



**Basic Education
Sport, Arts and Culture**



**DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION (DBE)
DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE (DSAC)
SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS ATHLETICS (SASA)**

Date: 06 April 2026

To:

**Heads of Provincial Education Departments
Heads of Provincial Departments of Sport, Arts and Culture
Teacher Unions
School Governing Body Associations (SGBs)
Parents and Guardians**

**RE: POSTPONEMENT AND RESCHEDULING OF THE 2026 NATIONAL SCHOOLS
ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Dear Stakeholders,

The Department of Basic Education (DBE), the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC), and South African Schools Athletics (SASA) hereby issue this joint communication to formally convey the decision regarding the postponement and subsequent rescheduling of the National High/LSEN Schools Athletics Championships, originally scheduled to take place from 08–11 April 2026 at the Royal Bafokeng Stadium in the North West Province.

The decision to postpone the Championships arose from the confirmed unavailability of the Royal Bafokeng Stadium, compounded by operational constraints associated with the long Easter weekend, which collectively had a ripple effect on logistics, stakeholder coordination, and compliance readiness.

In consideration of these factors, and following due consultation, it was deemed necessary to postpone the event to safeguard the integrity of the Championships.

We are pleased to confirm that the Championships have been rescheduled as follows:



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- **Dates: 29 April – 02 May 2026**
- **Venue: Pilditch Stadium, Tshwane**

The collective has agreed that the North West Province will remain the official host, with the Gauteng Province providing the necessary operational and logistical support. All provinces are therefore requested to redirect their logistical arrangements to Tshwane in accordance with the revised dates and venue.

In identifying a suitable alternative venue, only three facilities were considered viable for hosting an event of this scale. The University of Johannesburg Athletics Stadium, while technically suitable, does not have sufficient parking capacity to accommodate the anticipated number of participants and spectators. The Germiston Athletics Stadium requires key renovations and could not be rendered compliant within the required timeframe. Pilditch Stadium was accordingly identified as the most suitable venue, meeting the necessary technical and operational standards.

The collective further wishes to clarify matters relating to prior communications. The statement issued by SASA to the media, indicating readiness to proceed with the Championships as initially scheduled, is noted. However, it must be emphasised that such conclusions were taken based on the facts that were available at the time. It should be noted that during a virtual LOC meeting that was held on the 01 April 2026, regarding the confirmed unavailability of the Royal Bafokeng Stadium, options and implications to identify an alternative suitable venue and rearrange the logistics were yet to be confirmed.

Additionally, the communication issued by the Director-General of DSAC prior to the Easter weekend was intended as a precautionary measure, aimed at sensitising provinces to halt or minimise procurement processes to avoid unnecessary and wasteful expenditure pending final confirmation of the venue.

The DBE, DSAC, and SASA collectively extend their sincere apologies to all affected stakeholders, particularly athletes, parents and guardians, and provincial teams. We acknowledge the inconvenience caused, including financial implications already incurred by some families and provinces. This decision was, however, taken in the best interest of ensuring that the Championships are hosted in a manner that is safe, compliant, and preserves the credibility and integrity of competition results.



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All stakeholders are kindly requested to adjust their plans accordingly and to continue supporting athletes in preparation for the rescheduled Championships. Further operational details will be communicated through the appropriate channels.

We appreciate your understanding and continued cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Mathanzima Mveli
Director-General
Department of Basic Education

Mr Sabata Kumalo
President
South African Schools Athletics

Signed by:Cynthia Ntombifuthi Khumalo
Signed at:2026-04-07 15:24:44 +02:00
Reason:I approve this document



Dr. Cynthia Khumalo
Director-General
Department of Sport, Arts and Culture