



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Date: 20 May 2021

**TO: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
PRINCIPALS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES
TEACHER UNIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY ASSOCIATIONS
ALL SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS
SCHOOL SPORT COORDINATORS**

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CONTACT SPORT IN SCHOOLS CIRCULAR NO.3 OF 2021

The Council of Education Ministers has taken a decision to suspend all contact sports in schools with immediate effect. The decision was taken in a meeting held on 19 May 2021.

It is evident that despite following the protocols as guided by the Directions on extramural activities and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on the prevention, containment and management of COVID-19 in schools, contact sport events still contribute to the spread of COVID-19.

In this regard, all contact sport activities have been suspended with immediate effect until the cluster outbreaks are contained and the country has emerged from the expected third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Tournaments and championships that require learners to travel from different schools and provinces are also suspended. This includes tournaments and championships for non-contact sports.

Choir practice or rehearsals, choir competitions, choir performances and interschool choir events are suspended. The ABC Motsepe Schools Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE) is also suspended for 2021.

Intra-school non-contact sports, including matches, as well as school enrichment activities that allow for social distancing may continue provided that the COVID-19 preventative measures are complied with. The following measures must be strictly complied with:

- The number of persons in the sporting venues, change rooms or training areas must not be more than 50% of the capacity of the venue;
- Face masks must be worn by all persons entering the sporting venues, change rooms or training areas, except when participating in matches;
- Ventilation must be ensured;
- Sanitisers must be provided, as well as facilities for handwashing
- Social distancing of 1m must be maintained at all times.

In an effort to assist schools to distinguish between contact and non-contact sport, the attached list is provided as a guide. This list is not exhaustive, but the guiding principle in any sporting activity should be maintaining social distancing.

Guidance in Determining Contact and Non-Contact Sport

For the purpose of combating the spread of COVID-19, the definition of **contact sport** is based on any sporting activity that does not allow a physical distance of at least one and a half metres (1.5 m) between participants during the match.

No	Contact Sport	Non-Contact Sport
16 Prioritised Codes		
1.	Basketball	Athletics
2.	Football	Cricket
3.	Hockey	Chess
4.	Netball	Gymnastics
5.	Rugby	Swimming
6.	Volleyball	Softball
7.	Goal ball	Tennis
8.		Table tennis
Indigenous Games		
9.	Khokho	Jukskei
10.		Morabaraba
11.		Kgati
Other Codes		
12.	Boxing	Canoeing
13.	Judo	Cycling
14.	Karate	Baseball
15.	Taekwondo	Squash
16.	Wrestling	Archery
17.	Waterpolo	Badminton
18.		Equestrian
19.		Fencing
20.		Rowing
21.		Weightlifting

The Department will continue to monitor the situation and school enrichment activities will be normalised as soon as possible. Amended directions will be published in a government gazette notice in the coming days to provide further guidance to schools.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

DR G WHITTLE
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 27/05/2021