The purpose of this memo is to provide information to all school principals and school sport stakeholders on the participation of the Eastern Cape in the National School Sport Championships (NSSC), scheduled for December 2021.

The Provincial Departments of Education and Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture (DSRAC) engaged in a series of meetings to assess the participation of the EC in the championships with key priority to decide in the best interest of the learners in terms of academic curriculum and the holistic development and support for learners.

The school sports programme and in this case, the NSSC has been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, with the suspension of school sports activities resulting in the cancellation of five previous NSSC since the first Covid-19 national lockdown in March 2020. The suspension of school sport and inactiveness of learners in school sport has a potential of negative consequences (social ills).

As a result, a plan has been made to resume school sport with the hosting of the edition of NSSC in December 2021. This plan follows a series of consultative meetings held between the two departments and the school sport stakeholders at the national and provincial levels. The stakeholders involved in the consultative process include sports federations, school sport code structures, teacher unions and School Governing Body Associations.
A Government Gazette was issued for school sport to resume, adhering to all Covid19 regulations. What is important is for the Eastern Cape province to be represented in the National Championships as all the other provinces indicated that they are ready. We are hoping that things will get back to normal once this pandemic issue is over. No spectators will be allowed during these games.

The information below is relevant for the Provincial Games & National Championships:

1. Scheduled dates for the Provincial Games are 29-30th October 2021 in East London.
2. Scheduled dates for NSSC: 15 – 20 December 2021, subject to the confirmation of the academic year ending date by DBE.
3. Hosting Province: Gauteng with two hosting cities, Johannesburg & Pretoria
4. All school sport codes, inclusive of those that previously played in the Winter Championships but excluding Indigenous Games and the Autumn codes, such as Swimming and Athletics.
5. The 12 sport codes are Basketball, Chess, Cricket, Football, Netball, Gymnastics, Tennis, Softball, Table Tennis, Rugby 7s, Hockey and Volleyball. The age groups to participate are U13 to U15.

Conclusion

It is in the interest of holistic learner development that school sport activities will be implemented to ensure that learner enrichment can be achieved during unprecedented global challenges of the Covid19 pandemic.

Kind regards

14 October 2021

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