

21 July 2015



**SOUTH AFRICAN  
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

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**TO :** All SAFA Members  
SAFA NEC Members

**FROM :** Chief Executive Officer

**RE : THE NEXT STEPS FOR THE SAFA SCHOOLS FOOTBALL PROGRAMME**

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### **29 March 2015 Extraordinary Congress**

Our Association held an Extraordinary Congress on Sunday, 29 March 2015 to consider constitutional changes agreed with Government and SASCOC, those mandated by FIFA and others mandated by our Members in order to update our Statutes to reflect the current reality of our organisation.

We are pleased to report that the Extraordinary Congress took a few ground-breaking decisions, the following being amongst the key decisions taken:

1. That schools football must be placed directly under the control of the Association and that the Association partner with Government and align with the National Sports & Recreation Plan and the Minister's Schools Sports Programme;
2. That we need to devolve more authority to the 9 geopolitical provinces as demarcated by our Government;
3. That special emphasis be placed on gender representation at all levels of our football structures;
4. Congress was motivated by the fact that a relatively small number of schools around the country had football programmes and that it was important to establish programmes in all of the country's 27,000 schools, including the former Model C schools where little or no football programmes exist;
5. SAFA Members also felt that this would increase the talent pool to 60,000 youth teams for boys and girls and present a greater chance of unearthing football talent in the country;
6. It was also imperative for the Association to establish football leagues in the schools system and move away from the knockout competition system that was so prevalent throughout the system. Using the league format will expose more players to consistent football competition and raise the standard tremendously. Only SAFA has the reach to implement a league system uniformly throughout the country.

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Danny JORDAAN (President), Elvis SHISHANA (VP), Irvin KHOZA (VP), Lucas NHLAPO (VP), Dennis A. MUMBLE (CEO/General Secretary)

**National List Members:** Truman PRINCE, Nomsa MAHLANGU, Aubrey BAARTMAN, Poobalan GOVINDASAMY, Gladwin WHITE, Xolile NKOMPELA, Ria LEDWABA, Anastasia TSICHLAS, Norman ARENDSE, Kwenzakwakhe NGWENYA

**Provincial List Members:** David BANTU, Peter MANCHONYANE, Mzimkhulu NDLELO, Mzimkhulu FINA, Letima MOGOROSI, Mzwandile MAFORVANE, Abel RAKOMA, Jack MALULEKE, Velaphi KUBEKA, Simphiwe XABA, William MOOKA, Anthony REEVES, David ZULU, Thamsanqa MOKOENA, Gerald DON, Mlungisi BUSHWANA, Paseka NKONE, Monde MONTSHIWA

**League Members:** Mato MADLALA, Stanley MATTHEWS, Kaizer MOTAUNG

**Honorary Members:** Molefi OLIPHANT (Honorary Life President), Lesole GADINABOKAO (Honorary President), Motebang MOSESE (Honorary Life Member)

The practical implication of the 29 March 2015 Extraordinary Congress decision is that the South African Schools Football Association (SASFA) no longer carries a mandate from the South African Football Association to organise schools football under the Association's authority.

### **Post-Congress Efforts to Engage SASFA**

SASFA was invited to participate in the schools football transformation and the transfer to the Association, but rejected SAFA's decision outright.

Instead, SASFA's delegation to a meeting with SAFA summarily dismissed the Association's decision, bluntly directing the SAFA Delegation to "inform your principals that we reject the SAFA Congress decision and you must rescind it."

### **Special Meeting of All Regional Presidents and Schools Football Coordinators**

Following SASFA's rejection of the Congress decision, the Association therefore deemed it necessary to convene another national meeting of all of its Members on Saturday, 27 June 2015 to chart the next steps to ensure the full implementation of Resolution #29 of the 29 March 2015 Extraordinary Congress.

At the 27 June 2015 meeting, Members unanimously decided to proceed with greater speed with the implementation of Resolution #29 of the Extraordinary Congress held on 29 March 2015 in Nelspruit.

The following decisions were taken at the 27 June 2015 National Consultative Meeting:

- A Schools Football Standing Committee must be created to oversee the implementation of football in schools across the country;
- Regions must immediately convene consultative meetings with all schools in their jurisdiction with a view to establishing structured schools football programmes everywhere;
- That Regions appoint a Regional Schools Football Coordinator to coordinate all LFA Schools Football Coordinators;
- Appoint a Schools Football Coordinator in each Local Football Association (LFA);
- Conduct a survey of all schools in each LFA with a view to assessing the state of schools football in the LFA (and thereby in the Region itself);
- That Head Office must consult with all existing sponsors of schools football to integrate their existing programmes into the new schools football structure at Regional and LFA level;
- All Regions/LFAs must conduct a survey and inform Head Office (Mr Thomas Sadiki @ [thomas.sadiki@safa.net](mailto:thomas.sadiki@safa.net)) of the following:
  - # of schools in their area of jurisdiction;
  - # of fields at each school (if no field, the site available to the school);
  - # of referees available for service to the school league in the LFA/Region;
  - # of coaches and their qualifications and the training requirements going forward;
  - # of schools football administrators to coordinate the schools football programmes;

### **Recent Events**

The Association has noted with keen interest that SASFA has convened many meetings around the country wherein it has informed its Members and some SAFA Members that the Association based its decision on false premises:

- That the Association was mandated by Government to take over schools football;
- That the decision was the work of the SAFA President;
- That it had the power to overrule the SAFA Congress and renegotiate the decision of Congress;
- That the Association was seeking to disrupt the schools football programme;
- That the decision to take direct control of schools football was unconstitutional;
- That the Association wanted to wish SASFA away;
- That SASFA is the only body recognised by Sport & Recreation South Africa and the Department of Basic Education to run schools football in the country.

Whilst we will not go into detail on each and every point raised by SASFA in their media statements and on other platforms, Members are advised of the following:

- i. SAFA was **not** instructed by Government to take over schools football. Instead, SAFA fully supported the Minister of Sport and Recreation’s call to expand the reach of football into all of the 27,000 schools around the country and deemed it advisable to do so by integrating schools football into its own structures by withdrawing the license for SASFA to oversee schools football and granting it to its own Regional Members around the country;
- ii. The decision was unanimously approved by the SAFA Extraordinary Congress on 29 March 2015, with the SASFA General Secretary thanking Members for their support over the years and appealing to SAFA Members to ensure a smooth transition. It was therefore not a decision of the SAFA President, but a unanimous Congress decision;
- iii. The National Consultative Meeting with Regional Presidents and Schools Football Coordinators on 27 June 2015 unanimously confirmed their support for the decision of the SAFA Congress of 29 March 2015 and called for swift action to implement the resolution to take over schools football;
- iv. The Association cannot wish SASFA away. On the contrary, SASFA is a separate juristic entity with its own personality and stated objectives. They can just not organise schools football under the authority of the Association as the license for them to do so has now been withdrawn by unanimous decision of Congress – the highest decision-making body of the Association. SASFA, by virtue of acceptance of membership of SAFA agreed to abide by the decisions of the Association and will be expected to comply. No other organ of the Association is empowered to overrule a decision of Congress;
- v. SASFA represented our sporting code on the Joint National Task Team on School Sport by virtue of an empowering mandate from SAFA, who is the only body recognised by the South African Government as representing the sporting code. The Task Team was set up by the Departments of Sport & Recreation (SRSA) and Basic Education (DBE).

On 2 July 2015, SAFA wrote to SRSA to formally withdraw that mandate given to SASFA to represent our sporting code on the Joint National Task Team on School Sport, in line with the 29 March 2015 decision of Congress;

- vi. The Association did not single out SASFA for special treatment. The re-examination of the role of Associate Members in the Association was first raised by some Regions as far back as the 2011 Annual Congress.

The matter was again raised in the August 2013 Extraordinary Congress and the proposals were deferred to a special constitutional Congress at a later date. The same matter arose again in 2014 when more Regions raised the matter about the continued relevance of a number of Associate Members.

During the debate in the National Membership Workshop on Saturday, 28 March 2015, the matter was once again raised. The Association therefore wrote to all Associate Members after the 29 March 2015 Extraordinary Congress to inform that all Associate Members' relevance will be reviewed as per the decision of the 29 March 2015 Extraordinary Congress.

### **The Next Steps**

All SAFA Regional Members are therefore expected to do the following with immediate effect and to inform Head Office of their progress in this regard:

- i. Establish a Regional Schools Football Committee;
- ii. Appoint a Regional Schools Football Coordinator to administer Schools Football in the Region;
- iii. Mandate all LFAs to establish Schools Football Committees in their structures;
- iv. Mandate all LFAs to appoint LFA Schools Football Coordinators to administer schools football in their areas;
- v. Conduct a survey of schools football programmes and facilities and forward the information requested above to Head Office by 30 August 2015. The survey form is attached in Word format for easy completion;
- vi. Establish LFA schools football leagues;
- vii. Establish a Regional Schools Football Championship to determine the best schools football team in the Region;
- viii. Mandate all LFAs to pick an LFA Schools Football Select Team comprising the best players from the Schools Football Leagues in the LFA;
- ix. Develop special training programmes for the Select Teams from the LFAs;
- x. Pick a Regional Schools Football Select Team to represent the Region at the Provincial Schools Football Championship and to participate in the DBE/SRSA schools football programmes;
- xi. All Provincial Executive Committees (PECs) are asked to establish Schools Football Committees and to access support from Provincial Governments, corporates and others to support a Provincial Schools Football structure (Provincial Championship, Provincial Select Team, etc).
- xii. All PECs are asked to appoint a Provincial Schools Football Coordinator who must serve on the PEC to ensure implementation of the Schools Football programme.

By establishing these structures and programmes, we will ensure that the best players from our school system will be selected to represent their respective areas at the National School Sports Championship. Our National Teams will also benefit immensely from the establishment of these programmes and structures.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Association has adopted the principle that teachers must be the primary drivers of the Schools Football Programme and Members are advised to appoint active teachers in this regard. Any exceptions to this rule must be endorsed by the Regional

Executive Committee and Head Office must be informed of same immediately as a means of ensuring the principle is applied.

### **Timelines**

We ask that all Members engage the schools in their areas of jurisdiction with immediate effect and ensure that no disruptions occur by constructively engaging DBE and schools in their areas to ensure that the maximum benefit accrues to the children involved in these programmes.

All information requested above and through the Membership Affairs Department must be forwarded to Head Office by no later than 30 August 2015.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Schools Football will finalise the handover from SASFA and complete its work by 30 September 2015 and hand over to the envisaged Standing Committee on Schools Football. The Standing Committee will then commence preparation for the National Schools Sports Championship scheduled for December 2015.

### **Financial Support**

The Association is finalising discussions with a sponsor for the schools football programme and will make an announcement to this effect in the very near future. However, we ask that this should not hold up any of the efforts we outlined above.

The Association has also initiated discussions with SRSA and CATHSSETA (the sports sector education and training authority) to accelerate the development of schools coaching and refereeing development programmes to meet the anticipated need occasioned by the larger number of participating schools. We have tentatively targeted the training of 1,000 teachers per year as Coaches and Coach Educators.

We will send further, more detailed information to Members in the next week regarding administrative coordination processes at Head Office.

All further enquiries regarding the SAFA Schools Football Programme must be sent to Mr Thomas Sadiki at [thomas.sadiki@safa.net](mailto:thomas.sadiki@safa.net).

We thank you kindly for your urgent attention.

Sincerely,



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**MR DENNIS A. MUMBLE**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

cc: The Director-General, Sport & Recreation South Africa (SRSA)  
The Director-General, Department of Basic Education (DBE)