



## BARBADOS AQUATIC SPORTS ASSOCIATION

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Dear Carifta Federations

After careful consideration and consultation with the Ministry of Health and the COVID-19 Monitoring Unit, the Barbados Aquatic Sports Association is unable at this time to give any indication as to when Barbados will be allowed to host sporting competitions. In addition the Aquatic Center has been closed for the last three weeks due to the heavy ash fall from the La Soufrière volcano and will now reopen on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. It has been a very difficult time for all sporting federations.

In addition, there continues to be spikes in the COVID-19 Pandemic in many of our neighbouring states and this has added concern for the Ministry of Health in relation to Carifta being a regional tournament. The rescheduling of the Caribbean Examination Council's examinations has also created an added challenge. This too, has made it difficult to identify a date that would be suitable to host the competition.

It is with utmost regret that Council has agreed that under these persistent circumstances we can no longer hold the Federations in a state of uncertainty. We are therefore informing the Secretariat that Barbados is unable to host Carifta 2021. We are most anxious to hold to our commitment by having our agreement to host Carifta extended to 2022. We are confident that with the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine programmes in our respective states, conditions will improve. We thank you for your support during this difficult time. Barbados will continue to work with our Carifta member Federations to ensure that our athletes have an opportunity to come together in 2022 and compete in a safe and enjoyable environment.

I understand the disappointment and setbacks this decision will cause to the athletes and all those who work to make Carifta an exciting and rewarding experience. We are operating in very strange times and unfortunately the decision is based on factors outside the control of our Association. We hope that 2022 will be a brighter and more stable year for everyone. I am hereby conveying our best wishes to all Federations as you continue to work with your athletes. I thank you for your patience and your understanding. I will continue to update you on developments in Barbados regarding events that may be sanctioned later in the year.

Sincerely

Cheryl, Lady Forde

President, BASA