

LIFESAVING SOUTH AFRICA- COMMUNITY SERVICE BEFORE SPORT.

A sport federation contributing to job creation in the fields of community and tourism recreation.

DHAYA SEWDUTH

Lifesaving South Africa

Introduction

Lifesaving South Africa (LSA), a registered sport federation with Department of Sport & Recreation and SASCOC, is arguably the only sporting federation which contributes to community service first before competitive sport participation. In the process, LSA has contributed to job creation of professional lifeguards and has made a massive rand-value contribution to municipalities and the tourism and hospitality industries through voluntary lifeguard duties performed by its members. LSA contends that the vast majority of the professional lifeguards have grown up and been trained, qualified and certified in its voluntary clubs. As there is no training institution providing such a scarce skill, municipalities, hotels, resorts, waterparks and other tourism industries have benefitted by recruiting professional lifeguards at no costs to themselves.

Methods:

The investigation to support the claim by a sport federation was predominantly a desk-top study to data mine signed duty records to understand the extent of voluntary hours performed by its voluntary members. The second step was to then translate the numbers of voluntary hours into rand-value to give an indication of the extent to the economic contribution that the organization makes to the community and country.

As there is no uniform rates of payment for the work-hours, the exercise extrapolated figures across varying rates to arrive at reasonable calculations.

Results.

The study, albeit a desk-top one, indicates that the economic contribution Lifesaving South Africa makes, amounts to several million rands and contributes to the NDP.