



# MAASA NATIONAL COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Time: 19h00

Place: via Zoom

### PRESENT

Name	Designation
Diane Horn	President
Petro Wium	Treasurer
Callie Kruger	Vice President
Maretha Kruger	Athletes Rep
Jacques vd Westhuizen	Gauteng Vice Chair

### APOLOGIES

Name	Designation
Vicky van Zyl	NW Chair
Amy Diack	KZN Chair

### MINUTES:

	POINTS	DISCUSSION/DECISION	TASKS
<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting Formalities</b>		
1.1	Opening of meeting	The President opened the meeting & welcomed everyone.	
1.2	Attendance register & apologies	As per above	
1.3	Quorum	No quorum (only one ordinary member – Gauteng). Agreed to discuss agenda items and leave final decision for next meeting, as per clause 24.10 of the MAASA Constitution.	
1.4	Minutes of previous meeting	Matters arising – none Minutes accepted – Petro / Maretha	Sign and upload to website
<b>2.</b>	<b>Resignation of GMAA President</b>		
2.1	GMAA President submitted official letter of resignation from the GMAA Committee, with immediate effect. Allegations were made in the letter of resignation, which MAASA Council members felt were biased and unfair, and not factually based.  Suggest that we hold a meeting with all Gauteng / MAASA members to discuss future of MAASA and mounted archery and put all issues on the table in an open forum so that everyone knows what is actually taking place behind the scenes. Jacques suggests considering a mediator for the meeting. Petro says its time that the riders/athletes are fully informed of the	Diane – set up letter of invite, ask Stephan to organize venue, liaise with GMAA Council on a suitable date for meeting. Put notice of recent committee members	

	<p>issues within the management of the sport, and the challenges we are facing, so that they can be made aware of both sides to a story, not just the one that they are being told at club level.</p> <p>Callie: it is time that we play open cards with all members and make them aware of the attacks on MAASA management, and what we have to deal with on an ongoing basis. We as management need to follow rules and guidelines, and it makes it very difficult to manage the sport when you are under constant attack from a small group of people / one club. If the current management team gets fed up with dealing with these challenges and resigns, the association is likely to fold and there won't be a sport to participate in.</p> <p>MAASA can only continue if other members commit to stepping up and helping to manage the sport. We also need more judges and officials.</p>	<p>resignation on social media platforms.</p>
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------

**3. Letter of Concern – J du Toit/Premier Equestrian**

**Background:**

Following the completion of the Grand Africa in December last year, Mr. du Toit in his capacity as VP of Premier Equestrian, submitted a letter of concern via email on 12/12/2023, to Sharlene Venter, SG of SAEF, as well as IHAA, in which he expressed his dissatisfaction with a number of things at the competition:

1. Determination of nationality
2. Age Categories
3. Substitution of horses
4. Scoring of arrows
5. Multiple entries
6. Officials / judging
7. Incidents 1 and 2 – riders on track
8. Appeals committee
9. Pre-competition briefing

These allegations were brought to the attention of the SAEF and IHAA, without first exhausting all internal remedies, as is laid down in the MAASA Constitution. In addition, Mr. du Toit has called for the current MAASA management to be put under administration.

With the exception of the Appeals committee point, we were able to disprove each allegation with supporting documentation. However, Mr. du Toit rejected this response, and has insisted on referring the dispute to the SAEF JC, who are considering the matter.

SAEF Legal has informed all parties that the dispute will be subject to mediation, and that they will notify us when the mediator has been appointed.  
Diane sent an email to SAEF Legal on 6/02/2024, requesting more information regarding the mediation process.

**Discussion:**  
Council decided to put this topic on hold until SAEF responds to the latest mail.

#### 4. IHAA Rule Changes

##### Background:

At the recently held IHAA AGM, there were a number of rule changes that were passed, and which will be implemented immediately.

MAASA can only make changes to our rulebook at our next OGM, however the MAASA Council can take a resolution to implement these changes immediately and ratify them at the next OGM. The following clauses from the MAASA constitution refers:

21.7.5. no resolution which has the effect of creating, amending or repealing a by-law, regulation or standing rule shall be binding unless the notice thereof has been given in terms of 21.6 hereof *or such resolution has been ratified at the next Ordinary Council meeting.*

Rule change: Raid 234 added to IHAA rulebook, grading matrix and R&R system.

Discussion: should we start using this track at this year's competitions?

Council agreed that it would be best to implement immediately, pending majority vote at the next Council meeting.

Rule change: Helmets compulsory for all riders on all tracks  
MAASA already complies.

Rule Change: Calculation of speed points on T90 and T110 modified:

##### Tower 90 - old rules

			Speed points awarded @ 1pt/s if ≤par time Only IF SUFFICIENT ARROWS ARE SHOT With a MULTIPLIER depending on hits	
T90	90m	18s	IF 3 ARROWS ARE SHOT 1 hit → speed points x0.5 2 hits → speed points x1 3+ hits → speed points x1.5	If 18.01- 20s = -5pts If ≥20.01s = Zero pts total for that run
	2 & 6 scored runs (2 & 4 scored runs)			

##### Tower 90 - proposed new rules

T90	90m	18s	1 hit → raw speed bonus x0.5 2 or 3 hits → raw speed bonus x1 4+ hits → raw speed bonus x1.5	18-20s = -5pts >20 = zero pts for that run

			Speed points awarded @ 1pt/s if ≤par time Only IF 3 ARROWS ARE SHOT With a MULTIPLIER depending on hits (& time) for 3 hits time cut off is ~2/3* par time	Penalty in time between par & par+10%* No score for whole run if > par+10%*
T110	110m	22s	1 hit → speed points x0.5 2 hits → speed points x1 3+ hits & ≥14.01s → speed points x1 3+ hits & ≤14.00s → speed points x1.5	If 22.01-24s = -5pts If ≥24.01s = Zero pts total for that run
	2 warm up runs 8 scored runs			

##### Tower 110 - proposed new rules

T110	110m	22s	1 or 2 hits → raw speed bonus x0.5 3 or 4 hits → raw speed bonus x1 5+ hits → raw speed bonus x1.5	22-24s = -5pts >24 = zero pts for that run
	2 warm up runs 8 scored runs			

*Discussion:* do we implement this immediately from the first qualifier of 2024, or do we run two separate sets of results (on MAASA the old scoring, on IHAA system the new scoring) until we can officially change the rule at the next OGM.

Council agreed to implement immediately, pending majority vote at the next Council meeting.

Rule Change: Hunt tracks - Extra elements/obstacles have been added. The calculation of time bonuses have changed. It is still 0.5 points per second but now it will get multiplied by the percentage of targets that a rider hits. So if they only hit 20% of the targets they will only get 20% of their speed points. Also, some specifications/changes on requirements and scoring for the long distance shot. Waiting on IHAA for rule to be finalized and communicated.

*Discussion:* same as for Tower – do we implement immediately and change the rule at the next OGM?

Council agreed to implement immediately, pending majority vote at the next Council meeting.

Rule Change: Limited starts per horse per day – applicable to all R&R events registered with IHAA. They will allow for 3 starts per horse but they may decide to limit which events can be run if there are 3 starts per horse (we are awaiting the final wording of the rule change).

*Discussion:* we can no longer share horses if each rider is entering two events, because that will mean a horse does 4 starts. (This is apparently a long-standing rule and was not followed by MAASA because we were led to believe it was recommended, not enforced). Options to navigate around this rule for shared horses:

- a. Run qualifiers over 2 days – will affect the budget for qualifiers significantly, and we may need to increase entry fees to meet expenses.
- b. Schedule more qualifiers per year to allow more chance for riders who share horses to participate. This will probably only work for Gauteng, due to number of riders.
- c. Consider sharing horses per event per qualifier – Rider A enters two events for Q1, Rider B enters 1 event, Rider B enters two events for Q2, and Rider A enters one event etc. This will ensure each rider records three Tower and three Raid scores over 4 qualifiers:

	Raid	Tower	Raid	Tower
Q1	Marétha	Marétha		Laura
Q2	Laura	Laura	Marétha	
Q3	Marétha	Marétha	Laura	
Q4	Laura	Laura		Marétha

Laura = 3 x Raid scores + 3 Tower scores

Marétha = 3 x Raid scores + 3 Tower scores

- d. Don't register qualifiers this year for R&R, run events as we have in the past and only implement the rule next year. This will only delay the inevitable and will disadvantage all the riders in terms of their international rankings, as we will not be permitted to submit anyone's scores for world rankings.

Discussion / Decision.

Maretha: the limited starts rule has an effect on her, and some of the Barebow riders, as well as one or two riders from Premier. How can we accommodate these riders so that they can still participate in most qualifiers? She feels that it is unfair to ask riders who share horses to pay full competitive MAASA fees and SAEF fees if they are not able to do all the qualifiers, and suggests we add a qualifier in Gauteng to allow each rider to participate in 4 qualifiers.

Diane: against option of not registering qualifiers for R&R status, as it is not fair to disadvantage all

the riders by not allowing them to rank internationally, for the sake of 8 – 10 riders who have to share horses. Also, bear in mind that the rule is in place to protect the wellbeing of the horse, and MAASA promotes horse welfare.

Diane: each rider sharing a horse, can actually earn 3 Tower and 3 Raid scores over 4 qualifiers, and Gauteng schedules 5 qualifiers.

Scheduling extra qualifier seems to be the answer, although this will mean extra work for GMAA secretary (currently Diane).

Petro suggests we agree to bring in a 6<sup>th</sup> qualifier in Gauteng, but only if we get someone who is prepared to organize it.

Diane: we have been discussing the issue of organizing qualifiers at GMAA meetings, and it was suggested that each club is asked to take responsibility for organizing some of the qualifiers.

Suggestion is made to ask one or two of the Gauteng clubs to assist with organizing extra qualifier, Petro offered to help with organizing too.

Diane: for riders like Jacques, world rankings are very important, and they measure themselves against international riders. We can't penalize them by not registering our qualifiers as R&R events, for the sake of a handful of riders who share horses.

Callie: but you also can't sacrifice other riders' membership fees for the sake of 1 athlete.

Diane: it's not just one athlete, there are a lot of riders who value their places on the world ranking list, especially the juniors – it's important to them.

Maretha – adding an extra qualifier is accommodating everyone affected, and it actually gives everyone an extra opportunity to improve on their scores.

An extra qualifier also means extra officials – we currently only have two MAASA judges qualified to judge. One trainee judge will be starting her practical sessions at the first SANESA qualifiers, but a shortage of officials and judges remains a critical problem and needs to be addressed if the sport is to continue – if we have a greater pool of qualified officials, we won't need to ask the same people to work at every qualifier.

Maretha: we must bring this up at the special meeting, people need to know that the small group of officials are tired of having to work at all the qualifiers, and if we don't get more officials, we won't be able to hold competitions.

Council supports scheduling an extra qualifier, pending majority vote at the next Council meeting. Maretha will approach Barebow to ask whether they will be willing to help with organizing the 6<sup>th</sup> Gauteng qualifier.

**5. Election of next MAASA Council**

Diane: do we make a formal announcement that most of the MAASA council will be stepping down in September after Nationals?  
Callie: we need to force people into acting, we should make it clear that after the current MAASA council steps down, there will not be a sport or an association unless people are prepared to take over the management and nominate a new Council.  
Jacques: we need to add it as an agenda point to the meeting, so that we prepare people and be transparent.  
**Conclusion:** Special meeting referred to in point 2.1 will address this. We need to start getting people involved early and stress the importance of getting the right people with the right motives to manage the association going forward.

**6. Novice members / Qualifiers (Maretha)**

Novice riders feel neglected because they can't participate at qualifiers.  
  
Diane: We tried about two years ago to schedule novice qualifiers but there wasn't much of a response – one scheduled qualifier was cancelled due to no entries, and the second one only had a handful of entries.  
  
Novices don't "qualify", but they do need to be given a platform on which to compete.  
  
Suggestion is that we hold a grading day/competition for novices only, and that each club undertakes to organize one grading day for novices.  
Petro agrees.  
Jacques: we need to support each other's clubs.  
Maretha: we make it an official MAASA event, but we give the organizing to the clubs to handle.  
  
Official gradings must take place on an approved MAASA track, with a qualified MAASA judge in attendance, and timers, if necessary (if rider is going to canter to attempt a SA grade), as per the MAASA rules.  
  
Council supports the implementation of grading competitions for novice riders, pending majority vote at the next Council meeting.

**7. Closing**

As per MAASA constitution clause 24.10, the meeting stands adjourned until Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024, those members of MAASA Council present and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum and will vote on agenda items as discussed in this meeting.

  
-----  
**D Horn**  
**MAASA President**

14 May 2024  
-----  
**Date**