



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SASCOC SUPPORTS THE CALL TO SAFE RETURN TO STADIA

The South African Sports Confederation, Olympic and Paralympic Committee (SASCOC) welcomes and supports the call by the Honourable Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, Mr Nathi Mthethwa, regards to the safe return to stadia whilst ensuring compliance with COVID-19 regulations and protocols.

As a sports movement, and a stakeholder of DSAC, SASCOC and its National Federations have been working in collaboration with DSAC from the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. SASCOC supports the strides that have been taken by DSAC which include the campaign DSAC has embarked on named the “Play Your Part – Let’s Vaccinate (City to City)” – campaign which involves the encouragement of spectators and the broader public to vaccinate in order to ease positive decision-making regarding the re-opening of venues.

SASCOC and its National Federations is in continuous engagement and consultation with DSAC and have held a number of meetings to deliberate and provide input on the subject matter.

The return of spectators to stadia was gazetted in the Disaster Management Regulations of October 2021 and further enabled through Directions issued by the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture. Spectators and the venue of a sport event are consequently permitted to 750 persons or less for indoor venues and 2 000 persons or less for outdoor venues subject to strict adherence to all health protocols and social distancing measures.

SASCOC President, Mr Barry Hendricks commented, “We are backing the Honourable Minister, Nathi Mthethwa on the return of fans to stadia and this has been an on-going

discussion with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. We have been working hard with other partners in the sector towards reopening of stadia to allow fans to return to watching sporting events live. Guided by experts, we have been working with professional and amateur federations, and those outside sports to look at how best safety protocols can be adapted to protect the health and lives of athletes, coaches, administrators and our respective communities around this pandemic.

“Central to all this work has been our drive towards vaccination of all our people. We believe if fans are fully vaccinated they can be allowed to attend sporting events and reduce the negative impact of the pandemic,” added Mr Hendricks.

Sport plays a major role in our society and fans form part of the biggest stakeholders in the sporting sector therefore it is our hope that the appeal for fans to return to stadia, notwithstanding or undermining the dangers of COVID-19 is considered.

ENDS