



This is a message from the BJP board to all our Physie teachers and members,

2020 was the most difficult Physie year in living memory. Many of us thought 2021 would be better. But it's turned out to be even harder, with the delta strain throwing us into lockdown, closing borders and putting lives in danger.

When it became clear to us that zone competitions could not be held in September, we spent weeks moving them all to October, sourcing new venues and creating a new timetable. Then the delta strain spread from Sydney to regional NSW, Brisbane, Melbourne and other places and our new timetable had to be discarded. Because we simply can't and we never will risk the health and safety of any of our members, our teachers, their families or the wider community.

We asked ourselves how many times can we keep shifting the comp dates and is that was actually fair to our teachers and members. And then we asked the unthinkable: what if we cancelled the 2021 competitions altogether?

The solution we've found lies somewhere in the middle. We've decided to extend our 2021 competition season by a couple of months, hopefully allowing enough Australians to be vaccinated so that lockdowns will be over. This might seem like a radical idea. But our hope is that it might give members all around the country a chance to compete and, importantly, to have their parents, friends and supporters in the audience to cheer them on. Our greatest joy would be to see the Physie community brought back together again at competitions.

We're now in the process of rescheduling all competitions to dates in January and February so that we can begin the new Physie year on 1st March. We do understand that this means zone competitions will be in the school holidays and that some families may be travelling at that time. But we don't have any other options. So, each family will need to make their own choices.

Clubs will need to break for Christmas earlier than usual so that members and teachers are still able to enjoy the usual amount of down time at the end of 2021. Our intention is not to make your Physie year longer, but to shift what usually happens in Oct/Nov to Jan/Feb. Starting in March is going to make the 2022 year a little shorter, so our choreographers are taking this into account, ensuring the next year's routines are not too complex or long.

We're sure you have lots of questions, so I'll try to answer some of them now. A member's competition age in Jan/Feb will be the same as it was this year because all events in Jan/Feb are part of the 2021 competition season. Registrations for 2022 will open on 1st March and members won't be able to change clubs until then. So, you have to compete for the club that you attended this year. Anyone wishing to change clubs for 2022 must be registered with their new club by 15 March as usual.

As soon as contracts are signed for all the competition venues, we'll send your teachers the new timetable. They'll be able to answer any other questions you might have and rest assured we'll keep them fully informed.

What happens if we get to January and government restrictions mean that we can't hold competitions? We're reluctant to even consider this. But, at that point, it would seem the only option is to put on a brave face, chalk up 2021 to experience, muster all the resilience that Physie has taught us and soldier on with a new year of Physie. Let's all hope for a different outcome.

In the meantime, keep practising and let's hope that we get to that magic number of 80% of Australians vaccinated so that competitions can go ahead.

And look out for our bonus "Happy Dance" routines coming your way soon because we know how hard it is to do Physie on zoom and to stay motivated so we wanted to create something fun for you all to do in the coming months.

Keep your chin up everyone. It might feel like we're marking time at the moment but sooner or later it will be forward march! Stay safe and thank you for reading.

BJP Board