SAUSF POLICY AWARDING OF NATIONAL COLOURS

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SAUSF POLICY AWARDING OF NATIONAL COLOURS

1. Introduction and purpose

This Policy establishes the governance, submission, ratification and administrative requirements for recommending athletes and team officials affiliated to SAUSF for the formal award of South African National Colours.

It must be read together with the SAUSF National Representation Eligibility Policy, which determines whether every proposed national representative—including athletes, Coaches, Team Managers, referees, technical officials and other delegation representatives—is eligible to represent South Africa in their appointed role. Eligibility to represent South Africa is separate from eligibility to receive National Colours.

National Colours may only be awarded by the National Colours Board (NCB) under SASCOC, following the applicable process. Selection by an affiliated Federation, SAUSF ratification or entry into an international event does not, by itself, confer National Colours.

2. Policy hierarchy, application and interpretation

2.1 Policy hierarchy

This Policy operates subject to the National Sports Colours Regulations, 2001, as amended or replaced, and other applicable requirements administered by SASCOC and the NCB. In the event of an inconsistency, the applicable SASCOC/NCB requirements prevail. SAUSF may impose additional governance and administrative requirements where these are consistent with the external requirements.

2.2 Application

- All Federations affiliated to SAUSF.
- All athletes, coaches, managers and additional travelling officials submitted through SAUSF for the award of National Colours.
- All national teams and delegations proposed by affiliated Federations for participation in qualifying international events.
- The selection, preparation, submission, ratification, international competition and associated travel processes.

2.3 Interpretation

References to a Federation mean the relevant SAUSF-affiliated national sport Federation. References to an individual include athletes and team staff or officials submitted for National Colours. Written records may be maintained electronically.

3. Authority and responsibilities

- The authority to award National Colours rests with the NCB under SASCOC.
- SAUSF is responsible for reviewing and ratifying submissions from affiliated Federations and, where appropriate, recommending eligible teams and individuals to SASCOC/NCB.
- No Federation or individual may approach SASCOC or the NCB directly for National Colours without following the SAUSF process, unless SASCOC expressly directs otherwise.
- Affiliated Federations are responsible for conducting their selection and appointment processes, confirming that every proposed athlete and official has been assessed under the National Representation Eligibility Policy, and submitting complete and accurate documentation.
- Each individual proposed to represent South Africa is responsible for providing truthful information, signing the SAUSF Code of Conduct acknowledgement required by the National Representation Eligibility Policy, and complying with the Code and applicable team rules, irrespective of whether that individual is eligible for or awarded National Colours.

4. Definition and use of National Colours

National Colours are the formal recognition awarded through SASCOC/NCB to eligible individuals representing South Africa at qualifying international sporting events. The applicable SASCOC regulations determine which events qualify.

National Colours and the Protea emblem may only be worn or used by individuals formally awarded the right to do so. Participation in an international event, selection by a Federation, or acknowledgement of an event through an NC1 process does not itself constitute an award of National Colours.

The badge may include the King Protea emblem, the words “SOUTH AFRICA”, the relevant sport designation and, where applicable, the individual’s role or age division.

5. Eligibility verification

5.1 Eligibility to represent South Africa for every role is governed by the SAUSF National Representation Eligibility Policy. The role-specific requirements, including applicable citizenship or passport requirements, membership or appointment status, good standing, mandatory SAUSF Code of Conduct acknowledgement, conduct and disciplinary disclosure, assessment and review, are contained in that Policy and are incorporated into this Policy by reference.

5.2 Before ratification, the affiliated Federation must provide written confirmation that every proposed athlete and every appointed official or other delegation representative has been

assessed under the National Representation Eligibility Policy. The Federation must submit the eligibility outcome, signed Code of Conduct acknowledgement and supporting documents required by SAUSF for each individual.

5.3 SAUSF may withhold or defer ratification where any proposed representative's eligibility has not been confirmed, where the eligibility decision is subject to a review or deferral, where the Code of Conduct acknowledgement has not been signed, or where required information is incomplete.

5.4 Coaches, Managers, referees, technical officials and other delegation representatives must meet the eligibility requirements applicable to their appointed roles under the National Representation Eligibility Policy, whether or not they are proposed for National Colours. The separate question of whether an official may be awarded National Colours must be determined in accordance with applicable SASCOC/NCB requirements and this Policy. Any passport or nationality exception for officials must be supported by the applicable written SASCOC requirement.

6. Conditions for the award of National Colours

6.1 Qualifying events and SASCOC approval

A team or individual may only be considered for National Colours where the event and participation meet the applicable SASCOC/NCB requirements. Not every international competition, friendly tournament or invitation event qualifies. International participation that does not qualify for formal National Colours must be dealt with under any applicable SAUSF national representation requirements. No person may use the Protea emblem or claim National Colours merely because they have represented South Africa at an international event.

6.2 Participation requirement

Athletes and officials submitted for National Colours must fulfil their appointed roles and participate in the international competition, subject to injury, illness, safety considerations or other circumstances accepted by SAUSF and/or the NCB.

6.3 Selection process

Selection must follow the Federation's published and SAUSF-approved procedures, with fair and equal opportunity, objective assessment and documented reasons.

6.4 Non-discrimination

Selection and ratification decisions must be made without unlawful discrimination. Financial means, race, religion or creed must not be used as an improper basis to exclude an otherwise eligible athlete.

6.5 Validity of selection

A material deviation from the approved selection process, failure to disclose a conflict of interest, inaccurate information or failure to comply with the National Representation Eligibility Policy may result in the selection being returned for correction or not ratified.

7. Ratification process

SAUSF holds the authority and responsibility to ratify all team selections before submission to SASCOC/NCB for the award of National Colours. Ratification confirms that the selection process, team composition, eligibility verification and supporting documentation comply with this Policy and applicable SASCOC/CMAS requirements.

7.1 Purpose

- Safeguard the integrity of National Colours.
- Protect athletes and officials through transparent, fair and properly documented selection.
- Confirm eligibility verification, team structure, welfare arrangements and compliance.
- Ensure that only complete and compliant applications are recommended to SASCOC/NCB.

7.2 Ratification requirements

7.2.1 Team structure

- Minimum squad numbers must meet the sport-specific requirements in Section 8, unless SAUSF accepts a written motivation.
- A qualified Coach must be appointed where required by the sport-specific criteria. A player may not simultaneously serve as the team's Coach.
- A non-playing Manager must be appointed: normally at least one for Elite and Masters teams and two for Age Group teams, one of whom must be female.
- Additional support staff may be appointed where justified by the needs of the team.

7.2.2 Management qualifications

Coaches must be appointed in accordance with the Federation's policy and hold the relevant qualifications and clearances required by SAUSF, including police clearance, First Aid accreditation, Level 1 Referee accreditation where applicable, and a current ADEL certificate.

Managers must be appointed in accordance with the Federation's policy and hold the relevant qualifications and clearances required by SAUSF, including police clearance, First Aid accreditation and a current ADEL certificate.

7.2.3 Selection governance

- Trials must be conducted in accordance with published criteria.
- Fitness assessments must be completed and minimum benchmarks met where prescribed.
- Independent selectors must be formally appointed and recorded.
- Selectors must not hold a conflicting role in the same selection process, including Coach, Manager or another role that may compromise impartiality.
- All actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest must be declared before the selection process begins.
- Selection decisions must be documented and supported by objective evidence.
- Final selections must be endorsed by the appropriate Federation authority.

7.2.4 Documentation

Applications for National Colours must be submitted to SAUSF no later than sixty (60) working days before the start of the international event, unless SAUSF approves a different timeline in writing. Online submission and electronic supporting documentation are the required submission methods, unless SAUSF directs otherwise.

The Federation must submit complete documentation within the prescribed timelines, including proof of trials, selector names, results, declarations of interest, athlete eligibility confirmations, required official disclosures and the Federation's final endorsement.

7.2.5 Athlete welfare and compliance

- Safeguarding, inclusion and transformation considerations must be addressed.
- All athletes and officials must be informed of costs, logistics, commitments and applicable conduct requirements.
- Code of Conduct acknowledgements and emergency/contact arrangements must be confirmed.

7.2.6 Conflict of interest

A conflict includes family or close personal relationships with athletes, financial or professional interests related to an athlete, club or region, or prior involvement that may reasonably compromise objectivity. Declarations must be recorded. SAUSF or the Federation must determine whether the selector may continue with restrictions or must recuse

themselves. Failure to disclose a material conflict may invalidate the affected selection process.

7.3 Outcomes of ratification

- Compliant submissions may be forwarded to SASCOC/NCB with the SAUSF recommendation.
- Submissions that do not meet requirements may be returned with corrective actions and a deadline.
- SAUSF may withhold ratification where eligibility verification, selection, governance or documentation requirements are not satisfied.
- Ratification by SAUSF is a recommendation and does not guarantee that SASCOC/NCB will award National Colours.

7.4 Ratification authority and review

Ratification authority resides with the SAUSF Executive Committee or a duly mandated subcommittee. Decisions must be recorded and communicated in writing with reasons. A Federation may request a written review within five (5) working days of notification. SAUSF may appoint an independent review panel. The review outcome must be communicated in writing, without limiting any external right or remedy available under applicable rules.

8. Selection criteria and sport-specific requirements

The purpose of the sport-specific requirements is to ensure that selected teams are appropriately prepared and competitive, and that selection is based on the strongest available eligible athletes and documented performance. The eligibility of every athlete and appointed official remains subject to the separate National Representation Eligibility Policy.

8.1 South African Underwater Hockey Federation (SAUWHF)

8.1.1 Team composition

- Minimum 10 athletes per team; a written motivation is required where fewer are proposed.
- One qualified national-level Coach per team; no dual player/Coach role.
- Managers: minimum one for Elite; minimum one for Masters; minimum two for Age Group teams, one of whom must be female.
- Managers may not also be players, Coaches or members of the Selection Committee.
- Appointment of Assistant or Development Coaches is encouraged, subject to applicable SASCOC/NCB requirements and exclusions.

8.1.2 Selection panel

- At least two independent selectors per gender, from different provinces.
- The Coach may provide input but may not serve as an independent selector.
- The Committee of Selectors (COS) may sit on the panel but may not replace the independent selectors.
- The COS may not be a player or serve in another position within SAUWHF.

8.1.3 Trial process – Elite and Masters

- Minimum two trial camps, each of at least two days.
- Land and water fitness assessments must meet the criteria approved by SAUSF and set out in the applicable fitness – SEE ANNEXURE A – POL 03.1
- Selection games must provide selectors with sufficient opportunity to evaluate all athletes.
- Selection criteria assessments must be completed using the approved assessment methods – SEE ANNEXURE B – POL 03.2.
- **Selection is invalid without documented** competitive trial games observed by selectors, at least two sets of fitness results and at least two sets of selection-criteria results as per POL 03.1 AND POL 03.2

8.1.4 Trial process – Age Group

- One introductory training camp of three to four days.
- Regional camps, primarily focused on fitness testing.
- Two trial camps, each of at least two days, including approved land and water fitness assessments, sufficient selection games and completion of the approved selection-criteria assessment – SEE ANNEXURE A POL 03.1
- **Selection is invalid without documented** competitive trial games observed by selectors, at least two sets of fitness results and at least two sets of selection-criteria results as per POL 03.1 AND POL 03.2

8.2 South African Underwater Fishing Federation (SAUFF)

8.2.1 Team composition

- Final decision to send teams rests with the SAUFF Committee, subject to SAUSF ratification.
- Teams need not always fill the full quota permitted at an international event but must reflect the strongest available eligible divers.

- Selection of female athletes is a priority; selectors may, at their discretion, waive certain sport-specific criteria to support representation, subject to the National Representation Eligibility Policy.
- Athletes are self-funded and responsible for arranging boats, gear and logistical support, unless otherwise agreed.

8.2.2 Selection panel

- National Selectors are responsible for conducting the selection process.
- Final team approval rests with the SAUFF Committee, subject to SAUSF ratification.
- Selectors must record the rationale for selections, particularly where results differ from trial outcomes.

8.2.3 Trial and selection process

Athletes may be selected using one or more of the following methods:

- Special direct selection may be considered for previously capped athletes unable to attend trials for valid reasons, or eligible athletes residing abroad. Considerations may include proven past performance, suitability for expected competition conditions and performance at recognised foreign competitions.
- Protea trials should replicate expected international venue conditions as closely as possible. Invitations may be extended to the top ten athletes from the previous two SA Nationals and to wild-card athletes at the selectors' discretion, including active previously capped divers and winners of major recognised open competitions.
- Trial results are a guideline. Selectors may deviate where reasons are documented and provided to the athlete(s) concerned and the SAUFF Committee.
- A trial is valid only where there are sufficient candidates; attendance alone does not automatically confer selection.
- Points and performance may be considered, including weighted values for fish species and size, with documented moderation where required to reflect suitability for international conditions.

9. Exclusions

The following categories are not ordinarily eligible for National Colours unless permitted under applicable SASCOC/NCB requirements and approved in writing:

- Assistant or Development Coaches.
- Physiotherapists, trainers and medical staff.
- Media personnel and Heads of Delegation.

- Referees, unless selected by the relevant World Governing Body to represent South Africa.

10. Insignia and apparel

- Official team colours are green (primary), white (alternate) and gold (trim), subject to approved national kit specifications.
- The King Protea badge must appear on the left chest and meet the applicable approved size and design specifications.
- Sponsor logos may not exceed the size of the badge and should appear on the right chest, subject to applicable rules.
- Casual kit may use national flag colours but may not display the King Protea unless the wearer is entitled to National Colours.
- No clothing or equipment bearing the Protea emblem may be issued or used before formal awarding of National Colours.

11. Badge specifications

- Sport designations must be specific, for example “Underwater Hockey” or “Underwater Fishing”.
- Age divisions must be identified where applicable, for example “Junior Underwater Hockey”.
- Roles such as “Coach” or “Manager” may appear below the sport designation where approved.

12. Presentation of Colours

No clothing or Colours bearing the Protea emblem may be handed to or worn by a recipient until SASCOC/NCB has formally awarded National Colours. SAUSF encourages an official presentation ceremony, where practicable.

13. SAUSF Travelling Code of Conduct

The SAUSF Code of Conduct applies to every individual representing South Africa, whether or not that individual is eligible for or awarded National Colours. A signed acknowledgement is a prerequisite to eligibility under the National Representation Eligibility Policy. This Travelling Code of Conduct sets out additional team and tour expectations and supplements, but does not replace, the SAUSF Code of Conduct.

13.1 General behaviour

- All athletes and officials are ambassadors of South Africa and must behave respectfully, professionally and responsibly throughout the tour.
- Punctuality is required for practices, matches, meetings, meals and official functions.
- Conduct that undermines team preparation, welfare or performance is unacceptable.

13.2 Alcohol and substances

- Age Group athletes are prohibited from consuming alcohol, irrespective of age or host-country law. A breach may result in removal from the tour and/or future eligibility consequences following a fair process.
- All participants must comply with WADA, SAIDS and applicable anti-doping requirements.
- Senior athletes and officials must act responsibly and must not consume alcohol in a manner that affects performance, safety, recovery or the reputation of the team.

13.3 Respect and discipline

- Vulgar, offensive, threatening or discriminatory language, behaviour or gestures are prohibited.
- Respect must be shown to team management, Coaches, referees, opponents, hosts, volunteers and facilities.
- Team instructions relating to safety, schedules and competition preparation must be followed.

13.4 Dress and appearance

- Approved official kit must be worn for designated travel days, ceremonies, official team functions and medal ceremonies.
- All participants must maintain a neat and appropriate appearance when representing South Africa.

13.5 Fair play

- Cheating, doping, match manipulation and unsportsmanlike behaviour are prohibited.
- Disrespect towards referees, opponents or spectators is unacceptable.
- Breaches must be reported and may result in removal from competition or further disciplinary action.

13.6 Social media and public conduct

- Online activity must not bring the team, SAUSF, the sport or South Africa into disrepute.
- Disrespectful or inflammatory comments about opponents, referees, organisers, teammates, Coaches or SAUSF are prohibited.
- Only authorised persons may issue official statements on behalf of SAUSF.

13.7 Travel and logistics

- Participants must remain with the team unless management grants permission to leave.
- Curfews, meal times, recovery schedules and transport arrangements must be respected.
- Personal excursions may take place only during designated free time and with management approval.

13.8 Reporting and enforcement

- Team management must document and report alleged breaches to SAUSF as soon as practicable.
- SAUSF may take interim steps necessary to protect safety, the team or the integrity of the process.
- Any adverse eligibility or disciplinary decision must follow the applicable fair process.

14. Offences, sanctions and enforcement

No person may use National Colours without authority, misrepresent their entitlement to Colours, misuse the Protea emblem, or act in a manner that brings National Colours or national representation into disrepute.

Depending on the nature and seriousness of the matter, and subject to applicable rules and fair process, consequences may include a warning, conditions on participation, removal from a team or tour, withdrawal of a recommendation, referral to the relevant Federation or authority, or an eligibility referral under the National Representation Eligibility Policy. Any fine must be imposed only where authorised by an applicable rule or disciplinary process.

15. Anti-doping and fair play

All participants must comply with applicable national and international anti-doping rules, including WADA and SAIDS requirements. Doping or other serious breaches may result in removal from the team, withdrawal of recommendation or other consequences in accordance with applicable procedures.

16. Review and appeals

A Federation may request review of an SAUSF ratification decision in writing within five (5) working days of receiving the decision, setting out the grounds and supporting information. The SAUSF Executive Committee may appoint an independent reviewer or panel. The review must consider whether the decision was procedurally fair, rational and based on relevant information.

A representative's challenge to an eligibility determination must be made under the review provisions of the National Representation Eligibility Policy. Where a matter involves both eligibility and ratification, the relevant review processes may be coordinated to avoid inconsistent outcomes.

17. Policy review and conclusion

The SAUSF Executive Committee will review this Policy at least every two years, or earlier where required by changes to SASCOC/NCB requirements, international governing body rules or SAUSF governance needs.

National Colours are a significant recognition of sporting achievement and national representation. SAUSF is committed to ensuring that recommendations are made through a transparent, fair and properly documented process, and that the formal award remains subject to SASCOC/NCB approval.