

President: Petronell Vorster (president@drasa.org.za)	Vice President: Cindy Radomsky (vp@drasa.org.za)	Secretary: Lee-Ann Rossouw (secretary@drasa.org.za)
Timekeeper: Sheena Pettit (timekeeper@drasa.org.za)	Horsemanship Judge: Adri du Toit (hmsjudge@drasa.org.za)	Athletes Rep: Maret van Rensburg (ar@drasa.org.za)
Treasurer: Michelle Knoebel (treasurer@DRASA.org.za)	Ride Manager: Narina Uys (rm@drasa.org.za)	Website: www.drasa.org.za
Central Region Rep: TBA	Coastal Region Rep: Jo-Marie Myburgh (coastalrep@drasa.org.za)	

Minutes of the General Exco Council Meeting held on 29 January 2024 via Google Meet at 19h30

Attendees

Lee-Ann Rossouw
Maret van Rensburg
Adri du Toit
Sheena Pettit

Narina Uys
Petronell Vorster
Jo-Marie Myburgh
Amy Partovi (by invitation, non-council member)

Apologies: Michelle Knoebel, Anrone Bezuidenhout and Cindy Radomsky

Agenda: Qualifying Event Criteria for Nationals

Due to short season and the number of events needed for members to qualify for Nationals, Maret proposed that DRASA lowers the qualifying criteria from 4 days of rides to 3 days of rides. These events being a multi-day, and a single day event, i.e. 3 days of rides of which 2 days must be back-to back.

Petronell noted that if this decision is approved then the riders must participate in the same division they want to qualify for in Nationals, e.g. the rider must participate in the Trail division in the multi-day and two single day events to qualify for the Trail division at Nationals.

A lively discussion took place as to whether this request was a rule change or a council decision as the intention is to only lower the qualifying criteria for this season. Maret based her argument on Rule 17.2.1. and after consideration all council members agreed with this assessment.

Comment from committee member Narina Uys: "I agree with Maret. This is not a rule change, it is an exception because we shortened our competitive season to accommodate weather. Next season we will be on our new normal."

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Once the qualifying criteria was resolved the topic of the Nationals ride dates was raised. The last ride before Nationals is six weeks and there is concern that this gap will impact the ability to host events for Nationals as Gauteng and North West are restricted from the Middle of March to the end of May to participate in events due to the AHS season. Border is concerned as April is too busy to host events and then in June students are writing exams which will impact entries.

All council members agreed that the 2025 season must start in July and Jo-Marie noted that members don't mind waiting for a month or two for the results if there is a gap between announcing the results.

Dates to be confirmed but provisionally the following was agreed to:

- Western Cape Nationals – end April
- North West/Gauteng – end June
- Border – end June

Adri suggested that if the AHS season, and by association the weather, is extreme it would be considered a force majeure and the Nationals pushed out by 8 weeks however that can only be determined closer to the time.

Petronell ended the meeting by congratulating Narina on her efforts to put together two clinics for the Suikerbos club.

* Lee-Ann to circulate minutes to ensure the time periods under discussion for Nationals were captured correctly and if approved minutes to be circulated to clubs.