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Windhoek
15 June 2020

To: NBAA Members
NBAA Sponsors
Namibia Federation for Freshwater Anglers (NFFA)
NBAA Media Partners

Re: Post Covid19 Calendar for 2020
Effects of the post Covid19 Calendar

Dear friends of angling,

The past few months have been an unprecedented whirlwind that nobody on this planet expected. The novel corona virus and subsequent lockdowns that countries have imposed as a result have wreaked havoc globally. For 1st time since World War II economies have stood still for extended periods of time. The effects of this global pandemic will still be felt for many years to come and already struggling economies such as Namibia's will be hit the hardest. Uncertainty still prevails, and with the rapid increase in infections in neighbouring South Africa the experts predict that the peak is still to come which will no doubt lead to another lockdown in 2020 which will undoubtedly have a major effect on most things mentioned below. Many of us are tired of hearing about the new normal and yet the reality of it all is clear for us all to see.

As a result of the State of Emergency, as declared by the president of Namibia, the NBAA was forced to postpone no less than 8 events including the Mercury Summer Bass Classic, FLW Finals, our junior development event, the B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier as well 4 national tournaments. At the time, due to overwhelming uncertainty, the executive council decided to postpone the events in the hope that the 2020 NBAA year could possibly be resumed.

As most of you are aware of by now the following international events for 2020 have been postponed to 2021:

- Region V Bass Angling Championships with Zimbabwe as host country
- FIPSeD / CIPS Black Bass World Championships with USA as host country
- Region V Junior Bass Angling Championships with Zimbabwe as host country

The postponement of the events means that members that qualified for 2020 teams will be nominated for 2021 team tournaments. Members that declined due to reasons pertaining to 2020 participation will be re-nominated as per the final 2019 standings. The decision was not a hard one to make but did leave the question begging of what to do with 2020 qualification should 2020 have resumed with rescheduled postponed events.

The following international events for 2020 have not been postponed as yet and are scheduled to continue:

- B.A.S.S. Nation Championships @ Pickwick Lake in November
- FLW Championships in USA in December

Concerns over travel restrictions have been raised with B.A.S.S. in the USA and the response has been that the international countries will be missed but the events will proceed. Due to decisions made

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pertaining to 2021 selection, as well as possible and more than likely travel restrictions imposed by governments as well as the Namibian Sports Commission the decision was made not to endorse Namibian participation at the event even though the event is scheduled to continue. The 2020 qualifiers will be nominated for 2021, which is in line with the decision made for all teams.

Qualifying for the FLW event in the USA, which was re-scheduled for December 2020, was due to happen in 2020. 2 successful events were held, however the final had to be postponed to October. This would leave no time for qualifiers to prepare to attend the event even if regulations allow. The decision was made that FLW Finals in conjunction with the events held will determine competitors for 2021 which will give qualifiers over a year to prepare in the future.

The executive council have had many discussions on the way forward for 2020 post Covid19 lockdowns. All possible scenarios were considered which led to the proposal to cancel all qualification for 2020 and to propose a revised 2020 calendar which will not penalise members wishing to qualify for future teams that cannot afford to do so due to the economic effect of the pandemic. In layman's terms the balance of the 2020 will be for fun as well as to gain illustrious title of Angler of the Year (Seniors, Ladies, Juniors). The results of the tournaments will be discarded after 2020 and will not count for any selection. Members most negatively affected by this decision are our new member and for this we sincerely apologise. The decision was made not to discard the scores of new members but rather to keep them on record to be utilised as a 'history point' for future selection. The decision led to the cancellation of national trials as well junior trials for 2020, National Championships will however proceed as planned and a 2020 National Champion will be crowned. The B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier event which was postponed has thus been cancelled for 2020.

The revised 2020 calendar was decided upon as follows:

- 29 August – Bank Windhoek National Tournament 3 @ S. Von Bach
- 12 September – **BIG BASS FEST** @ Lake Oanob
- 26-27 September – Bank Windhoek National Tournament 4 & 5 @ Lake Oanob
- 10-11 October – Mercury Summer Bass Classic @ venue to be determined
- 12 October – FLW Namibia Finals qualifier for 2021 @ same venue as Classic
- 23-25 October – Bank Windhoek National Championships @ venue to be determined
- 14 November – Bank Windhoek National Tournament 6 @ S. Von Bach
- 3 December – Annual General Meeting

The executive council is committed to the return to competitive angling post Covid19. In order to achieve this we have been forced to implement measures to minimize the spread of the disease. The measures are being discussed in detail and will be based on government specifications as well as available scientific data. We would like to appeal to all anglers to respect and adhere to implemented measures in the interest of the safety of all. All measures will be conveyed to members at least 2 weeks prior to the next scheduled event in August. The executive council is committed to host the balance of 2020 in good spirit that will be fun for all.

We are pleased to announce that despite the decisions made for 2020 Bank Windhoek has reconfirmed their pledge as title sponsor for the 2020 year for which we are extremely grateful. Bank Windhoek has

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been a pillar of strength behind bass angling in Namibia for many years and their continued support really shows the values of the proudly Namibian bank.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 29th of August for an awesome event. Our dams are full and the excitement that created was muted by this pandemic. With the current cold spell we are experiencing the building blocks for some spectacular bass fishing at both our venues in the very near future are lining up perfectly. We are confident that the fishing will be so good that the excitement is creates will tower above all other worries related to 2020.

Should there be any queries or questions regarding decisions made please feel free to contact me directly.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Richard Grant". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard Grant
Chairman

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