



LEARNINGS FROM RUGBY LEAGUE IN WELLINGTON

BACKGROUND

Over the past twenty months the sporting sector along with many other areas of the community in Aotearoa, have been impacted by COVID-19. It has proved challenging for the play, active recreation and sporting sector and heightened the existence of inequities across many of our communities, particularly for Māori.

A Covid-19 Insights Report carried out by Sport New Zealand highlighted the impacts of Covid-19 across Aotearoa. The report found that:

- Physical activity had a greater impact on adults from high deprivation areas and those aged 18-34 years.
- There was a decline in time spent being physically active, primarily among the most active portion of the population.
- Positively, there was a significant drop in the proportion of the population doing no physical activity. 4 in 10 adults started or restarted sports and physical activity.

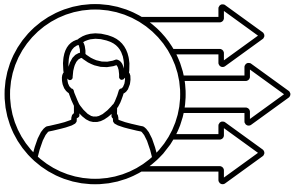
The main barriers to people being involved in physical activity were:

- 67% Because of COVID-19
- 20% Too hard to motivate myself
- 14% Too busy
- 13% Prefer to do other things
- 12% Don't have the equipment I need

Wellington Rugby League set out to gain a better understanding of the factors and issues impacting the participation of players, volunteers and whānau in clubs and rugby league in 2021.



METHODOLOGY



Approach

Healthy Families Hutt Valley with support from Wellington Rugby League conducted an anonymous survey with affiliated members of Wellington Rugby League Clubs. The survey was emailed by Wellington Rugby League to contacts held by Wellington Rugby League staff. The contacts were asked to forward the email onto other members.



Fieldwork dates

25 October 2021 until 10 November 2021



Sample size

90 adults had the opportunity to participate in the survey

SURVEY QUESTIONS

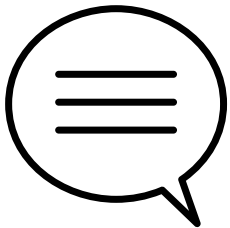
The questions asked in the survey are outlined in Appendix 1.



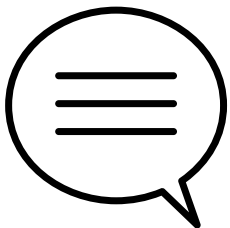
KEY FINDINGS



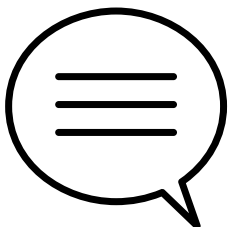
92% of survey respondents who indicated they are working during the week and in the weekends, need to balance family and time restraints and/or family commitments.



The competition structure was the major issue respondents commented as the one thing they had an issue with during the season.



At 31% the strongest level of satisfaction was due to being able to play the game.



Comments from respondents who indicated they did not think the season was long enough came from coaches, managers, trainers, club executives and players from the Women's Premier Grade. The youth 13's, 16's, 18's grade were represented with 14% and the Premier 2 grade (18%) were strongly represented. The 14% of respondents for Premier Men's grade are made up of one coach and two club executives



SURVEY RESULTS

The table below outlines the key findings from the survey. A total of 90 people were offered the opportunity to take part in this survey. We received 41 responses, a 76% response rate.

Survey period

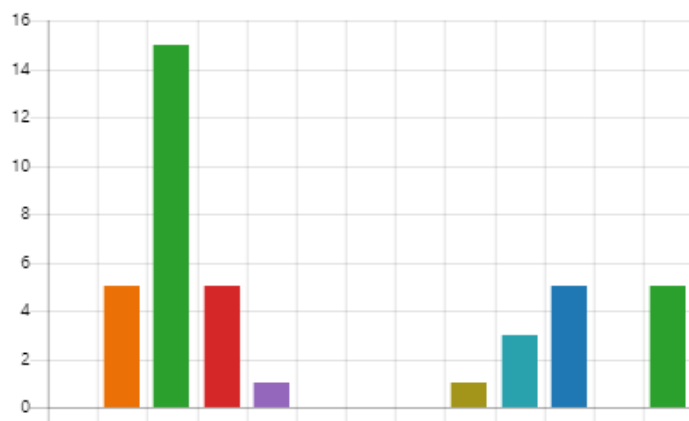
25 October 2021 until 10 November 2021

Survey responses

41 responses were received

Question 1. Please record the Club you are a member of

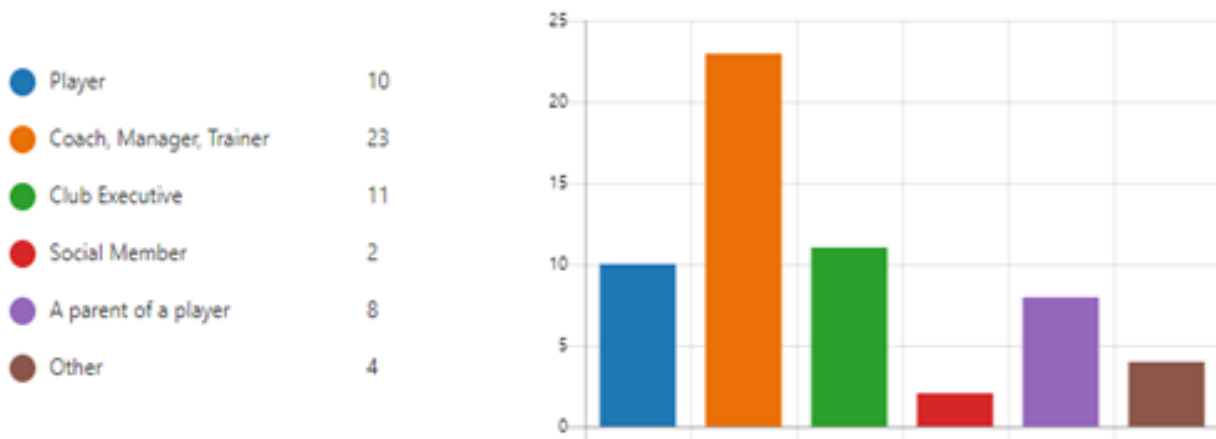
● Petone Panthers	0
● Porirua Vikings	5
● Randwick Kingfishers	15
● St George Dragons	5
● Te Aroha Eels	1
● Titahi Bay Marlins	0
● Toa Rugby League	0
● Trentham Titans	0
● Upper Hutt Tigers	1
● Victoria Hunters	3
● Wainuiomata Lions	5
● Whiti Te Ra Rugby League	0
● Other	5



Comments

58% of rugby league clubs participated in the survey with Randwick Kingfishers having the biggest response rate (37%).

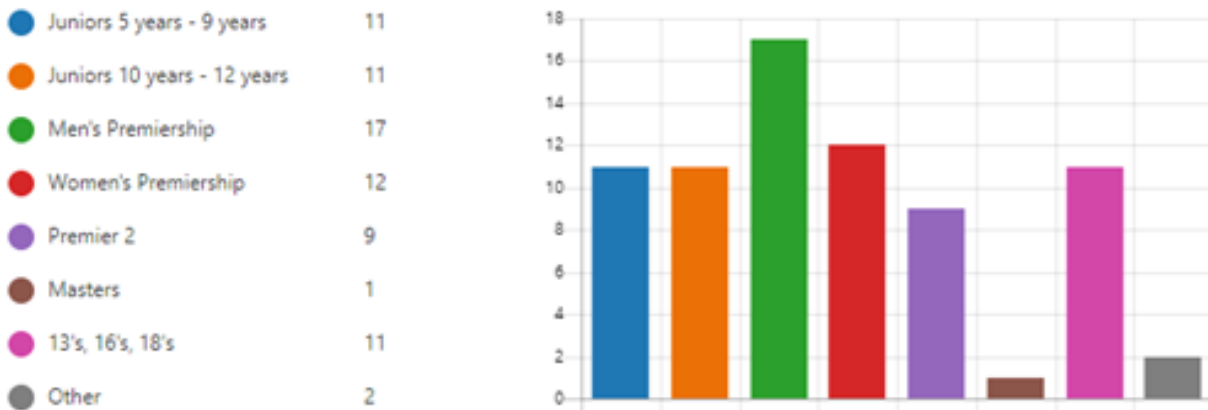
Question 2. How have you been involved with your club in 2021?



Comments

56% of the respondents were in team management roles, 27% were club executives and 24% players. The parents of players made up 20% of the respondents.

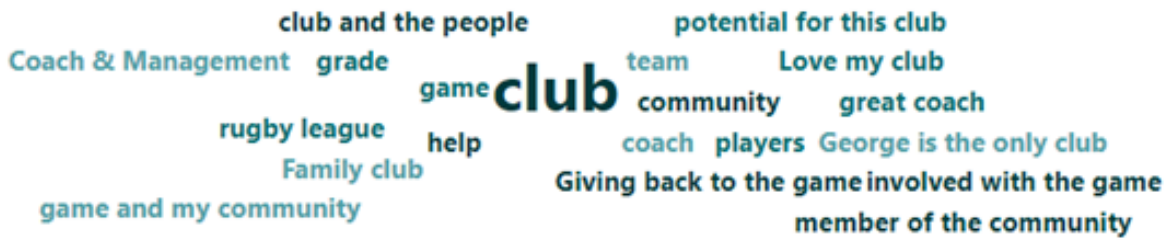
Question 3. Which competition were you or your child involved in?



Comments

This graphic reflects a response rate of 74%. This indicates that 80% of those that completed the survey are involved in more than one team or one role within the club.

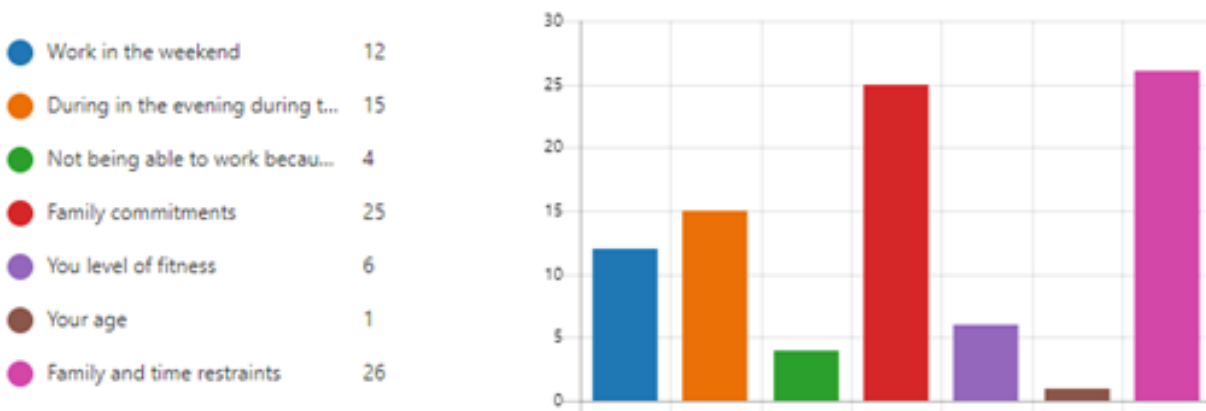
Question 4. Please record your main reason(s) for you deciding to become involved with your club this year



Comments

15 respondents (39%) answered 'club' for this question. Summary of comments included: to support club, pathways and representative programme, to position the club to be valued in the community, love for the game or the club, help grow the game, giving back to the game, whānau and community, children, ask to become involved, the experience.

Question 5. What are the things that you had to take in to consideration when making a decision to be involved with your club in 2021?



Comments

Family and time restraints impact 63% of respondents. 60% also indicated family commitment was a key contributing factor in their decision to be involved in the club in 2021.

80% of respondents who work in the evenings during the week also work in the weekends.

92% of respondents who indicated they are working during the week and in weekends also need to balance family and time restraints and/or family commitments.

Question 6. Do you believe the rugby league season was long enough?

● Yes 19
● No 22



Comments

Respondents that answered 'yes' to this question ranged from the Premier (Men's and Women's) grades to the juniors (5-12-year old grade). Respondents are made up of coaches, managers, trainers, players and club executives.

Respondents who did not think the season was long enough comprised of coaches, managers, trainers, club executives and players from the Women's Premier Grade. The youth 13's, 16's, 18's grade were represented with 14% and the Premier 2 grade (18%) were strongly represented.

14% respondents for Premier Men's grade are made of a coach and two club executives.

Question 7. Do you feel your Coach was suitably qualified for the team you were involved in?

● Yes 29
● No 9



Comments

Of the player responses received 33% indicated they felt their coach was not suitably qualified.

Question 8. Please rate your Coach on a scale of 1-5

Comments

Coaches scored an overall rating of 3.9% From a players perspective this was an average rating of 3.66%

Question 9. What was the one thing you enjoyed most about the season in 2021?



Comments

Summary of comments included: wahine league, the growth of the game, level of competition, shortened season, whānau, friendships and community, personal development as a coach, we got to play, support for one another and the sport, coaching, pathways and the club culture and environment.

Question 10. What is the one thing you had an issue with in 2021?



Comments

The key themes that emerged were: sideline behaviour, eligibility rules, lack of competition in the 15-18's, communication on the game draw, competition structure, lack of skills and knowledge in the game, standard of referring, COVID-19, length of the season, pathways, lack of resources (match managers, linesmen) and someone commented that their coach sucked.

Question 11. What is one of the key things you would like to see happen in rugby league in Wellington in 2022?



Comments

Summary of comments included: celebration of volunteers and the work that happens every week, similar format to 2021, strengthen the WRL Board, youth competition, longer season, development of volunteers, pre christmas communication on draw, improved standard of referring, junior girls initiative, pathway for boys and girls, college competition, expand the game, improve competition format, better social media content and Pacific Cup.

SUMMARY

The responses received from participants in the survey provide a summary of the insights captured. All participants chose to answer all of the questions asked which has resulted in 'comments' being included by those directly impacted by the question.

The survey is a tool in which Wellington Rugby League can further unpack the detail of the information provided as they prepare and plan for the upcoming 2022 season.



APPENDIX 1.

1. Please record the Club you are a member of

- Petone Panthers
- Porirua Vikings
- Randwick Kingfishers
- St George Dragons
- Te Aroha Eels
- Titahi Bay Marlins
- Toa Rugby League
- Trentham Titans
- Upper Hutt Tigers
- Victoria Hunters
- Wainuiomata Lions
- Whiti Te Ra Rugby League

2. How have you been involved in your Club in 2021?

- Player
- Coach, Manager, Trainer
- Club Executive
- Social Member
- A parent of a player

3. Which competition were you/your child involved in?

- Juniors 5 years - 9 years
- Juniors 10 years - 12 years
- Men's Premiership
- Women's Premiership
- Premier 2
- Masters
- 13's, 16's, 18's

Other

4. Please record your main reason(s) for you deciding to be involved with your club this year? *

Enter your answer

5. What were the things you had to take into consideration when making a decision to be involved with your club in 2021. *

- Work in the weekend
- During in the evening during the week
- Not being able to work because of possible injury
- Family commitments
- You level of fitness
- Your age
- Family and time restraints

6. Do you believe the season was long enough for the grade(s) you were involved in *

- Yes
- No

7. Do you feel your coach was suitably qualified for the team you were involved in? *

Yes

No

8. Please rate your coach on a scale of 1 - 5.

1 being not skilled enough - 5 being fully capable *



9. What was the one thing you enjoyed most about the season in 2021? *

Enter your answer

10. What is the one thing you had an issue with in 2021? *

Enter your answer

11. What is one of the key things you would like to see happen in Rugby League in Wellington in 2022.

Enter your answer



auahi kore
I ngā wā katoa

Ngā mihi nui to the clubs, coaches, managers, players and whānau involved in Wellington Rugby League for participating in the survey and contributing to this document.