



SOUTH AFRICAN BIATHLON ASSOCIATION SUID-AFRIKAANSE TWEEKAMP VERENIGING

'A truly South African family sport.'

Nuusbrief 1 / 2017/18

Beste Tweekampfamilie

Na 'n BAIE suksesvolle SA Tweekampkampioenskappe (BAIE dankie Len en die Bolandspan) het almal sekerlik 'n ruskansie geniet of betrokke gewees by wintersport. Maar..... die lente is met ons en almal begin weer swem en hardloop. Die seisoen het alreeds afgeskop met 'n paar provinsies wat al byeenkomste gehou het. Die eerste interprovinsiale byeenkomste word op 7 Oktober 2017 in Bloemfontein deur Archie en Suid-Vrystaat aangebied en op 28 Oktober deur Pierre en oostelike Provinsie. Hulle het alreeds uitnodigings uitgestuur (aangeheg). Dit is die ideale geleentheid om spanne solank gereed te kry, skole betrokke te kry en atlete weer opgewonde te maak vir die nuwe seisoen se uitdagings.

The SA Biathlon Management Committee held their Mid-term Meeting on 2 September 2017. I will send the minutes soon. We had fruitful discussions on a range of issues and you will be informed of this in the next letter. The following aspects, though, need your urgent attention.

POINTS TABLES

With the advantage of hindsight and with an additional SA Championships to fine tune the comparative aspect of the points, we adapted the points for some of the age groups. As per the AGM's motion, the following adjustments are suggested for the upcoming season:

- Average adjustments (This adjustment will be made on a bi-annual basis if needed):
For this season, the only adjustment is for the u/9's. The reason is that we used Highgate u/9 times for the base for this age group and this was too low, resulting in too high scores for the u/9's.
- Technical adjustments:
The u/19 boys' times have been adjusted to agree with the u/17 boys.
The Junior Vets' times have been adjusted to continue with the Seniors' times.
The Vets' times have been adjusted to take the bonus points between age groups into account and therefore does not put a Vet in his/her 1st year as a Vet in a worst position than he/she was in the last year as a Junior Vet.

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Attached, you will find the updated / revised Points Table to be used as well as a document explaining the computer changes. Please phone Johan Ferreira if you need any guidance on this.

We are also busy with the development of a new Computer Programme. The new programme will have the option for athletes of any province to take part at any province's league meetings. Points will be available for team selections at the Home Province's discretion. SA Biathlon will fund the programme to reduce additional costs for provinces. This programme will cover all our latest needs and requirements including the Schools Competition. We will keep you updated on the progress.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS COMPETITION

The SA Biathlon Association decided to pilot a SA Schools Biathlon League during the 2016/2017 season. The Southern Regions pilot this competition in their respective regions and the three top high schools and three top primary schools in each of the Provinces qualified to participate at the Highgate Interprovincial Championship in Oudtshoorn on 4 February 2017. This was presented and discussed at the AGM and will now be implemented nationally.

Attached, please find two very important documents:

- A letter, addressed to the Principal or Head of Sport at schools, explaining the whole concept, procedure, regions and age groups. This is also for your information.
- A summary of the National Schools Competition including the format of the competition, which should be attached to the letter when distributed.

Hisense is the sponsor of the Interprovincial Championships trophies and Sportsmans Warehouse will supply the vouchers for the first three high and primary schools, while Spur or Sportsmans Warehouse will be the sponsor of the National Championship. Each province will confirm specific information regarding registration, membership fees, selection criteria, season program, etc.

Biathlon friends – this competition is really an innovative way to bring excitement and more athletes to our sport. Please advocate this and start organising your league meetings in this format. Those who attended the Highgate Meeting can attest to the success of this competition – and you will also see the spike in athlete participation in the provinces who already pilot this. We look forward to this initiative and hope that schools and athletes will grab this opportunity to show their mettle against other schools!

BIATHLON ANNUAL PROGRAMME FOR 2017; 2018 AND 2019:

Please find information on the the dates, venues, host province and contact person for the SA Biathlon Inter-Provincial Meetings and SA Championships. Some of the 2018 dates must still be confirmed. Also attached is the 2018 School Calender – note

that all provinces (coastal and inland) will have the same calendar for 2018. We discussed the dates for the SA Championships in 2018 and agreed that the Easter Weekend – which will be the first weekend of the holidays – will be the best time for the Championships. Johan van de Venter has arranged everything accordingly, but the confirmation of bookings in some cases will only be done in October.

A crucial part will be the three regional Interprovincial competitions (IP) for the three regions during February 2018. South has been doing this already in February in Oudtshoorn and 2018 has been confirmed, North is busy arranging their meeting and we just need to discuss the host and other aspects with the Central region.

During the SA Management Meeting we decided to compile a program of all events planned by provinces during the coming season and have it available on the SA website in a combined planner for the year. This will help athletes to participate in other provinces and to have an overview of all planned events for the year/season. Len already requested provinces to provide him with their programmes (e-mail attached) and most complied.

FINANCES

Dear friends – at the AGM I made a (passionate!) plea that provinces must honour their commitments and be honest with numbers and amounts. You cannot collect monies and then not transfer it as should be done. We have gone into extreme measures at National level to reduce costs and save money and will not propose any changes in the funds to be paid over to SA Biathlon – it is the same since 2015.

Die volgende tabel bevestig die jaargelde, registrasiekostes, inskrywingsoorbetalings en kapitalisering van fondse:

Jaargeld per Provinsie	Minimum betaling vir 100 of minder as 100 atlete – R500 p.j. vir Provinsiale registrasie en R1000 p.j. vir atlete se registrasie:	R1 500
Registrasie per atleet	Registrasie per atleet vir elke atleet meer as 100 atlete:	R10 per atleet p.j.
Kapitalisering	Inskrywingsoorbetalings: Interprovinsiale byeenkomste deur gasheerprovinsie:	R20 per atleet per byeenkoms
	Inskrywingsoorbetalings: SA Kampioenskappe deur gasheerprovinsie:	R25 per atleet vir byeenkoms
Gelde word oorbetalings soos volg:	Eerste betaling aan die einde van Oktober van die nuwe seisoen:	Eerste R1000
	Tweede betaling aan die einde van Januarie van dieselfde seisoen:	Min. R500 en die res vir meer as 100 atlete
	Interprovinsiale byeenkomste en SAs:	Binne 2 weke na byeenkoms

Please pay the funds as required on time.

CONTACT DETAIL

I also attach the SA Biathlon Address List with the last information as I had it – please check and submit any changes. I will also soon request chairpersons to submit specific documents as proof of various activities in the province, like minutes of the AGM, Chairperson's Annual report, Annual Financial Statements, list of all members of the provincial committee, annual plan, etc.

IN CONCLUSION

Please ensure that you get going for the new season and build a network with all your schools. It is vital to get the schools to buy in on the new schools competition and to get involved. Get a teacher from each school to act as a liaison officer for Biathlon and involve him / her in all your meetings and competitions. And do not forget about the 'old' faithful athletes and families – they are crucial in ensuring our sport grows and thrives.

Beste wense vir die seisoen. Ek glo elke provinsie gaan groei toon hierdie jaar.

Tweekampgroete

BLACKIE SWART

President: SA Biathlon Association / SA Tweekampvereniging

