



Sport and recreation



**SOUTH
AFRICA**
YEARBOOK
2011/12

Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) is the national department responsible for sport in South Africa. Aligned with its vision of *An Active and Winning Nation*, its primary focuses are on: providing opportunities for all South Africans to participate in sport; managing the regulatory framework; and providing funding for different codes of sport.

The right to play and to participate in sport has been embodied in United Nations (UN) instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It is recognised as a right, which all governments should make available to their people.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom.

In line with these constitutional imperatives, the SRSA has been assigned the powers and functions to develop and implement national policies and programmes regarding sport and recreation in the country.

Objectives

The SRSA aims to maximise access, development and excellence at all levels of participation in sport and recreation to improve social cohesion, nation-building and the quality of life of all South Africans.

The SRSA's goals include:

- leading the process of sport transformation, asset development and equity in sport and recreation
- ensuring that school sport is offered in all schools in South Africa
- ensuring that institutional mechanisms are in place that provide equal access at all levels of participation in sport and recreation
- contributing to social cohesion and employment opportunities through mass mobilisation in sport and recreation
- contributing to a healthy lifestyle through the provision of recreation programmes
- instituting a funding model to enable the effective implementation of sport and recreation programmes
- ensuring that high-performance systems are in place that will enable more athletes, coaches, technical officials and administrators to reach national and international standards that will

contribute to an improvement in South Africa's international rankings

- improving governance and the delivery of sport and recreation by means of effective and efficient administrative support systems and adequate resources
- supporting a well-governed sports community through the development of national policies and guidelines for sport and recreation in the country
- using the potential of sport and recreation to achieve government priorities through co-operation with identified international, national, provincial and local government departments.

Programmes

The SRSA has a number of flagship programmes through which it implements its objectives.

Sport support services

The SRSA transfers funds to sport and recreation organisations (mainly national federations) and monitors the use of funds in line with service-level agreements signed between the national federations and the department. The subprogramme also administers the transfers made to Boxing South Africa and the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS), and to non-governmental organisations such as loveLife for the promotion of HIV and AIDS awareness through sport.

Another function is to support high-performance sport by annually monitoring and evaluating services delivered by the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (Sascoc) in preparing and delivering Team South Africa to selected multicoded international events.

Through its Club Development Subprogramme, the SRSA supported – with sport equipment, attire and generic and sport-specific capacity-building – the formation and/or revitalisation of 189 clubs in 2011/12 in conjunction with national federations that provide technical support and coach education.

It also empowered the sport and recreation human-resource base by coordinating the development or updating of 20 sport-specific education and training manuals, and by supporting the development of a core group of 500 accredited facilitators in 2011/12.

The first National Sport and Recreation Indaba was held in November 2011 in Midrand.

- The indaba was divided into six commissions, namely:
- Recreation/Mass Participation and School Sport
 - The Geo-Political Constitutional Boundaries vs Sport Federation Boundaries and Sports Councils
 - Infrastructure and Facilities
 - Governance at Macro Level plus Amateur vs Professional Sport
 - Transformation
 - All Non-Disputed Resolutions.

The commissions managed to align and integrate transformation, the Transformation Charter, school sport programmes and all other relevant issues discussed under different topics of the indaba into the Draft National Sport and Recreation Plan with tailored scorecards that are going to be the bedrock for the collective case for sport and recreation.

Through its sport-scientific support subprogramme, it facilitated the transition of at least 1 800 talented athletes from mass participation programmes to high-performance programmes in 2011/12 by providing scientific support services, including medical and sport-science support.

Community Mass Participation

Community Mass Participation delivers sport-promotion programmes by focusing on increasing the number of participants in sport and recreation, with the emphasis on disadvantaged and marginalised groups. The majority of the subprogramme's budget consists of mass participation conditional grants made to provinces. The subprogramme also coordinates initiatives with the European Union, such as Youth Development Against Violence Through Sport (YDVS) Programme.

Its aim was also to encourage active lifelong participation in sport by delivering sustainable programmes to 28 000 South Africans in 2011/12, with the emphasis on women, youth, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and rural communities.

In terms of school sport, the SRSA promoted the physical well-being of children by facilitating the training of 500 school coaches and technical officials in 2011/12, and by establishing or revitalising 200 school leagues in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education.

International Liaison and Major Events

International Liaison negotiates government-to-government agreements and manages co-operation programmes. It leverages donor funding to support the strategic goals of the SRSA, and enriched sport development, particularly

skills in coaching, officiating, administration and sport science, by executing five international exchange programmes in 2011/12.

It also used sport and recreation to support the African Agenda by activating and managing bilateral relations through skills transfer and capacity-building with strategic countries in Africa.

The Major Events Subprogramme coordinates and manages government's support services for hosting identified major events in South Africa and at international events in line with requests from the Minister of Sport and Recreation. It promotes tourism in South Africa by showcasing South Africa as a sports tourist destination at, among other things, the 123rd Session of the International Olympic Committee held in Durban in July 2011.

Facilities coordination

The Planning and Advocacy Subprogramme lobbies for, facilitates and coordinates the provision of sport and recreation facilities by municipalities and other relevant institutions. The subprogramme is also responsible for implementing the YDVS Programme funded by the German Development Bank, *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau*. The programme funds the construction and rehabilitation of kick-about, pitches and multipurpose sites and supports consultancy services.

The Technical Support Subprogramme provides technical assistance to local authorities and other relevant stakeholders for constructing and managing sport facilities to ensure compliance with national standards. It also oversees procuring gymnasium equipment to selected municipalities. Seventy-five per cent of the budget is used for purchasing equipment and the balance is dedicated to developing skills for managing sport and recreation facilities in municipalities.

Initiatives Golden Games

The 2011 Golden Games, part of the SRSA Older Persons Programme, were held in the Free State in October 2011 with the theme *Celebrating Active Ageing*.

The Golden Games is a national event where persons older than 65 compete in various sporting codes at provincial level. Codes that form part of the Golden Games include soccer, athletics (800 m and 4x100-m relay), brisk walk, duck walk, passing the ball, rugbyball throw, jukskei and goal shooting.

The Western Cape was crowned the 2011 Golden Games champion, having amassed 539 points compared to North West's 486 and the Eastern Cape's 474.

South African Sports Awards

The SRSA and Sascoc created the South African Sports Awards to honour the country's sports stars in local and international sports events. In 2011, 16 awards were handed out, with the winner of the Sports Star of the Year Award decided by the public through voting by SMS and online on the Sascoc website.

Cricketer Hashim Amla won the top accolade at the fourth South African Sports Awards evening, held at Sun City in August 2011.

Cameron Van der Burgh won the Sportsman of the Year accolade.

Banyana Banyana striker, Noko Matlou, a former African Women's Player of the Year, won the Sportswoman of the Year Award.

Former world No 1 golfer Ernie Els; 2011 FIFA World Cup™ organising committee chief executive officer, Danny Jordaan; Premier Soccer League chairperson Irvin Khoza; former South African Football Association president Molefi Oliphant; and fifth-dan karateka Peter Thage received Steve Tshwete lifetime achievement awards.

The Blue Bulls was named Team of the Year, and Bulls mentor Frans Ludeke scooped the Coach of the Year accolade.

Swimming sensation Chad le Clos was recognised as the Newcomer of the Year.

Wheelchair tennis players Lucas Sithole and Kgotatso Montjane were respectively named Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year with a Disability.

Sports organisations South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee

Sascoc is the controlling body for all high-performance sport in South Africa.

The SRSA and Sascoc cooperate closely on issues of mutual importance, and the SRSA also provides funding to Sascoc, for instance in the preparation of elite athletes for international events.

It is the national coordinating macro-body for the promotion and development of high-perform-

The Guinness Book of World Records has recognised South Africa's famous ultra-marathon, the Comrades, as the event with "the most runners in an ultra-marathon".

The 2011 race had 19 951 entries, with approximately 12 600 starters and 11 070 finishers.

ance sport in South Africa, including team presentation, and must consult with relevant sports bodies in this regard.

Sascoc represents Team South Africa for all multicoded sport participating in international games, such as the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Commonwealth Games and All-Africa Games.

In November 2011, Sascoc and the SRSA launched a coaching framework initiative as a development scheme set to strengthen the country's sport programmes by educating and training coaches, and creating structures to improve coaching. Athletes will subsequently receive world-class mentorship, while sports officials and administrators will benefit too.

Boxing South Africa (BSA)

BSA is partly funded with public money. Its functions are to promote boxing and protect the interests of boxers and officials. Its main responsibilities are to:

- consider applications for licences from all stakeholders in professional boxing
- sanction fights
- implement the regulations pertaining to boxing
- promote the interests of all stakeholders in boxing.

South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport

The SAIDS is the national anti-doping organisation, funded by the SRSA. Its mandate is to promote participation in sport, free from the use of prohibited substances or methods intended to artificially enhance performance in the interest of the health and well-being of sportspeople.

The SAIDS is responsible for developing anti-doping policy and implementing a national anti-doping programme across all South Africa's sporting codes.

The SAIDS is International Organisation for Standardisation 9001:2000 certified in compliance with the International Standard for Testing. This is the internationally recognised benchmark

The Sports and Events Tourism Exchange (Sete) Conference and Exhibition, held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in July 2011, aimed to build on the legacy of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

Funded by the Department of Trade and Industry and South African Tourism, the Sete Conference and Expo offered a comprehensive international hosted buyer programme. This gave international buyers the opportunity to interact with exhibitors through pre-scheduled meetings, conference sessions and networking events. The key objective of the programme was to connect international buyers with local service-providers and product owners.

for quality assurance and excellence, and represents world best-practice in doping control in sport.

The SAIDS' key focus areas are:

- Doping control: The institute conducts a comprehensive, independent and effective national doping-control programme for South African athletes competing at regional, national and international level. The SAIDS also conducts in- and out-of-competition doping controls on international athletes on behalf of international sports federations and other international anti-doping organisations.
- Education: The SAIDS provides education, information and awareness for all its target groups, namely athletes; coaches; parents; sport organisations; members of the medical; pharmaceutical and sport-science professions; tertiary-education institutions; and the public. Information on national and international anti-doping issues can be accessed at www.drug-freesport.org.za.
- Research: The SAIDS conducts sociological research into the knowledge, attitude and use of performance-enhancing drugs among South African sportspeople, for the purpose of planning and implementing effective doping-control and education programmes.
- International collaboration: South Africa is an active participant in the global effort to combat drugs in sport. The SAIDS collaborates closely with its counterparts throughout the world to achieve international harmonisation and the improvement of standards and practices in doping control. South Africa is a member of the International Anti-Doping Arrangement and of the Executive Committee of the Association of National Anti-Doping Organisations.

In June 2011, SAIDS launched the *I Play Fair – Say NO! to Doping* Campaign to spread the mes-

sage of ethics, fair play and anti-doping in sport. The SRSA supports the campaign.

The campaign, targeting professional and amateur athletes across the country, provides education about banned substances and runs actual doping tests. SAIDS statistics show that there has been more than a 100% increase in positive doping tests recently. The number jumped from 19 in 2009/10 to 50 in 2011. More than 2 000 athletes were tested each year.

In August 2011, SAIDS announced a new mobile site and an innovative iPhone application, which brings people the most up-to-date drug information. It's aimed at ensuring the country's athletes avoid using banned substances unwittingly. Athletes can download the application free and get quick access to the list of banned and permitted substances in sport.

The campaign was kickstarted at the 2012 *Cape Argus* Cycle Tour, with the Minister of Sport and Recreation, Mr Fikile Mbalula, leading an *I Play Fair* celebrity cycling team. The team also aims to participate in other mass sports events such as the Soweto Marathon and the Business Systems Group (BSG) triathlon series, to give the campaign's message prominence. Minister Mbalula also declared 18 June as *I Play Fair* Day.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

The Africa Regional Office of the WADA was established in Cape Town in 2004 to coordinate the anti-doping activities of the agency throughout Africa.

This includes promoting and maintaining effective lines of communication between the WADA and all relevant stakeholders, governments and public authorities, the broad sports movement, national anti-doping agencies and laboratories.

South Africa continues to serve as the African representative on the Executive Committee of WADA.

International relations

The SRSA has embarked on a concerted effort to promote relations with international parties in the field of sport and recreation. This is done through

The legacy of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ will stand South Africa in good stead as the country prepares to stage yet another major international football tournament, this time the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations.

the two subprogrammes of International Liaison and International Events.

South Africa was a signatory to the UN millennium development goals (MDGs), drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state and government during the UN Millennium Summit in 2000. Through its activities, the SRSA has continued to use sport and recreation as a mechanism for the attainment of the MDGs.

The UN General Assembly adopted a set of resolutions on sport for development and peace. The SRSA is represented in the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, where it plays a leading role.

It continues to play a role in the activities of the Supreme Council of Sport in Africa and the establishment of a new sport structure within the African Union. This is an important step in coordinating future continental sporting activities, and fast-tracking the sustainable development of sport in Africa.

2011 sports highlights All-Africa Games

The 10th All-Africa Games took place in September in Maputo, Mozambique, which featured 20 sporting disciplines in which 53 countries participated. Disabled events also featured in swimming and athletics.

Team South Africa finished first on the medals table, with 62 gold medals, 55 silver and 40 bronze, totalling 157 medals.

Archery

South Africa hosted the 2011 World Indoor Archery Championships in Pretoria in October. Team South Africa won six gold medals; five silver and three bronze and set four new world records.

The gold medallists winners were Jeanine van Kradenburg, Jakkie Fleming, Jenny Wittstock, Riaan van Wyk, Danielle Wentzel and Kobus Brink. Van Kradenburg, Flemming and Wentzel set new three-day world indoor records in their respective categories, while Brink set a new one-day world indoor record.

Athletics

In January 2011, South Africa participated in the 2011 International Paralympic Committee Ath-

letics World Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand. Team South Africa ended seventh on the medals table with 25 medals, made up of nine gold, seven silver and nine bronze. Oscar Pistorius walked away with four medals (three gold and one silver) while Teboho Mokgalagadi and Ilse Hayes both won two gold medals each.

Team South Africa's gold medallists were:

- Mokgalagadi (100 m and 200 m)
- Hayes (200 m and long jump)
- Pistorius (200 m and 400 m)
- Hilton Langenhoven (pentathlon)
- Fanie Lombaard (discus)
- Amputee relay team: Pistorius, Arnu Fourie, David Roos and Samkelo Radebe (4x100 m).

The silver medallists were:

- Pieter du Preez (200-m wheelchair)
- Langenhoven (long jump)
- Jonathan Ntutu (100 m)
- Fanie van der Merwe (100 m and 200 m)
- Pistorius (100 m)
- Anrune Liebenberg (400 m).

The bronze medallists comprised:

- Casper Schutte (javelin)
- Fourie (200 m)
- Du Preez (100-m wheelchair)
- Michael Louwrens (shotput)
- Lombaard (shotput)
- Hayes (200 m)
- Zanele Situ (javelin)
- Mncedi Khanti (1 500 m)
- Van der Merwe (400 m).

In May and June 2011, competing in the 50th Ostrava Spike in the Czech Republic, South African 400-m hurdler LJ van Zyl destroyed a classy field to win with ease in 47,66 seconds. That equalled his personal best and South African record time, which he set in Pretoria at the end of February. It was also the fifth time he ran under 48 seconds in the season.

In June 2011, South African world long-jump silver medallist, Khotso Mokoena, won gold at the Oslo Bislett Games with an 8,08-m leap. World 800-m champion Caster Semenya ran a season-best of 1:58,61 and finished in third place, while javelin-throw champion, Robert Oosthuizen, continued his fine form with his third podium spot. Oosthuizen took a short-lived lead with his first heave of the evening with a throw of 82,07 m.

Pistorius achieved a long-held dream in Lignano, Italy, in July, when he qualified for the

The first FNB 2010 Legacy Programme, an initiative between First National Bank and the South African Football Association (Safa), saw 15 coaches from rural areas receiving intensive training before a number of grassroots-development initiatives were rolled out across South Africa.

FNB and Safa unveiled the legacy programme in Johannesburg in May 2011.

400 m at the 2011 World Championships and the 2012 London Olympic Games.

It was his last opportunity to achieve the qualifying standard of 45,25 seconds and the 24-year-old did it, breaking his previous personal best of 45,61 seconds with a time of 45,07 seconds.

To put that time into perspective, it would have been good for fifth place in the Beijing Olympic Games of 2008. It made Pistorius the 15th-fastest 400-m runner in the world in 2011.

Van Zyl occupied sixth place with a time of 44,86 seconds in the 400-m hurdles.

In August 2011, Pistorius reached the semi-final of the International Association of Athletics Federation's (IAAF) Athletics World Championships in Daegu, South Korea.

South Africa finished 17th on the medals table, with two silver and two bronze. The men's 4x400-m squad and 800-m runner Semenya won the silver; while Sunette Viljoen and LJ van Zyl won bronze medals for javelin throw and 400-m hurdles respectively.

Thanks to his run in the heats, Pistorius also picked up a medal and made history as the first athlete with a disability to win a medal at the IAAF World Championships.

In December 2011, Pistorius was nominated for two 2012 Laureus World Sports Awards – the Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award and the Laureus Disability Award.

He received the Sportperson of the Year with a Disability Award in February 2012 at a ceremony in London.

Biking

Greg Minnaar was placed second in the downhill at the *Union Cycliste Internationale* (UCI) Mountain Bike World Cup in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal, in April 2011, just 0,241 seconds behind American Aaron Gwin.

Pietermaritzburg has been awarded the opening rounds of the 2012 and 2013 UCI mountain bike world cups.

Boxing

In October 2011, Moruti Mthalane successfully defended his International Boxing Federation flyweight title for a third time as he stopped home-favourite Andrea Sarritzu in the seventh round in Italy.

Cricket

India toured South Africa in 2010/11, with the third of three tests played in January 2011 in Cape Town. The test was drawn, and the series squared one-all.

The two teams then met in a once-off Twenty20 (T20) match at the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban. The match celebrated bowler Makhaya Ntini's career and paid tribute to Sachin Tendulkar. Ntini, the first black man to play for the South African national team, announced his retirement at the end of 2010. The match also served as a celebration of the arrival of Indian people in South Africa in 1860.

A five-match one-day international (ODI) series followed, which South Africa won 3-2, narrowly missing out on a white-wash over the visitors.

The 10th International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket World Cup took place in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh from February to April 2011.

South Africa finished at the top of Group B, which they shared with India, England, the West Indies, Bangladesh, Ireland and the Netherlands. They won five matches but lost against England. They met New Zealand in the quarterfinals, where the Black Caps made 221/8 in their allotted 50 overs. South Africa made 172 runs before being bowled out in the 44th over. India went on to become the 2011 ICC World Champion.

In April 2011, cricketers Jacques Kallis and Dale Steyn were honoured in the 2011 *Wisden Cricketer's Almanack* by being named in its Test XI for the 2010 calendar year.

South Africa's cricketers fared well at the 2011 LG International Cricket Council Awards, which took place in London in September 2011.

Hashim Amla, Dale Steyn, AB de Villiers and Jacques Kallis were all included in the Test Team of the Year, with De Villiers and Steyn also included in the One-Day International (ODI) Team of the Year.

The following players were shortlisted: Amla for the People's Choice Award, the Garfield Sobers Trophy for Cricketer of the Year and ODI Player of the Year; Kallis for Test Player of the Year and Spirit of Cricket; and JP Duminy for Twenty20 International Performance of the Year.

In October and November 2011, Australia visited the country to square off in a contest comprising two T20 games, two ODIs and two tests. Hashim Amla was appointed T20 and ODI captain in the place of AB de Villiers, who was injured.

The Australians won the first T20, but the Proteas pulled a stunning comeback in the second game to win it and draw the T20 series.

Australia won the first rain-logged ODI, while South Africa won the second. Australia bounced back to win the third and decisive game.

The contest between the two countries continued into a close-fought test series, with the locals winning the first nail-biting test and the visitors being victorious in the second. On the first day of the second test, Kallis became only the fourth batsman ever to score 12 000 test runs.

In December 2011 and January 2012, Sri Lanka toured South Africa, playing three tests and five ODIs. South Africa won the test series 2-1, with batsman-wicketkeeper Mark Boucher becoming the second wicketkeeper ever to score a test half-century and make six dismissals in an innings in the same match for the second time in the first test. The Proteas won the close-fought ODI series 3-2.

Cycling

Ashleigh Moolman-Pasio, Joanna van de Winkel, Marissa van der Merwe and Cherise Taylor broke new ground in the international pro road cycling world by being selected to make up half of an eight-member team in a prestigious grand tour event, the *Giro d'Italia Femminile* in July 2011.

The South African para-cycling team returned from the 2011 International Cycling Union Para-Cycling Road World Cup Final, which took place in Canada in July, with six medals.

The three-day event hosted an assortment of categories in the road-racing discipline, accommodating hand-cycling, tricycling and bicycling.

Flying

Team South Africa put in an impressive performance at the 20th Precision Flying World Championships, held at Brits in North West, in October 2011. South Africa came second in the Team Landing Category, with squad member Hans Schwebel being named runner-up for the landing trophy. This was the first time the country hosted the event.

Golf

Rory Sabbatini captured his sixth PGA Tour title in March 2011 when he won the Honda Classic on the PGA National Champion Course at Palm Beach Gardens in Florida, United States of America (USA).

In April 2011, Sunshine Tour commissioner Gareth Tindall announced that South Africa would host one of the biggest golf tournaments in the world in 2012 – a \$10-million (about R67,2 million) World Golf Championship event. A five-year contract has been signed, which will feature the top 70 players in the world rankings. It will run from 2012 to 2016.

In April 2011, Charl Schwartzel closed with four birdies in succession to capture a two-shot victory in the US Masters at Augusta, over Australia's Jason Day and Adam Scott. Schwartzel's four-round total was 14-under-par 274, made up of rounds of 69, 71, 68, and a closing six-under-par 66.

In May 2011, Thomas Aiken won the Spanish Open. His win was the fifth by a South African on the European Tour in the 2011 season, following Ernie Els' win in the South African Open Championship, Louis Oosthuizen claiming the Africa Open, and Schwartzel triumphing in the Joburg Open and the Masters. Aiken's victory was the 99th by a South African on the European Tour.

In the same month, Els was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. He joined the legendary Gary Player, who entered the hall in 1974. Nicknamed "The Big Easy" because of his swing, Els was elected in his first year on the ballot.

Also in May, Schwartzel moved into the top 10, coming in at number seven, after eight top-10 finishes by the year's halfway mark.

Garth Mulroy scored his maiden PGA European Tour victory in the Alfred Dunhill Championship in November 2011, recording the 100th win by a South African on the tour.

In the same month, Hennie Otto secured his first South African Open win, the 10th victory by a South African at the competition in 11 years.

In December 2011, Schwartzel came second in the Thailand Golf Championship, finishing seven strokes behind Lee Westwood from Great Britain.

Early in 2012, the PGA Tour announced that Player would be the 10th recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award.

South Africa's Armand Scholtz and Claudia Lim of Australia, the leaders in the Boys' and Girls' Golf Junior Masters competitions respectively, held on to win the 54-hole inaugural KeNako South African World Juniors in George in March 2011.

Hockey

In February 2011, the Investec South Africa women's hockey team defeated China 5-1 at the University of Free State Hockey Centre in Bloemfontein.

The team concluded the Investec International Series with a 3-2 win over Belgium after leading 3-1 at half time.

In June 2011, South African striker Pietie Coetzee broke the women's hockey world record of 220 test match goals with a stunning first-half hat-trick and four goals in total in a 5-5 draw between South Africa and the USA at the Champions Challenge tournament in Dublin. The team went on to claim fifth place after a 2-1 victory over the hosts, Ireland.

The men's hockey team finished third at the International Hockey Federation Champions Challenge in Johannesburg in December 2011.

In the same month, the women's hockey team played in the Four Nations competition in Argentina. They finished in second place after losing a closely contested final against world champions Argentina. India and Ireland also participated in the championship.

Motor racing

Driver Ginie de Villiers finished second in the 2011 Dakar Rally Argentina – Chile in January 2011. In November 2011, it was announced that De Villiers would lead the field of 17 cars at the start of the 2012 Dakar Rally in Argentina.

The International Superstars Series for V8 production cars was held at South Africa's Kyalami racetrack in Gauteng in November. Thomas Biagi won the series.

Netball

In July 2011, South Africa's netball team finished the World Netball Championships in Singapore on a high note when they claimed first place in Africa and fifth place in the world rankings. Erin Burger was named Player of the Tournament.

Polocrosse

In July 2011, South Africa captured the Polocrosse World Cup title for the first time when they defeated neighbours Zimbabwe in the final at the Onley Grounds Equestrian Centre near Rugby in the United Kingdom.

Both teams were undefeated heading into the final and both had beaten Australia, who had previously never lost a game at the World Cup, which was held Down Under in the first two editions in 2003 and 2007.

Polocrosse is a combination of polo and lacrosse and the format features men and women playing alternate chukkas.

Rugby

The International Rugby Board (IRB) awarded the hosting rights for the IRB Junior World Championship 2012 to the South African Rugby Union in June 2011. Cape Town and Stellenbosch will host 312 of the world's finest under-20 players over the three-week tournament as 12 international teams seek to claim the greatest prize in age-grade rugby.

South Africa's 2010/11 HSBC Sevens World Series campaign proved successful, with the team winning the USA leg in Las Vegas in February 2011 with a 24-14 victory over Fiji. This was the team's first tournament title since April 2009.

In May 2011, South Africa came back from being 7-28 down to snatch a 36-35 victory from Australia in the final phase of the match to give the Blitzbokke a 36-35 win over Australia in the final of the London leg of the series.

South Africa went on to win the tournament in the Edinburgh leg. This was the team's first successive tournament title victories since 2008, when they won the Dubai and George tournaments within the space of two weeks.

The team finished second overall on the HSBC Sevens World Series standings with 140 points, 16 behind champions New Zealand.

In October 2011, Cecil Afrika was announced the IRB Sevens Player of the Year in Auckland, New Zealand.

The 2011 Tri-Nations series was shortened from nine games to six to accommodate the Rugby World Cup (RWC), with each team playing the other two twice instead of three times. South Africa lost to Australia twice and once to the All

Blacks, before recording an 18-5 victory over the All Blacks in a bruising encounter in Port Elizabeth in August 2011. The series was ultimately won by Australia.

The seventh RWC was held in September and October 2011 in New Zealand. The Springboks, the defending champions, kicked off their campaign with a 17-16 win over Wales in a closely contested game. They went on to convincingly beat Fiji 49-3 and Namibia 87-0, a game in which Bryan Habana became the most prolific test try-scorer in South African rugby history with his 39th try in 72 matches. A 15-13 victory over Samoa saw the Boks reach the quarter-finals unbeaten at the top of Pool D.

Unfortunately, they exited the World Cup in the quarter-finals after a 9-11 loss against Australia. The hosts, New Zealand, went on to eliminate the Wallabies in the semi-finals and was ultimately crowned world champions after beating France in the final, refereed by South Africa's Craig Joubert.

Soccer

Bafana Bafana began their 2011 season on a winning note with a 2-0 victory over Kenya in a friendly international at the Royal Bafokeng Stadium in Rustenburg in February.

In March 2011, Bafana Bafana scored a 1-0 victory over Egypt at Coca-Cola Park in Johannesburg to stay at the top of the African Nations Cup qualifying Group G.

South Africa's national women's football team, Banyana Banyana, defeated Zambia 2-1 at the Nkoloma Stadium in Lusaka in January 2011 in their opening qualifier for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Banyana Banyana took a one-goal advantage into their second-leg Olympic qualifier against Tunisia in April 2011 after beating the north Africans by a goal to nil in Umlazi outside Durban, advancing to the final group of four African countries in the hunt for two places at the London 2012 Olympics.

South Africa's under-23 football team went through to the last round of qualifying for the 2011 All-Africa Games in Maputo, Mozambique, despite a loss to Malawi in May 2011.

They put on a superb performance in the second leg of their Olympic qualifier against Benin at Johannesburg's Rand Stadium in June 2011 to overcome a 3-1 deficit from the first leg and reach the last eight of the qualifiers.

Siphiwe Tshabalala captained Bafana Bafana to a well-earned 0-0 draw in their 2012 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) qualifying match against Egypt at the Military Academy Stadium in Egypt in June 2011.

In July 2011, the under-23 men's side qualified for the All-Africa Games despite a loss, while Banyana Banyana were beaten in the final of the Council of Southern Africa Football Associations Women's Championship. Both sides were in action against Zimbabwe at the Rufaro Stadium in Harare.

Shakes Mashaba's charges were beaten 1-0 on the day, but Bongani Ndulula's two goals from the first leg in Johannesburg proved enough to give South Africa a 2-1 victory on aggregate.

Banyana Banyana qualified for the All-Africa Games, which took place in Mozambique in September. Unfortunately, they fell to Zimbabwe.

In July 2011, South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs netted a late winner to edge Champions League quarter-finalists Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 in the opening match of the Vodacom Challenge at Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane.

Bafana Bafana comprehensively outplayed Burkina Faso 3-0 at Coca-Cola Park in Johannesburg in August 2011. They lost 2-1 to Niger and conceded their lead in Group G in September 2011. They then drew with Sierra Leone in Nelspruit. However, the team did not qualify for the 2012 Afcon finals.

In September 2011, Banyana Banyana secured their spot at the 2012 London Olympics with a 1-0 draw over Ethiopia.

The annual Nelson Mandela Challenge was held in Port Elizabeth in November 2011, where Bafana Bafana drew 1-1 with Côte d'Ivoire to share the trophy.

On November 2011, gold officially reached record levels following the minting of a handful of Mandela medallions on the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, the first venture of its kind ever.

Eleven intrepid South African Gold Coin Exchange (SAGCE) team members carried a unique hand-held press for the minting process all the way to the top, in honour of Nelson Mandela's achievements and the pivotal role he played in South Africa's journey to democracy.

Minting a gold medallion at that altitude presented a challenge. SAGCE arranged for the one-off construction of a hand-held press – light enough to carry up the mountain but also designed to mint a medallion to the highest standard possible. In the process, it set a record for the highest altitude at which such a coin has ever been minted.

In February 2011, Sibusiso Vilane (40) became the first black African to summit Mount Everest and walk to the South Pole completely unaided.

He was also the first black man to climb the highest peaks on all seven continents, earning him a place in the prestigious Seven Summits Club, which has just six South Africans among its 198 members worldwide.

In December 2011, the South African under-23 side drew with Gabon in Morocco in their second match of the Confederation of African Football Under-23s Championship. The eight-nation tournament also served as the qualifying tournament for the 2012 London Olympics.

Special Olympics

The South African team that participated in the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Greece brought home 71 medals and countless ribbons. They received 38 gold, 20 silver and 13 bronze medals respectively in swimming, track and field, basketball, boxing, soccer, golf and table tennis.

Surfing, surfski and canoeing

In January 2011, defending champions Hank McGregor and Abby Adie retained their titles in the Global Trader Drak Challenge Canoe Marathon.

Surfer Jordy Smith finished third in the Rip Curl Pro Bells Beach in Australia in April 2011 to move up from fifth to third in the 2011 Association of Surfing Professionals World Title rankings.

In June 2011, McGregor won his third Dunlop Surfski World Cup title in Durban. The women's race was dominated by Eastern Cape Olympian Michéle Eray, who won the women's event and finished 25th overall in the competition. The Dunlop Surfski World Cup set a world record when 330 entries were received by close of normal entries on 10 June, making it the biggest international surfski event in the world.

In July 2011, South Africa finished seventh out of 27 nations at the 2011 Billabong International Surfing Association World Surfing Games in Panama. The eight-person team collected a bronze medal for placing fourth in the Aloha Cup event.

Later the same month, South African big wave star Grant "Twiggy" Baker won the first Oakley One Wave Wonder event powered by Zigzag.

The competition ran over five months and drew over 150 entries.

At the end of July 2011, Smith captured the 2011 Billabong Pro Jeffreys Bay in a hard-fought final over Australia's Mick Fanning.

In October 2011, the South African Masters surfing team finished third in the team competition at the 2011 El Salvador International Surfing Association World Masters Surfing Championship. They also bagged five individual medals, one in each of the five contested categories.

At the end of October, McGregor won the 2011 International Canoe Federation Canoe Marathon World Championships K1 title in Singapore. The competition was a productive one for the South African contingent, with the Masters Cup team claiming 11 medals in day one's races: five gold, four silver and two bronze.

Swimming

In June 2011, the South African squad claimed two gold, one silver and two bronze medals on the first day of the Canet, France, leg of the Mare Nostrum series.

Cameron van der Burgh showed his skills in the 50-m breaststroke when he won gold with a time of 27,72 seconds. The 14-year-old Michelle Weber bagged the 800-m freestyle title, finishing over five seconds ahead of the pack. Gerhard Zandberg set a new meeting record as he took gold in the men's 50-m backstroke in 24,96.

Chad le Clos made a big impact on the Fina/Arena World Cup circuit in 2011, winning 23 gold medals, 10 silver and two bronzes – a total of 34 medals from seven meets. He was also named the Best Male Swimmer in the series. Van der Burgh won two bronze medals in the series.

South Africa also excelled at the Africa Junior Swimming Championship in Nigeria in December 2011. The team returned with 69 medals out of a possible 80. They won 35 gold medals and set 11 gala records.

In July 2011, members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) converged on Durban for their annual general meeting – the first time that the committee met on African soil.

The meetings took place at Durban's International Convention Centre and formed part of the 123rd IOC Session, during which PyeongChang (South Korea) was selected ahead of Munich (Germany) and Annecy (France) as host city of the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Tennis

The Euro/Africa Zone Group 1 Davis Cup tie against the Netherlands took place at Potchefstroom in the North West in July 2011. Kevin Anderson, ranked 39 at the time, was joined by teammates Izak van der Merwe, Rik de Voest and Wesley Moodie. The South Africans won 3-1.

They then played Croatia in the world group play-offs in September, but lost and subsequently did not go through to the Davis Cup group.

In October 2011, Anderson reached the quarter-finals of the Erste Bank Open after defeating Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus. He then overpowered Austria's Jurgen Melzer to reach the semi-finals, before being knocked out by former world number four Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina.

South Africa's number one women's player, Chani Scheepers, claimed her maiden Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Tour title in the Wailima International Women's Open in Guanzhou, China, in September. Scheepers' 6-2, 6-2 victory over Magdalena Rybarikova in the final ended an eight-year title drought for South Africa.

Days later, South African doubles specialist Natalie Grandin also won her maiden WTA title at the Hansol Korea Open in Seoul, South Korea.

South Africa became the first African country to host the Wheelchair Tennis World Team Cup when the 27th competition, which falls under the auspices of the International Tennis Federation, took place at the University of Pretoria in April 2011.

Sixteen countries participated in each of the world groups, and eight countries in the quad and junior events.

South Africa's men's wheelchair tennis team won a bronze medal, while the Netherlands proved themselves to be number one in both the men's and women's game.

Whiskey Games

In August 2011, Sean Tickner, 30, a prosthetist from Cape Town, and 28-year-old Jonathan Oliff, a brand strategist from Durban, won the Make It 2 Bushmills Trophy. Also referred to as the World Whiskey Games, it is a gruelling competition where teams of two battle it out for two days at the Bushmills Distillery in the village of Bushmills, County Antrim in Northern Ireland.

Teams take on punishing tasks, both mental and physical, such as beach golf, barrel rolling and blind taste tests in the hopes of winning the prestigious Bushmills Trophy.

The prize includes a two-week stint at the 403-year-old distillery, working with master distiller Colum Egan; a chance to make a unique whiskey using techniques imparted by Egan; and an allowance of US\$8 200 (R59 000) in spending money.

Teams from 11 countries took part – the competition included Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Russia and the USA.

Acknowledgements

Beeld
Pretoria News
South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport
Sowetan
Sport and Recreation South Africa
The Star

www.gov.za
www.iol.co.za
www.news24.com
www.sa2010.gov.za
www.sagoodnews.co.za

www.sanifaa.org.za
www.sapa.org.za
www.southafrica.info
www.supersport.com
www.superswimmer.co.za

Suggested reading

- Besong, MB. 2010. *South Africa: Bafana, Bafana*. 2010. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Desai, A (ed). 2010. *The Race to Transform: Sport in Post-Apartheid South Africa*. Cape Town: HSRC Press.
- Fraser, C. 2010. *Soccer Chic: Soccer Life the South African Way*. Cape Town: Quivertree Publications.
- Goode, R. 2010. *Football Muti*. Johannesburg: Jacana.
- Koonyaditse, OA. 2010. *The Politics of South African Football*. Grant Park: African Perspectives.
- Latakogomo, J. 2010. *Mzansi Magic: Struggle, Betrayal and Glory: The Story of South African Soccer*. Cape Town: Tafelberg.
- Maralack, D. 2010. *Transforming Sport and Identity in the Post-Apartheid South African Nation State*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Bookstore Press.
- Marnewick, M. 2010. *Quest for Glory: Successes in South African Sport*. Cape Town: Zebra Press.
- Matfield, V. 2011. *Victor: My Journey*. Cape Town: Random House Struik.
- O'Sullivan, D. 2009. *The Penguin Book of South African Sports Trivia*. Johannesburg: Penguin Books.
- Pillay, U, Tomlinson, R and Bass, O (eds). 2009. *Development and Dreams: The Urban Legacy of the 2010 Football World Cup*. Cape Town: HSRC Press.
- Roberts, C. 2011. *No Normal Sport in an Abnormal Society: Struggle for Non-Racial Sport in South Africa: From Apartheid to Sports Unity*. Cape Town: Havana Media.
- Sport and Recreation South Africa. 2011. Strategic Plan, 2011 – 2015. Pretoria.
- Sport Versus Art: A South African Contest*. 2010. Johannesburg: Wits University Press.

