



# SOUTH AFRICAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

NPO:071-702

VAT: 4700262068

**Postal Address:**  
P O Box 30617, Kyalami  
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**Physical Address:**  
475 Papenfus Drive,  
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Kyalami, Johannesburg  
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## ***Welcome to the President SAEF Annual Report 2018***

I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce some of the highlights of the year and the many activities and innovations that took place both on and off the sporting forums. As you know the sport continued to thrive and we as a community continued to innovate, communicate and build on our shared values and aspirations for the future.

I am also very pleased to say that the majority goals we set for 2018 are on track notwithstanding that we had a very busy year with all sorts of pebble stones in the way and a lot going on!

The sport in almost all the Disciplines have been operating fantastic and we also saw an important increase in the quality of the administration, coaching and the competition. Perusing the various annual reports clearly indicates a positive passion and atmosphere with some great achievements consistently in our sport. Well done to you all.

In the past months, I have been working closely with the recently elected Executive, newly elected National Committees, DA's, Provincial Affiliates, Associate member, SASCOC, SRSA and all other relevant stakeholders.

We have succeeded to:

- Create an online registration system that has excelled and almost eradicated all problems and relevant issues;
- Finalizing our website to soon promote social and electronic media that will keep our members informed;
- We are living our Constitution and in the process to fine tune semantics to favour all. Presently MOU's at Ministerial level are in the process of being drafted to incorporate

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President: Adv Willem Edeling  
Vice President: Hannes van Aswegen  
Secretary General: Wessel Strauss  
Treasurer: Neil Smith  
Athletes' Rep: Nicola Sime-Riley

Associate Members Rep: Lyna May  
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national schools which will help in the unearthing and subsequently nurturing the talent that is at grassroots level;

- We are in the process of finalizing WEG arrangements under the professional guidance and assistance of Deon Augustyn and now also the newly appointed Chef de Mission, Mike Greeff to successfully participate at the Games;
- To consistently assist and ensure that our sporting codes are properly run, and collective decisions are fairly and just taken;
- To have strong equestrian participation in almost all our provinces and associate members. Almost all elections and relevant constitutions are done, favouring the mobilisation to receive resources to assist provinces that are struggling and enhance those that are currently active;
- Deal with personality cults and agendas which have been professionally taken care off by Cheryl Loots and her Legal Committee endeavoring speedy and fair adjudication to unify and make the industry work efficiently;
- We are continuing to host national and international events and are still committed and undertake to represent SA at the 2020 Olympics and other International Platforms.

## Finances

Our financial position remains bleak and we must continue to be innovative and creative to attract new funding into our sport. Lotto has indicated that they will only supply funds every alternative year, so we must be looking elsewhere to attract funding to support the many projects we have lined up. Our Treasurer, Neil Smith have been amazing to manage the finances to a sound Federation.

We however must continue consistently seeking sponsorships and other sources of similar income. SRSA has supported us and the FEI - refer the financials.

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We are very grateful for all the sponsors and partners who have contributed to our sport, without your support, many activities and competitions would never have been possible.

We also urge our provinces to assist and guide the districts to apply for financial assistance. Thank you, Silvia Buchner of the Western Cape who has excelled in this department and guided so many in this process.

We also showed what we, as a sport and a community are doing; what makes us unique; what we are doing for good governance as more fully set out in KING IV 2016 and how we are implementing and leading change to align ourselves with the future.

“Good Governance in Sport - your single most critical issue to winning the game”

- Michael Pedersen –

It is no secret that organisations adhering to good corporate governance principles are successful. This is non-negotiable for the SAEF. Hard work is still required in the sphere of corporate governance across all our structures at National level as well as at provincial, regional and club levels.

We must take our responsibilities as leaders very seriously and this extends to meeting attendance and execution of our agreed plans. There has been a trend of non-compliance by some members which we cannot tolerate.

As for our equine athletes, we all agree that ensuring the welfare of the horse and a level playing field is paramount. Clean Sport has been at the forefront of the agenda with

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worldwide testing set to be launched in 2018/9. Education is fundamental for clean sport and we must as a community ensure that all our athletes and their extended support teams know the rules.

## Safety

We have experienced material injuries and a fatality in the past year. Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends who have lost loved ones. Safety and the wearing of hard hats remains a huge priority.

Event safety is paramount; hence we must engage with event organisers to ensure compliance to safety standards. The technical role that our stewards and coaches play at these events must ensure rider safety and cannot be emphasised enough.

## Recreation

One of our objectives is to focus on Recreation, especially at grass root level, which has a huge role to play in attracting the recreational riders into the development fold. The key to this is us having functional clubs in our regions and communities with an event programme to feed the appetite for horse riding. There is an abundance of recreational riders out there who are unaware of the all the opportunities. Our job is to unearth them and bring them into our fold which will build on financial strength as they become competitive.

## Transformation and Development

A successful Transformation and Development programme is a key to our success. We must address this very important focus area. The following are the key areas which we must focus on to ensure we make meaningful progress with T&D:

- Club development at Community level;
- Schools development;
- Break down barriers to entry;

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- Partnering with important stakeholders such as SRSA and Provincial departments.

Transformation and development of our sport remains the most important strategic objective for the equestrian industry in South Africa. Under the leadership and guidance of SASCOC there has been a lot of engagement with key stakeholders. These discussions must continue with specified actions and rollout plans.

Key to T&D is club development supported by staging events in communities.

SAEF success with T&D is heavily dependent on active programmes in provinces and regions. We all have a role to play.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the work being done by the office under the leadership of the SG, Wessel Strauss. I would like to thank the office staff, the Executive and all Management Committees, the volunteers and the greater equestrian community, without whom our sport could not flourish.

Thank you to the athletes – and your dedicated support – you make our sport what it is including the rigorous debates contributing to the success.

It has been a great honour and privilege for me to have been entrusted with the leadership of this organisation. I look back at my first term of office satisfied and proud that we have done justice to the industry and happy to confirm that our main objective when steering the organisation –was to serve our riders and sport with dignity, integrity and respect. I am happy with the direction that the organisation is headed in. The past year have been about laying the foundation of building new partnerships for us to continue and build our sport. I can confidently say that the sport is in a better state than what it was in the recent past. I am ready to continue the journey with your support.

And now, I want to take this opportunity to also thank all the DA's, The Provincial Federations, a fantastic Neil Smith and all the coaches for all the good work and support. I also want to

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extend my sincere gratitude to all the members and leaders of the previous Executive, they truly went through difficult times and received little acknowledgement yet remained loyal unambiguously.

-I thank You-

We have a great sport and a lot to be proud of.

In closing I would like to acknowledge my dear wife Henli for all the support during the past years. She has remained my pillar of strength and support throughout my terms.

Thank you!

Willem Edeling

**President SAEF**

1 June 2018

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