

MAASA NATIONAL COUNCIL



MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 29th October 2024

Time: 19h00

Place: via Zoom



Agenda Point 1: Meeting Formalities

1. Opening

The President opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Attendance register & apologies

Attendees:

Diane Horn (President)

Petro Wium (Treasurer)

Jacques vd Westhuizen (Gauteng VP)

Amy Diack (KZN President)

Vicky van Zyl (NW President)

Apologies:

Callie Kruger (Vice President)

Maretha Kruger (Athletes Rep)

3. Quorum

Quorum established – 5 present, 2 absent

4. Minutes of Previous meeting / Matters arising

Legal case – to be discussed in this meeting.

Minutes of 17th September accepted without changes.

Agenda Point 2: Legal Case MAASA/J Sinawaro/Premier Equestrian

Update on developments and current status:

MAASA's plea to dismiss the case with punitive costs, was filed by our attorney on 11th September 2024 (see previous minutes for details of the plea).

The notice of MAASA's suspension of Premier Equestrian Club as per the decision taken at the previous council meeting, was submitted via email to the VP of Premier, as well as all Premier athletes, on 26th September 2024.

In addition, a formal letter of warning was issued to Mr. Sinawaro (both by email and WhatsApp) with regards to his participation in an international competition without first notifying MAASA and applying for the prerequisite letter of good standing.

Both the SAEF Secretary General and our lawyer were notified of the suspension notice and the letter of warning.

On the 27th September, Premier's lawyers issued an urgent letter to our lawyer, expressing their dissatisfaction with the suspension notice, claiming that our reasons for suspending the club were not factual or based in law, and demanding a retraction. Ms. Copeland responded on 30th September to this, stating that MAASA had in fact acted well within our rights and according to the prescripts of our Constitution. She once again advised them to withdraw the case from the high court, pay the costs incurred by SAEF in defending MAASA in this matter, and submit an official dispute to SAEF to be dealt with via the SAEF Judicial Committee, which is the correct procedure to follow since they refused to accept our response to the official dispute that they lodged with MAASA in February this year.

On 14th October, Diane received an email from JNS lawyers in which they attached 2 x competition complaint forms (one from Mr. Johan du Toit, and the other from Mr. Sinawaro), neither of which were signed or dated, and a second dispute referral from (duplicating the form that they submitted in February this year). They also requested MAASA's banking details in order to pay their R150 "lodging" fee for the complaints. Diane referred this to Ms. Copeland, explaining that these complaint forms were only relevant to issues experienced on the day of an event or competition, and completely irrelevant in the case of a dispute, which we had already responded to in February. Ms. Copeland responded to the JNS lawyers on 14th October via email, questioning why they have referred the matter once again to MAASA and SAEF, while at the same time having the case pending in the courts, and refusing to withdraw the case despite being asked to do in order for SAEF to deal with the dispute internally, as per the correct process. She again requested them to withdraw the case, with costs, in which case SAEF would consider hearing their dispute.

JNS lawyers responded to this, saying that their clients were not afforded the opportunity to lodge their complaints because there were no internal processes available to them, amongst other questionable statements. Once again Ms. Copeland responded at length to this latest communication on 15th October, with the following excerpt summing up the correspondence:

The very fact that the Plaintiffs have resorted to legal action, in breach of the prescripts of the SAEF Constitution and the Sports Act – has resulted in their placing themselves in bad standing with both MAASA and the SAEF. With legal action pending at the instance of both your Clients – there is no basis on which the SAEF can entertain either of their complaints, without the action being withdrawn, which would then remedy their bad standing.

On 18th October, Diane received another email from JNS lawyers, again requesting MAASA's bank account details in order to pay their clients' R150 lodging fee. This is completely baffling, given that our lawyer has already addressed their email of 15th

October. Diane responded in short to them on 21st October, with the following message approved by our lawyer:

The complaint forms submitted by your clients are irrelevant to the matter as it stands currently. The MAASA complaint form, along with a lodging fee of R150, is used at competitions/events where an individual wishes to lodge a complaint regarding the competition/venue on the day of that competition or event.

The Dispute form is an entirely different document and was submitted to MAASA by your clients on 29th February 2024, after SAEF referred the matter back to MAASA.

On 23rd October, Diane again received correspondence from the JNS lawyers, which contained some inaccuracies and innuendos:

- That Mr. Sinawaro was not able to query his scores at the Grand Africa because there was no appeals committee in place. We have admitted that we did not have an appeals committee in place due to lack of volunteers, however if Mr. Sinawaro had wanted to question his scores, he should have approached the Head Judge, filled in a complaint form and paid his R150 to hear his complaint. At no stage before, during or after the Grand Africa competition, did Mr. Sinawaro have any contact whatsoever with any of the judging team, or approach them with his concerns.
- That Mr. Sinawaro was told to go to IHAA to complain about his scores, and that he had to do this on his own. Mr. Sinawaro did not approach any official or judge at the Grand Africa in order to raise an objection. The first that MAASA became aware of the issue, was when the VP of Premier issued his "Letter of Concern" to SAEF two weeks after the competition, bypassing MAASA and all the correct internal processes that they should have followed. Despite this, MAASA answered all the allegations put to SAEF via this letter, one of which was the fact that Mr. Sinawaro entered on two different horses, and that IHAA rules state that the scores from the first horse that he used had to be competitive scores, and the second set of scores from the second horse would need to be non-competitive scores, as per IHAA directives. This was explained numerous times, MAASA cannot change IHAA directives or rules, and if there is dissatisfaction regarding an IHAA rule, it should be directed at IHAA, not MAASA.

Diane referred this to Ms. Copeland, who advised that she remind them that they should not be contacting MAASA directly, as they know very well that the matter is not in our hands, and that she (Ms. Copeland) is our legal representative, and as such all correspondence must go through her. Accordingly, this answer was emailed to JNS lawyers on 25th October.

Discussion:

We have just received a copy of an email to JNS lawyers in which Ms. Copeland has invited them to discuss this matter next week, at a round table meeting. We await their response to this request.

Agenda Point 3: Scheduling of MAASA OGM and elective AGM

Suggested dates:

OGM – 23rd January 2025

AGM – 30th January 2025

The OGM will therefore be held with the newly elected provincial chairs attending to represent their provinces.

Notice of OGM will need to be submitted by **2nd Jan 2025** (21 days notice)

Motions for OGM must be submitted by **24th December 2024**

Notice of elective AGM must go out by **26 November 2024** (65 days notice)

Motions for changes to Constitution must be submitted by **31st December 2024**

Since these dates are largely over the holiday season, suggest we send notices and requests for the submission of motions early, before everyone goes on leave – i.e. by early December (2nd), to give us time to submit motions to clubs for voting.

All agreed to above dates, Diane will proceed with notices / communications.

Agenda Point 4: Provincial Elections

Status update:

- KZN struggled to get a response from KZNEF with regards to appointing an electoral officer, but this has been resolved – Philip Norton has been in contact with Amy. The nomination process in KZN has largely been completed, and Riverside Club is ready to submit nominations to Philip.
- Gauteng is currently still weighing up their options for their new committee, both clubs eligible to participate have one or two people willing to serve, although the response generally to our call for volunteers has been disappointing.

Agenda Point 5: Festival of Fun

Update on arrangements

Diane has completed the track designs, including the Hunt track, and submitted to Banie. The entry form is being designed, we need to open entries either this week or early next week.

More information regarding the events has been communicated on both the official and non official mounted archery WhatsApp groups, Diane will post on the MAASA Facebook page too.

Determination of entry fees

MAASA Mixit – R200 per team of two people

MAASA Medley – R200 per horse/rider combination

Mini Hunt Track (Trot class) – R150 per horse/rider combination

Sunrise Outride – R100 pp including breakfast, R60 per non-rider (as quoted by Banie)

Camping fees: R50pppn

Paddock fees: R50 per horse per paddock, R50 per horse overnight

Discounted fees for MAASA members – we can offer MAASA members a 5% discount on entry fees.

Prizes

This is a fun event, so suggest we don't do medals, but rather something like gift bags/lucky packets / goody bags.

Suggestion for goody bags: horse grooming kits, vouchers from Farm Barn/Archers Edge/Riders/Western Shoppe, MAASA buffs, MAASA badges.

Quotes obtained so far:

Bufs (printed with MAASA logo) – R95.00 each, excluding set up/design fees and courier costs

Embroidered MAASA badges – one quote so far, for a round embroidered badge approximately 70mm diameter with MAASA logo is R25 excl vat and courier.

Prizes to be awarded:

MAASA Mixit – overall 1st – 5th teams depending on budget (teams may be mixed Jnr and Snr)

MAASA Medley – 1st, 2nd, 3rd Senior and Junior

Mini Hunt Track (Trot Class) – 1st, 2nd, 3rd Senior and Junior category

Total prizes: 17

Agenda Point 6: MAASA Membership fees for 2025

Membership fees form part of the 2025 budget that needs to be presented and approved at the OGM in January 2025.

Current membership fees:

	MAASA MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES & FEES 2024						
	Category A	Category B	Category C	Category D	Category E	Category F	Category G
Type	Competitive Riders	Novice Riders	Non-Competitive Riders	Guardian	Officials	Committee Members	Development Riders
Criteria	Student Archers (Jnr/Snr) Horse Archers (Jnr/Snr) SANESA riders applying for MAASA grading	Entry level riders (Jnr/Snr)	Recreational riders	Parents of competitive juniors	Non-competitive individuals who act as officials at competitions	Non-competitive individuals who currently serve on National / Provincial MAASA structures	Previously disadvantaged/ financially disadvantaged/ riders (Jnr/Snr)
Eligibility	May enter all MAASA qualifiers, Provincial and National competitions	May apply for grading at affiliated training shows	May enter qualifiers, but are not eligible for places/prizes	May participate in elections on behalf of their child / children	May participate in elections	May participate in elections	Subject to written application and approval of MAASA Council
SAEF Membership	Compulsory	Compulsory			Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
MAASA Membership	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
Club Membership	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
Individual **	R625.00 pp	R415.00 pp	R350.00 pp	Free	R250.00 pp	R250.00 pp	Free
Individual + 1 **	R575.00 pp	R410.00 pp					(First year only)
Individual + 2 **	R520.00 pp	R365.00 pp					

** applicable to family members only

Petro to submit budget to council for approval and determine increase in membership fees for council approval. Suggest that we try to keep the increase to a minimum and allow free membership to those people who are willing to serve on provincial and national councils solely as committee members (i.e. persons who don't compete or act as officials, purely management roles).

Agenda Point 7: General

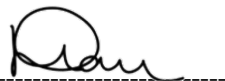
SANESA – Diane attended the annual discipline meeting on 28th October, with Karen Bekker (Head of Additional Disciplines) and Alta Olivier (SANESA National Chairperson). Points from that meeting:

Although there were less riders at Nationals this year compared to last year, the overall number of entries for qualifiers increased from 145 to 176, mainly due to Gauteng entries. KZN was sorely missed this year, as they did not hold qualifiers, but we are hoping to have a few entries from them in 2025.

Any changes to Rules and Regulations must be submitted by end November. The EOI's for 2025 will be published after the SANESA AGM in November, they are hoping to do this online instead of the manual applications that we have had to do in the past.

GEF AGM - Jacques attended GEF AGM on behalf of GMAA – provincial colours were not awarded because Gauteng doesn't meet the GSC criteria for development and transformation. We need to encourage people of diverse backgrounds and ethnicity to participate and think of awarding prizes for our grooms. It is also important to remember that colours are only awarded to SA citizens.

The meeting closed at 20h00 – see task list below.



D Horn
MAASA President

29/10/2024
Date

Task List:

Task	Responsibility	Due Date
Minutes of last meeting – finalize and upload to MAASA website	Diane	30 October
Set up 2025 budget, and determine 2025 membership fees – present to council for approval	Petro	15 November
Update SANESA Rules & Regs and submit to Karen	Diane	End November
Notice to MAASA Members for submission of motions for OGM and AGM by 2 nd December	Diane	5 November
Complete Festive Fun online entry form and open entries	Diane	1 November
Notice of OGM	Diane	2 nd January 2025 (actual) 2 nd December (preferable)
Notice of elective AGM	Diane	26 th November 2024
Prizes for Fun Festival	Diane	ASAP
Post info on Festival of Fun to MAASA Facebook page	Diane	Once entries have opened