

PREPARING A DELEGATION FOR A MAJOR SPORTS EVENT

Patrick Ssebuliba
General Secretary
Association of Uganda University Sports



**FEDERATION OF EASTERN AFRICA
UNIVERSITY SPORTS**

What is a delegation?

In this respect we are referring to a sports delegation which comprises of a group of athletes, coaches and officials identified to participate in a given sports competition championship or event, it may consist of multiple “teams” within a given sport

Team

A composition of athletes and officials both technical and administrative.

Technical Officials may include; Medical, trainers and coaches depending in the set of the organisation

Administrative officials include all those that are meant to do administrative work for the team like the HODs, Managers e.t.c

What is a major sports event?

This is a sports event involving a national entity for regional, continental and global show pieces like AFCON, CECAFA, Common wealth, World Championships, Olympic Games.



Qualifying event

For any serious competition being planned the organizer of the team must put in place a qualifying event to select a long list of athletes from which a tentative team is selected for training.

Training

Non residential training usually takes precedence looking at the period between when training is presumed to start and the competition, usually for big events such training can take 6months and residential training take a maximum of 6 weeks because of the related costs.



Final Selection

This is done by the technical arm of organisers, like federations and associations or clubs, normally done two weeks to the event.

Eligibility as per event rules

All Sports events have eligibility criteria that is always shared by the hosts and event organisers, the technical arm preparing the teams must consider the eligibility content when identifying probable team members by working critically at all those areas mentioned in the athletes that are required to compete, like age, weight, height, nationality and qualifying standards in terms of a particular level required.

Visas



For all international competition the visa process must be handled in good time, because of the different requirements per country.

Team kits

Training

There should be a training regime planned, managed and supervised to enable the team acquire the necessary skills and fitness levels, it is recommended that there should be an identical team kit for team bonding.

Casual

An organized team should have an identical casual wear during player's free time for purposes of team bonding.

Competition

we must have the recommended team uniform as per the sports event regulations or as described in the sports regulation, this affects the coaches for some events.

Flight bookings

These have to be done in good time to avoid last minute engagements funds permitting tickets to be secured in advance because prices normally soar towards the events.

Feeding and accommodation

Arrangements should be made to establish the menu that will be served at the games to prepare the team in hand, accommodation should be secured if not arranged by the hosts.



Team Travel

There should be concrete plans for the team travel from camp to given venues and back this must be done before the schedule as per the game time.



Flagging of the off the team

The team must be accorded an official flag off, it motivates the players, gives them national identity and direction, this should be done by a recognised government entity or sponsor, this event adds value to the team branding



Technical Meetings

For most of the competition, there are technical meeting to brief teams about the event and final submissions of team entries, draws & inspections of team kits. These are a must attend because they decide the next course of action.

Record of team results and monitoring performance

There must be an official assigned to take record of results analysing them and planning on the next stages of action; the official in question must monitor the performance of his/her athletes and also of the opponents, because some opponents violates certain rules to the disadvantage of your athlete, in such a situation the official has to petition to secure the advantage of the athletes whose competing rights are violated.

Departure arrangements

The head of delegation must work on the transport arrangement checkout procedures as arranged by the hosts to ensure that the team leaves the games village as scheduled. Teams must be at pickup places for the next connections.

Final report

A final report must be prepared by putting together all assigned officials reports about their responsibilities to come up with final report. The report must cover all the details including challenges and recommendations.

A good report helps future organisers to bench mark and make better preparations for teams.

THANK YOU



Patrick Ssebuliba
General Secretary
Association of Uganda University Sports