



## **Schools Water Polo South Africa**

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**June 29, 2020**

### **Re: 2020 SWPSA Inter Provincial Tournament in Cape Town**

Dear schools' water polo parents, players and community

I trust this letter finds you healthy and safe. I hope you are coping and living through what is the most challenging situation in living memory for most of us.

While water polo may be an activity that is not front and centre of your mind at the moment, I feel it is pertinent that you are brought up to speed regarding the deliberations the Schools Water Polo South Africa ("SWPSA") executive recently had with the chairperson's of the provincial schools' water polo associations and Zimbabwe concerning the annual Inter Provincial Tournament.

As you are no doubt aware, existing Covid-19 regulations prohibit all school sport. As we move along the continuum of relaxing lockdown regulations, this steadfast position may change. But it is not something that can be predicted with any degree of accuracy!

Uncertainty regarding inter-provincial travel restrictions, availability – and costs – of flights and accommodation are also unknowns at this stage.

So, it is with a heavy heart that SWPSA has taken the collective decision to cancel the Schools' Inter Provincial Tournament scheduled for Cape Town in December 2020. With all being equal, it is our intention – at this stage – that Cape Town will host the 2021 iteration of the event.

I would like to take a moment to thank the Western Province Local Organising Committee ("LOC"), led by Jonathan Ackerman, for the magnificent job they have done for the now-cancelled event. The LOC was at a highly advanced stage in their preparations: they had secured venues, sponsors, arranged training for referees and table officials, and the 1 001 other tasks that are required to put together an event of this magnitude. We trust they will be able to pick up next year from where they left off. Thanks guys.

The provincial chairpersons have undertaken, however, to investigate the possibility of regional tournaments at the end of the year within their own jurisdiction. These tournaments could likely involve no inter-provincial travel or out-of-home accommodation requirements – dramatically

reducing costs at a time when most families are under severe financial stress due to the pandemic.

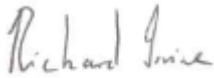
It is likely though, that no decision on these activities will be made before the end of September at the earliest. And if they do proceed, they would be with the blessing of SWPSA, but under the authority of the provincial association.

We are all going through difficult times, on a stormy uncharted ocean, unsure of the precise outcomes. The situation is fluid and changes constantly. I believe SWPSA has taken the responsible decision, albeit tough for those affected players. At this time we need to act in consort with what is best for South Africa as a whole.

I close wishing you and your families all the best in the months ahead. Remember: practise social distancing, wash or sanitise your hands regularly, clean and sanitise surfaces, stay at home wherever possible, and wear a mask when you leave the house.

We will see you on the other side.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Irvine".

Richard Irvine  
Chairman: Schools Water Polo South Africa