



BNL BULLETIN

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BNL MANAGEMENT LEAD JOINT EFFORT FOR A SAFE RETURN TO BASKETBALL ACTION

On Saturday 29 August 2020, BNL management led by its Chief Operations Officer and General Manager had a stakeholder meeting with the BNL club administrators.

The purpose of the meeting was to check on the state of wellbeing of the clubs. Of vital importance were updates provided by the BNL administration on their preparations for the 2020 season in view of the current challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many models and scenarios were presented and considered as the League looks to formulate a winning strategy that will bring about a safe return to basketball.

As it now stands, there are no established protocols for formal team activities within the League, but just like other established leagues like the NBA, the BNL is poised to embrace the role of leading the sport back to "on the floor" game action. This can only be achieved through prudence, cooperation and communication of all relevant stakeholders in the game.

During this meeting, the BNL management gave updates on preparatory activities that were taking place during the lockdown as well as developments regarding the progress made in relation to presentations required by the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC) for the return of training and competition within the sport. It was also reported that a Joint Liaison Committee (JLC) has been established which comprises of representatives from Basketball SA, Wheelchair Basketball and Basketball National League.

The objective of this JLC is to look at the requirements put in place by DSAC regarding COVID-19 and to make sure that all protocols to mitigate any spread of the virus during training and competition are adhered to. The objective is not just to return to play, but resuming play in a SAFE ENVIRONMENT is paramount. The work of the JLC is ongoing and a submission was made on Monday 31 August 2020 to DSAC regarding the state of readiness for basketball to resume with its programmes for 2020.

The attendees were also informed that the Chairman of the League will be making announcements soon regarding the start of the 2020 season and all inputs made during this meeting will be considered before these announcements are made. The BNL management also informed the administrators that they will be engaging the Captains Forum in order to get more input from the players. The league wants the players to feel included in the discussions regarding the resumption of play, and also know that they are valued and that every possible precaution and initiative will be undertaken to ensure their safety and well being when play begins.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a game changer that has touched every aspect of life. The game of basketball has not been immune to those challenges. Yet, through diligent preparation and with a rigorous plan of implementation in place, the Basketball National League looks to lead from the front as we all look forward to seeing the best basketball talent in South Africa compete once again. Tip off..."loading"!