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Dear Mitch,

I hope this finds you well. Many of you will have missed your connection with the outdoors over the past few months, but I also know many of you kept busy with all kinds of crazy lockdown challenges! The good news is that while we've been hunkering down in our bubbles, the trails haven't gone anywhere and we are very excited about getting ready to open Tarawera Ultramarathon 2021 entries next week.

Following guidance from government health agencies, our team is working hard on creating a set of best-practice operating guidelines to ensure your event experience is a safe and enjoyable one. More information will be shared over the coming months about what you can expect to see and experience at the event.

Many elements of the event will remain the same next year, however, I wanted to highlight a few changes:

- **Date change** Race day is one week later than it has traditionally been and now takes place on Saturday 13th February.
- New Race Director We have a new Race Director for the event Sam Ellis. Sam has worked alongside me for the last 18 months and will do an excellent job in this role. Don't worry though, I am not going anywhere, I will now be fully focused on everything that happens between the start and finish line as the Course Director. You'll hear more from Sam going forward.
- Free Deferral If you enter the 100 Miler or 102km in the first 30 days (before midnight Friday 3 July 2020), you will be eligible for free deferral to the 2022 event. This means that for any reason you can't take part, e.g. availability of flights, someone in your family gets sick, or your best mate books their wedding on race day, as long as you let us know before 5 January 2021, we will defer your entry to the following year at no cost.

• Payment Plan - If you enter the 100 Miler or 102km in the first 30 days (before midnight Friday 3 July 2020). You can split your entry fee payment across three months. We know some of you will have been doing it tough recently, so we hope this helps ease the pain of committing a big lump sum in one go.

We also understand there will be some nervousness around entering events as there is still some uncertainty around Covid-19 restrictions. To help give you some peace of mind and the confidence to enter, we've answered the most common questions upfront:

- What if Tarawera Ultramarathon does not take place on 13 February 2021 for reasons relating to the Covid-19 Pandemic? Where possible, the event will be rescheduled, and if this happens all registered athletes will have their race registration automatically moved to the new date. We will provide as much notice as we can.
- What if I can't make a rescheduled date, I am unable to get to either the original event or a rescheduled event due to border restrictions, or if the event does not happen at all? Athletes will be offered an Event Credit to the value of your entry (including additional purchases). This Event Credit can be used on any of the IRONMAN Group's portfolio of events in New Zealand or Australia.

That's all from me for now, but **don't forget to set an alarm on your phone for 11 am NZT on Thursday 4 June** to get your entry in. We would love to see you on the start line next year. Until then - take care.

Take care, Tim Day, Course Director, Tarawera Ultramarathon





## **Payment Plan**

Register for the 100 Miler or 102km on or before midnight 3 July 2020 and you can elect to split your entry over three payments.



## Free Deferral

Register for the 100 Miler or 102km on or before midnight 3 July 2020 and you will qualify for Free Deferral to the 2022 event.

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