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Dear Members

Re: Update on National and Regional Events

The de facto national lockdown to slow down the spread of COVID-19 has caused significant disruption to our daily lives and have impacted on the South African sporting calendar, but exceptional circumstances call for exceptional measures. Decisive action is essential to protect human health and life, and socio-economic sustainability. SASHOC therefore supports the measures announced by President Ramaphosa and SAHA.

This places an enormous responsibility on us to provide good leadership, and to support our members and players during this difficult time. We have a vital role to play, and we will fulfil this role with a high level of commitment and to the best of our ability.

The continued health and safety of our players and officials is therefore critical. None of us have faced a challenge of this type and magnitude before. Our thoughts are also with you as our regions during this difficult time. We encourage you to continue the postponement of all games and training sessions as part of limiting possible exposure to the corona virus.

We are working with SA Hockey and her Federations to coordinate efforts, and to make a contribution to the public health response where we can. While we don't know what the eventual, impact of the virus will be, the crisis is severe enough to know that the impact on sport activity, the academic programme and hockey communities is going to be profound.

The Federation presidents with all the affiliates are tele-conferencing again on the 16th April to assess the countries response. I have asked the Event portfolio to communicate with all LOC's to get their response on the indefinite postponement of all events, until we are safe from spreading this pandemic. I have no doubt that the completion of the academic year will be a priority in all schools. Concerns are expressed that regions will not have enough time to prepare teams, organize transport and the affordability of parents having not worked during this time could all impact on the decision to continue with events.

I caution regions not to commit to any financial planning without deferment / guarantees or insurance on possible cancelations. The road ahead is going to be tough, but I have no doubt that if all of us pull together and play our part, we will prevail.

Regards

W.G. Domingo