

## Participation of Residents in the South African Trials

The SABF was led to believe in a telephone conversation with an official at the South African Sports Council Olympic Committee (SASCOC) that it is no longer a requirement that members of a representative South African team must hold South African citizenship. It seemed that permanent residents could be members of a South African representative team. I pursued the possibility of including permanent residents with enthusiasm particularly as this view was verbally supported by certain officials on the Gauteng Sports Confederation board, and confirmed by people in leadership positions in other sporting disciplines with whom I networked at subsequent GSC and SASCOC meetings. However, this was a view not shared by all SASCOC officials and in spite of my best efforts to do so, the SABF has been unable to receive permission to broaden the field of Trial's entrants to include players who have permanent residence but are not South African citizens.

Early in November I had to make a decision as to whether we should allow residents to enter Trials and run the risk that at a later stage our request would be denied, or bar entries to residents only to discover that they could have entered after all. I chose what I considered the most positive of these options and the most likely based on the information I had on hand at the time.

I sincerely apologize to those entrants whose hopes I have raised only to see them dashed at the eleventh hour, but hope that the above helps explain the rationale behind my decision.

James Grant

President

