

**CANCELLED****P R E S S R E L E A S E*****Junior Africa Cup [JAC] 2021 (M/W)*****6 July 2021 | Cairo, Egypt:**

The AfHF recently received several updates from the Namibia Hockey Union (NHU) as host of the JAC 2021 (M/W) re the COVID-19 developments in Namibia preventing NHU from committing to the hosting of the JAC 2021 (M/W) at the above-mentioned dates. Moreover, Namibia's President's speech of 30 June 2021 about the escalating COVID-19 situation and followed by COVID-19 measures of public health restrictions made it impossible for the JAC 2021 (M/W) to take place on the planned August 2021 dates; such dates being originally postponed from March 2021 by a special extension from the FIH and not subject to any further extensions.

Based on the above developments, the AfHF Executive Board has convened and after discussions and consultation with the FIH, we regret to inform you that the AfHF's final decision is to cancel these tournaments and hereby announce that the 2 (two) qualified teams per gender for the Junior World Cup [JWC] 2021 Men (25 Nov-5 Dec 2021 in India) and the Junior World Cup [JWC] 2021 Women (5-16 Dec 2021 in South Africa) are as follows:

Men: **EGYPT** (JAC 2016 Champion) & **SOUTH AFRICA** (JAC 2016 Runner up)

Women: **SOUTH AFRICA** (JAC 2016 Champion) & **ZIMBABWE** (JAC 2016 Runner up)

The AfHF has been forced to take this decision given the unfortunate news of the highly contagious COVID-19 variant(s) hitting Namibia and the surrounding countries and the impossibility of having another postponement based on valid reasons as discussed with the FIH.

This decision has been taken with a heavy heart keeping in mind its impact mostly on our young players amongst all stakeholders. The safety and wellbeing of our players, coaches, officials, administrators & fans remain our top priority.

We are looking forward to a successful African representation at the Junior World Cup [JAC] 2021 (M/W) and look forward to next year when it will be the time to organize the JAC 2022 (M/W) as the qualifying tournaments for the JWC 2023 (M/W) taking place in Malaysia (Men) & Chile (Women).

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Notes to Editors:

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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 26 member National Associations. For more information on the AfHF, visit: www.africahockey.org