



**SANPO PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LEVEL 3 SPORTS
CONCESSIONS AS CONTAINED IN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE
NR.43434/2020**

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Electronic Sport plans already submitted

1. Purpose of this submission

The South Africa National Pigeon Organisation (“**SANPO**”) has been established to manage, control, and regulate pigeon sport in South Africa.

SANPO is affiliated with **SASCOC** and further a member of the international pigeon governing body Federation Colombophile Internationale (“**FCI**”)

SANPO strives to protect, promote, and stimulate the art of Pigeon Racing and Showing of Pigeons in South Africa.

The purpose of this submission to the Ministry is to provide you with SANPO’s plan designed to commence the sport of racing pigeons on 11th July 2020 and to implement Protocols to combat Covid-19.

This constitutes compliance with the directives as published by the Minister of Sports, Arts, and Culture in Government Gazette 43434/2020.

2. The Sport of Racing Pigeons.

It is confidently submitted that the sport of Pigeon Racing requires no human-to-human contact.

It is practiced from within the confines of the various competitors’ own premises/erf.

No interaction with third parties is required.

2.1. Phase 1: Road work

The first level of exercise required to participate in the sport, is simply opening the loft in the pigeon fancier’s erf/property to allow the pigeon to fly to its hearts content and for as long as it feels the need to do.

The pigeons ultimately reach a sufficient level of fitness to commence with road exercise/work.

This exercising phase of the pigeons is an extremely individual centred activity. The pigeon fancier would load his pigeons into a pigeon basket, place the basket into in his own vehicles, and drive a distance varying between 40km and 200km. The pigeons are released and they navigate their way home. There is once again no interaction with any third party persons required.

Most of the organisations affiliated with SANPO, in an effort to promote the sport and to assist fanciers, offer training facilities in the form of a truck with spaces for baskets, whereby the fanciers would instead of driving the 40km – 200 km himself, place his basket on the transporter.

The positive effect of this is that instead of having a vast number of persons driving to a training liberation spot, only one driver takes to the road and releases the pigeons by means of a release lever, which automatically opens the baskets on the transporter. The pigeons then commence their training flight home.

2.2. Phase 2: The Pigeon Race itself

Pigeon racing is conducted in a similar fashion.

The fancier would deliver his pigeons to a central location and load his pigeons onto a central transporter who would proceed to the designated liberation point to release all the pigeons simultaneously. The release point is an open area either a farm or an abandoned airfield, and there are no spectators.

Unlike other team sports and indeed completely distinguishable, the athletes in this instance are the pigeons, and the movement of humans practicing the sport is restricted to the driver of the transporter and his assistant.

Drivers drive to the liberation point, feed and water the pigeons, then release the pigeons and immediately commence their return journey back to their specific centre from where they came.

SANPO comprises 63 individual member organisations and 5020 pigeon fanciers of record.

The sport of pigeon racing was the first sport to be allowed back after lockdown in European countries who also exercised lockdown protocols.

The reason for this is self-explanatory, due to the absolute minimum risk of transmitting the disease of Covid-19.

2.2.1. The Protocols involved in the Pre-Race

All participating fanciers, must forward an email of the pigeons to be entered into a specific race. The emphasis is on e-mail to avoid the unnecessary handling of stationary that would otherwise pass through various individuals hands.

A register of all the Fanciers who have entered the specific Race is thereby placed on record and contained on the electronic entry form and together with the Covid-19 Screening Form filled in by the appointed compliance officer.

Every fancier is allocated a time slot to bring his pigeons to be placed on the central truck transporter.

Compliance officers are to be appointed at the various collection points, the names of which will be forwarded to SANPO to be retained on record.

Each compliance officer must ensure that all the necessary notices be displayed as required by the SANPO Covid-19 protocols – See Annexure 1 attached, in compliance with the Regulations and Directives applicable to Sport.

Each Compliance officer will be equipped with a “Thermo-Gun” and a blank pro forma screening form as per Annexure 2 attached, where questions will be asked, and temperature taken of each participating individual.

Hand sanitisers will be readily available at all collection points and the drivers of the transporters will be equipped with sanitisers and masks.

All fanciers, compliance officers, and drivers must wear masks – NO MASKS NO ENTRY INTO RACE.

Electronic timing devices are synchronised by GPS time.

This can be performed anywhere or time without fanciers present thus eliminating fanciers gathering in any numbers that will transgress the requirements of Government protocols

The same will apply for manual timing devices.

All devices must be sanitised before the basketing of pigeons.

2.2.2. The Actual Race and Conclusion

The Transporter proceeds to a designated liberation point and at an agreed time pull a release lever, opening all pigeon baskets/panniers releasing the entrants to fly back to their homes.

Upon returning from a Race the pigeon will cross over an electronic scanning device – pigeons have electronic RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) rings on their legs whereby the time of arrival is recorded on their electronic clocking systems.

This information is directly sent to either an Internet based platform confirming the arrival of the fanciers pigeons, or is downloaded directly into the computer system to determine the outcome of the specific race – again all performed electronically with limited human intervention.

On occasions where manual timing devices are used, these will be dropped off into a sanitised collection bin where times would be read manually by the race official and captured into the race database.

The race secretary will sanitise the manual clocks before manually reading the clocks.

2.3. See Annexure 1 – SANPO Covid 19 Protocols

2.4. See Annexure 2 – SANPO Covid 19 Screening Form

2.5. See Annexure 3 – SANPO Covid 19 Conditions of Entry Disclaimer

3. Conclusion

SANPO submits that the above adequately describes to the Ministry that the sport of pigeon racing poses the least risk out of any of the listed sports in the Gazette.

SANPO accordingly seeks permission to commence its Code on 11th July 2020.

Should you have any further questions pertaining to the above please do not hesitate to contact the SANPO Secretary, Mr. Johan Pretorius, or myself George le Roux.

Yours sincerely



George le Roux

SANPO – President.



Johan Pretorius

SANPO Secretary



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outh African National Pigeon Organisation



Annexure 1

Safe Operating Procedure: COVID-19

(Text partially referenced from R Crouzer adapted by S. Gerber)

1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Standard Operating Procedure “SOP” is to ensure a safe sporting environment for all fanciers and to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Section 8 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 “OHS Act” requires every organisation to provide and maintain, as far as reasonably practical, a sporting environment that is safe and without risk to the health of its members. Similarly, the OHS Act also imposes a duty on fanciers to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of their fellow fanciers.

2. SCOPE

This SOP is applicable to all fanciers, drivers and conveyors.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

The organisation’s appointees must ensure that this document is implemented as far as reasonably practical to ensure the health and safety of all fanciers, drivers and conveyors. Due to the nature of COVID-19, it is also important that all Fanciers assume a level of responsibility to manage and contain the spread of the virus.

4. REFERENCES

- National Institute for Communicable Diseases “NICD”
- World Health Organisation “WHO”
- The National Institute for Occupational Health
- The National Health Laboratory Services
- The Department of Employment and Labour

5. DEFINITION

COVID-19 - a *mild to severe respiratory illness that is caused by a coronavirus (Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 of the genus Betacoronavirus), is transmitted chiefly by contact with infectious material (such as respiratory droplets), and is characterized especially by fever, cough, and shortness of breath and may progress to pneumonia and respiratory failure. Derived for SARS-CoV-2.*

6. ACTIVITIES

6.1. Basketing of Pigeons

- ❖ Fanciers Older than 60 years of age either have the entrant taken to the clubhouse for basketing or simply drop their baskets off with the entrants at the dedicated area for entrant receipt and retreat back to home. This group of Fanciers to avoid any Social contact with other fanciers and to maintain a minimum of 2m from any other Fanciers should there be one in the vicinity. These members then to retreat to their homes and can collect their baskets either the next day or arrange to have them dropped off at their homes. Fanciers with life-threatening illnesses must also fall under the above mentioned category. Should this group choose to remain and participate in club basketing functions they do this out of own volition and cannot hold anyone responsible for their Health and wellbeing as a result of their personal choice.
- ❖ All entry to the clubhouse must be equipped with hand sanitisers.
- ❖ During basketing the basketing team which at no time should exceed 10 persons to keep a safe 2m distance from one another during the time of basketing
- ❖ The names and contact details of all participants and Basketing Team participating in this activity, should be retained for at least one month. This will assist health care authorities to trace who has been exposed to the virus if a participant becomes ill with COVID-19 after the sporting activity.
- ❖ All participants must be informed by the Organisation who in turn must inform SANPO, should any of the participants of an event become ill with COVID-19 at a later stage.

All relevant PPE such as Mask and Plastics Gloves and if possible sterile dust coats to be used where practically possibly when basketing.

6.2 Routine Cleaning Activities

NB: The period that COVID-19 can survive on objects is dependent on certain criteria, which is difficult to predict given that not all working environments are the same. A study by the WHO determined that the coronavirus could remain infectious for between two hours and nine days on certain surfaces.

- ❖ The Organisations need to establish a sporting environment that promotes personal hygiene. For example, no-touch refuse bins, hand soap, alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60 percent alcohol, disinfectants, and disposable towels for Fanciers to clean their hands and their work surfaces.

- ❖ Promote regular hand washing or the use of alcohol-based hand sanitisers.
- ❖ Display handwashing signs in restrooms.
- ☐ Every machine/equipment and work area should be equipped with a sanitiser and cleaned before use.
- ☐ Increase cleaning schedule to deal with increased frequency of wiping down all surface areas.

6.2.1 How to Clean and Disinfect

Hard (Non-porous) Surfaces

- ☐ If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- ☐ For disinfection, most common household disinfectants should be effective.
 - Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products for concentration, application method and contact time, etc.
 - Additionally, diluted household bleach solutions (at least 1000ppm sodium hypochlorite) can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application, ensuring a contact time of at least 1 minute, and allowing proper ventilation during and after application. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiry date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.

Soft (Porous) Surfaces

- ☐ For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination/dirt if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.

After cleaning:

- o If the items can be laundered, launder items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and then dry items completely.

Electronics

- ☐ For electronics such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and key cards, remove visible contamination/dirt if present.
 - o Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.
 - o Consider use of wipeable covers for electronics.

o If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or sprays to disinfect touch screens. Dry surfaces thoroughly to avoid pooling of liquids.

Linens, Clothing, and Other Items That Go in the Laundry

- ❖ In order to minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air, do not shake dirty laundry.
- ❖ Wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an ill person can be washed with other people's items.
- ❖ Clean and disinfect hampers or other carts for transporting laundry according to guidance above for hard or soft surfaces.

6.3 Organisation Start Up (Post Lockdown)

- ❖ A detailed risk assessment must be established prior to any activity being conducted.
- ❖ The risk assessment must be communicated to all Fanciers.
- ❖ All fanciers to be trained on COVID-19.
- ❖ Re-induction with all Fanciers, which must include the COVID-19 RA, SOP, emergency procedures and required PPE.
- ❖ A deep clean must be done on the premises as per Section 6.1.4 above.
- ❖ A pre-inspection to be conducted prior the operation of any electronics and/or mechanical equipment.
- ❖ A comprehensive cleaning schedule must be developed to ensure routine cleaning is conducted. This schedule should be monitored on a weekly basis.
- ❖ Where respirators (special mask) are used, the Organisation must ensure that every Fancier on Basketing Duty has their own respirator.
- ❖ Where dust masks are used, the Organisation must ensure that the dust mask are readily available for use. The Organisation must ensure that no dust mask gets used twice and must be disposed of in a safe manner.
- ❖ Bulk Storage of Sanitizer shall follow normal procedure as stated below:
 - ❖ Containers are closed
 - ❖ Good housekeeping maintained
 - ❖ Storage area to be well ventilated
 - ❖ The Organisations must undertake to encourage those Fanciers that are feeling ill to stay at home and not in any manner or form try and

participate in Racing until such time that they are tested and a negative result achieved.

6.4 Weekly Activities

- ❖ Monitor the temperatures of all Fanciers prior to gaining entry onto the premises
 - ❖ Striking Out Activities to be conducted either via Home Evaluation Applications or in case of Manual Clocks for them as with Basketing to be dropped off at the clubhouse to be struck out at the clubhouse and later collected or arrangements made for delivery. In this crisis time the strike out rule would need to be adapted to allow for the clocks to be struck out at various times as the team on duty might not be large enough to handle all manual clocks at the same time signal. All members will not have the luxury to evaluate at home and the same rule as for handlocks will then apply.
- Physical distancing to be encouraged across the Organisations
 - Encouraging of Fanciers to stay at home if not well and report to their medical practitioners if displaying any symptoms of COVID-19.

6.5 Signage and posters

It is important that the Organisation have visible signs and posters around the Clubhouse facilities to remind Fanciers about the risks of COVID-19 and the measures that are needed to limit its spread.

Typical signs and posters may include:

- Handwashing techniques
- Physical distancing
- Cough and sneezing etiquette
- General COVID-19 awareness
- General hygiene principles

6.6. Fanciers diagnosed or suspected to have COVID-19

If a Fancier has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they shall not be permitted to return to attend any activity until cleared to do so by a medical practitioner. Should a Fancier be ill at club with suspected COVID-19 symptoms then:

a. Isolate

Isolate the person from others and provide a disposable surgical mask, if available, for the person to wear.

b. Transport

Transport the Fancier to a medical facility to be tested for COVID-19

c. Identify

Identify who at the Clubhouse had close contact with the infected person in the 24 hours before that infected person started showing symptoms. Send

those people home to isolate until the sick Fancier has been tested and the results have been returned.

d. Clean

Clean the area where the person was working and all places they have been. This may mean evacuating those areas. Ensure correct use of PPE when cleaning

Hotline for the COVID-19 as per the Department of Health website: 0800029999

7. Risk Assessment

With COVID-19, it may not be possible to eliminate the hazard, the most effective protection measures are (listed from most effective to least effective): engineering controls, administrative controls, safe Basketball practices (a type of administrative control), and PPE.

There are advantages and disadvantages to each type of control measure when considering the ease of implementation, effectiveness and cost. In addition to the types of Clubhouse controls discussed below, the NICD provides fact sheets that guide specific Organisation/Clubs/Members in relation to recommended infection prevention strategies to implement in Clubhouse Facility.

7.1. Engineering Controls

Engineering controls involve isolating employees from sport-related hazards. In Clubhouses where they are appropriate, these types of controls reduce exposure to hazards without relying solely on Fanciers behaviour and can be the most cost-effective solution to implement.

Engineering controls for SARS-CoV-2 include:

Installing high-efficiency air filters (not to be relied on as the most appropriate in isolation of other controls).

- ❖ Increasing ventilation rates in the Clubhouse environment.
- ❖ Installing physical barriers such as face shields.

7.2. Administrative Controls

Administrative controls require action by the Fancier and Organisation. Typically, administrative controls are changes in Basketball and Strike Out policy or procedures to reduce or minimize exposure to a hazard. Examples of administrative controls for SARS-CoV-2 include:

❖ Encouraging sick Fanciers, Drivers and Conveyors to stay at home
Minimizing contact among Fanciers by appointing a Small Basketball & Strike Out team and not the entire club to perform functions associated with these activities.

- ❖ Minimizing the number of Fanciers on site at any given time e.g. rotation or shift work.

- ❖ Providing Fanciers with up-to-date education and training on COVID-19 risk factors and protective behaviours (e.g. cough etiquette and care of PPE).
- ❖ Training Fanciers who need to use protective clothing and equipment on how to put it on, use/wear it and take it off correctly, including, in the context of their current and potential duties

8. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

While engineering and administrative controls are considered more effective in minimizing exposure to SARS-CoV-2, PPE may also be needed to prevent certain exposures. While correctly using PPE can help prevent some exposures, it should not take the place of other prevention strategies. Examples of PPE include:

- gloves,
- goggles,
- face shields,
- face masks,
- gowns,
- aprons,
- coats,
- overalls,
- ❖ Hair and shoe covers and respiratory protection, when appropriate.

All types of PPE must be:

- ❖ Selected based upon the hazard to the Fancier.
- ❖ Properly fitted (e.g., respirators (special Masks). Consistently and properly worn when required.
- ❖ Regularly inspected, maintained, and replaced, as necessary.
- ❖ Properly removed, cleaned, and stored or disposed of, as applicable, to avoid contamination of self, others, or the environment

Organisations are obligated to provide their members with PPE needed to keep them safe while performing their duties. The types of PPE required during a COVID-19 outbreak will be based on the risk of being infected with SARS-CoV-2 while working and job tasks that may lead to exposure.

- ❖ Approved N95 filtering half face respirators as a minimum used in the context of a comprehensive, written respiratory protection program that includes fit-testing, training, and medical exams.
- ❖ The appropriate form of respirator/mask will depend on the type of exposure and on the transmission pattern of COVID-19.

9. IMPLEMENTING CLUBHOUSE CONTROLS

The legislation governing workplaces/clubhouses in relation to COVID-19 is the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Act 85 of 1993, as amended, read with the Hazardous Biological Agents Regulations, Section 8 (1) of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act, Act 85 of 1993, as amended, requires the Organisation to provide and maintain as far as is reasonably practical an operating environment that is safe and without risks to the health of its members. Specifically, Section 8(2)(b) requires steps that are reasonably practicable to eliminate or mitigate any hazard or potential hazard before resorting to personal protective equipment (PPE). However, in the case of COVID-19, a combination of controls is required, although the main principle is to follow the hierarchy of controls. However, before the implementation of control measures, current risk assessments need to be reviewed and updated, taking into account the new hazards posed by exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace. This is in accordance with Section 8 (2) (d) of the OHS Act.

10. MONITORING AND MEASUREMENT

- ❖ This procedure will be reviewed every 3 months or as required when new information is released from the Department of Health, National Institute for Communicable Diseases or World Health Organisation.
- ❖ Due to the nature of COVID-19 this document will be seen as a living document as the information in this document could change due to the progression of COVID-19 virus.



George le Roux SANPO President

Approved

17/06/2020



Annexure 2

COVID-19 SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE: MEMBER

Each member will be screened each night of basketing. Temperature screening must be conducted for all members, truck drivers and assistants. Questionnaire screening which is part of screening should be conducted each night of basketing / clocking.

Name of Member		Cell phone no.	
Club		Chairperson contact no	
Self-declaration by MEMBER			
1.	Have you travelled outside the province in the last 14 days to an endemic area for the virus?	Yes	No
2.	In the last 14 days, have you had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with covid19 or been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with covid-19?	Yes	No
3.	Do you have any of the following symptoms:	Yes	No
	Fever	Yes	No
	Dry or persistent cough	Yes	No
	Sore throat	Yes	No
	Redness of eyes	Yes	No
	Shortness of breath	Yes	No
	Diarrhoea	Yes	No
	Muscle pain	Yes	No
	Have you experienced loss of taste and smell in the last two weeks	Yes	No

Right of Admission Reserved

Temperature on arrival: _____

Signature of member: _____ Date: _____

Access to Premises (tick one): Approved Denied

Signature of Screening Official: _____ Date: _____

By entering the club, the member undertakes to display the following behaviours:

- *Wear a mask at all times whilst on premises;*
- *Sanitise hands before and after entering and exiting the premises;*
- *Familiarise themselves with the COVID-19 Management Policy;*
- *Adhere to all protocols and procedures in place to limit the risk of the spread of Covid-19;*
- *Read all icons / posters and adhere to a 1.5m distancing at all times*



Annexure 3

COVID-19
CONDITIONS OF ENTRY
DISCLAIMER

I _____ with ID: _____

and contact number: _____ hereby declare that I will conform to the

SANPO Covid-19 Safe Operating Procedures at all times whilst on the club premises.

In terms of your safety and that of our staff members the following **CONDITIONS OF ENTRY** must at all times be adhered to:

- Masks Compulsory in Public Areas
- Good Social Distancing of +2m
- Scanning of temperature before entry into facility
- Use of provided hand sanitizer
- No alcohol to be brought onto or consumed on the premises

By my signature below I hereby confirm that I will at all times adhere to the above regulations and those as set out in the Regulations for Level 3 as per the Disaster Management Act 2002 ; (Act 57 of 2002).

I further declare that I have had no known contact with a Covid-19 individual in the last 20 days

Should I fail to comply with these regulations and any other additional regulations notified to me by a club official, I accept that I will be liable for a fine of R5 000 (Five Thousand Rand) payable to the club and/or termination of my membership.

I hereby accept the responsibility for my personal health including any underlying comorbidity, the risk associated with a person being over the age of 60 and all other guidelines in terms of the regulations.

SIGNATURE

DATE