



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 30, 2020

PNGOC re-opens with restrictions

The PNG Olympic Committee (PNGOC) re-open its doors on Monday May 4th with strict restrictions to visitors especially, its stakeholders and partners, to manage health risks during this period.

These restrictions include;

- Only National Federation (NF) essential members and Team PNG athletes involved in programs are allowed to visit the office between 9am and 4pm to use the NF Resource Centre, and must contact the office in advance to make a booking to allow for scheduling of computer use.
- Those utilising their own laptops should see the reception so they can be directed to a space in the office to work from that conforms with social distancing practices.
- All other visitors must ring ahead to confirm purpose of visit and availability of the PNGOC officer they wish to see.
- All visitors must wash their hands outside before entering the office. Directions will be given to the designated hand-washing facility.
- All visitors to register their visit at reception.
- Anyone feeling sick and with symptoms of flu and cold (including but not limited to fever and dry cough) will not be allowed into the premises.
- All other COVID-19 preventative and hygiene measures to be strictly practiced.

PNGOC encourages NFs and its partners to limit the need for in-person contact as much as possible and take appropriate precautions to protect themselves and others around them.

The 4th of May will also see all PNGOC staff resume their work from the office. They have been placed on roster during the lockdown period to comply with the COVID-19 preventative and hygiene measures while also meeting the operational needs of the organisation and provide support to their members and stakeholders.

Secretary General of the PNG Olympic Committee, Auvita Rapilla said the safety of every Papua New Guinean is important and the organisation is taking these measures to ensure that its staff, their families and stakeholders remain safe during this pandemic.

“We encourage everyone to take heed of the precautions and health measures outlined by government and the health authorities.

“These are hard times for the whole world and we must help each other to mitigate the risks of COVID 19 until the emergency orders are lifted,” she said.

Being an event-orientated organisation, the PNG Olympic Committee has put all its events for the first half of this year on hold in observance of the lockdown orders.

Rapilla says they are using the period to address in house matters such as improving and updating it's e-filing and database management while also planning and adjusting their activity schedule for the rest of the year.

“We do not know how long this State of Emergency and outbreak will last so we have to be prepared for anything, we have work to do and we will continue to do our best to strive for excellence,” she said.

The SOE saw the closure of sports facilities, public areas and gatherings, meaning there are no sporting events, activities or programmes allowed.

Team PNG athletes and teams preparing for their qualifying events for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics have also had to adjust their schedule after the event was postponed to next year.

Rapilla also encouraged them to remain focused on their goals and maintain their training while also keeping safe from the virus and other obstacles and threats that may hinder their preparations.

“The good thing with the postponement is that it allows more time for the athletes to prepare however, we understand that it also means more sacrifice from them as they have to remain focused and keep themselves fit for the remaining months until the Games,” she said.

With the SOE Controller, David Manning announcing the resumption of schools and other essential services in the coming weeks as restrictions in PNG and most countries are slowly relaxed, the PNG Olympic Committee also hopes to fully resume its activities soon.

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