
16 July 2020

Dear SASJ Members

We as the National Council of South Africa Show Jumping have been trying to hold our Annual General Meeting since November last year but due to repeated interference by SAEF we have been forced to postpone it on numerous occasions. During the Covid 19 National Lockdown SAEF attempted to push through some constitutional changes via an online meeting, this was for us the last straw and we decided to seek legal assistance.

We engaged the services of a respected Senior Counsel Advocate to assess our situation with regards to our relationship with SAEF and the relationship between our constitutions. In addition we requested that the SC look at the makeup of the SAEF Council and the means by which it was constituted i.e. the creation and inclusion of voting SAEF districts that had the effect of diluting our voting rights. SAEF drew up a voting 'White Paper' which was in direct contradiction of our constitution and have tried to force us to implement it, thus the conflict over the votes for the National Exco. Safe to say the feedback from our legal team is that SAEF have acted outside of their mandate and that we are within our rights to proceed with our AGM and elections in terms of our own constitution. In this regard we have issued via our attorney a letter to SAEF which is self-explanatory and attached hereto.

We would like to make it clear that although we recognize the need for National Sporting Federations, their function is one of a 'post box' for the Sporting bodies or disciplines, this was clearly outlined in meetings between us SAEF and SASCOC in 2016. You will see from the letter that in terms of the SAEF constitution their ordinary members are the disciplines and the disciplines should all pay the same fees as they all have the same standing and voting rights, as it is in the FEI for example. SAEF however collects a membership fee from all of SASJ's ordinary members and collectively gives us the same vote as disciplines with only a few members, it must be one or the other.

I hope this provides some clarity as to what has been happening over the last few months with regards to the elections and other issues with our Federation. We as your Council just want to be left alone to administer our sport in a responsible and accountable fashion without the constant interference of the Federation and/or its office bearers. We are in the process of scheduling a new AGM at which a new EXCO will be voted in, I and some of the other members are not standing for re-election and we would like to wish the new committee all the best for their tenure.

Regards

Pierre Lepart
SASJ President