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**GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS**

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**Department of Basic Education**

NO. 451

28 May 2021

**DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002****AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIONS ISSUED IN TERMS OF REGULATION 4(3), READ WITH REGULATION 69, OF THE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2002), REGARDING THE RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS AND MEASURES TO ADDRESS, PREVENT AND COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION, ALL PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, ALL EDUCATION DISTRICT OFFICES AND ALL SCHOOLS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

I, Angelina Matsie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education, in terms of regulation 4(3), read with regulation 69, of the Regulations made under the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002), published under Government Notice No. R.480, in Government *Gazette* No. 43258 of 29 April 2020, as amended, hereby amend the Directions regarding the re-opening of schools and measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 in the National Department of Basic Education, and all Provincial Departments of Education, all education district offices and all schools in the Republic of South Africa, published under Government Notice No. 42, in Government *Gazette* No. 44154 of 12 February 2021, as amended, as set out in the Schedule.



**MRS AM MOTSHEKGA, MP**  
**MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION**  
**DATE: 28 MAY 2021**

## SCHEDULE

### Definition

1. In this Schedule, the “Directions” means the Directions regarding the re-opening of schools and measures to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 in the National Department of Basic Education, and Provincial Departments of Education, and all schools in the Republic of South Africa, as published under Government Notice No. 42, in *Government Gazette* No. 44154 of 12 February 2021, amended under Government Notice No. 145, published in *Government Gazette* No. 44339 of 27 March 2021 and under Government Notice No. 224, published in *Government Gazette* No. 44486 of 23 April 2021.

### Insertion of direction 5A in Directions

2. The following direction is hereby inserted in the Directions after direction 5:

**“5A. Return of learners to primary schools and schools for learners with special education needs**

- (1) A risk adjusted differentiated strategy means an approach to school attendance that is determined by the direction the pandemic is taking in the district municipality and country.
- (2) Primary school learners (Grades R to 7) must return to the daily attendance and traditional timetabling model from 26 July 2021: Provided that the risk adjusted differentiated strategy is implemented.
- (3) Schools for learners with special education needs (Grades R to 12) must return to the daily attendance and traditional timetabling model from 26 July 2021: Provided that the risk adjusted differentiated strategy is implemented.
- (4) Where practicable, a primary school, a school for learners with special education needs that returns to the traditional timetabling model and school

hostels must comply with the social distancing, minimum health and safety measures on COVID-19, as contemplated in these directions, the DBE Standard Operating Procedures and the Regulations.

- (5) Where practicable, teaching and learning may be conducted outside the confines of a classroom: Provided that all health and safety measures on COVID-19, as contemplated in these directions, the DBE Standard Operating Procedures and the Regulations, are adhered to and the safety of learners is ensured.
- (6) A primary school and a school for learners with special education needs that returns to the traditional timetabling model must utilise all the available rooms or spaces at the school to prevent overcrowding in a classroom: Provided that all health and safety measures on COVID-19, as contemplated in these directions, the DBE Standard Operating Procedures and the Regulations are adhered to.
- (7) Movement of learners must be minimised during teaching time with teachers rotating between lessons.
- (8) The Head of Department must provide all reasonable support to enable schools to safely return to a traditional timetabling model.
- (9) In keeping with the risk adjusted differentiated strategy, a school that is unable to return to the traditional timetabling model and continues with the timetabling model as contemplated in Direction 16 must—
  - (a) inform the Head of Department through the district office by 30 June 2021; and
  - (b) set out the steps taken to return to a traditional timetabling model and provide reasons for the decision to adhere to a differentiated timetabling model.
- (10) If the Head of Department is satisfied with the reasons provided by the schools, as contemplated in sub-direction (9)(b), and despite support from the Provincial Education Department, it is considered necessary for a school to adhere to a differentiated timetabling model, the Head of

Department must, within seven days from the date of notification by the school, provide approval, in writing, to the school.

- (11) A primary school and a school for learners with special education needs must inform the Head of Department through the district office within seventy-two (72) hours of a cluster outbreak in the school.
- (12) The Head of Department must maintain a register of schools that have been unable to return to a traditional timetabling model, and the reasons therefore.”.

### **Substitution of direction 11 of Directions**

- 3. Direction 11 of the Directions is hereby substituted for the following direction:

#### **“11. Sport and extracurricular activities**

- (1) For purposes of these directions—
  - (a) contact sport means any sporting activity that does not allow a physical distance of at least one and a half meters between participants, and includes—
    - (i) basketball;
    - (ii) boxing;
    - (iii) football;
    - (iv) goal ball
    - (v) hockey;
    - (vi) judo;
    - (vii) karate;
    - (viii) khokho;
    - (ix) netball;
    - (x) rugby;
    - (xi) taekwando;
    - (xii) volleyball;

- (xiii) waterpolo; and
- (xiv) wrestling; and
- (b) non-contact sport includes—
  - (i) archery;
  - (ii) athletics;
  - (iii) badminton;
  - (iv) baseball;
  - (v) canoeing;
  - (vi) chess;
  - (vii) cricket;
  - (viii) cycling;
  - (ix) equestrian;
  - (x) fencing;
  - (xi) gymnastics;
  - (xii) jukskei;
  - (xiii) kgati;
  - (xiv) morabaraba;
  - (xv) rowing;
  - (xvi) softball;
  - (xvii) squash;
  - (xviii) swimming;
  - (xix) table tennis;
  - (xx) tennis; and
  - (xxi) weightlifting.
- (2) All contact sport, including competitive events and matches, are hereby suspended.
- (3) Subject to sub-directions (4) and (6), and in compliance with social distancing, hygiene and safety measures in the DBE Standard Operating Procedures to prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19, non-contact sport training and intra-school matches, non-contact sport-related activities,

and all arts and culture intra-school activities, except choirs, may resume without any spectators.

- (4) The following safety measures must be adhered to when resuming the activities contemplated in sub-direction (3):
  - (a) The number of persons in the sporting venues, change rooms or training areas, at any given time, must not be more than 50% of the capacity of the venue with persons observing the social distancing requirements;
  - (b) face masks must be worn by all persons entering the sporting venues, change rooms or training areas, except when participating in training or matches;
  - (c) there must be sufficient quantities of hand sanitizers, with at least 70% alcohol content, available for use by all officials, coaches, assistants, learners and participants;
  - (d) there must be facilities for washing of hands with soap and water;
  - (e) all windows and doors must remain open, where feasible, to ensure adequate ventilation;
  - (f) social distancing must be maintained at all times; and
  - (g) the sharing of drinks and drinks containers are not allowed.
- (5) The school must ensure that sporting venues, tools and equipment are cleaned and sanitized before and after any sporting activities.
- (6) Matches, national championships and tournaments for non-contact sport that require learners to travel to other schools or provinces are suspended.
- (7) These directions must be read with Circular No. 3 of 2021, dated 27 May 2021, regarding the temporary suspension of contact sport in schools, which is available on the Department of Basic Education website, accessible through the following link:  
<https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Publications/Circular%203%20of%202021.pdf>
- (8) Subject to strict adherence to all social distancing, hygiene and safety measures, co-curricular and enrichment programmes, such as oral history,



spelling bee, moot court, speech contests, debates and school clubs, may resume activities but competitive inter-school events and engagements may only take place on virtual platforms as travel to other schools and provinces is suspended.

- (9) Subject to strict adherence to all social distancing, hygiene and safety measures, solo vocal rehearsals are permitted.
- (10) Choir practice or rehearsals, choir competitions, choir performances and interschool choir events are suspended.”.

### **Commencement**

- 4. These amendment directions come into operation on the date of publication thereof in the *Government Gazette*.



## 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
<b>16 Prioritised Codes</b>		
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
<b>Indigenous Games</b>		
9.	Khokho	Jukskei
10.		Morabaraba
11.		Kgati
<b>Other Codes</b>		
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



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