



**REVISIONS**  
**FOR NATIONAL SWIMMING COMPETITIONS 2021**  
**HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE & COMPETITIONS MANAGER**

**17 February 2021**

## TABLE OF CONTENT

1. Introduction .....	3
2. Recommendation 1 – SSA Olympic Trials 2021 – 7 to 12 April 2021.....	3
3. Recommendation 2 – SA Nationals and SA Junior Nationals.....	4
4. Recommendation 3 – SSA Level 3 .....	6
5. Recommendation 4 – SSA Level 2.....	6
6. Ensuring a safe aquatics environment and protecting the health of members for SSA events .....	6
7. Hosting an event during the State of Disaster .....	6
8. Alert Levels in South Africa .....	7

## 1. Introduction

With the IOC and our National Sporting Body, SASCOC, moving ahead with preparations for the Olympic Games to be held in Tokyo 2021, as SSA, our job is to best prepare our swimmers for Olympic qualification.

This has been a very difficult season with the pandemic restricting all aquatic activities. We are currently on amended Level 3 restrictions which severely limits the numbers at competitions. We all expected that, by this time, we would be back to normal with very little restrictions. Even if we do drop down to Level 2, we'll still be under a limit restriction of 50 persons in an indoor and 100 at an outdoor venue.

At this critical time of less than 7 weeks to go Olympic trials, we have to provide our Olympic athletes with the opportunity to participate. As a federation, we have to give our clients some form of event, even if it is short course, as they all have registered with Swimming South Africa, and many have received very little in terms of competitions.

These revisions are based on the current limitation of 50 persons or less for indoor facilities and 100 persons or less for outdoor facilities. Where the venue is too small to hold the prescribed number of persons observing a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other, then not more than 50 percent of the capacity of the venue will be used. (GN69 – 1 February 2021).

Should the Alert Level under the State of Disaster changes, amendments to existing regulations/directions and new inclusions will be applied, if and where it is required.

## 2. Revision 1 – SSA Olympic Trials 2021 – 7 to 12 April 2021

2.1. Based on the regulatory maximum number of persons of 50 persons in an indoor event (athletes, coaches, officials and supporting staff), it is proposed that by running several sessions, we could host a maximum of

2.1.1. the 60 top ranked male swimmers and

2.1.2. the 60 top ranked female swimmers

2.2. These swimmers will be invited to participate at the SSA Olympic Trials and these trials will take place in a safe environment (sport bubble).

2.3. Venues considered for SA Olympic Trials:

<b>EC</b>	Newton Park Swimming Pool, Second Ave, Newton Park, Port Elizabeth (Indoor)
<b>KZ</b>	Kings Park Swimming Pool, 54 Masabalala Yengwa Avenue, Durban (indoor)

- 2.4. There are only 2 venues that can possibly host the Olympic Trials.
- 2.5. Due to the financial costs of KZN for the running of the event at the Kings Park Pool (also in need of major maintenance), this option is practically and financially not viable at this point in time.
- 2.6. Port Elizabeth is our only viable option and is the venue for hosting this event.

### 3. Revision 2 – SA Nationals and SA Junior Nationals

- 3.1. There are 460 swimmers who have achieved SA National qualifying times, so we still need to look after the remaining 340 swimmers.
- 3.2. The most practical way to accommodate this, is by hosting regional Senior National and SANJ events, which will give prestige to the competitions
- 3.3. The following 50-meter swimming pools are available in South Africa for these events.

<b>EC</b>	Newton Park Swimming Pool, Second Ave, Newton Park, Port Elizabeth (Indoor)
<b>FS</b>	Stadium Swimming Pool, 30 Park Street, Bloemfontein Penny Heyns Swimming Pool, 67 Unie Street, Sasolburg (used by NW)
<b>GP</b>	Hillcrest Swimming Pool, c/o Duxbury and Jan Shoba Street, Hillcrest, Pretoria Delville Swimming Pool, c/o Delville and Elsburg Roads, Germiston Outdoor Swimming Pool, LC De Villiers Campus, University of Pretoria, Pretoria
<b>KZ</b>	Kings Park Swimming Pool, 54 Masabalala Yengwa Avenue, Durban (indoor)
<b>LP</b>	Polokwane Municipal Swimming Pool, Burger Street, Polokwane
<b>MP</b>	Van Riebeeck Park Swimming Pool, c/o Liebenberg and Drysdale Street, Mbombela
<b>NW</b>	No pool available in Province – uses Penny Heyns Swimming Pool in Sasolburg
<b>NC</b>	Karen Muir Swimming Pool, Regiment Way, Belgravia, Kimberley
<b>WC</b>	NA Smit Pool, Park Road, Oudtshoorn - <i>The Municipality has placed an embargo on the use of this pool due to COVID regulations.</i> Stellenbosch University Pool, Coetzenberg Sports Complex, Stellenbosch – <i>this pool is quite expensive to utilise for galas.</i> Malmesbury Public Swimming Pool, Vrede St, Malmesbury – <i>this pool is too shallow to be used for Level 3 and faster swimmers.</i>

- 3.4. Based on the regulatory maximum number of persons (athletes, coaches, officials and supporting staff), the revision is summarised in the following table:

	Current Qualifiers		Proposal	Hosting venue
	SANJ #	SAN #		
<b>EC</b>	73	40	Combine the two events and divide total participants in 4 groups with a maximum of 30 each. (indoor facility)	Host at Newton Park Swimming Pool, Second Ave, Newton Park, Port Elizabeth (Indoor)
<b>FS</b>	51	16	*Combine the two events, add the participants from the three provinces and divide participants in 2 groups with a maximum of 65 swimmers each.  <i>*Alternatively, swimmers from these provinces should be allowed to participate at Gauteng, KZN, Eastern Cape or Western Cape events.</i>	Host at Stadium Swimming Pool, 30 Park Street, Bloemfontein
<b>NW</b>	21	11		
<b>NC</b>	4	0		
<b>GP</b>	283	218	Host two separate event: For SANJ, host at two venues and divide participants in 2 groups per venue with a maximum of 65 swimmers each. For SAN, host at two venues and divide participants in 2 groups per venue with a maximum of 65 swimmers each.	Host at *Hillcrest Swimming Pool, c/o Duxbury and Jan Shoba Street, Hillcrest, Pretoria *Delville Swimming Pool, c/o Delville and Elsburg Roads, Germiston *Backup: Outdoor Swimming Pool, LC De Villiers Campus, University of Pretoria, Pretoria
<b>LP</b>	15	2	Due to the low number of qualifiers, these swimmers to participate at Gauteng events.	
<b>KZ</b>	162	77	For SANJ, an outdoor venue should be sourced – if this is possible, participants will be divided in three groups of a maximum of 65. It will be difficult to host this event (given the number of qualifiers) at an indoor venue. For SAN, participants will be divided in three groups of a maximum of 35.	Host at Kings Park Swimming Pool, 54 Masabalala Yengwa Avenue, Durban (indoor)
<b>MP</b>	32	10	* Combine events with one group of participants or the province can decide to participate in another region.  <i>*Alternatively, swimmers should be allowed to participate at Gauteng, KZN, Eastern Cape or Western Cape events.</i>	Host at Van Riebeeck Park Swimming Pool, c/o Liebenberg and Drysdale Street, Mbombela

<b>WC</b>	220	80	Combine the two events and divide total participants in 4 groups with a maximum of 70 each.	Host at NA Smit Pool, Park Road, Oudtshoorn (if pool is available)
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#### **4. Revision 3 – SSA Level 3**

4.1. Based on the number of qualifiers for this level, these events will be hosted on a regional basis.

#### **5. Revision 4 – SSA Level 2**

5.1. Based on the number of qualifiers for this Level, these events to be hosted on a regional basis.

5.2. SSA Level 2 & SSA Level 3 may be combined events at regional level, depending on the number of qualifiers and/or entries.

#### **6. Ensuring a safe aquatics environment and protecting the health of members for SSA events**

6.1. Before the first cases of COVID-19 were diagnosed in South Africa in early March, the South African government introduced steps to mitigate the effects of the disease. By 17 March 2020, the government announced regulations under the Disaster Management Act, 2002, and these were amended subsequently for the implementation of the “lockdown”.

6.2. These regulations are legally binding on members of SSA.

#### **7. Hosting an event during the State of Disaster**

7.1. The extraordinary nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and the difficulty for the organisation of safe sporting events should be acknowledged. Swimming South Africa are, together with District and Provincial Organisers of events responsible to plan and prepare for competitions in a safe environment and following all the regulatory requirements applicable under the State of Disaster.

7.2. This revision is made with the mitigation of the risk of infection for those involved in the event as the main goal. Although even if all protocols for health and safety are in place, the risk of infection cannot be completely eliminated and participants will participate at own risk.

## 8. Alert Levels in South Africa

In South Africa, the different Alert levels was in effect as follows:

Alert Level 5	Midnight on 26 March to 30 April 2020	<p><u>GN461 – 9 April 2020:</u> All sport activities are suspended.</p> <p><u>GN480 – 29 April 2020:</u> All swimming pools are closed.</p>
Alert Level 4	1 to 31 May 2020	
Alert Level 3	1 June to 17 August 2020	<p><u>GN660 – 11 June 2020:</u> Professional non-contact sport is allowed. Professional non-contact sport matches to take place without spectators.</p> <p><u>GN751 – 6 July 2020:</u> Sport events can resume by allowing <b>non-contact</b> sport to resume training and matches and allowing <b>contact</b> sport to resume training and matches. Maximum 50 persons, based on capacity of the venue, are allowed.</p> <p><u>GN852 – 6 August 2020:</u> Professional non-contact and contact sport to resume training and matches. No spectators at venue or precinct of a sports venue during a match (gala). Participation in international sports events prohibited. Only 50 or less persons, based on the capacity of the venue, are allowed in compliance with health protocols.</p>
Alert Level 2	18 August to 20 September 2020	<p><u>GN943 – 28 August 2020:</u> Sport events are allowed by allowing sporting activities authorised by recognized sporting bodies and not allowing spectators at the venue or precinct of a sports venue. No international sporting events. Swimming pools open subject to a limitation of 50 persons or less.</p>

Alert Level 1	21 September to 28 December 2020	<p><u>GN1062 – 7 October 2020:</u></p> <p>Allowing sporting activities.</p> <p>Allowing international sport events involving countries with a low or medium COVID-19 infection and transmission rate.</p> <p>Swimming pools are open to a maximum of 250 persons for indoor facilities and 500 persons for outdoor venues.</p>
Adjusted Level 3	from 29 December 2020 to current	<p><u>GN1423 – 29 December 2020:</u></p> <p><u>GN11 – 11 January 2021:</u></p> <p>Allowing sporting activities subject to strict adherence to times of operation</p> <p>No spectators are allowed.</p> <p>Swimming pools are open for the training of professional athletes and swimming contests.</p> <p>All beaches, lakes and dams are closed for the public in hotspot areas.</p> <p><u>GN69 – 1 February 2021:</u></p> <p>All beaches, dams, lakes, and rivers, inclusive of all recreational facilities at these places are open to the public.</p> <p>All public swimming pools are open to the public subject to a limitation of 50 persons or less for indoor facilities and 100 persons or less for outdoor facilities and if the venue is too small to hold the prescribed number of persons observing a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other, then not more than 50 percent of the capacity of the venue may be used.</p>