



**COVID-19**  
**Circular No. 1 Updated 31 March 2020**

**Dear Member Associations and Athletes,**

In these challenging times, we hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. The spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) has created much uncertainty, which has been concerning for all of us. Things are changing rapidly with Governments and Health experts here and abroad advising and enforcing directions on travel and promoting social behaviours to contain the spread of the virus. Many sporting activities in the Region and around the world have been impacted by this unprecedented health concern. International travel is almost at a standstill as many countries close their borders to prevent the spread of the virus.

All Oceania Athletics Association Competitions and Activities for the next few months have been cancelled or postponed until further notice. These include the Melanesian Championships – 24/25 June which are now rescheduled for December and the Combined events Championships which are rescheduled to September.

As of 18 March 2020, PNG Sports Foundation facilities and training centers around the country have been ordered to close for 30 days and further updates will be issued as events unfold.

Athletics PNG sanctioned events and education activities are scheduled to begin in June per the domestic calendar and at this point in time we do not see the need to reschedule any events. We are carefully monitoring the situation and will communicate any changes to our events as critical information is received.

The health, safety and wellbeing of our athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers is always our number one priority. We urge all athletes to embrace all of the official cautions if the virus comes to their province. Remember that although young people are not likely to suffer too much they can pass the virus on to their loved ones - parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles - all of whom are vulnerable to the disease. Please follow the Government's guidelines for controlling the spread of this potentially deadly virus.

We would encourage each member association to consider its own training or athletics activities in light of potential implications and communicate all relevant information to your athletes as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Philip or myself.

In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy. We are forwarding the advice recently offered by Oceania Athletics

**Tony Green**  
**President**