



Athletics Association
of Barbados Inc.

President: Ms. Catherine Jordan
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Athletes & Coaches
FROM: Athletics Association of Barbados Inc. (AAB)
SUBJECT: Covid-19
DATE: March 30, 2020

Dear Athletes, Coaches

As the Corona Virus continues to spread and as Barbados enters the phase of curfew and limited public activities in an effort to halt the transmission of this virus, the Board of the Athletics Association of Barbados (AAB) is of the view that this is the right time for a more comprehensive and conclusive communication with you.

We have already informed you about the postponement of the 2020 CARIFTA Games which would have been held over the Easter weekend in Bermuda. Subsequent to that communication, we have received word from World Athletics (WA), Athletics Kenya and the Kenyan Government of their decision to postpone the 2020 World Under 20 Championships which were previously scheduled for July 7 to 12, and more recently have taken note of the press release issued by the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the President of Japan which informed that the 2020 Olympic Games have been rescheduled to "a date beyond 2020 but no later than summer of 2021 to safeguard the health of the athletes and everybody involved in the Olympic Games and the International Community."

The foregoing encompassed the 2020 regional and international competitions for which the AAB would have sought to select athletes. Be therefore cognisant that these postponements will have an impact on our usual January to June qualifying period identified in our selection criteria.

The AAB's future selection actions will be predicated on decisions which will be made by the IOC, WA and the North American, Central American and Caribbean Area Association (NACAC). We recognise the urgency with which you are looking forward to this information



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and commit to ensuring that related decisions will be made as soon as we are in a position so to do.

We know that the protocols established by individual countries have restricted and determined your inability to train and compete. We recognise and understand the need to safeguard the health of all citizens in and out of Barbados and therefore support these actions. We urge you to follow these guidelines and stay safe.

We take this opportunity to share with you an excerpt from a March 27, 2020 letter from our President, Lord Sebastien Coe, as he highlights the following 4 areas

- **Getting our athletes back into competition as soon as possible, once it is safe to do so.** We will continue to do whatever we can to preserve and create an outdoor season of one-day meetings in 2020, starting and ending later than usual, so athletes, when they are able and it is safe, will have access to competitions in every region. Diamond League events have been postponed up until June at this stage, as have , but we are mindful that our athletes need to compete at some point this year so they can benchmark their performances and adjust their training accordingly for an Olympic Games in 2021. We have a network of fantastic meeting directors, cities, governments and organising committees across our World Championship and Continental Tour events to the Diamond League, marathons and road events who are willing to be flexible and work with us to do this. We have amazing partners who are working with us on schedules and opportunities and we have 214 determined federations who are exploring national and local opportunities. My immense thanks go out to all of them.
- **Expedite our current review of the Olympic qualification system and release any changes to the process as soon as possible so athletes know where they stand.** Last week all sports agreed to the IOC's proposal that all athletes currently qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games will remain qualified for next year's event. In athletics the primary qualification avenue is by meeting the entry standards set out in March 2019. Once those places are allocated, the remaining athletes are drawn from the World Ranking list. As of today, all athletes who have met the entry standards for their event will remain qualified for the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2021. This is approximately 50% of the places. What is important now is that we develop a clear and fair process for the



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remaining athletes to qualify, given many events have been postponed. We will work with our Athletes' Commission, our Council and the IOC to do this. We are also looking at how we can preserve an outdoor competition season this year with a series of one-day meetings on each continent that may begin as late as August and run to early October, so our athletes can get back in to competition as quickly as possible when it is safe to do so.

- **Reorganising the global calendar of events, not just for the next two years which will see some major disruptions, but for the long term.** We are committed to working with all sports to sort out the sporting calendar in 2021 and 2022 and this will take some time and compromises all round. We started a review of our own sport's global calendar in February, bringing together a team from different aspects of our sport and from different parts of the world to review the range of events that happen every year on a national, regional and global level. We are putting renewed effort and time into this. We are also looking to expand our one-day meetings and deliver high quality events in all parts of the world so our athletes do not have to travel across the world to compete and earn a living but can do so on their own continents and in their own countries. This is good for athletes, their families and friends and the legions of fans who follow our sport.
- **And we continue to develop our strategy to grow athletics.** We have teams who are planning a new kids athletics programme; new events and competition formats, new partnerships to help get the world moving, new collaborations around sustainability, air quality and health and the use of new technology to highlight the amazing talents of our athletes, their stories and their triumphs and take them into the homes of millions of fans around the world.

Kindly note that a revised NACAC Area schedule will be confirmed as soon as ongoing discussions with World Athletics have been completed.

The AAB stands with the World Athletics Family and our local government in our adherence to all COVID 19 Protocols and urge you to do the same. Stay at home. If you must leave, we urge you to practise physical distancing and stay healthy.



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Use this period to complete assignments and prepare for whatever examinations come if you are still of school age. I urge those of you who are not in school to engage in thoughtful reflection on your future whether that is related to sport or business.

We extend the best to you in these difficult times, but especially in these two weeks of limited activities and the uncertainty which characterises the COVID 19 future.

Yours sincerely
Athletics Association of Barbados Inc.

Catherine Jordan (Ms.)
President