



27 August 2020

Bodybuilding South Africa and hosting of events for 2020 during COVID 19

I am very sure by now everyone has had their fair share of up and downs during this COVID 19 lock down, a great deal of frustration, with a small relief with gyms opening this month.

In our communication of 8 May 2020, as a federation we announced that our 2020 calendar of events will be halted until we reach a level where gyms open and events can take place before we announce shows, 12 – 14 weeks thereafter.

Gyms did open, with COVID 19 regulations and protocols, which is easy and understandable to follow but we did not think that we would see so many people reluctant to go back to the gyms, and the regulation only allowing 50 people in a gym, any given time, did not help.

Events and mass gatherings are still not recommended under the current State of Emergency, and no event can take place without the official approval from the Minister of Sports office.

As a federation we have all the required documents to follow this process to apply for approval to host one or several shows this year still. However, our concern is the following - hosting a bodybuilding show involves many different factors, and under the mass gatherings act, we find ourselves restricted by the number of only 50 people allowed to attend such an event. No spectators or audience will be allowed, temperature control by door with sanitization throughout the venue will be required and the appointment of a Covid officer to monitor that all regulations are adhered to. These are only a few of the regulations I mention, but there are pages of regulations that must be followed, after we get the approval from the Minister of Sport office to host such events.



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BBSA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

VICE PRESIDENT: Kaya Majeke, PA TO PRESIDENT: Ellmari Wroe, SECRETARY: Marié vd Westhuizen, TREASURER: Sue Groenewald,
CHIEF JUDGE: Bernard Groenewald, BACKSTAGE MANAGER: Deon Munnik, HEAD JUDGE: Eugene van Schalkwyk,
PR/MARKETING: Michelle Price, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER COMPLIANCE: Andrew Sokolich,
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER ATHLETES: Ali Sultan

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MEDICAL ADVISOR: Dr Riaan Barnard, 2nd SCRUTINEER: Gordon Wroe

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We are willing to go this route and run events with proper procedures in place, as we have no intention of running illegal events, damaging the integrity of the federation, but more important to put any of our officials and athlete at risk of arrest and criminal charges. Keep in mind that is why Covid Court has been established, just for this reason of dealing with people not following the Covid regulations and breaking the law. We encourage all to protect themselves at all time, with this regard.

And as much as we see a decline of positive Covid cases daily, we are also aware that there is mention of a possible second wave to hit us, and this is predicted during November 2020. Which means the easing of the lock down level currently on level 2, can return to level 3 or even level 4. This we see happening in other Countries where gyms have been closed down again with other business sectors following suite.

We cannot forget that this pandemic is very real, as much as we see people moving around as if there is no danger in the current level 2. We still see cases and even deaths of people we know, making this a huge concern for us when keeping in mind the welfare and safety of our officials and athletes attending shows. Even with all the protocols and regulations in place.

I hesitate to mention the financial implication to run and host a bodybuilding show under these circumstances, with limited athletes, no audience, very few of our sponsors in a financial situation after lockdown to sponsor such event and not to mention the affordability of our athletes to prepare, as we are aware of some athletes been retrenched, has no work , receiving only part of a salary or no salary at all. Meaning that the risk to host an event is extremely high for all concerned.

However our biggest concern goes way beyond the financial risk, as a federation if we announce dates and get athletes getting ready for this event, we see the second wave hit our Country which will lead to the re instating of stricter lock down regulations, forcing us to cancel such event. This will be costly and disappointing to our community, but I stress again, the safety and health of our community is our highest priority. Having shows will and is always possible, but losing any official or athlete, just because we want to have a show, will be sad and unacceptable to us as a federation.

We have decided the following in our zoom meeting held on 26 August 2020 with the National Executive, Chairpersons of our regions and Provinces and IFBB Promoters of the sanctioned events:

To hold back on announcing any show date until mid-September when we see what the Country status would be with regards the State of Emergency and Covid regulations. Once we have this update in September, we will decide whether we will be hosting any shows 2020 or moving our show calendar to next year 2021.



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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As eager as we are to host shows, we got no intention to put any of you in harm's way or disappoint you by having to cancel an event. Keep yourself protected against the virus and protect your name by not competing in an illegal event, as silly as this sounds it is a reality. If you enter an event, ask to see the government approval of the event, it is your right and your name at stake.

Regards

Wayne Price

BBSA National President



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