



SPORTMALTA

**A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK
FOR SPORT ORGANISATIONS**





INTRODUCTION

In the past three years, SportMalta has undergone an unprecedented reform. Since the enactment of the Sports Act (CAP. 455) in 2002 and its setting up, the Kunsill Malti għall-Isport had never been subjected to any changes in policy to reflect the dynamicity of sport and the ever increasing importance of good governance in sports management.

To this effect, following the shift from a government department to a government entity governed by sector specific legislation, not much has been done in terms of policy.

The rebranding of Kunsill Malti għall-Isport to the now SportMalta has given the current administration the opportunity to take this government entity and its vision to a new dimension.

The SportMalta Regulatory Affairs Department vision "Reaching out to sports entities for increased participation" sets out new positive challenges to SportMalta and sports entities registered within its register. The challenges inspire better quality in sports entities' management, better regulation and more added value to sports participants, both in terms of recreational sports and competitive / elite sports.







The emphasis on increased participation in sports emanates from the desire of the current administration to instill in Maltese citizens a culture whereby sport becomes an integral part of everyone's life. This vision is inspired on a three-fold basis, with the first fold being a cultural one. It is a well-known fact that sport is one of the very few aspects in the Maltese culture that unites us as a nation. Despite our limitations, the nation cheers our national athletes and teams as one country, when they take part in international events. Maltese people are very passionate about their national

team. This administration seeks to make "national pride" as one of its priorities and shall encourage the nation to unite through sports.

The second basis for this vision is increased active participation in sports, leading to the well-being of the country's citizens. The benefits of sport has been scientifically proven in terms of people's physical health and also in relation to building confidence and self-esteem in people. This framework seeks to encourage participation in sport from a very young age, thereby making sports part of people's daily routine.



The third basis for this new SportMalta vision is high quality management and administration of sports entities. When taking into consideration the amount of volunteers who undertake management or administrative roles within sports entities, one has to pose a question as to how one can maximise their potential. Sports in Malta would collapse without the dedication of these volunteers. In view of this characteristic of our sports scenario, the current administration needs to find methods of recognising this precious work through training opportunities which will in turn produce better governance of sports entities and value added to customers, being the participants, whether for recreation or competition.

SportMalta intends to raise the bar. With the help and in consultation with the sports sector itself, SportMalta plans to encourage people from every age group to make sports their way of life. To reach these goals, SportMalta intends to focus on the following priorities:

1. A sports active community

SportMalta shall promote active participation in sport with schemes which encourage sports entities to maximise participation and membership in their sport. These schemes will reward sports organisations according to the annual increase in participation and an assessment of the accessibility they offer to children, youth and adults alike, to their respective sport. An element of talent identification success rate will also be included in the formula relating to the scheme which shall promote a sports active community.

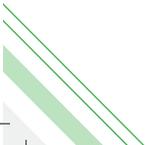


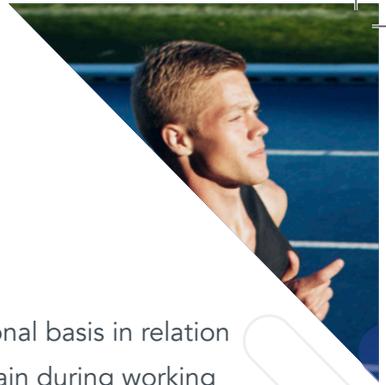


2. Promoting sports as a way of life

SportMalta shall promote and instill, through registered sports entities, the engaging in sports activities and experiences in the heart of the community. Every child and young person shall be provided with an opportunity to develop skills and confidence from an early age to be physically active and incorporate sports as a way of life.

SportMalta shall launch schemes which encourage participation of 3 hours per week in quality sport both at youth level and adult life in order to encourage this philosophy.





3. A generation of successful athletes

Elite athletes in Malta are given assistance on a personal basis in relation to training through a scheme which allows them to train during working hours and through sports leave to represent Malta in international events (local and abroad) for the Public Service and the private sector. New schemes shall be launched in order to further assist elite athletes. This shall be done in consultation with the National Sports Organisations.

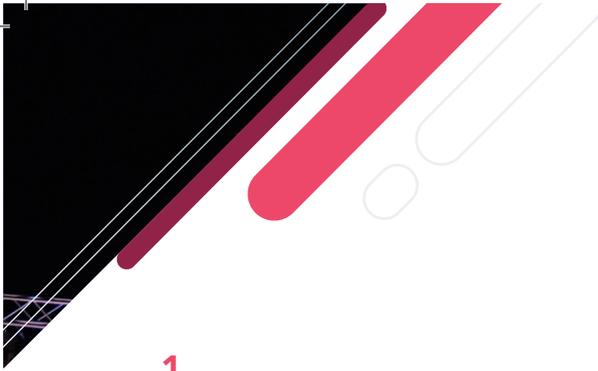
4. An abundance of skilled volunteers

SportMalta shall attempt to provide sports entities with the necessary assistance in order to ensure that they are in a position to manage and administer their organisations through well-trained volunteers. A common scenario in sports entities is having a good number of volunteers who are very passionate about their sport, nevertheless do not have the right skills for the position they hold within the sports organisation. Through adequate training, the value of the time contributed by volunteers will be maximised and the quality of the services provided, together with the structure of the sports entities, will be enhanced. Training will be provided to committee members and any other administrative staff who feel the necessity to improve their skills in sports management and administration, thereby creating a skilled and passionate "workforce".





WHERE WE ARE NOW...



1.

SportMalta currently caters for active participation in sports through its Programmes Department, which has increased participation in its programmes year in year out throughout its existence. By keeping prices affordable without compromising on quality of service and through the employment of qualified coaches, people choose to send their children to activities organised by this department and attend adult classes themselves.



2.

The current assistance incentive schemes are not built in the spirit of encouraging active participation which does not necessarily lead to competitive or elite sports and to encourage a healthier lifestyle and sports as a way of life philosophy. They are based mainly on competitive sport needs and elite sport assistance. Sports organisations are not deemed eligible for assistance schemes and awarded funds according to the amount of active members in the previous year and in accordance with the increase in participation in their sporting activities.

SportMalta shall now embark on new ways of increasing participation in sport through assistance schemes based on active participation, increase in such participation and solid organisational structures. This data shall be compiled on a yearly basis by SportMalta through new obligations which shall feature in the new regulatory regime.



3.

Furthermore, assistance schemes in relation with Elite athletes shall continue to exist and improve. The current flexi-training scheme which emanated from the 20-20 scheme for elite athletes, is a scheme whereby athletes with national potential are given the opportunity to train during work hours. Athletes are given up to twenty hours per week for the purpose of increasing and facilitating their training. This scheme shall be further fin-tuned throughout the years.

4.

Sports organisations in Malta operate, in their majority, through the work of volunteers who, through their passion and in some cases, experience, give sports organisations the necessary structure to operate on a day-to-day basis. However, it is a well-known fact that these volunteers are not always well equipped with the necessary knowledge to keep the sports organisation structures operating adequately. To date, many sports organisations struggle to provide SportMalta with the necessary compulsory documentation that is basic for the proper administration of a sports organisation. Although the enforcement of submission and the assessment of such documentation has increased in the past few years, it is still minimal to date and requires further attention. This shall increase with the continuation of the





reform and sports organisations shall be bound to present, amongst others, annual AGM minutes and financial reports in a timely manner and in an appropriate structure, upon pain of deregistration with SportMalta.

5.

SportMalta has always ensured that sports organisations are provided with adequate sports facilities in order to ensure a healthy growth of the sports organisations and as a direct result of that, better athletes and healthier citizens. To date, SportMalta provides heavily subsidised rates for the allocation of timeslots in its facilities such that use of sports facilities is maximised. Through this subsidy, many sports organisations are provided with premises where to train their athletes at an affordable price. Furthermore, SportMalta also transfers government owned property and land to sports organisations who are interested in developing their own sports facilities in order to increase sports participation and interest. To date, there is no enforcement on payment of ground rents. This will need to change in order to ensure sustainability of the scheme. All the funds raised through ground rents, including those commercialized sports facilities, will be reinvested in other sports facilities or further assistance grants to sports organisations.





SPORTMALTA PRIORITIES



1.

SportMalta shall ensure that sports becomes sustainable and self-sufficient. To date sports organisations depend heavily on government grants, both through SportMalta and other government departments. The current administration believes that this can change and should change. Government should invest its budgets in sports facilities which can be utilised for SportMalta programmes and sports organisations. The majority of the budgets allocated on a yearly basis by government are currently being forked out to sports organisations in the form of assistances. However, new facilities managed by SportMalta and sports organisations are in the pipeline.

2.

SportMalta intends to assist sports organisations in the proper structuring of their organisations. This shall be done through proper review of the current statutes of sports organisations, meetings to ensure that the committee structure is fully democratic and properly functioning, training of volunteers who form part of such committees and other assistance which can be provided through professional services which will be made available to the sports organisations through SportMalta professionals and experts.

3.

SportMalta will embark in new procedures which shall ensure accountability and transparency in the management of government property and land and public funds given to sports organisations. This shall be done through proper monitoring of accounts, site visits to ensure quality of sports facilities and other measures which shall be deemed as necessary from a regulatory point of view by the SportMalta management, including through the establishment of a quality mark.



ROLE OF SPORTS ENTITIES...



1.

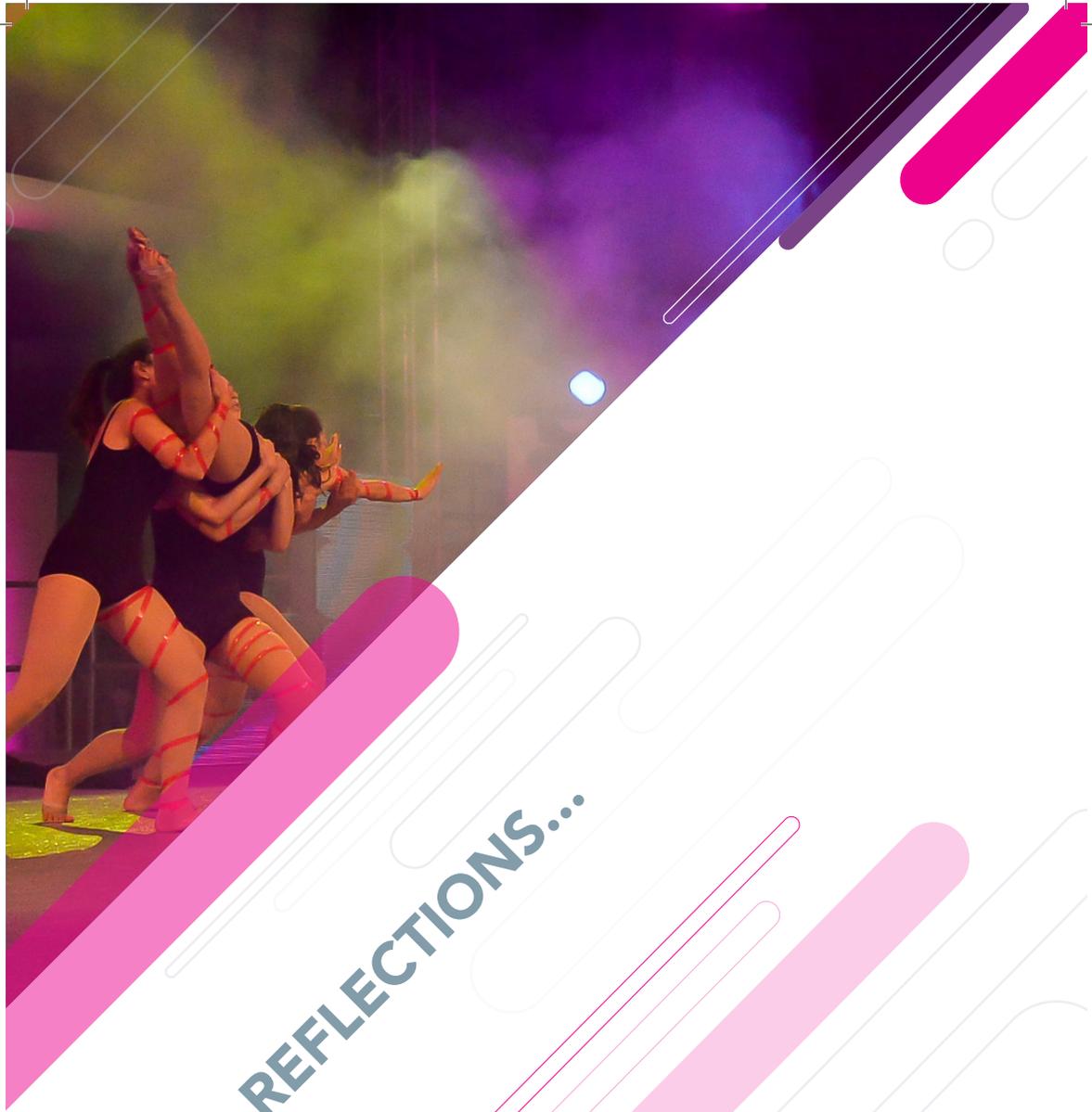
Sports organisations shall seek ways of attaining appropriate funding for their needs and requirements. The financial assistance provided by SportMalta to sports organisations should be a segment of the funds invested in the sports organisation. Through the commercialisation of land and premises, the sports organisations shall have the opportunity to generate funds for their activities, thereby not only improving their structures but also providing better services to their members.

2.

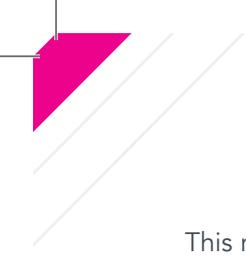
Sports organisations shall ensure that their statutes are up to date with developments being discussed at European Union level and which are consonant with the way sports evolves from time to time. It is no longer acceptable for a sports organisation to be run in an incompetent manner. Such incompetence, lack of transparency and accountability cannot be deemed acceptable by SportMalta in sports organisations registered within its registrar. To this effect, sports organisations shall be expected to encourage continuous professional development in their organisation, whether such training is provided through SportMalta, the respective national organisation or international federation. Volunteers shall be required to train in their respective areas of responsibility to ensure the smooth, transparent and accountable running of the sports organisation they form part of.

3.

Sports organisations will be expected to ensure the maximisation of government property transferred to them. The income from such property shall be reflected in the annual financial reports of sports organisations and committee members who are suspected to be making any profit from government property, which is not directly reinvested in sports shall be reported to the relevant authorities. Similarly, funds awarded to sports organisations through any SportMalta incentive scheme shall be monitored and abuse investigated where necessary. The misuse of any such funds as mentioned in the two above instances shall constitute fraud and will be treated as such.



REFLECTIONS...



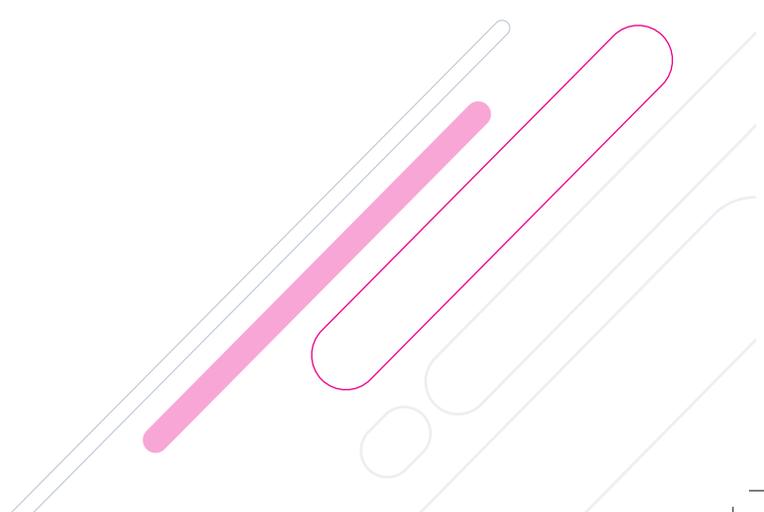
This reform shall bring about a major overhaul in sports in Malta. It shall bring about a culture change whereby the volunteer element in sports organisations shall no longer be considered a detriment to the growth and proper management of sports organisations.

To the contrary, sports organisations are to be compensated through incentive scheme eligibility and award of funds through results they achieve in maximising the potential of their volunteers and therefore, their sports organisation. SportMalta shall no longer award funds to sports organisations, unless such award is justified by proper administration of the funds generated by sports organisations evidenced through proper reporting and documentation required by SportMalta from time to time and annexed with applications for assistance. Such documentation may require further supporting evidence if and when required.



This is a new era for sports in Malta. SportMalta will, more than ever before, walk alongside sports organisations and is, through this framework, providing them with the necessary basic information that sports organisations are required to have in order to cooperate with SportMalta.

We wish you all the greatest of success in this new endeavour.





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