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CAIRNS AIRPORT IRONMAN CAIRNS ASIA-PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIP RECEIVES COVID SAFE EVENT PLAN APPROVAL

Approved 2020 event to take place in Cairns on 27 September

Organisers of the Cairns Airport IRONMAN Cairns Asia-Pacific Championship have today confirmed that the 2020 event will take place on Sunday 27 September under an approved COVID Safe Event Plan, subject to any further changes in health orders.

In developing the COVID Safe Event Plan the IRONMAN Group has been working closely with stakeholders including several Queensland Government departments, local councils, Triathlon Australia and Triathlon Queensland, along with event contractors and suppliers.

The approved COVID Safe Event Plan has been developed to manage the risks associated with the transmission of the virus, and provide an opportunity for participants to take part in the popular event, with both IRONMAN and IRONMAN 70.3 distance events to take place on the same day.

Central to the event’s COVID Safe Event Plan is The IRONMAN Group’s COVID Safe Principles, which focus on tracing, education, enhanced hygiene, density reduction, touchpoint minimisation, athlete self-reliance and screening.

Dave Beeche, Senior Vice President and Managing Director of The IRONMAN Group Oceania, thanked the relevant authorities for their collaboration on the approved COVID Safe Event Plan.

“In developing our COVID Safe Event Plan we looked at all elements of the event, ensuring that we can deliver a great event for all participants while also looking after the health of participants and the community,” said Beeche. “I’d like to thank all of the stakeholders we worked with in developing the plan, their contribution has meant we’ve been able to get to this position.

“IRONMAN Cairns is an iconic event on the IRONMAN schedule and was named world’s best in 2018 and we’re thrilled that we’re in a position to have athletes take to the water and roads of Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef this September,” he said. “Our athletes are telling us they want to get out there and race again, and our team are equally excited that this is now a realistic possibility.”

Tourism Tropical North Queensland Chief Executive Officer Mark Olsen said it was good news that IRONMAN Cairns could go ahead and entice visitors to holiday in the region after the event.

“Sporting events like IRONMAN Cairns are a major drawcard for the region and bring welcome publicity for our stunning scenery and enviable lifestyle,” he said. “The World Heritage areas of Cairns and Great Barrier Reef offer adventurous activities like diving and mountain biking or the opportunity to unwind by swimming with turtles or being pampered in a rainforest spa.”

Cairns Mayor Bob Manning said that now more than ever it was crucial to showcase Cairns to the rest of the world through successful events such as IRONMAN Cairns.
“Our teams have been working with IRONMAN for months to ensure this year’s event can run as smoothly as possible providing a safe experience for both the competitors and spectators,” Cr Manning said. “I have the upmost confidence that this event will showcase our region at its best, with the reef and rainforest taking centre stage, enticing more people to visit and experience all we have to offer.”

Cairns Airport Chief Executive Officer Norris Carter welcomed confirmation that IRONMAN Cairns would proceed this year.

“We’re delighted that IRONMAN Cairns is going ahead. As the gateway to the region we’re looking forward to once again welcoming competitors and their families back to Cairns,” said Carter. “We’re pleased to continue our partnership with IRONMAN to showcase Cairns and Great Barrier Reef to the world.”

The Cairns Airport IRONMAN Cairns Asia Pacific Championship COVID Safe Event Plan has looked at all elements of the event, and changes will be implemented to meet The IRONMAN Group’s COVID Safe Principles. Some of these changes include 1.5 metre marked spacings wherever queuing occurs, contactless check-in and the elimination of non-essential processes. All athletes will also take part in a pre-event screening with medical staff.

The event will feature a new swim start, with four athletes starting every five seconds, allowing for four square metres per person. Changes implemented for the bike leg include the locating of aid stations in low density areas, with athletes encouraged to be more self-reliant on course, carrying their own hydration and nutrition during competition.

At the event finish line athletes will now receive their medals and towels as a bundle, which is collected from a table, rather than being presented to them as in the past, allowing for contactless celebrations.

The Cairns Airport IRONMAN Cairns Asia Pacific Championship is supported by the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland and features on the It’s Live! in Queensland events calendar.

For more information on the Cairns Airport IRONMAN Cairns Asia Pacific Championship visit https://www.ironman.com/im-cairns.

For more information contact:

Craig Heydon
craig.heydon@ironman.com
Public Relations & Media Director, IRONMAN Oceania
Mob: 0402 318 918