



8<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

Dear MIC's, Coaches and Water Polo Administrators,

Western Province Schools Water Polo (WPSWP) would like to take this opportunity to update member schools on water polo activities allowed within the Regulations and Directives issued under the State of Disaster Management Act.

As you are aware, the country is currently under an amended Alert Level 3. In terms of these regulations and according to the directives related to Education issued on 23 June 2020, school sports are prohibited. Until further communication from the Department of Basic Education (DBE) we are of the opinion that these regulations currently stand.

However, several directives relating to the Department of Sport and Recreation were issued including the requirement for our sports federation, Swimming South Africa (SSA or the Federation), to submit a plan on how the Federation would resume activities during the previous Alert Level 3. These were accepted and SSA resumed with activities on 1 July 2020.

One of the regulatory requirements for the return to activities was that the athlete, coach or official must be a member of a Sporting body – in this case Swimming South Africa. It was thus necessary to establish a working relationship between Clubs and SSA to ensure that as many players as possible are allowed to resume activities with full adherence to all regulatory requirements and strict health and safety protocols.

When the country proceeded to Alert Level 1, directives related to schools were issued by the DBE on 21 October 2020. In terms of these directives, *"contact sport training may resume; provided that all social distancing, hygiene and safety measures are observed and that there is no physical contact between participants during training"* (10B). Additionally, the conditions for return to activity as determined by SSA also applied, in part, to schools return to activity.

Currently, the guidance for teams to play water polo is outside of the authority of WPSWP until the DBE issue an updated gazette changing the current status quo. Schools and school teams will therefore need to wait for the DBE to issue updated directives before school teams return to play.

We are however aware that there are many Clubs that operate from various school's premises. The return to activity requirements for Clubs are issued through SSA but it remains the prerogative of the school to decide, subject to the protocols as laid out by SSA, to allow Clubs to use the facilities provided by the school in accordance with regulations determined by the DBE.

For your information, the current COVID-19 protocol requirements for venues and the registration process for all contact tracing for any Club or school's return to activity as issued by SSA have been appended to this letter.

For any queries, please email [alisonwpswp@gmail.com](mailto:alisonwpswp@gmail.com)

Yours in polo,

Anton Botha  
Chairperson



Anton Botha (Chairperson), Julian Vincent (Vice), Brent Wiltshire, Bryan Punt, Kevin Adriaan, Ryan Weideman, Wizz Good, Ali Riley Nielsen (Secretary)

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