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Otago Daily Times

Thursday, 6 July 2023

Big blow for Heath

Ruby Heath. PHOTO: GERARD O'BRIEN

Ruby Heath's World Beach Games dream has been dealt a crushing blow.

The World Beach Games, scheduled to get under way next month, have been cancelled after Bali pulled out of hosting it.

It left the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) not enough time to find an alternative venue, forcing the event to be scrapped.

"It is with great surprise and extreme disappointment that ANOC has learnt that the Indonesian Olympic Committee has withdrawn from its commitment to host the ANOC World Beach Games and the ANOC General Assembly," the ANOC said in a statement.

"With the games scheduled to take place in one month, the decision at such late notice prevents ANOC from being able to find an alternative host.

"So there is no option but to cancel this year's edition of the games."

New Zealand was set to send 25 athletes to the games, competing in open water swimming, beach water polo, beach sprint rowing, and wing foil racing.

Dunedin swimmer Heath, who would have been competing in her first games, had been selected for the 5km open water swim.

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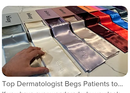

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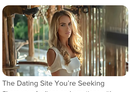

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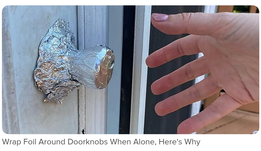

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