

Event applications, sporting facilities and halls reopened

Halls and sporting facilities within the greater Knysna area were opened to the public on 1 October, following a closure of more than six months due to the national coronavirus lock down.

Acting Knysna Municipal Manager Dr Louis Scheepers made it clear that the use of these facilities will be subject to the strict adherence to the full regulations stipulated by Alert Level 1 of the Disaster Management Act. “We must remain vigilant and keep to these protocols to reduce the likelihood of a second wave of infections in our area.”

These regulations state that every person attending a gathering must wear a mask and maintain a distance of at least 1.5m from each other. All health protocols must be adhered to, including any additional measures as issued by the municipality. Venues may only be filled to 50% capacity. Capacity in closed venues may not exceed 250 persons, and no more than 500 persons at a time may attend an event out of doors.

These regulations are applicable to both sporting activities and other events. Event managers must still apply for the relevant permits and adhere to the Events By-law as well as the regulations stipulated under Alert Level 1.

Sporting activities by recognized sporting bodies, including development programmes, practices and professional and non-professional matches are allowed under specific circumstances. Only essential personnel are allowed at the venue; only the necessary number of players, match officials, support staff and medical crew are allowed at the venue; no spectators will be allowed, and no international events are allowed.

“When booking a facility for an event or sporting activities, the applicant must show that they have a non-contact infrared scanner, sanitizer, masks and personal protective equipment available,” said Dr Scheepers. “It is also compulsory that a register is kept that captures the necessary details of all persons entering the facility, and to archive such records for a minimum of six months.”

This information includes the attendant’s full names, residential address, contact details and the body temperature recorded. No person with an elevated temperature or possible COVID-19 symptoms may enter any facility. Sports bodies will assume full responsibility for the health safety of its members, staff, and athletes in terms of containing the coronavirus. They are also responsible that all members adhere to all regulations.

“Please note that, with the exception of the tennis courts, Loerie Park remains closed to the public as it still houses a number of homeless persons,” Dr Scheepers said. “We are, however, happy to invite residents to make use of the halls, sports fields and tennis courts that are available to you. I think many of us could do with getting more active again, and releasing some feel-good hormones through exercise. Please do so responsibly and be vigilant in containing the spread of this virus.”

Proof of payment for any facility must be provided before any person/s will be given entry to any facility. To book our community halls and sporting facilities within Greater Knysna, please contact the relevant representative below.

Khayaletu and Chris Hani Halls: Spindiwe Dala: 061 482 8003

Hornlee Civic Hall: Sandra Fredericks: 044 302 6241

Sedgefield Town Hall & Smutsville Hall: Alfonso De Kock: 084 547 4030

Rheenendal Hall: Felicity Frans: 044 302 6536

Loerie Park / Hornlee Clubhouses: Desmond van Rooyen & Nicole Nelson: 044 302 6211 / 060 998 7104

ENDS

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