

Activities Report 17.07.21

Update since last NEAC meeting:

We have since completed our virtual National finals for 2021. This comprised of our cultural and talent events that would not have been possible to run with the current restriction imposed on us as a result of Covid-19. As we would have discussed previously the virtual events went back to the traditional format of area to county to nationals. There was fantastic participation with nearly 4000 participants across the various events.

I would like to express my gratitude and admiration for all the staff that worked tirelessly to both create all of the event pages and organise all the entries over the past few months and for the great work done with the presentation of the winners over the National final weekend. I would also like to thank all the judges and volunteers that made the events possible at area, county and national level.

Physical finals update:

At this stage the programme for the physical events for 2021 has been circulated and discussed with county and provincial secretary's and chairpersons. Guidelines have been released and are readily available on the community games website on how best to run events like the athletics and team events.

This year there will be a "Regional Track Athletics Finals" between county and nationals to help reduce numbers of participants and crowds. The regional finals will take place over the first three weekends in September, dates and venues available on the Community Games website. Venues and dates have been confirmed and are posted on the Community Games Website.

The regional finals will be organised by the activities committee with the help from the counties. My committee will be meeting over the coming weeks to allocate volunteers to different roles for the running of the events. All counties will be asked to submit officials for these regional events as soon as possible to help with this allocation. Without our volunteers we would not be able to run these events. Thank you for the support from counties in advance.

The national athletics track finals will take place the last weekend in September along with the field events and cycling on grass. These will take place on the athletic grounds of Carlow IT. The outdoor team event national finals will take place on the University of Limerick grounds on the 9th and 10th of October. This includes; gaelic football, hurling, camogie, tag rugby, outdoor soccer, skittles and rounders. This pitch and putt will take place in Ballinalee on October 16th. The cross county, mixed distance relay and swimming will take place in the University of Limerick on the 27th of November.

All of our events are subject to governmental guidelines and restrictions.

The activities committee will meet to plan further the schedule of events and volunteer allocation over the coming weeks and months. Again, as always counties will be asked for submission of volunteers for these weekends also. I understand that it may seem like we are asking a lot of our volunteers, however our aim is that we will be able to share the load in terms of volunteering over these weekends as a reduced number of volunteers will be needed on any particular weekend. I ask that on returning to your counties that you think ahead to the various weekends and try earmark a couple of volunteers for each weekend.

It is a very different year to the norm again this year, and we have to adapt how we run our events to make them viable. Our aim is that we can return to our normal festivals and the traditional way of running events as soon as possible, however for now I feel this is our best approach. These are unprecedented times and we are learning as we go. The important thing with all of this is that we all remain safe and if we can continue to enable participation for children all over Ireland in our Community Games events it is a huge bonus.

I look forward to seeing you hopefully in the near future.

James Durkan

Activities Director