



29 June 2016

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)  
[societies@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:societies@mbie.govt.nz)

### **Sport NZ submission on Exposure Draft of Incorporated Societies Bill**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Exposure Draft of the Incorporated Societies Bill (the Bill). Our submission is set out below.

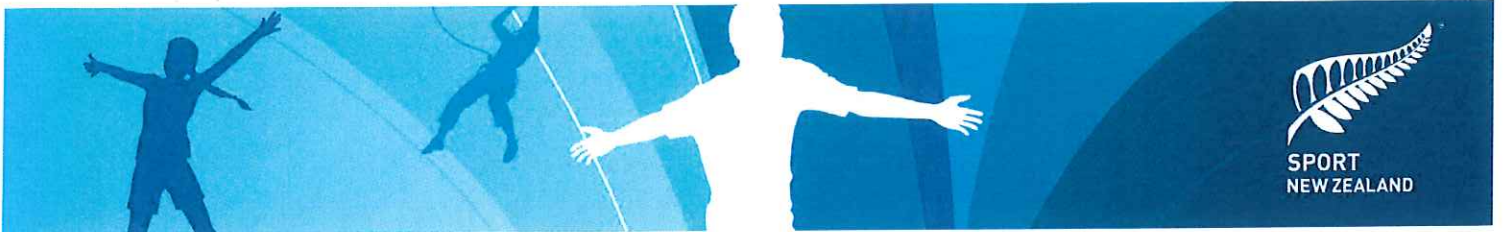
We support the Bill as it aims to modernise and update the law relating to Incorporated Societies. We also make the below recommendations.

*Recommendation one: MBIE provides targeted guidance and support to sport and recreation organisations to assist them in transitioning to the new requirements*

As you will be aware, there a large number of sport and recreation organisations at a local, regional or national level that are Incorporated Societies with limited resources. MBIE statistics show that about 10,665 Incorporated Societies (45 percent of all Incorporated Societies) are sport and recreation organisations.

We recommend MBIE (as the Government Department responsible for this legislation) provides guidance and support to these organisations to help them transition to the new requirements. This should be done with sufficient lead-in time to enable such changes to be made comfortably within the proposed transition period.

In particular, sport and recreation organisations will need assistance with drafting or amending their Constitutions to comply with the legislative requirements. This will be a significant undertaking for sport and recreation organisations that will take time and will come with a cost. Standard clauses may need to be modified to take into account their level of activities, membership and resources. For example, the dispute resolution provisions for national sporting organisations will ideally provide for the referral of certain disputes or appeals to the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand, whereas regional or local sporting organisations will have a different pathway to resolve their disputes.



*Recommendation two: clause 72 should be amended to provide more cost-effective relief*

Clause 72 of the Bill requires a person to apply to court if they wish to challenge the time period, charge, or refusal, by an Incorporated Society to provide requested information. As a more cost-effective alternative to the courts, we recommend such challenges are dealt with by the Registrar or a body such as the Ombudsman.

If you have any questions regarding our submission please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Woodside', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Michael Woodside  
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