



## **POSITION STATEMENT**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT INTO SPORT AND RECREATION**

#### **PURPOSE OF POSITION STATEMENT**

This statement is in response to the local government budget process and the distribution of non-mandatory services. The Mid West Sports Federation (MWSF) intends to use this position statement to assist consultation with Local Government Authorities to secure an equitable provision of services to the sport and recreation community.

#### **PRINCIPLES**

The Mid West Sports Federation is in support of the following principles and considers that they will help guide any consultations or policy development in relation to the investment of local government into sport and recreation.

1. MWSF recognise the important economic and social benefits that sport and recreation provide to our community
2. MWSF encourage the active engagement by local government of community and stakeholder representatives in the development of policy supporting their investment in sport and recreation
3. MWSF support sport and recreation activities that demonstrate whole of community benefits
4. MWSF advocate for an equitable and transparent distribution of infrastructure and service provision
5. MWSF support maximising the use of infrastructure and council investment and encourage good future planning
6. MWSF believe that local government should regularly review their investment in sport and recreation to ensure best value for the community

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

With respect to local government investment in sport and recreation, Mid West Sports Federation recommends that:

1. The Local Government Authority engage with community representatives and key stakeholders to determine an equitable and transparent distribution of infrastructure and services to the sport and recreation community.
2. The Local Government Authority should identify inequities in investment and address them so that all sports users are treated fairly.
3. Investment into sport and recreation by local governments should be prioritised highly in budget reviews due to the significant social, health and cultural benefits.
4. Investment into sport and recreation should include more than just facilities and should also concentrate on developing community capacity and participation.