



## SWIMMING SOUTH AFRICA

(Affiliated to SASCOC, CANA & FINA)

# **SSA DIRECTIVE: ENSURING A SAFE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF MEMBERS**

**SSA COVID-19 Directive 01**

09 June 2020

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This directive must be read together with the Swimming South Africa Covid - 19 Update 5: Preparation for Return to Swimming, published on 04 June 2020.

Reference is made to the media briefing by the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Mr Nkosinathi Emmanuel 'Nathi' Mthethwa, presented on 30 May 2020. This briefing dealt with the Draft directions for the resumption of sport activities during COVID-19 Lockdown Alert Level 3.

Before the first cases of COVID-19 being diagnosed in South Africa in early March, the South African government introduced steps to mitigate the effects of the disease. By 17 March 2020, the government announced regulations under the Disaster Management Act, 2002, and these were amended subsequently for the implementation of the “lockdown”. New regulations came into effect on 1 May 2020, based on the government’s Risk Adjustment Strategy, announcing the Alert level 4, and on 1 June 2020, the Alert Level 3. While all forms of sport were suspended under Alert levels 5 and 4. The Draft directions as announced by Minister Mthethwa on 30 May 2020 makes provision for sport to resume under certain conditions under Alert level 3.

As indicated by the SSA President, Mr Alan Fritz on 04 June 2020 (in update 5) that in anticipation of the approval of the directions, it is important for Swimming South Africa to proactively prepare for the return to activities in a phased approach. This while maintaining and complying with the requirements of the regulations currently in effect. SSA, as the Association responsible for all aquatic and its disciplines in the country, has identified the need to protect its members from adverse health effects of exposure to the virus, and to sustain the financial interests of its members. SSA recognizes that its members need to meet the regulations applicable to sport, and as many members operate as businesses, workplace regulations as well. To that effect SSA is issuing this directive in anticipation of the direction for Sport being Gazetted.

## 2. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

There are several regulations legally binding on members. This directive is primarily intended to meet the directions of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC) “*Extension of term of office of councils and boards of public entities and suspension of sport, arts and cultural events as measures to prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19*” and the *Draft Directive as announced by Minister Mthethwa*.” This SSA directive will be updated once the direction for the resumption of sport activities during COVID-19 Alert Level 3 is published in the Government Gazette (including when directions for Alert level 2 and 1 are issued).

In addition, the following documents apply as appropriate (or their amended versions as these become available to all members).

1. The Disaster Management Act, 2002: Amendment of Regulations issued in terms of Section 27(2): (the “Alert Level 3 Regulations”)
2. The Department of Health: COVID-19 Disease: Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines Version 2 (21st May 2020)
3. Department of Employment and Labour. Covid-19 Occupational health and safety measures in workplaces COVID-19 (C19 OHS), 2020.
4. Department of Trade and Industry: appropriate Directions when announced for Schools or other affiliated entities registered with DTI.
5. Department of Health: Guidelines for symptom monitoring and management of essential workers for COVID-19 related infection
6. Department of Health: Guidance on vulnerable employees and workplace accommodation in relation to COVID-19 (25 May 2020)
7. Department of Health: Guidance note for workplaces in the event of identification of a COVID-19 positive employee (14 May 2020)

## 3. DEFINITIONS

“**COVID-19**” means the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCov2) which is an infectious disease caused by a virus that has previously not been scientifically identified in humans, which emerged during and was declared a global pandemic by the WHO in 2020.

**“Member”** means the individual members of clubs, districts, affiliates, associates, honorary members, life members and those persons deemed to be members of SSA in terms of clause 5.0 of the SSA Constitution.

**“facility personnel”** means persons that are required to maintain the working order of the facility that it meets the necessary requirements for use by the individual members of the Club or Swim School.

**“PPE”** means personal protective equipment.

**“professional athletes”** means a player who is registered with the code of sport for a sporting event.

**“professional non-contact sport”** means an elite sport whereby athletes or players are physically separated such as to make it nearly impossible for them to make physical contact during the course of a game or training in preparation for Olympics, international championships, national qualifying championships, local professional leagues at club, provincial and national level excluding combat sport.

**“screening”** means the process to separate those who are well from those who are potentially infected through the recording of a specific set of symptoms as defined by the Department for Health.

**“support staff”** means technical official, coach, assistant coach, kit manager, physio, medical officer, driver, and security personnel.

**“virus”** means the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

**“worker”** means a person who does a specified type of work or who works in a specified way (including a volunteer).

**“workplace”** means any premises or place where a person performs work.

**“vulnerable person”** means any person, as contemplated in the Department of Health Guidelines, who:

- if infected with COVID-19, is at a higher risk of complications or death than other persons,
- has a known or disclosed health issue or comorbidity or any other condition;  
or
- is 60 years and older.

#### **4. SCOPE OF THIS DIRECTIVE**

This Directive will apply to ALL provincial affiliates, associate members, and other members whose capitation obligations have been met for the 2020-21 financial year. Members in default will be given a specified time to restore their membership status, until which time, SSA will provide no oversight or approval for training, lessons, competition or working activities of said member.

Under Level 3, the directions indicate that professional athletes are permitted to train and compete. Under conditions in which the athlete conducts such activities outside the confines of the District/Club or School, this directive will apply to the individual.

In the event of any member organizing a competitive activity, this Directive will also apply.

#### **5. RESPONSIBILITY OF SWIMMING SOUTH AFRICA**

As part of this directive, SSA will appoint a COVID-19 Compliance Officer. The Compliance Officer will assume oversight for the implementation of this directive by SSA members and will account to the SSA Executive Committee (through the CEO, SASCOC and DSAC). It will include the satisfaction of Members with the relevant legally binding conditions, as well as the levels of protection of the health of Members and the safety of training, competition and working environments.

SSA will have as a minimum requirement that all members establish a Code of Practice (COP) relevant to its activities. These different COP's will be reviewed and if meeting the requirements set out in this directive, will be endorsed by SSA. This endorsement will be submitted to SASCOC and DSAC, which provides the member with permission to conduct their activity.

## **6. SETTING UP CODE OF PRACTICE (COP)**

All affiliates will be required to set up COP's that will be ratified by SSA and be made publicly available to its members. These COP's must include the items included in this Directive.

## **7. REQUIREMENTS OF COPs PROVINCIAL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

The Provincial affiliate and Associate Member COP need to provide an instruction to its members, to ensure compliance with this directive. The Provincial Affiliate and the Associate Member will be delegated the oversight responsibility by SSA to apply and enforce this directive among its members. The Provincial Affiliate and Associate Member will be required to provide an initial and thereafter monthly report on compliance or not of members to this directive.

The Provincial Affiliate and Associate Member will be required to adhere to the following obligations:

1. Development of a COP for its Swim School and Club members.
2. Appointment and terms of reference of the Provincial COVID-19 Compliance Officer.
3. Monitoring of and compliance to these directions and the promulgated regulations by its members.
4. Management of competitions in the context of COVID-19 regulations and directions issued by the DSAC.
5. Regular reporting of its COVID-19 Management to SSA

The Code of Practice for each Provincial Affiliate and Associate Member must as a minimum the following, which form the basis of the SOP of Clubs and Swim Schools:

## **8. PLAN FOR RE-OPENING THE TRAINING VENUE**

### **8.1. The appointment of the COVID-19 Compliance Officer for the training venue**

### **8.2. Administrative Measures, which will include:**

- 8.1.1 The conduct of a risk assessment
- 8.1.2 The daily screening procedure
- 8.1.3 A facility isolation procedure
- 8.1.4 Management of vulnerable persons
- 8.1.5 Management of persons who become symptomatic or testing positive
- 8.1.6 Strategies for reducing numbers of persons at facilities,
- 8.1.7 social distancing and sanitisation procedures
- 8.1.8 facility cleaning procedures

### **8.3. Health Management at the training venue (facility) which will include**

- 8.2.1 Screening at the facility
- 8.2.2 Management of a person presenting with symptoms at the facility, including quarantine, referral for medical assistance and testing
- 8.2.3 Management of a person testing positive at the facility, including facility assessment and contact tracing
- 8.2.4 Management of a person returning to the facility post-COVID-19 infection
- 8.2.5 Management of a person in contact with a positive case at the facility

### **8.4. Social distancing and cloth mask measures which will include**

- 8.4.1. Social distancing at training, instructions, and lessons
- 8.4.2. Physical barriers where possible if social distance not possible
- 8.4.3. Management in communal areas (canteens, toilets, change rooms etc)
- 8.4.4. Use of cloth masks

## **8.5. Sanitizers, disinfectants, and other measures which will include**

- 8.5.1. Hand washing facilities
- 8.5.2. Provision of hand sanitisers
- 8.5.3. Disinfection and sanitising of surfaces

## **8.6. Facility Cleaning which will include**

- 8.6.1. Cleaning schedules
- 8.6.2. Timesheets
- 8.6.3. Areas and surfaces to be cleaned

## **8.7. Transportation of athletes**

## **8.8. Monitoring and Compliance will deal with the reporting requirements from Swim Schools and Clubs to the Provincial Affiliates**

## **8.9. Requirements for Competition**

# **9. REQUIREMENTS OF SOPs AT CLUB LEVELS**

Each Club or Swim School affiliated to a Provincial Affiliate must have a formal written Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in place, signed off by the Provincial affiliate and available for scrutiny by clients of the Swim School, Club members, and relevant municipal, provincial authorities and SGB's. It is the responsibility of the Provincial Affiliate to define the contents of the SOP within its Code of Practice.

# **10. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this will include any updated information from time to time and once the Direction for the resumption of sport activities during COVID-19 Alert Level 3 is published in the Government Gazette.