

Top athletes take on ASA over London exclusions

Cases of appeal flood federation

By **Daniel Mthowagae**

Prominent SA track and field stars, led by Olympic champion Wayde van Niekerk, went on a united front last night in support of fellow athletes who have been excluded from Athletics SA's (ASA) final team to next month's IAAF World Championships in London.

Yesterday was the qualifying deadline and ASA is facing a backlash from those omitted despite attaining the IAAF qualifying standards.

ASA excellence manager Hezekiel Sepeng told Sowetan yesterday that he was aware of appeals from Rynardt van Rensburg (800m), Dominique Scott (10 000m) and Marc Mundell (50km race walker).

"These are the few names I have in my inbox but the selectors, the track and field commission, as well as the board will have the final say if we can include them in the team," said Sepeng.

No sooner had ASA announced the final team at the weekend than the murmurs of discontent began from athletes who felt aggrieved at not having been included, even though they had attained the qualifying standard.

ASA's qualifying criteria were tougher than those set by the IAAF and this did not go down well with some athletes and coaches, who argued that it was unfair for those who achieved the B-standard, which basically matched the IAAF marks. Of the 24 athletes named for the August 4-13 London meeting, only 18 have met ASA's stringent A-

standard criteria while some attained the IAAF A-marks.

It was not clear if sprinter Henricho Bruintjies would appeal but the former SA 100m record holder took to Twitter to register his dissatisfaction over his omission.

"As much as the guys do best on the track ... the ones that's supposed to run the sport issue just messing up and killing us," ranted the Tuks Athletics runner.

"Why do we give people power [to] break down the sport we love."

Bruintjies has a season best of 10.06secs, lower than the IAAF's 10.22. ASA's standard was 10.03.

ASA will submit the final team to IAAF today.

Team SA

100m: Akani Simbine, Thando Roto, Carina Horn

200m: Simbine, Wayde van Niekerk, Clarence Munyai

400m: Van Niekerk, Pieter Conradie

800m: Caster Semenya

10 000m: Stephen Mokoka

110m hurdles: Antonio Alkana

400m hurdles: Wenda Nel

Long jump: Luvo Manyonga, Zarck Visser, Ruswahl Samaai

Shot Put: Orazio Cremona, Jaco Engelbrecht

Discus throw: Victor Hogan

Javelin: Sunette Viljoen, Rocco van Rooyen

20km race walk: Lebogang Shange

Marathon: Lusapho April, Desmond Mokgobu, Sibusiso Nzima, Mapaseka Makhanya, Jenna Challenor



Henricho Bruintjies of SA, right, is upset after he was left out of the SA squad that will compete at next month's world champs in London. / PAUL GILHAM/GETTY IMAGES

#Safer Than Safe
BROUGHT TO YOU BY SUMITOMO RUBBER SOUTH AFRICA (PTY) LTD.

It's best to be in safer hands

Stand a chance to WIN BACK

