1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Government is implementing necessary measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and these have led to closure of non-essential businesses, stoppages to sport, arts and culture events. This has negatively affected the sectors in terms of revenue generation. This loss of income has affected youth businesses, sporting clubs, individual athletes, arts and culture practitioners and events promoters. The Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport & Culture Development appreciates that the COVID-19 Economic Advisory Committee has produced packages designed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on businesses and Batswana in general. However, these interventions cannot cover everyone, and we have noted that sports clubs and athletes cannot access these relief initiatives. It is therefore critical that this gap is addressed to protect the investment that Government has put into sport. The initiative is aimed at ensuring that the employees of the clubs can sustain their livelihoods during these tough times, so that they are able to resume work as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The purpose of the relief programme is to cushion selected clubs and athletes financially from the adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic;
2.2 The programme will cover a 3 month period of April, May and June.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1 The following will be eligible for support:
   i. Premier League Clubs (a maximum of 25 players and 5 other employees per club);
   ii. First Division Clubs (a maximum of 25 players and 5 other employees per club), and;
   iii. Professional athletes

3.4 The beneficiaries of the relief fund are the employees of the clubs and individual athletes.
3.5 The beneficiaries should not have benefited from any other Government COVID-19 (including BNSC and BNOC) relief programme.
3.6 Beneficiaries should not be earning a salary anywhere other than at the sporting club applying on their behalf.
3.8 Only Batswana are eligible to benefit from the programme.
4.0 APPLICATION

4.1 Application for relief will be coordinated by Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC).
4.2 Application forms will be issued by BNSC, Botswana National Olympic Committee (BNOC) and Botswana Football Association (BFA).
4.3 Submission of applications will be made to BNSC.
4.4 Opening day for applications will be 22nd May 2020 and the closing date will be 4th June 2020.
4.5 All Applications will be assessed by BNSC and the Commission will process payments to beneficiaries accordingly.

5.0 NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

5.1 Applicants should be compliant to the requirements of Registrar of Societies.
5.2 Applicants should provide evidence of payment of staff or income before activities for the months of January, February and March 2020.
5.3 List of beneficiaries and their bank details.

6.0 ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

6.1 The assessment will conducted by a committee appointed by the BNSC Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
6.2 The Assessment Committee will then produce a comprehensive report with recommendations to the CEO for submission to MYSC.
6.3 Applicants will be informed in writing within 10 working days of the closing date for receiving applications informing them of the decision regarding their application.
6.4 There will be no appeal to the decision made.

7.0 PAYMENTS

7.1 Payments will be made directly into the beneficiaries’ bank accounts.