

21st July 2021

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Dear Members

In our last communication we confirmed that a decision had been made to lift the suspension in respect of provincial and recreational shows but that a further communication would be issued once we had received clarity on the directions published by the Minister of Sports, Art and Culture, which appear to place more onerous obligations on show holding bodies, venues, and participants than those published by the Minister of Health.

On Monday afternoon the Minister of Sports, Art and Culture published further directions under GN 635 correcting the errors identified in the previous directions. Given the additional obligations our members will have to comply with, SASJ again sought clarity as to whether these directions apply to all sporting bodies. Unfortunately, no clarity has been received. SASJ is continuing to seek clarity but in the meantime, for those show holding bodies who will be hosting shows over the next few weeks and for all those participating, please TAKE SPECIAL NOTE:

According to Gen. Notice 635:

1. the Compliance Officer of a sport or recreational body must submit to the Department of Sports, Art and Culture a bio-safe environment proposal in strict compliance with Protocols made by a Cabinet Member responsible for Health and in keeping with international best practice, which the Department, after consideration and the addition of further requirements of necessary, must approve. For the purposes of this requirement:
  - A sports body is defined as including any national federation, agency, club, or body involved in the administration of sport or recreation at local, provincial, or national level.
  - The Bio-safe environment is defined as a safe and secure environment that can only be accessed by a certain set of people who have tested negative for COVID-19 to minimize the risk of transmission of the coronavirus from one person to another during the course of the event.

SASJ has requested SAEF as the national federation to submit a bio-safe environment proposal to the Department. In the interim, SASJ recommends that show holding bodies and

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venues limit entry to the event to those persons who can provide a negative COVID-19 test result produced not more than 72 hours prior to entry to the venue.

2. The Proposal and Protocols submitted by the Sport Bodies and approved by the Department as part of the Return to Train and Play remain in effect. The Proposal submitted by the SAEF, together with updates, can be located on the SAEF website under the tab 'News' and 'Coronavirus Updates'.
3. Sporting events are required to take place in strict compliance with COVID-19 regulations. Show holding bodies and venues that host shows and are found to be in contravention of these regulations are subject to fines and/or imprisonment. In addition, any person who attends a show as a spectator (which includes anyone who cannot satisfactorily justify their presence at the show) and the show holding body and venue that allowed such person into the venue, commit an offence and will be liable, on conviction, for fines and/or imprisonment. SASJ urges all its members to abide by and respect the NO SPECTATOR rule. This includes leaving the venue as soon as riders have finished competing, not congregating at food outlets and arenas, and abiding by a request to leave the venue made by the show holding body or its employees.

We will continue to seek clarity in relation to testing requirements and will share with all our members any further developments as they become known.

SASJ Exco

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