



NAMIBIA MOTOR SPORT FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

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The Namibia Motorsport Federation and the effects of Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has greatly challenged the people of Namibia both financially and mentally and to make things tougher, all sporting activities not only in Namibia but worldwide had to be stopped due to the spread of the virus. It is during tough times that most people turn to sport, be it local or international as an escape from reality be it only for a few hours, but Covid-19 took care of that as well.

During the lockdown, the Namibian Motorsport Federation (NMSF) has followed and implemented the guidelines as prescribed by the Namibian Government and the Namibia Sports Commission (NSC) and these were regularly communicated to NMSF affiliates and members throughout the various stages of the lockdown.

Despite this, some clubs are unhappy as they feel the Federation could have and should have done more to support them during this time. It must be noted that during the first two stages of lockdown, there wasn't much the Federation could do or offer as the lockdown regulations applied equally to the Federation.

Sustaining the Federation financially during this period has proved extremely difficult due to the loss of income generated from event permits and competition licenses because of events being cancelled or suspended. Adding to this, funding applied for at the NSC has not been forthcoming and attracting sponsorship has been unsuccessful due to the economic downturn before Covid-19.

However, the Federation has not been standing still and has used this downtime productively planning the way forward by engaging in regular Zoom meetings with its world governing bodies namely the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and the Fédération Internationale Motorcycliste (FIM) to discuss protocols and regulations for the safe resumption of motorsport. Once permission is given by the NSC for events to resume, the Federation will be in an informed position to guide the clubs and offer advice.

The Federation has already started the process of drafting Covid-19 precautionary guidelines drawing on the advice from the various Namibian authorities, the FIA and the FIM. All event organizers and officials will first have to undergo training on these new guidelines and clubs will have to implement them before any events will be allowed to take place.





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The NMSF has initiated contact with the other Namibian Federations to consult and learn from each other as the pandemic is new to everyone and no individual body has all the solutions for the way forward.

Gone are the old carefree days and welcome to the new normal at motorsport events which will be electronic temperature testing, continuous sanitizing, masks, the implementation of tracking and tracing registers and social/physical distancing. Going forward it will be the responsibility of clubs and organizers to implement and police these criteria. The motorsport public including officials and competitors will have to do their bit and everyone will have to be conscious of the fact that their actions or the lack thereof will affect others.

Recently the NMSF has been inundated with calls from competitors and organizers alike for motorsport to restart but until permission is given to resume all sports, the NMSF urges everyone to exercise patience. The safety and wellbeing of humanity is far more important than any sporting code or event so please bear with us and stay safe.



On 04 June 2020, the NMSF was invited by the Namibian Broadcast Corporation as part of a panel to discuss the affects of Covid-19 on Motorsport in Namibia. In the picture from left to right, Andreas Brendel (NMSF VP Motorcycles), Derek Jacobs (NMSF Administrator) and Richard Slamet (WMC Chairperson).

