

ARMWRESTLING ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (AASA)



29 August 2020

To all our members

RE: ARMWRESTLING COMPETITIONS, EVENTS AND TRAINING DURING LOCKDOWN

As we reach day 155 of the Covid-19 Lockdown we all experience increasing strain as armwrestlers, craving more and more every day to get back to the table, to train properly, to experience the excitement and hype of competitions and matching power with athletes at the top.

However, the impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) has been far reaching and an excessive ongoing interruption of our once 'normal' lives, work and training. Consequently, we have to accept (and adapt thereto) that we all face serious legal implications if we return to organised training and participation in official competitions or events at this stage.

The National Committee herewith shares the following decisions and instructions with our members regarding participation in armwrestling in any form, as per Government Gazette No. 43667 dated 28 August 2020.

There are a number of restrictions in place that currently forbids us to return to formal and active armwrestling. Therefore, should we desire to arrange any form of competition while still in Stage 2 of the national lock down, we need to do formal application to be allowed to continue, at least 14 days prior to the date that the event is to take place.

Please keep in mind that we are still in the process of registration with SASCOC to be officially registered as an official sport here in South Africa, and any breach could result in armwrestling not being recognised either now or in the future.

Further note that restrictions regarding numbers of participants, as well as spectators, for any gathering of any sort still stands at a limited amount of **no more than 50 persons in total** which will be allowed to attend.

As you very well know, Armwrestling is considered as a 'full contact sport' and thus puts all our members at risk of being exposed. This also includes spectators, which usually include our close family and friends.

Though this may seem harsh, we still have no other option than to follow the rules as laid down by the Government, and in the light thereof, the AASA Committee had to make decisions regarding organised armwrestling events in South Africa for now, until further notice.

The Committee realised we cannot allow our members to do anything that may place them either at risk or expose them to possible legal action by the Government, as this will obviously be devastating to you, your loved ones and also our beloved sport on a national, as well as on a global scale.

We can assure you that these decisions have not been taken lightly and we urge our members to please adhere to the decisions taken by the Committee as follows:

1. **No armwrestling competitions or events are permitted** until such time as the lockdown regulations are relaxed to allow it or until we obtain formal permission from the Minister of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

2. Any member in breach of the above instruction, who is found (after allegations were received or investigation has proven that any member has been involved in any organised training event or tournament / competition / challenge matches), or who had legal action taken against them in direct violation of the above national regulations (as gazetted), will face serious disciplinary actions which could result in a very severe fine or temporary suspension, or even permanent banning from any AASA armwrestling events.
3. Members are permitted to train in smaller groups of no more than 10, but strict record should be kept of each training session of who is present. Direct contact should be limited as far as possible and follow social distancing protocols and ensure to sanitise in accordance with official protocols.

We appeal to our members to do everything in their power to stay safe during the lock down period (due to Covid-19 infection risk) and to meticulously follow all prescribed protocols when training.

This is not only about the future of the sport of armwrestling in South Africa and Internationally, but armwrestlers have to bear in mind all the time, that there is a serious and real health risk at hand, and with that comes serious responsibilities for all individuals involved (especially those in senior and managerial positions) to set an example and to keep our sport (and our members) safe at all times, and not to compromise the future of our sport by challenging the authorities.

We trust you will receive and perceive this positively and that our members will understand that this is for the best for the growth of our sport in South Africa, but also for your own personal safety and health.

Armwrestling greetings

ROSEMARY BÖTHA
SECRETARY

DAAN DU TOIT
LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

ARMAND DU TOIT
PRESIDENT