



Bowls South Africa Development



THE SPORT AND RECREATION AMENDMENT BILL

From "Your Sport" July 2007

The Sport and Recreation Amendment Bill that was passed during the 2007 session, also addresses the issue of development programs. The Bill stipulates that Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) must, in allocating funds to the national federations, determine the proportion of funding that must be used towards development.

National federations must annually indicate to SRSA in writing, the names of the specific clubs under its respective control and the proportion of funding that these clubs have received during the specific year for development purposes from funding provided to these clubs by:

- (i) the national federations out of the funds received from SRSA;
- (ii) the national federations out of its own funds; and
- (iii) the national federations out of the funds received from other persons or bodies.

No funding will be provided and no recognition as prescribed will be given by SRSA to national federations where:

- (i) no development programs exist,
- (ii) federations exclude persons from the disadvantaged groups, particularly women and people with disabilities, from participating at top level of sport,
- (iii) or national federations have misused funding.

"We take this (development) task seriously; it is nonnegotiable and sports federations would be wise to heed the call for transformation. These measures must be seen as imperatives for federations to increase access to their sport by bringing all our people on board and for improving their development programs to ensure greater representivity in our teams at all levels," the deputy minister Gert Oosthuizen said.

The Amendment Bill also says that the Minister must issue guidelines or policies to promote equity, representivity and redress in sport and recreation. Every sport or recreation body must before 1 April of each year submit to SRSA in writing membership statistics, as may be prescribed.

Also: Every sport or recreation body must annually submit to SRSA and Parliament a written report relating to progress on the (above) issues and a copy of its Constitution and a written confirmation as to whether the Constitution conforms to the Constitution of the Republic.

"We sincerely hope and trust that it will never be necessary for government to intervene beyond the level of laying down guidelines," said Oosthuizen.
"The ball is now squarely in the court of the federations."

One area where federations can facilitate development is by helping to develop community clubs.

"Federations are performing way below par in organising community clubs," said Rev. Stofile. "This, in turn, has a negative effect on the retention and development of school athletes' talent. Federations go for readymade talent. We try to bridge the gap between school sport and senior sport."

A club development programme that SRSA initiated last year focuses on human resource development, infrastructure provisioning and initiating local leagues.

“We have always contended that even with the best of programs we will make very little headway if we do not have appropriate facilities,” said Oosthuizen.

“Their availability remains a major problem in areas where the majority of our people live. The lack of facilities has a debilitating effect on transformation in sport that, in turn, impact negatively on our ability to achieve our higher order outcomes for the broader society.”

“We are currently working on a norms and standards blueprint for facilities,” said the deputy minister.

“Through this document we will attempt to outlaw the development of new human settlements or the building of new schools without including sport and recreation facilities. At the same time, we will lobby for the building of facilities in areas where there are none. To be blunt, a school is not a school without sporting facilities. Sustainable human settlement is not sustainable without sport and recreation facilities.”

On the brighter side, Rev. Stofile said that 27 disadvantaged KwaZulu Natal communities recently received 34 sport facilities like Olympic size swimming pools and multipurpose stadiums in one day. Sixteen of these were built by SRSA at a cost of R25m and the rest erected by the provinces and the local municipalities.