.”

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Image:





Image Caption:

Fiji netball players at the Netball World Youth Cup 2017.

Notes to Editors:

International Netball Federation

Over 20 million people play netball around the world, in more than 80 countries. The International Netball Federation (INF) is the sole, internationally recognised, governing body for netball, affiliated to GAISF, the International World Games Association and the Association of Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF), receiving funding from the International Olympic Committee.

Currently, 75 National Netball Associations are affiliated to the INF, grouped into five Regions - Africa, Asia, Americas, Europe and Oceania - each with a respective Regional Federation.

Netball Fiji

Netball Fiji oversees the most popular women's sport in Fiji. Netball is played in primary schools, secondary schools, business house competitions and in weekly club competitions for over 12 affiliated districts in Fiji. Netball has a large amount of grassroots support in Fiji. Netball Fiji delivers its purpose to its members through sufficient resources to remain viable and competitive in governance, people and financial management. Netball Fiji is member of the Oceania Netball Federation (ONF) and is affiliated to the Fiji Associations of Sports & National Olympic Committee.

Netball World Youth Cup

The Netball World Youth Cup is the pinnacle of netball competition for emerging players and has been held every four years since 1988. The INF awarded Fiji Netball with the rights to host Netball World Youth Cup in February 2017.

The Netball World Youth Cup, 2021 was due to take place on the island of Viti Levu, Fiji in the capital city of Suva from the 10th – 19th June at the newly renovated Vodafone Arena.

20 teams with players aged under 21 will compete for the title. The host country (Fiji) and the top 4 teams from the NWYC2017 held in Botswana pre-qualified (New Zealand, Australia, England and Jamaica who finished 5th behind Fiji). The Asia qualifying event took place in July 2019 with Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka qualifying.



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The INF Board made the decision in June 2020 to determine the remaining 12 qualifying countries based on INF World Rankings.

The qualifiers for the Netball World Youth Cup 2021 in alphabetical order:

Australia
Barbados
Cook Islands
England
Fiji
Jamaica
Malaysia
Malawi
New Zealand
Northern Ireland
Samoa
Scotland
Singapore
South Africa
Sri Lanka
St Lucia
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Wales

For more information on World Rankings [click here](#).

For more information on the Netball World Youth Cup [click here](#).