SAUSF POLICY
NATIONAL REPRESENTATION ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Contents

1. Introduction and purpose
2. Policy hierarchy and application
3. Definitions
4. Authority and responsibilities
5. General eligibility principles
6. Membership and good standing
7. Citizenship and passport requirements
8. Conduct and disciplinary history
9. Eligibility assessment and decision
10. Duration, monitoring and change in circumstances
11. Disclosure and documentation
12. Review and appeal
13. Confidentiality and records
14. Relationship with selection and National Colours
15. Non-discrimination
16. Policy review

Appendix A – Athlete eligibility declaration and disclosure

SAUSF POLICY
NATIONAL REPRESENTATION ELIGIBILITY POLICY

1. Introduction and purpose

This Policy establishes the requirements that athletes and other individuals appointed or nominated to represent the Republic of South Africa in underwater sports must meet under the authority of the South African Underwater Sports Federation (SAUSF), through its affiliated national Federations.

The purpose is to provide a clear, consistent and fair framework for determining whether each proposed representative is eligible for their appointed role before being nominated, selected or confirmed to represent South Africa. It protects the integrity of national representation while ensuring that eligibility decisions are evidence-based, proportionate and procedurally fair.

Eligibility under this Policy is a prerequisite for national representation in any role. It does not guarantee appointment, selection for a team, participation in a particular event, or the award of National Colours.

2. Policy hierarchy and application

2.1 Policy hierarchy

This Policy operates subject to applicable South African law, the requirements of SASCOC where relevant, and the rules of the applicable international governing body. Where a mandatory external rule conflicts with this Policy, the external rule will prevail to the extent of the conflict. SAUSF may apply additional requirements that are consistent with those rules.

2.2 Application

- This Policy applies to all individuals nominated, appointed or proposed by SAUSF or an SAUSF-affiliated Federation to represent South Africa in an underwater sport, whether or not the event qualifies for the formal award of National Colours. It includes athletes, Coaches, Team Managers, referees, technical officials and any other approved delegation representative.
- It applies to representatives across all age groups and roles, including individuals residing in South Africa or abroad.
- It applies to initial eligibility assessments and to continuing eligibility during selection, preparation and the period of national representation.
- Eligibility to represent South Africa is determined under this Policy. Whether an individual is eligible to be awarded National Colours is a separate question governed by the SAUSF National Colours Awarding Policy and applicable SASCOC/NCB requirements.

2.3 Application to all forms of national representation

For the purposes of this Policy, national representation includes participation in an official capacity as a member of a team or delegation, or as an individual formally entered, nominated or endorsed as representing South Africa by SAUSF or an affiliated Federation. A Federation may not avoid this Policy by describing an event or delegation as a tour, friendly, invitational or development activity where the individual is in fact presented as representing South Africa.

3. Definitions

National representative: Any individual nominated, appointed or proposed to represent South Africa in an official capacity, including an athlete, Coach, Team Manager, referee, technical official or other approved delegation representative.

Affiliated Federation: The SAUSF-recognised national Federation responsible for the relevant underwater sport.

Eligibility: An individual's status as meeting the requirements applicable to their role to represent South Africa under this Policy and applicable external rules.

Good Standing: The membership, appointment, financial (where applicable) and disciplinary status described in Section 6.

National representation: Representation of the Republic of South Africa in the manner described in Section 2.3.

Disciplinary finding: A finding of misconduct made following an applicable disciplinary process, or conduct formally admitted by the individual. An allegation alone is not a finding.

Eligibility period: The specific selection, event or representation period for which SAUSF makes an eligibility determination.

4. Authority and responsibilities

- SAUSF is responsible for determining whether a proposed national representative meets this Policy before endorsing or ratifying that individual for national representation.
- The affiliated Federation is responsible for verifying the individual's identity, role, membership or appointment status, role-specific passport or nationality information and disclosures, and for submitting complete and accurate information to SAUSF.
- Every proposed national representative is responsible for providing truthful, complete and timely information, disclosing relevant matters and notifying the Federation and SAUSF of any material change in circumstances.

- SAUSF may request further information from the athlete, the affiliated Federation or another relevant authority where reasonably necessary to determine eligibility.
- An affiliated Federation's selection or appointment decision does not, by itself, establish eligibility to represent South Africa.

5. General eligibility principles

- Eligibility must be established before an athlete is finally endorsed by SAUSF to represent South Africa.
- Eligibility is separate from sporting selection. An athlete may be eligible but not selected, and selection does not cure a failure to meet eligibility requirements.
- Eligibility must be assessed consistently, using the same standards for athletes in comparable circumstances.
- An eligibility decision must be based on relevant information, recorded in writing and communicated to the athlete and the affiliated Federation.
- Eligibility is a continuing requirement and may be reassessed if relevant information changes or new information becomes available.

6. Membership and good standing

An athlete must be a registered member or formally recognised participant of the relevant SAUSF-affiliated Federation and must comply with the applicable membership requirements.

For purposes of this Policy, Good Standing requires that:

- the athlete's registration or recognised participation is current for the relevant selection or representation period;
- applicable membership fees and other properly due amounts are paid, or an agreed payment arrangement is being honoured;
- the athlete is not serving a current disciplinary sanction that prohibits or materially restricts participation or national representation;
- the athlete has made all disclosures required by this Policy; and
- the athlete has complied with applicable SAUSF and Federation rules, including relevant codes of conduct.

Good Standing must be maintained throughout the applicable selection and representation period. An outstanding financial amount must be genuine, due and properly communicated; a disputed amount should be referred for clarification before it is relied upon to determine eligibility.

7. Citizenship and passport requirements

An athlete seeking to represent South Africa must be a South African national and must provide a valid South African passport as evidence of that status for the purposes of SAUSF national representation.

- An athlete must submit a copy of a valid South African passport when requested by SAUSF and within the prescribed submission period.
- The passport must be valid for the period required for the intended international travel and by the destination country.
- Permanent residence, a South African residence permit, a visa, long-term residence or participation in a South African club does not, on its own, satisfy this requirement.
- An international governing body's rules permitting a non-national athlete to participate in a team roster do not, by themselves, make that athlete eligible to represent South Africa under this Policy.
- Any exception or alternative status may be recognised only where SAUSF has received clear written confirmation that the applicable South African and SASCOC requirements permit it, and SAUSF has approved it in writing before the athlete is represented as eligible.

This section reflects the SAUSF position that athletes must hold a valid South African passport. It must be checked against current written SASCOC requirements before this Policy is approved.

8. Conduct and disciplinary history

8.1 General conduct requirement

Every national representative, irrespective of role and irrespective of whether that individual is eligible for or awarded National Colours, must demonstrate conduct consistent with the responsibilities of representing South Africa and comply with the SAUSF Code of Conduct, the affiliated Federation's applicable rules and lawful team instructions.

8.1.1 Mandatory acknowledgement and compliance

Before being confirmed for national representation, every proposed representative must receive, read and sign an acknowledgement of the current SAUSF Code of Conduct. The acknowledgement is required for all roles, including athletes, Coaches, Team Managers, referees, technical officials and other delegation representatives, whether or not the individual is eligible for or awarded National Colours.

By signing, the individual agrees to comply with the SAUSF Code of Conduct throughout the appointment, preparation, travel, competition and return period, and to comply with applicable Federation rules and lawful team instructions. A failure to sign the acknowledgement means that the individual's eligibility has not been confirmed.

A breach may be referred to the relevant Federation or SAUSF under the applicable disciplinary procedures. Any decision affecting eligibility or continued participation must follow a fair process.

8.2 Disclosure obligation

The individual and affiliated Federation must disclose relevant disciplinary and conduct matters, whether current or completed, including:

- formal findings of misconduct, whether or not a sanction remains active;
- sanctions, suspensions, warnings or conditions, including those already completed;
- fines imposed under an applicable rule or disciplinary process, whether paid or unpaid;
- ongoing complaints, investigations or disciplinary proceedings that may reasonably be relevant to suitability for national representation; and
- other relevant conduct incidents dealt with informally where there is reliable information and the matter may reasonably affect suitability.

8.3 Effect of completed sanctions and fines

Completion of a sanction or payment of a fine does not automatically expunge or reverse an underlying finding or admitted conduct. Equally, payment of a fine, without more, does not establish that an athlete admitted misconduct or was found guilty. SAUSF must consider the actual record and the basis on which the matter was concluded.

8.4 Assessment of conduct matters

When considering a disclosed matter, SAUSF may take into account the individual's proposed role and responsibilities, as well as:

- the nature and seriousness of the conduct and its connection to national representation;
- the circumstances, context and the athlete's role and degree of responsibility;
- whether the conduct was admitted or established following a fair process, or remains disputed;
- the sanction imposed and whether it was completed;
- the athlete's response, insight, corrective action and subsequent conduct;
- whether there is repetition or a pattern of conduct;
- the time elapsed; and

- any relevant mitigating or aggravating circumstances.

8.5 Pending allegations or investigations

An allegation or pending investigation must not automatically be treated as proof of misconduct or as an automatic finding of ineligibility. Where a pending matter is credible, material and sufficiently connected to the proposed national representation, SAUSF may defer its eligibility decision while seeking further information. The individual must be informed of the substance of the concern and given a reasonable opportunity to respond before an adverse decision is made.

9. Eligibility assessment and decision

Following consideration of the available information, SAUSF may determine that a proposed national representative is:

- Eligible – the requirements of this Policy have been met for the relevant eligibility period.
- Eligible subject to conditions – eligibility is approved subject to clearly stated, reasonable and time-limited conditions.
- Deferred – a decision is postponed pending specified information, clarification or the outcome of a relevant process.
- Temporarily ineligible – the athlete does not meet the requirements for the stated period, with the basis and review point recorded.
- Not eligible – the athlete does not meet a material requirement of this Policy or an applicable external requirement.

All adverse or conditional decisions must be proportionate, based on relevant information, recorded with reasons and communicated in writing. SAUSF may specify the period for which the decision applies and the circumstances in which it may be reviewed.

10. Duration, monitoring and change in circumstances

- Eligibility is assessed for the relevant appointment, selection or representation period and is not an indefinite status.
- The national representative must promptly notify the affiliated Federation and SAUSF of any change that may affect eligibility, including role or appointment status, passport or nationality status where relevant, membership or financial standing where applicable, disciplinary status or a new material conduct matter.
- SAUSF may reassess eligibility where material new information becomes available or where an athlete's circumstances change.

- An eligibility decision for one event or period does not automatically determine eligibility for a later event or period.

11. Disclosure and documentation

The affiliated Federation must submit the following, as applicable, for each proposed national representative:

- full name, date of birth, role, sport and relevant team or event;
- proof of current Federation membership, recognised participant status or formal appointment, as applicable;
- role-appropriate proof of nationality or passport status where required by applicable South African law, SASCOC rules or international governing body requirements;
- confirmation of membership fees and any outstanding financial obligations;
- the individual's completed and signed eligibility declaration and Code of Conduct acknowledgement in Appendix A;
- disclosure of relevant complaints, investigations, findings, warnings, fines and sanctions, including completed matters;
- available supporting decisions, correspondence or records relating to disclosed matters; and
- confirmation by an authorised Federation representative that the information is complete and accurate.

SAUSF may prescribe submission deadlines and a secure electronic submission method. Incomplete submissions may be returned or deferred.

12. Review and appeal

An athlete or affiliated Federation may request a review of an eligibility decision in writing within five (5) working days of receiving the decision. The request must identify the decision being challenged, the grounds for review and any supporting information.

The SAUSF Executive Committee may appoint an independent reviewer or panel that was not involved in the original decision. The review should consider whether the decision was procedurally fair, rational, proportionate and based on relevant information. The review outcome must be communicated in writing with reasons.

A review request does not automatically suspend the decision. SAUSF may direct that a nomination or submission be held pending the review where appropriate. This internal review process does not remove any external appeal or legal rights available under applicable rules.

13. Confidentiality and records

Eligibility information, particularly disciplinary and personal information, must be handled confidentially and accessed only by persons who reasonably require it for the eligibility process. SAUSF and affiliated Federations must retain records securely and in accordance with applicable law and their record-management requirements. Information may be shared with SASCOC, an international governing body or another authority where required for the eligibility determination or lawful administration of national representation.

14. Relationship with selection and National Colours

This Policy determines whether any individual is eligible to represent South Africa in their proposed role. It does not prescribe trial formats, team composition, performance standards or the award of National Colours.

The affiliated Federation remains responsible for conducting its sport-specific selection and appointment processes in accordance with SAUSF-approved requirements. SAUSF must be satisfied that each proposed athlete and each appointed official or other delegation representative has been confirmed eligible under this Policy before ratifying or endorsing that individual for national representation.

Where an event qualifies for National Colours, the separate SAUSF National Colours Awarding Policy applies to the submission, ratification and recommendation process. The National Colours Board under SASCOC retains the authority to award National Colours.

15. Non-discrimination

Eligibility decisions must be made without unlawful discrimination. Individuals must be assessed against the published requirements applicable to their role, subject to legitimate distinctions required by law, SASCOC or the relevant international governing body. Financial means, race, religion or creed must not be used as an improper basis to exclude an otherwise eligible representative.

16. Policy review

The SAUSF Executive Committee will review this Policy at least every two years, or earlier where required by changes to legislation, SASCOC requirements, international governing body rules or SAUSF governance needs. Amendments must be approved and recorded in accordance with SAUSF governance procedures.

APPENDIX A

National representative eligibility declaration and Federation disclosure

Individual full name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Sport / discipline: _____

Affiliated Federation: _____

Role / team / event / eligibility period: _____

Passport / nationality evidence (if required for this role; submit securely): _____

Passport expiry date (if applicable): _____

- Where a South African passport is required for my role, I confirm that I hold a valid passport and have supplied a true copy.
- I confirm that my membership, appointment and financial information (as applicable to my role) is complete and accurate.
- I have disclosed all relevant complaints, investigations, findings, warnings, fines and sanctions, whether completed or outstanding, or I have expressly indicated that there are no matters to disclose.
- I will notify my Federation and SAUSF promptly if any information relevant to my eligibility changes.
- I understand that eligibility does not guarantee appointment, selection or the award of National Colours.

Individual declaration: I confirm that the information supplied is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Individual signature: _____ Date: _____

Federation authorised representative: _____ Date: _____

Federation confirmation: I confirm that reasonable checks have been undertaken and that the information supplied is complete and accurate.