

WP REFEREES MANAGER: BEN THERON

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19 January 2022

Dear Members

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the 2022 rugby season. We call this one a season with a twist. Why? Well, this year we decided to plan for a normal rugby season and keeping in mind the challenges we are facing with regards to COVID-19.

COVID-19 has forced us to think differently about the way we manage ourselves, our interactions, and our social activities. Many of us (currently I am one of those statistics) have been infected by this virus. Many of us could not fight it and perished. Those of us who were blessed to have gone through the infection and are around to speak of our experiences will forever be grateful that we are able to. We keep those we lost close to our heart and minds and celebrate them in our daily lives.

WELL WISHES

On behalf of the executive, we want to wish each of you a blessed 2022. May it be an inspiring year in which you are able to achieve that which you may have set out to achieve. Goals are important in our game. Putting action plans together to achieve them is vital. We know that you will always be the best version of yourself and represent the organization with pride wherever you go. Go out and take charge of 2022. Allow everyone who enters a match you participate in the opportunity to live his or her best life under your supervision.

VACCINATIONS

The fight against COVID-19 brings with it many a change to how we operate and add a few activities that we must embrace to ensure we keep ourselves, those we care about and the broader rugby fraternity who we interact with safe from harms way. For us to enjoy the sport we love we must adapt and prioritize certain of our actions to ensure we all enjoy maximum participation. It brings me thus to VACCINATIONS.

The executive respects members views on the topic of vaccinations. Many a debate has been had at exco level as well as with union officials on how we would like to manage the situation in 2022. It is obvious that safeguarding our members and putting policies in place to protect them is vital. We have thus agreed at our recent Strategic and Operational Planning to adhere to the call made by the union to encourage members to vaccinate. Members who are

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not vaccinated will be asked to do weekly PCR testing before they are allowed to enter the premises at clubs. The union will send correspondence to all affiliates with regards to this. To assist the appointment of referees we have added an online survey for all members (active and non-active) to complete. Complete this before Friday 21 January 2022 at 13:00. <https://bit.ly/33oxGCo>

Members are requested to scan their green cards and send to Ronnie Bourbon-Leftley, CV Peterson and Fatima Said.

STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING

Last week the executive with invited guests was able to conclude the strategic and operational planning at the Protea Hotel by Marriott in Techno Park, Stellenbosch. Once again, we broke barriers as we were forced to have a hybrid meeting due to the chairperson being in isolation with Covid-19. We thus constructed a well planned 24 hours of deliberations, debates, and strategic conversation with live feeds from Protea Hotel to the Chairperson's house. It was a NEW experience for all but something worth considering for future interactions.

Exco has over the two and a half days looked extensively at each portfolio and areas that presented itself as challenging were thrashed out and honest conversation were had about the future. We welcomed to this meeting the new executive member, Dr Cornelius Peterson. Dr Peterson or CV as most of us know him presented exco with a well thought through assessment on our administration practices and we were challenged to adopt a more serious approach in dealing with all our protocols and policies. Dr Peterson will soon be reaching out to members via the office with surveys and other needs analysis. We encourage members to support him and, in that way, ensuring that our statistics are 100% correct.

With regards to the vacant portfolios. Exco accepted that the appointments committee currently headed by Mr Eddie Douglas will continue their activities as such time that a member has been co-opted for the appointments position. Coaching will in 2022 be managed slightly differently. This portfolio has been the society's Achilles heel for many years. Exco accepted the new and slightly different approach presented to them and will review in 6 months to ascertain whether the status quo will remain. In short, the new coaching structures:

Regional Coaches:

Khayelitsha – Edwin George
Michell's Plain – Gerrit Eiman
Langa – Thuso Mnqibisa
Helderberg – Nico Le Roux
Stellenbosch – Hendrik Greyvenstein
Paarl – Johan Lourens
Brackenfell – Johan Willemse
Parow – JC Fortuin
Wynberg – Jacques Pienaar
Table View/Mamre – Joey Klaaste-Salmans

Divisional Coaches:

Division 1 / Unclassified, Division 2, 3 and 4 – Joey Klaaste-Salmans & Wihan Swart (Peer Coaching)
Division 5 and 6 – Chris Baartman
Division 7 and Beginners – Edwin George

We welcome Jacques Pienaar and Wihan Swart (still active members) to the coaching structures. Both are accredited CMO candidates who have a lot of experience. We look forward to seeing them support, guide, and develop our

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referees. Exco would like to encourage all members active and non-active to become involved in a region. We implore our provincial panel referees to be part of these structures and impart some of your knowledge onto our peers.

FITNESS AND EXAM ASSESSMENTS

A proposal was accepted to only assess the Division 1 – 4 referees at a central venue in 2022. This means that all other referees will be evaluated in their regions. An executive member will be present when these tests are conducted in the regions.

Mitchell's Plain / Khayelitsha / Langa – Vice-Chairperson, Ashley Mackay

Helderberg / Stellenbosch / Paarl – Ronnie Bourbon-Leftley

Wynberg – Eddie Douglas

Parow – CV Peterson

Brackenfell – Johan Willemse / Mornay Colville /

Table View – Joey Klaaste-Salmans / CV Peterson

Mr Ben Theron who retires as WP Referees Manager on 31 January 2022 will be supporting Nico Le Roux in Helderberg Region. Mr Samuel Mhlatsi who will be assigned with some of the union /referee tasks will not be assigned to a region but roam as his time allows.

The ASSESSMENT date for DIVISION 1 – 4 is **26 February 2022.**

Regions will start operating officially on 7 February and coaches may start their testing from that day until 14 March 2022, which is the day, we need to submit all scores (All attempts first to nth) to Ronnie Bourbon-Leftley (Performance Reviewing), Joey Klaaste-Salmans (Coaching) and CV Peterson (Administration).

OFFICIAL WELCOME TO THE SEASON BRAAI

Because we have not had a function for two years and it may have been 22 months that some referees have seen each other exco has approved a catered braai for all members. This is to be held on 21 March 2022 at Brackenfell PS. We would like to encourage all members to attend this day which will also be the inaugural Inter-regional Touch Rugby tournament with the precious *Ben Theron Regional Touch Rugby Trophy* up for grabs. Ms Aimee Barret-Theron and her team will ensure that we are well prepared for this event. This event will unfortunately only be for WPRRS members as it will be the first time, we will be together as a group.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Congrats are in order with the promotion of Zoe Naude to the SA Rugby Women's Panel. We would also like to congratulate Aimee Barrett-Theron who will soon be packing her bags to be part of the U20 6 Nations. Good luck to her.

WP SAYS FAREWELL BUT NOT GOODBYE

Referees around the world knows the name Ben Theron. It is a name that goes side by side with Western Province and Refereeing. Mr Theron has come to the end of this official tenure at the WP union and bows out as our referees' manager on 31 January 2022. For many of us this day is unreal as we thought Ben would remain forever in the position but as we know time does not stand still and his time has come. There is so much that Ben has done for us as a refereeing family that these few words will not be enough to say thank you. Exco will be hosting a small gathering of people to celebrate Ben's contributions to WP refereeing on 31 January 2022. We request that referees who wish to pay tribute and celebrate Ben to send emails, notes or videos to the chairperson at chairman@wprugbyrefs.onmicrosoft.com or WhatsApp to 083 3719752 by 28 January 2022. Your contributions in celebrating this enormous figure in rugby refereeing are much appreciated.

Exco wishes all officials especially those doing duty in the Carling Currie Cup all the best!

Joey Klaaste-Salmans
Chairperson

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