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5 November 2010

From: Chief Executive

**To: Affiliate Presidents
Affiliate Secretaries**

**Cc: Executive Committee
TC Convenors**

RE: OPERATION EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME: 2011 CRITERIA

Herewith please find the published criteria by SASCOG for the OPEX programme for 2011 – 2012.

This criteria is applicable to all Olympic and Paralympic disciplines.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adriaanse".

**SL ADRIAANSE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

OPEX ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

BACKGROUND

Since the inception of the programme for the current quadrennial, SASCOC has aimed to support as many athletes as possible. With the criteria being 'relaxed' to include rankings of up to top 16 in the world, some athletes have demonstrated no improvements in their performances and ultimately their ranking.

At the initial meetings with athletes and National Federations (NFs), it was indicated that SASCOC will endeavour to cover 100% of athletes' **preparation expenses** with a view of them fully focusing on London 2012. This will imply taking time off work and to an extent, studies.

CRITERIA FOR 2011

Due to financial constraints and mainly – return on investment (ROI), the OPEX qualification criteria will have to be stringent. This is to ensure that those athletes with a potential to achieve medals at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are fully supported. We are aware that the current rankings may be not the actual indication of performances in 2012, and we are also mindful of the fact that there are athletes outside the programme who will qualify for the respective Games.

To try and distribute the resources we currently have and support the athletes to our absolute best, below are the new OPEX qualification criteria with effect from **01 January 2011**. This implies that when the evaluation of contracts take place during November and December 2010, this will be the new criteria that are applicable.

1 Tier One

Athletes in this category will receive full support from SASCOC. Certain restriction will still apply in terms of items covered and those not covered. This will be finalized in discussions with athletes, their coaches and NFs.

The categories are as follows:

- 1.1 Athletes ranked in the top 8 in the Olympics Events/ Disciplines in the World.
- 1.2 Athletes ranked in the top 5 in the Paralympic Events/ Disciplines in the World.
- 1.3 At its own discretion after consultation with the NFs, SASCOC will support athletes who are not ranked within the categories stipulated in 1.1 and 1.2 above.

2. Tier Two

These athletes will receive **part allocation** from SASCOC, as shall be determined by SASCOC. Should the NF believe the athlete stands a better chance of getting a medal, the respective NF will have to supplement the funding for preparation for athletes in this category.

The categories are as follows:

- 2.1 Athletes ranked in the top 9 to 12 in Olympics Events/ Disciplines in the World;
- 2.2 Athletes ranked in the top 6 to 8 in Paralympics Events/ Disciplines in the World;
- 2.3 Certain restrictions will still apply in terms of items covered and those not covered. This will be finalized in discussions with the athletes and National Federations.

3. Special Consideration

- 3.1 There may be athletes who are not in the above categories but have consistently proven their potential to return medals at major multi-coded events. SASCOC may, at the motivation of the NFs, consider supporting these athletes.
- 3.2 The support for these athletes will be determined by SASCOC and shall solely focus on key aspects of preparation as shall be agreed with the athlete, coach and NF.

4. Team Sports

- 4.1 Team Sports ranked in the Top 8 in Olympic Events/Disciplines in the World shall be considered for support.
- 4.2 The support for the Team Sport shall be for the Team, not individual athletes within the Team
- 4.3 The support to the Team shall be determined by SASCOC in consultation with the NF. This however shall not be full support, that is, SASCOC will focus on specific components of preparation for the identified squad.

5. Inclusion/ Exclusion

- 5.1 Whilst NFs will nominate athletes for the OPEX programme, SASCOC reserves the right to **include** or not include the athletes.
- 5.2 SASCOC also reverses the right to **exclude** athletes on the programme if in its opinion the athlete is no longer worthy of receiving support through the programme.
- 5.3 The OPEX programme shall be **solely** for athletes/teams participating in Olympic and Paralympic Events/ Disciplines.
- 5.4 Athletes shall be officially considered part of the programme upon **signing of the OPEX contract**.
- 5.5 Teams shall be officially considered part of the programme once the NF has signed the contract with SASCOC.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 6.1 The monitoring shall be on a monthly basis whereby NFs and athletes shall be expected to provide progress reports to SASCOC;
- 6.2 Comprehensive quarterly evaluations shall be held to ascertain interventions implemented and whether progress is still according to plans submitted to SASCOC;
- 6.3 The formal evaluation of athletes shall take place annually at an agreed time with the respective NFs and athletes. This will be the time period where athletes are accepted onto or excluded from the programme.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 It should be noted that these criteria may change from time to time should a need arise;
- 7.2 It should also be noted that OPEX is not salary, but a support programme which enables athletes to prepare for London 2012;
- 7.3 It is the responsibility of the athlete to ensure that he/she adheres to all conditions of the programme as defined in the OPEX Contract.