



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2011 REPORT

The first report will focus on the challenges of the SAOF executive for 2011. It has become clear that Good Governance and governance structures are not only recommended tools, but also the underlying requirement for fundraising. We must get our governance in place in order to procure funding for our projects.

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Introduction

THE SAOF executive committee has developed several very important documents reflecting plans to achieve the stated vision. Development Growth Excellence.

These plans are now at a stage where they must be implemented and it is at this stage that the need for professionalism has become most apparent. We have already employed our first Administrative Assistant in Val Brentano. There are several other positions that must be filled, none more desperate than a Director for development to drive the expansion plan.

The drive towards professionalism, meaning employment of staff to implement plans, requires more professionalism of the committee. SRSA, SASCO and corporate South Africa are craving Sport Federations that are professional and conduct themselves in terms of good governance. It is not too farfetched to state that good governance is the key to unlock the door to access funding.

Financial Good Governance

Tania Wimberley's concern over the state of the SAOF financials was raised.

The sum of R2750 has been made available by SRSA for Tel & Fax and Printing. The SAOF does not have an official office and neither does it have telephones or printers. The only parties who are using their own Telephones, faxes and printers for the SAOF are the executive committee members. This R2750 should be split by the number of Executive members and reimbursed to them, with a supporting document to show what it is for. The reason for this is to have an actual proof of expenditure towards phone, fax and printing.

OUR FOCUS:

We must become more professional in order to achieve our stated vision - Development Growth Excellence - and if this requires good structures and paid employees, than that is our goal for 2011.

The Department of Sport & Recreation (SRSA) is becoming more auditory and need proof (invoices) for amounts claimed. This will suffice and will support our claims that the money mentioned will be spent on Phone, Fax and printing. This must be spent before the end of March 2011.

A resolution to this effect will be drawn up circulated. This will leave a paper trail. SASCO's structure allows for volunteers to get stipends.

Treasurer

Currently George Van Jaarsveld is handling the bookkeeping function and is doing an excellent job, however we believe that the SAOF should be running on a more modern system and the bookkeeper should be closer to the executive committee. The optimum would be to have the SAOF books run on an accounting system. It was suggested that the accounting system needs to be outsourced. This will assist in the SAOF books complying with financial regulations. Richard Lund suggested using Quick Books. Richard Lund will put together a proposal for Cyberstream to carry out this function.

SRSA Annexure C

This annexure, as attached, shows the way in which the SRSA grant must be spent and it must be spent by the end of March 2011. That leaves us with very little time to achieve this. The next application for a grant must take place in April 2011 and all relevant documents will be forwarded to Val to start the process. Proof of number of attendees at the School's League and any other initiative need to be obtained and submitted to SRSA.

Good Governance

This basically means running your Federation correctly. The King Code provides an excellent guideline for doing this. The Code is a consultative tool and the Executive must spend a lot of time together to work through the code. The outcome will be a Report showing which principles the SAOF will apply and how. This report is very important when applying for grants.

The Safety at Events Act will need to be enforced. Although the SAOF has public liability insurance unless we comply with the Act no compensation will be paid out. PENOC needs to have their Events put onto the SAOF calendar on the website to be covered by the insurance.

Business Unity South Africa is looking for Federations to sponsor, but very few of the sports codes complies with the King's Code and they are afraid that the money will be wasted. Large sport codes, such as athletics are battling this issue and governance is very important in order to secure funding. Attendance of the IOF Conference is crucial to maintain a good relationship with the IOF. Federations of other countries are willing to help South Africa if they are told what help is needed. Overseas Federations can be approached to request that South Africans attend their training sessions, as it is imperative that our athletes get that level of exposure. Orienteers in South Africa need to be encouraged to attend overseas camps.

At this stage no seniors deserve to attend WOC, however it is a useful tool for the SAOF to develop skills. Our current crop of Seniors are likely to be the senior coaches of the future and attendance at a WOC event will give them a better understanding of what it means to be a WOC athlete.

High Performance

We have been unofficially warned that after 2011 we are highly unlikely not to get permission to send teams to JWOC and WOC. The new Sports & Recreation Amendment Act will mean that only Federations that have structures in 5 provinces will be recognized. In effect this means that they can withdraw permission of the granting of national colours. We may be able to send athletes to participate in camps, but no-one will receive colours or permission to attend WOC.

Funding may be possible through SASCOC (NLDTF) for specific projects for development purposes but not for High Performance. Once we have structures in 5 Provinces we can again apply directly for High Performance Funding.

At this stage we need to concentrate on getting structures in more Provinces, this is more important, for now, than sending people to JWOC and WOC. The expansion plan needs to be put into a document, prepared for acceptance by the AGM and implemented in 2012.

SASCOC advised that the qualification standard for the World games to be held in 2013. Currently the standard is that you have to be ranked in the top 8 in the world. They have stated that it would be possible to get selected if an athlete manages to attain a top 8 position in the discipline in the world class event immediately prior to the Games selection, but that we cannot be certain of that.

Conclusion

The focus of the committee must be the expansion plan. We must all work on putting together a business plan that will received financial support. This plan cannot succeed unless we have money to pay an experienced orienteer to manage the project. In order to give funders peace of mind, the SAOF executive must draw up and comply with a Good Governance report. I will start working on this, but it is a massive project and will require many hours of my time. I hope to have both the business plan and governance report finished by the AGM in September 2011.



Eugene Botha

President: SAOF