



**MINISTRY OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SPORT AND CULTURE
DEVELOPMENT**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE
CONSTITUENCY ATHLETICS
COMPETITIONS**

2017/18

CONSTITUENCY ATHLETICS COMPETITIONS

COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS: 2017-18

PREAMBLE

The Constituency Athletics Competitions is a mass participation programme funded by the Government of Botswana. Rules and Regulations are established to provide guidance and foster compliance to the competition to ensure fair and honesty. The competition shall occur under the auspices of the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport & Culture Development in collaboration with Botswana Athletic Association (BAA).

Any rights which are not ceded by these Regulations to any Constituency Athletics Club or individuals taking part in the Tournament shall be regulated alongside the BAA with the ownership belonging to the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development.

It should be noted that the word Club means Athletics Constituency Team.

ARTICLE 1 – TITLE

- 1.1.** The Constituency Athletics Competitions shall take place every financial year on a two (2) cycle with some break between the cycles
- 1.2.** Constituency Athletics Competition shall be governed on a heat-final basis starting at District level in sprints, medium races and middle to long distances.
- 1.3.** Competitions are to be held in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the competition here contained, coordinated by various Committees established by Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development at Districts and Sub Districts.
- 1.4.** Competitions shall be officiated by qualified/competent technical officials appointed by the Coordinating Committees with the guidance of a competent person.

ARTICLE 2: ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1.** An athlete or team is eligible to compete in the competitions when he/she is registered with Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development at respective districts.
- 2.2.** No athlete or team will enter the competitions without the consent of the registering body/authority.
- 2.3.** Competitions Organisers reserve the right to seek for proof or eligibility in instances where they doubt the registration form.
- 2.4.** The registration forms must be complete with some indications on the part of the athlete fitness to participate.
- 2.5.** Certified copies of Omang, and/or passport documents will permit the athlete to register and to compete.
- 2.6.** Registration is for those athletes with 30 years and below
- 2.7.** No foreign National will be permitted to register to participate unless if she/he has naturalised
- 2.8.** No employees are allowed to register and participate, other than Ipelegeng, Tirelo Sechaba, Herdboys, House Assistants, Farm Assistants, and Government Volunteer Scheme.

ARTICLE 3 – REGISTRATION

- 3.1.** An athlete/teams are expected to bring approved Registration Lists and certified copies of National Identity Document (Omang) during registration and for inspection before commencement of the competition. Any *athlete/team* that fails to comply shall NOT be permitted to compete.
- 3.2.** Certified IDs/Passports should be three (3) months or less, any certified copy of ID/Passport which is more than three (3) months old will NOT be accepted. Those with expired IDs/Passports will NOT be permitted to register with the competition.

- 3.3. Registration must take place in the respective constituencies/District where the competitions are held.
- 3.4. No athlete is allowed to register for more than **TWO** (2) events unless the third (3rd) event is a relay.
- 3.5. The District offices will issue the athletes with registration forms and keep a data of how athletes and teams have registered in the constituency/District.
- 3.6. Where an athlete changes the district or constituency during the calendar of the competitions, they may seek for transfer to another constituency/district from relevant authorities. The athlete however must complete his/her competitions representing the same constituency he registered for.
- 3.7. Athletes/teams will only be allowed to compete in the competitions when they have registered within one constituency.
- 3.8. Constituency Athletics Competitions is illegible for those residing **within** the constituency by virtue of work, birth, relocation and residing with spouses or relatives
- 3.9. Athletes/teams who registered to participate in Constituency Sport tournament (ball sports) are not allowed to register for athletics competitions.
- 3.10. Registration forms should be collected from MYSC Districts offices/Kgotla/District Commissioner Office and BNSC offices. Registration period shall be announced and any athlete or team that submit the registration forms at designated places after deadline shall be rejected.

ARTICLE 4 – ENTRY QUALIFICATION

- 4.1. Qualification for participation in the Athletics Constituency Competitions shall be for teams and athletes not affiliated and/or registered with the Botswana Athletics Association (BAA) Clubs. Only teams and athletes who have not competed in the last eighteen months (18) of Botswana Athletics Associations events (BAA affiliates) shall be eligible to compete except with written permission from BAA Secretary General or Sport Development Officer at BAA.

- 4.2. Those athletes in possession of registration books/cards or licenses for clubs affiliated to Botswana Athletics Association or had competed within the BAA organised competition within the last eighteen months shall be permitted to register in the competitions. Article 4.1 shall apply for this section
- 4.3. School going girls/boys/men/women from Primary to Tertiary institutions **are NOT** eligible to compete in the tournament. BOCCODOL students are also allowed to participate. The youth awaiting Form 5 results shall register for participation in the coming cycle(s) provided that they completed studies while registration is on-going. Furthermore, the youth that are admitted to different schools after registration are allowed to continue competing till the end of the competition.
- 4.4. All those participants who registered for the competition and are admitted as students while the competitions are on-going are allowed to continue competing till the end of the cycle.

ARTILCE 5: COMPETITION ATTIRE

- 5.1. Athletes/teams taking part in the competitions are expected to put on proper acceptable attire. No athlete will be allowed to compete with long trousers, tracksuits, jeans, soccer boots, military boots, casual shoes or sandals
- 5.2. The permitted attire are, running shoes, polyester shorts, bibs, vests and any attire approved by the organizing authority
- 5.3. Athletes or teams my display name of title sponsors on their vest
- 5.4. Each athlete or team will be issued with a race number during the competitions this will likely take place at the regional level and national finals

ARTICLE 6: CONSTITUENCIES AND REGIONS

SOUTH REGION	NORTH REGION
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ghanzi North2. Ghanzi South3. Kgalagadi North4. Kgalagadi South5. Jwaneng/Mabutsane 6. Gaborone Central7. Gaborone North8. Gaborone South9. Gaborone Bonnington North10. Gaborone Bonnington South11. Mochudi East12. Mochudi West13. Tlokweng 14. Gabane/Mmankodi15. Thamaga/Kumakwane16. Molepolole South17. Molepolole North18. Lentsweletau/Mmopane19. Letlhakeng/Lephephe20. Takatokwane21. Mogoditshane 22.. Lobatse23. Moshupa/Manyana24. Ramotswa25. Kanye North26. Kanye South27. Mmathethe/Molapowabojang28. Goodhope/Mabule	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Okavango2. Ngami3. Maun East4. Maun West5. Nata/Gweta6. Chobe7. Boteti West 8. Tati East9. Tati West10. Francistown East11. Francistown West12. Francistown South13. Shashe West14. Tonota South15. Nkange 16. Bobirwa17. Mmadinare18. Selibe Phikwe East19. Selibe Phikwe West20. Lerala/Maunatlala21. Palapye 22. Mahalapye East23. Mahalapye West24. Shoshong25. Serowe West26. Serowe North27. Serowe South28. Sefhare/Ramokgonami29. Boteti East

ARTICLE 7 – ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITIONS

7.1 The Organising Committee for the Constituency Athletics Competition shall comprise the following:

Sub-district Athletic Coordinating Committee; District Athletic Committee, Regional Athletic Committee and National Athletics Coordination Committee where the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development and Botswana National Sport Commission/BAA shall serve as the Secretariat and Exo-fixio members of all committees where possible.

7.2. The National finals shall be organised by the Local Organising Committee in conjunction with the Botswana Athletics National Competitions Committee

7.3 The Committees shall assume full responsibility of the management of the finals which shall include start list, venues and overseeing the competition results with the support of the BAA Regional and National Competition Committee structures.

7.4. All matters relating to the tournament regarding disputes, misconduct and protests shall be referred to the Appeals Committee or Competition Manager for adjudication and resolution

ARTICLE 8 - FORMATION OF STRUCTURES

8.1. Formation of structures or committees responsible for the Constituency Athletics Competition shall comprise of the following:

8.1.1 Districts and Sub- District Athletic Committee which is responsible for implementation of the competitions at District/Constituency level.

8.1.2. Regional Athletics Committee which is made up of members from District Athletic Committee or Sub-District Athletic Committee and are responsible for implementing competitions at Regional level

8.1.3. National Athletic Coordinating Committee which constitute of members from Regional Athletic Committee, Botswana Athletic Association and MYSC HQ

8.1.4. All the committees shall include a technical manager who shall be appointed by BAA and MYSC to assist with technical matters and disputes arising from the competition.

8.1.5 All Committees should be formed and operate as per Athletics guidelines.

ARTICLE 9 – QUALIFICATION TO THE NEXT LEVEL

9.1. The Constituency Athletics Competitions shall be held on the basis that if more than 8 athletes have registered for the same race, heat-races will be conducted as eliminations for finals

9.2. The top three (3) winners of each race will proceed from District level to the Regional level of the constituency competitions.

9.3. Position one to six (6) from the Regional Level in each race will qualify for the National level

9.4 In all races, Constituency Athletic Competitions rules will apply.

9.5. There can never be a tie as time will be used, but in case there is a perception of a tie, Competition/Technical Manager shall decide on the matter with the committee

ARTICLE 10 – SUBSTITUTION, CHANGE OF RACES AND PENALTIES

10.1. Athletes have the right to change category only at the District level and such can only be made two hours (2 hours) before the start of the competition.

10.2. The substitution can also be made for the relays but from the list of registered athletes at that level only.

10.3. Any athlete/team who have been found to have conduct button exchange outside the permitted exchange zone or infringe in another athlete lane shall be disqualified

ARTICLE 11 - LATE ARRIVALS

- 11.1.** Late arrival is not condoned in these organised competitions.
- 11.2** An athletes who arrives after the final call room shall be disqualified and no replacement is allowed under any condition.

ARTICLE 12 - GENERAL MISCONDUCT OR INDISCIPLINE

- 12.1** Breaking the Competition Rules and Regulations, deliberate delay of competition or any conduct which is contrary to the spirit of this social competition shall constitute a punishable offence, thus (disqualification)
- 12.2.** Athletes/teams shall be held responsible for the misconduct during these competitions. Suspension or disqualification from the competition shall be imposed upon any team/athlete if found guilty of misconduct by the Coordinating Committee or the Appeals Committee.
- 12.3.** Teams/athletes who vandalize the property where they have been accommodated will be liable to pay for the damage caused and be expelled from the competitions.
- 12.4.** Use of abusive language, violent behaviour or consumption of alcohol by athletes shall constitute disqualification from the competitions.

ARTICLE 13 – WITHDRAWAL AND PENALTY FOR FAILING TO HONOR COMPETITIONS

- 13.1.** All teams/athletes that qualified to compete in the Constituency Athletics Competitions are obliged to attend competition.
- 13.2.** A team/athlete that withdraws from the Constituency Athletic competition shall not be replaced once the competition has commenced. If a team/athlete withdraws from the competition once it has started, the Coordinating Committee shall proceed with the competitions
- 13.3.** If a team/athlete does not turn up for a competition, it is regarded as failure to participate and therefore disqualification will be effected for the entire cycle.
- 13.4.** The coordinating committee at each level shall take whatever action it deems necessary in cases of force majeure
- 13.5.** Matters of violence and any other disciplinary matter relating to the Competition and considered relevant by the Coordinating Committee, shall be referred to the Competition Manager

ARTICLE 14 – PROTESTS

- 14.1.** The coordinating committees at each level of the competition have the power to review and deal administratively with any reported irregularities. It is upon the Coordinating Committee to call a team/individual for a hearing.
- 14.2.** Protest shall be lodged two hours (**2 hours**) before the start of the competition in writing to the Competition Managers or Coordinating Committee. Any team/athlete which make verbal protest without proper follow-up through the letter shall be deemed to have lost the protest.
- 14.3.** The protest shall be made in writing, signed by the athlete or official representing the athlete/team and submitted to the Secretary of the Coordinating Committee for adjudication within thirty (**30 minutes**) of the end of the competition
- 14.4.** The protesting team/athlete shall notify the competition manager or coordinating committee with a letter of protest. Failure to follow the procedure shall constitute a dismissal of the protest.
- 14.5.** In the event that a team/club uses a defaulter, a penalty of suspension from the competition shall apply for such a team/athlete and shall

forfeit all what has been gained from the competition and be liable for expulsion

- 14.7.** No protests shall be permitted based time recorded by the lane judges or judge. Such matters will be reviewed and determined by the Coordinating Committee who shall deal with it on the same day

ARTICLE 15 - FORGERY OF EVIDENCE- DOCUMENTS

- 15.1.** If the athlete/team is found to have altered the evidence, such teams/athlete will be expelled from the competition and handed to the investigating authority for necessary action.

ARTICLE 16 – COMPETITION HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME

- 16.1.** All Competitions shall be conducted in accordance with the Competition Rules and if there are any technical issues such decision must be referred to Technical Manager & BAA for assistance
- 16.2.** All teams/athletes participating in these games are requested to observe and abide strictly by these Regulations.
- 16.3.** All sprints event shall be started by the following command: On your marks; SET which shall be followed by a firing of a starting pistol
- 16.4.** The competition shall first commence at the Constituency level, then Regional level and the final stage is the National finals. The competitions shall be held in two (2) cycles per financial year.

ARTICLE 17 – COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

17.1. Competition management shall be appointed by the Coordinating Committee together with BAA & MYSC office.

17.2. In the event the appointed officials do not show up at Competition one hours (1hour) after the scheduled time, the teams involved may appoint competent officials at their discretion to start the competition.

ARTICLE 18 - OTHER MATTERS

18.1 Teams are reminded that assistance with transport might ONLY be provided at Regional and National Final.

NOTE: No team/individual/committee shall modify/use/develop its own set of rules other than the ones captured on this edition.

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MR KAGO RAMOKATE

PERMANENT SECRETARY

**MINISTRY OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SPORT AND CULTURE
DEVELOPMENT**

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS