



South African Model Aircraft Association

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SAMAA SMC Communiqué June 2020

Dear Members

The SMC had their first official meeting last night and felt that we needed to communicate with the members as soon as possible hence this communiqué which will be the first in what we plan to be a regular distribution to the SAMAA membership.

During the President's speech last night he announced the opening of "Non-contact sports such as golf, tennis, cricket and others" subject to "specific and stringent safety requirements" and that "Announcements will be made in due course to detail these measures and indicate the date from which these activities will be permitted".

SAMAA are in now daily contact with the AeCSA regarding the matter to finalise the protocols and procedures required for the reopening of our clubs.

COVID-19 Lockdown and the grounding of model flying

SAMAA's applications for earlier opening (from level 2 to the current level 3) to the Aeroclub of South Africa (AeCSA) and the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) was submitted via the appropriate communication channels on the 1st of May 2020 and the progress of our application has since been followed up weekly. On 15 June 2020 correspondence was received from the AeCSA (in response to rumours posted by SAMAA members that RC flying is allowed) informing the SMC that modelling activities remain restricted and that our application requesting the relaxation of the restrictions is being addressed by the SACAA.

It is important to understand that the decision to ground model flying and close all clubs was NOT made by SAMAA or the AeCSA, this was a direct instruction from SACAA who class SAMAA's activities as recreation in nature along with activities such as Sky Diving, paragliding, etc which all fall under the auspices of the AeCSA.

Other "terrestrial" sporting bodies such as tennis, rowing, etc, receive their directives from the Department of Art, Sports and Culture, however model Aviation falls under the auspices of the SACAA (via AeCSA) hence has a very different set of criteria and requirements with regards the lockdown than other professional and recreational sport and hobby activities.

An explanation of the Regulatory and communications structure as it pertains to Model Aviation in SA is include at the end of this communiqué for your information along with a list of communications that were sent out during the lockdown period should you have missed some of them.

We await our next feedback session from AeCSA and SACAA with regards to the opening of



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our airspace and clubs and will revert soonest.

In the meantime, we urge all Chairpersons to maintain the lockdown of clubs and to encourage members to remain calm and patient, which is in the best interest of us all.

Official Communication Channels to SAMAA and the SMC

As in the past all official communications from SAMAA and the SMC to the membership will continue to be circulated via email as well as the SAMAA Magazine and the SAMAA Website. We are pleased to announce that as from Monday the 22nd of June the SAMAA offices will once again be manned on a full time basis. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, there may only be one person available at any given day so please continue to be patient should things take a little longer than usual.

As some of you may know your new SAMAA Management Committee was elected barely a week before the National COVID-19 lockdown was enforced and as such have faced some challenges finding their feet in their new roles on the committee but we are committed to returning our hobby and sport to normal.

We wish to thank the SAMAA membership for their patience and compliance with the limitations imposed on our beloved hobby during these trying times and we want to once again assure you that we are doing everything in our power to get us all back in the air again.

Please be safe out there,

Kind regards.

D Potgieter

SAMAA Chairman



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