



**KWAZULU-NATAL
ATHLETICS**

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TO: ALL KZNA CLUBS
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

CC: ASA

Dear Colleagues and friends in athletics

Compliments of the new year to all.

The 2022 running season has begun. We would like to wish all our members and their families all of the best for the year ahead. We wish to begin this year by calling upon all our members to support the KZNA family in all its endeavours to improve the development of athletics in our province.

We would like to cover a few topics in this quarterly communication to help members understand a few things we are seized with as an Association.

A. USE OF KINGS PARK ATHLETICS STADIUM (DURBAN):

The Stadium is owned and controlled by the EThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. The use of the facility is controlled through the relevant offices of the Metropolitan Municipality. We urge clubs to please explain this to their members. We may not always be able to tolerate false information on social media by athletes, accusing KZNA of not prioritizing the use of the Stadium by athletes. The Asset, I repeat, belongs to the EThekweni Metropolitan Municipality.

B. FIXTURE AND HOSTING OF RACES:

Clubs are encouraged to apply for the right to host events in 2023 when the window for application thereof opens on 1st March 2022 to 31st May 2022. No late applications will be entertained. Applications should specify 3 dates in order of preference to qualify as an application together with the relevant fee paid on time as a prerequisite for consideration.

On the 2022 Road Running Fixture book, you will note there are 4 events that appear which are sanctioned to be hosted by KZNA. Please allow me to take you share with you the reasoning behind the sanctioning for each of these events.

KZN BIG WALK: This event was previously on the fixture but was not applied for in 2022. However, KZNA does not want to lose the momentum of staging this prestigious event. We opted to have the event on the calendar to be planned and organized through KZNA until such time as we find a new host for the event.

JL DUBE MARATHON: The earlier drafts of the 2022 fixture had Durban Multisport, Inanda Orcas Academy and Phantane as the hosts of this race. This led to a dispute by another affiliate of KZNA who had previously hosted an event with the same name in the same area. In order to allow the event to go ahead and resolve the dispute regarding the ownership of the name, we replaced the mentioned clubs with KZNA as the host, with each of the mentioned clubs having a representative on the ROC for the event.

MANDELA DAY MARATHON: The chronicles of this race are well documented. The race is officially owned by two clubs, Greater Edendale AC and Hammersdale AC. After years of the race being hosted and organized by the UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KZNA and the Municipality agreed that the race will revert to the clubs with the municipality as a sponsor. However, two issues arose that have necessitated that the race be hosted by KZNA.

1. The clubs did not apply to host the race in 2022. Due to the magnitude of the event, we could not allow the race not to feature on the 2022 calendar.
2. In 2018, the two clubs instituted a court case against government departments and KZNA. From as far back as 2019, the Task Team and the new KZNA Executive, have had numerous meetings to encourage the clubs to withdraw the case. The case however remains unwithdrawn. What the clubs did, was to write a purported notice of withdrawal. This document which they served on KZNA, does not meet the requirements of a court notice. When the clubs started the case process, they had a lawyer, unless that lawyer officially resigns from representing them by serving a formal Notice of Withdrawal, the clubs cannot on their own, withdraw the case. Any attempt to do so, does not advance their case.

There are other developments insofar as the hosting of this race is concerned, none of which are sufficient to warrant KZNA to sanction a different host of the event.

Therefore, whatever you may hear on the grapevine from evil forces, if it is contrary to the statement above, please know it is false.

KZNA MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIP: This appears on the fixture because, not knowing the status of the Covid-19 pandemic and the corresponding willingness of clubs to organize events when the applicable levels of Covid restrictions might render it unprofitable for clubs to host events, we could not risk not having a KZNA Championship. You will be aware that for the next 3 years, KZNA will be hosting the SA Marathon Champs, therefore, organizing an event for 100 people is a safeguard to produce a KZNA team for the champs, should the need arise. This decision is forward thinking considering all relevant permutations relevant to Covid-19 regulations.

C. TRAINING RUNS

Clubs are allowed to organize training runs for their members. However, once a charge is levied on the training run, it is viewed as a race and attracts race levies. However, no race shall be held without the authorization of KZNA. Please note that no private businesspeople are allowed to abuse the generosity of athletes by organizing

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races and charging athletes money. It is criminal. In the recent past, we have had companies and municipalities organizing races, this is not allowed. Athletes are not allowed to participate in these unsanctioned events. Participating in an unsanctioned event may lead to Disciplinary actions being taken by KZNA.

D. 2022 LICENCES

This has been covered by notices sent out by the KZNA Acting General Manager. The official position is that we still await delivery of the 2022 licences from ASA. Therefore the 2021 Licences shall remain valid until the end of February 2022.

E. KZNA SPONSORS

KZNA has negotiated sponsorships with Coca-Cola, Orange Grove Dairies and Spar in terms of which one of the conditions is that every flyer for an athletic event hosted under the KZNA banner will need to feature a Coca-Cola, Orange Grove and Spar logo, the artwork for which can be obtained through the KZNA Office.

The KZNA Office will shortly be circulating the deals and discounts available to clubs on the products available through these suppliers.

In Closing, we wish all our members (clubs), associate members, and all our athletes, the best of 2022.

Kind regards

STEVE MKASI

KZNA PRESIDENT

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