



# MAASA NATIONAL COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Time: 19h00

Place: via Zoom

### PRESENT

| Name                  | Designation        |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Diane Horn            | President          |
| Petro Wium            | Treasurer          |
| Callie Kruger         | Vice President     |
| Maretha Kruger        | Athletes Rep       |
| Jacques vd Westhuizen | Gauteng Vice Chair |
| Vicky van Zyl         | NW Chair           |

### APOLOGIES

| Name      | Designation |
|-----------|-------------|
| Amy Diack | KZN Chair   |

### MINUTES:

|           | POINTS  | DISCUSSION/DECISION                                   |
|-----------|---|---|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Meeting Formalities</b>  |   |
| 1.1       | Opening of meeting  | The President opened the meeting & welcomed everyone. |
| 1.2       | Attendance register & apologies   | Apologies from Amy Diack, KZN Chair                   |
| 1.3       | Quorum  | Quorum established                                    |
| 1.4       | Minutes of previous meeting   | No matters arising                                    |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>MAASA – The Way forward</b>  |   |
|           | This project has been put on hold until current matters are resolved.   |   |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>MAASA Nationals 2024</b>   |   |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21-22 September at Botha Wil.</li> <li>• Poster to advertise event is almost finished, the draft thereof was sent to Council on the WhatsApp group.</li> <li>• Entries open 26 August, close 8th September</li> <li>• Suggested events: Tower1 10, Raid 234, Hunt track (2 x rounds of 750m track).</li> </ul> <p>Banie is satisfied with these three events, he will assist Diane in the course design. With shared horses and the limited 3 start rules, we will need to split the riders into two groups over the two days – all riders will complete all their events on one day. SANESA Nationals are to be held on the Monday after MAASA Nationals, so horses</p> |   |

which are involved in SANESA Nationals will need to be scheduled on the Saturday at MAASA Nationals where possible.

#### 4. Dispute\_MAASA/J Sinawaro/Premier Equestrian

The ongoing dispute arising from the Grand Africa competition, initially lodged by the VP of Premier Equestrian in December (further referred to as the Complainant), has resulted in a court summons to notify us of his intention to take the matter to court.

The Plaintiffs listed in the court summons are Jethro Sinawaro (Plaintiff 1) and Premier Equestrian Club (Plaintiff 2).

##### **Background / Timeline:**

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2023** – the VP of Premier sent a “Letter of Concern” directly to SAEF, bypassing MAASA, listing a number of complaints that he perceived to have witnessed at the Grand Africa competition. The MAASA president was copied in the mail. A short summary of the complaints levelled against MAASA in this letter:

- Conflict of Interest – that competitors were acting as officials when not competing, and in doing so, they contravened the SAEF Code of Conduct for officials.
- Determination of Nationality – that one rider was riding as a South African when in fact he was of Zimbabwean nationality
- Age categories – that two of the Premier junior riders were judged as senior riders
- Multiple entries – that the Zimbabwean rider was riding two horses as two separate entries, but only one set of entries counted towards final rankings
- Hunt Track target judge – that the Zimbabwean rider was not awarded his bonus for hitting the jump shot.
- That there was no Appeals committee in place for the competition.

Although the matter was referred directly to SAEF, without exhausting all internal remedies as per the MAASA Constitution, MAASA responded to all these allegations via email on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, responding in summary as follows:

- The Grand Africa was a 3 Star Record & Ranking competition, registered with IHAA. As such, the IHAA rules were applicable, and IHAA relies on competitors, families and friends of competitors to assist as officials at international events, and even encourages this practice. *MAASA has consistently asked members to come forward to be trained as officials, or to serve as judges, in order to lessen the burden on the few people who are willing to officiate at competitions, but this has not been forthcoming.*
- The rider in question was incorrectly entered by the Complainant himself, who made use of the local entry form instead of the international entry form to register the rider. Even after the rider groups were published (with the rider identified as South African), the error was not brought to the organizer's attention, where it would have been a simple matter to correct.
- The two junior Premier riders did not compete as seniors. They were mistakenly registered on the IHAA.eu database as senior riders, which was later corrected. They both rode as juniors and were scored and ranked in the final results on the day as juniors.
- The issue of multiple entries: the Complainant requested the organizers after close of entries, to allow Plaintiff 1 to ride two horses in the competition, as the

Complainant was not able to ride in his own capacity due to an injury after a fall. The organizers allowed this as a courtesy to the Complainant, so that he would not forfeit his entry fee. The IHAA.eu system at that time, did not allow for this scenario, but IHAA advised that only the scores for the first horse that the Plaintiff rode, would be eligible for scoring and ranking, the scores from the second horse would be non-competitive.

- The rider was not awarded his jump shot bonus because he shot before he jumped – this was clearly witnessed by the target judge and noted on the target judge's scoresheet for this rider.
- MAASA admitted their failure in having an official appeals committee at the Grand Africa, which was once again due to a lack of volunteers. We have since implemented an official appeals committee from the first qualifier in 2024.

MAASA requested SAEF to refer the matter back to us, as the Complainant did not follow the correct process by allowing us to address these allegations internally before escalating to SAEF.

**22 February 2024** - SAEF upheld our request and referred the matter back to MAASA. The Complainant was requested to submit an official Dispute, as per our Dispute and Grievance regulations.

**29 February 2024** – MAASA receives the official Dispute from the Complainant, in which a number of allegations not related to the Grand Africa tournament, were added.

**3 April 2024** – MAASA responded in full to all allegations, refuting the majority with hard evidence, and undertaking to implement correcting measures on those complaints which were deemed valid. As expected, the Complainant referred the matter back to SAEF, citing his dissatisfaction with our response.

**9 May 2024** – MAASA receives email from JNS Attorneys, representing the Complainant. (This is in contravention of SAEF directives, which state that parties are not allowed legal representation on matters which are before the SAEF). MAASA responds to this mail, informing them that the matter has been referred back to SAEF, and as such we were awaiting their response.

**9 May 2024** – MAASA emails SAEF to request further instruction.

**26 May 2024** – MAASA received another letter from JNS Attorneys. MAASA acknowledged their correspondence and informed them that we are still awaiting a response from SAEF.

**27 May 2024** – JNS Attorneys issued a letter to SAEF, copied to MAASA, demanding that SAEF appoint arbitrators by 10<sup>th</sup> June, and have the matter heard and settled by 30 June.

**1 July 2024**– MAASA emails SAEF, requesting them to respond.

**12 July 2024** – JNS Attorneys issues another letter to SAEF, demanding action.

**23 July 2024** – MAASA emails SAEF to request feedback.

**29 July 2024** – MAASA contacts SAEF via WhatsApp to enquire whether they have been receiving our emails. SAEF SG calls MAASA President on WhatsApp to confirm the receipt of only 2 mails, the other two landed in her Spam folder, but have now been received, and passed on to their legal department for further handling.

**30 July 2024** – MAASA President is served a Court Summons (Case Number 2024-080922, issued by the High Court of SA, Pretoria), in the matter between:

Plaintiff 1: Jethro Sinawaro

Plaintiff 2: Premier Equestrian Club

*It should be noted that MAASA has at no time since the instigation of this matter in*

*December last year, been approached by Mr. Sinawaro or received any form of communication / complaints from Mr. Sinawaro regarding his scores at the Grand Africa.*

The Respondents / Defendants listed in the court summons:

- MAASA (directors listed as Diane Horn, Callie Kruger, Petro Wium)
- SAEF
- Diane Horn – in her personal capacity, as well as in her capacity as Director and President of MAASA
- Deirdre JvRensburg – in her personal capacity, as well as in her capacity as secretary to the MAASA President and SA Representative to IHAA.
- SASCO

Summary of the complaints listed in the summons:

- Plaintiff 1 disputes that his 5<sup>th</sup> place in the tournament was correct, and lodged a complaint via SAEF.
- The complaint was not resolved satisfactorily, and he lodged a complaint with MAASA.
- MAASA failed to acknowledge/respond to the complaint.

Relief sought by the Plaintiffs:

- That MAASA and SAEF be ordered to award and capture the jump shot bonus score for Mr. Sinawaro.
- That all competitors who also served as officials/target judges have their scores declared null and void and be removed from the IHAA rankings.
- That MAASA and SAEF be ordered to adjust the tournament rankings to promote Mr. Sinawaro to his "rightful" place in the tournament.
- That Deirdre be ordered to capture the correct scores and upload same to the IHAA database.
- That all respondents (with the exception of SASCO) be ordered to pay the legal costs of this matter.

The MAASA president has been in telephonic conversation with SAEF SG, who requested MAASA to send an official email to request legal assistance in this matter, which was sent on 30<sup>th</sup> July. In subsequent communications with SAEF, it was confirmed that the SAEF VP has been appointed the acting attorney to deal with this matter on behalf of MAASA and has confirmed via WhatsApp that she is working through the documentation.

**1 August 2024** – MAASA President emailed SAEF SG and VP, to highlight a number of inconsistencies she found in the court summons, as well as some blatantly false, unsupported accusations made by the Plaintiffs. The SAEF VP will be taking these under consideration.

**2 August 2024** – SAEF VP responds to MAASA President's email, confirming that she received the information, and will be responding appropriately to the court summons within the deadline of 14 August.

**6 August 2024** – MAASA receives official letter from IHAA board, in support of MAASA,

which we forwarded to SAEF VP, who confirmed receipt thereof.

**Discussion:**

Response from SAEF is positive and supportive.

The letter we received from IHAA confirmed that IHAA rules were followed at the Grand Africa, thereby challenging the relief sought by the Plaintiffs. *(Copy of letter attached at the end of the minutes).*

There are grounds for MAASA and SAEF to institute disciplinary actions against the MAASA members who have brought about this court case. MAASA President will consult with SAEF regarding this.

This latest attack on MAASA damages the sport, and many of our members are unaware of what is going on behind the scenes, or what the MAASA Council members have to deal with on a daily basis.

What is behind this current attack on MAASA? What is the end objective?

This is a question that we have all been asking. It seems that there is a small group of members/former members who would like to see MAASA dissolved or placed under administration, perhaps with the intention of forcing the resignation of the current management to make way for them to be elected and take MAASA in a different direction with WHAF as the main international affiliating body, instead of IHAA.

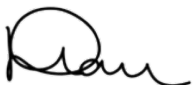
Some MAASA Council members have been approached personally (outside of MAASA) by certain individuals in order to attempt to sway their vote or influence them.

It is important to let our MAASA members know about the current situation and urge members to come forward to help with serving on committees, or as officials at competitions, rather than constantly criticizing from the sidelines.

**Decision:** Minutes of this meeting to be circulated urgently to all members, after content is approved by MAASA Council members.

**5. Closing**

The President thanked all council members for their time and efforts and closed the meeting.



D Horn  
**MAASA President**

**6 August 2024**

Date



6 August 2024

**For Attention:**

South African Equestrian Federation (SAEF)

Mounted Archery Association of South Africa (MAASA)

To whom it may concern

With regards to the complaint against MAASA and the Grand Africa Tournament we would like to make the following statements.

1. The competition in question (Grand Africa Tournament, 1 - 3 December 2023) was registered as a 3 Star Record and Ranking event with the IHAA. As such the competition organisers, officials, and competitors were subject to the latest IHAA rules published at the time and agreed to these rules when signing up for the competition. According to the then current rules, no jump shot bonus points were awarded at the Grand Africa Tournament to the competitors who shot at the target prior to their horse taking the jump. Changes to the jump shot bonus points rule were made in the most recent IHAA Rulebook, however, they were published and implemented on 13 February 2024, well after the event in question. Therefore, as per IHAA rules at the time, the judge's decisions at the competition were correct, are final, and scores cannot be altered.
2. Although it is discouraged at the highest level (4 Star Record & Ranking Events) it is accepted and common practice within International Mounted Archery events (1 star, 2 star and 3 star events) for riders, coaches, athletes or family of athletes to volunteer as officials, scribes, judges, target judges etc. during a competition. Horseback Archery is a young and developing sport and as such we do not have the manpower to appoint officials that are free of any form of conflict of interest. We therefore rely on the integrity of our athletes, coaches and family of athletes to volunteer as officials.

The IHAA requires that Head Judge and Judges of Record and Ranking Events be adequately trained and accredited for the appropriate level of competition that they are judging at. In many cases these judges are athletes, coaches or family members of athletes.

---

International Horseback Archery Alliance CLG

Affiliated to FITE



horsebackarchery.info@gmail.com



As per IHAA rules it is only the Head Judge of 3 and 4 star competitions that is not allowed to compete at the competition that they are judging at. It is permissible for assistant judges to both judge and compete at the same competition.

Since January 2024 the IHAA has implemented a conflict of interest form that all officials within an IHAA registered competition need to sign in order to declare any form of conflict of interest that an official may have within the competition.

3. With regards to double entries: at the time no provision was made within the IHAA rules to allow for a single competitor to compete on two different horses on the same day. As such no provision was made on the IHAA.eu system for such an occurrence. Therefore when logging the results the system could not successfully process the results from a single rider on two horses. The IHAA was consulted on this matter and ruled that a rider could not enter two competitive entries for a competition on two separate horses and that if a rider wished to do so one entry would have to be non-competitive. Since the rider would get an unfair advantage in riding two horses (i.e. riding the hunt track more than once) the competitive entry would need to be on the horse that the rider competed on first.

The IHAA has since implemented this rule and has made provision on the IHAA.eu system for a “non-competitive (NC)” entry to be logged.

We trust that the above information will help to dismiss the complaint against MAASA.  
Please feel free to contact us for more information.

Regards

---

Alan Le Gall  
IHAA President

---

Claire Sawyer  
IHAA Vice President