



P R E S S R E L E A S E



30 Dec 2020 | Cairo, Egypt:

To all the people of the world, our global hockey family, partners, stakeholders, fans and followers, we are hopeful that you and your loved ones are keeping safe and healthy!

Starting Q1 2020 when the Corona virus pandemic started, the AfHF has been following up closely the world's developments to contain the pandemic and the situation of all our National Associations while trying to steer and manage our hockey events originally planned for 2020 and beyond.

Throughout 2020, the AfHF has been engaged in many online meetings with the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and other Continental Federations (CFs) to brainstorm ideas and coordinate efforts to formulate the way forward amidst such unprecedented times of uncertainty. In addition, several online AfHF Executive Board meetings took place resulting in the following resolutions that we would like to share with you:

- **Three AfHF Regional Qualifiers** for the Africa Cup of Nations (ACN) 2021 have now been revisited as follows:
 - **North-East Africa Qualifier for ACN 2021 (M/W) | 18-24 Jan. 2021, Nairobi, Kenya:** Due to the COVID-19 related restrictions in Kenya not making it possible for the competition to take place during January 2021 as scheduled, **this tournament has been postponed to the period 1-7 March 2021.**
 - **North-West Africa Qualifier for ACN 2021 (M/W) | 15-21 Feb. 2021 Accra, Ghana:** Only Nigeria confirmed participation with both their men & women teams in addition to Ghana (host). This tournament is scheduled to determine 2 teams per gender to be qualified to participate in the ACN 2021. With only 2 nations set to participate, given the ongoing COVID-19 situation and to avoid any risks and/or burdening costs for all tournament stakeholders, **the AfHF Executive Board has decided to cancel this tournament and consider Ghana & Nigeria (M&W) as qualified for the upcoming ACN 2021 (M/W)**
 - **Central-South Africa Qualifier for ACN 2021 (M/W) | 19-27 Feb. 2021 Harare, Zimbabwe:** This tournament will proceed as planned with **confirmed participating teams (M/W) from Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe (host)**
- **Indoor Africa Cup [IAC]:** Based on the postponement of the Indoor World Cup (IWC) originally planned to take place in Liège, Belgium during 3-7 Feb 2021 to the new dates of 2-6 Feb. 2022, this tournament has been **re-scheduled to be hosted in Durban, South Africa during the period 15-18 Apr. 2021.**

- **Junior Africa Cup [JAC]:** This tournament has been **re-scheduled to take place during the period 22-28 Mar. 2021 in Accra, Ghana**. The U21 age group rules will be maintained as per the original 2020 rules to maintain fairness to the players.
- **Africa Cup for Club Champions [ACCC] 2021 (32nd Edition Men - 23rd Edition Women) | 30 Nov. - 5 Dec. 2020 Blantyre, Malawi:** This tournament has been **re-scheduled to take place during the period 27 Sep. - 3 Oct. 2021 in Blantyre, Malawi**
- **Africa Cup of Nations [ACN] 2021:** This is the continental qualifier for the WC 2022 (Women) in Spain/Holland (1-17 Jul 2022) and (Men) in India (13-29 Jan 2023). As the Tokyo 2020 Olympics will now take place during the period 23 Jul-8 Aug 2021, it has been decided that for this 2021 ACN edition, the window will be **shifted from the regular month of August to October 2021. Bidding to host has been launched to all NAs.**
- **Development:** Throughout 2020, in cooperation with the FIH Hockey Academy and the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF), an unprecedented record of 62 online courses/workshops/webinars have been administered and were attended by 389 participants! We believe this achievement will give a much-needed push for our African Coaches, Umpires and Technical Officials to perform at their best come next year's on-the-ground events through putting their enhanced knowledge into practice.
- **FIH Congress:** The Executive Board of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has decided to hold the 47th FIH Congress in New Delhi, India during the period 19-23 May 2021.

We shall keep monitoring closely all developments taking place regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and will update you periodically with further updates and decisions once they unfold. Meanwhile, we urge you to follow the WHO recommendations about practicing good hygiene to protect yourself against infection, by washing your hands frequently with soap for at least 20 seconds or with an alcohol-based sanitizer, maintaining distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing, and avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth. If you become sick, please seek medical attention quickly. During these critical times, it is highly recommended that you stay at home and avoid any contact with strangers. Please think positively, and act responsibly.

We wish you all a Happy New Year!



Notes to Editors:

AfHF Media Contact: info@africahockey.org

About the African Hockey Federation (AfHF):

The African Hockey Federation is the governing body for the sport of hockey in the African continent. Founded in 1970, the AfHF today has 25 member National Associations. For more information on the AfHF, visit: www.africahockey.org