



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

The department transforms the delivery of sport and recreation by ensuring equitable access, development and excellence at all levels of participation, thereby improving social cohesion, nation-building and the quality of life of all South Africans. The SRSA is established in terms of the Public Service Act of 1994.

Its legal mandate is derived from the National Sport and Recreation Amendment Act, 2007 (Act 18 of 2007), which requires it to oversee the development and management of sport and recreation in South Africa.

The Act provides the framework for relationships between the department and its external clients. This includes the SRSA's partnership with the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC). The partnership is key to improving South Africa's international ranking in selected sports. The Act also ensures that sport and physical education contribute to social cohesion by legislating on sports participation and sports infrastructure.

Aligned with the SRSA's vision of an active and winning nation, the department primarily focuses on providing opportunities for all South Africans to participate in sport; manages the regulatory framework; and provides funding for different sporting codes.

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

International framework

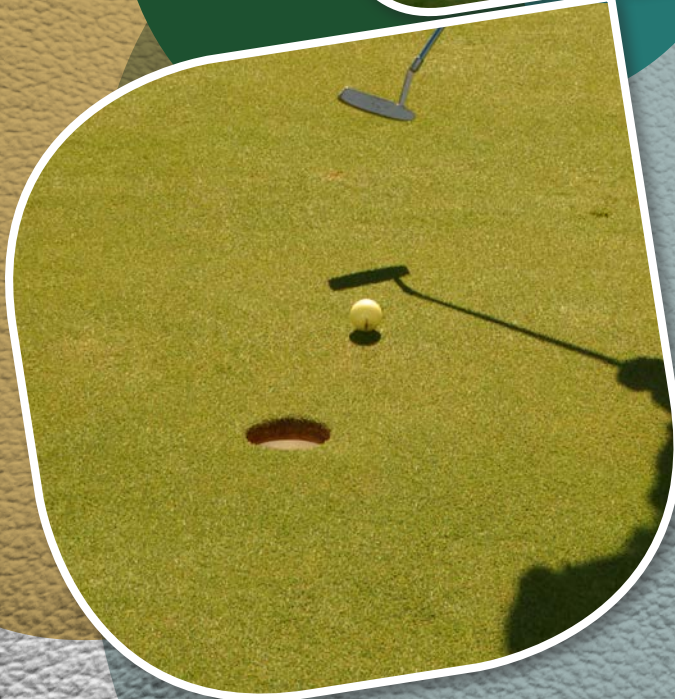
Within the international framework, SRSA is informed by policy documents from the United Nations (UN) relevant to the sport and recreation sector. Important for SRSA is to note the specific reference to the role of sport for social progress in the Declaration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development.

It recognises the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objective.

The UN foresees that sport will play an important role in pursuing each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and encourages member states to give sport due consideration in the context of the post-2015 development agenda".

In August 2016, governments from 32 Commonwealth countries took the historic step of committing to align their national sports policies to the SDGs, in order to gear investments in sport towards positive outcomes in health, education, gender equality and justice. The SRSA is working very closely with global role players, as well as other government departments,

2016/17 SOUTH AFRICA YEARBOOK



SPORT AND RECREATION



in developing indicators for the sport sector that could have a meaningful impact on the achievement of the 2030 SDGs.

South Africa continues to play a leading role in projects of global importance as reflected in its contributions to the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation UNESCO and the UN Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group (SDP IWG).

In 2016, South Africa was unanimously elected to chair the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport for a period of four years. In this role, the country was expected to play a leading role in the preparations and development of policy documents for the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport that was held in July 2017 in Kazan, Russia.

Other projects of global importance to which SRSA is making important contributions include the UNESCO Conference of Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport; the African Union (AU), the African Union Sports Council (AUSC) Sport Development Region Five, and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

The global recognition of the important role that the SRSA is playing in the activities of UNESCO necessitates careful planning regarding the contributions from the department – continuing in 2017 with South Africa being elected as a pilot country for the implementation of UNESCO's Quality Physical Education Programme.

The right to participate in sport has been embodied in 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 people.

Budget and funding

The total budget allocation for the SRSA for the 2016/17 financial year stood at R1,28 billion, up by R48,1 million from the previous year's allocation of R979,4 million.

The SRSA's work to increase the accessibility of sport and recreation facilities contributes to the achievement of the National Development Plan's (NDP) goals of nation-building, social cohesion and a healthy national lifestyle, as well as a diverse, socially cohesive society with a common national identity of government's 2014-2019 Medium-Term Strategic Framework.

Over the medium term, the SRSA plans to encourage participation in sport and recreation at various levels, facilitate transformation in sport and recreation, and support talented and high-performance athletes in excelling and achieving success in the international sporting arena.

Entities

The department administers and controls two public entities:

- Boxing South Africa (BSA), which was established in terms of the South African Boxing Act, 2001 (Act 11 of 2001).
- The South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS), which was established in terms of the SAIDS Act, 1997 (Act 14 of 1997) as amended.

Boxing South Africa

BSA's intention is to ensure effective and efficient administration of professional boxing in South Africa; to create synergy between professional and amateur boxing.

It also coordinates the activities of all boxing stakeholders in the country for the purposes of unifying the sporting codes and managing their expectations.

South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport

The core focus of SAIDS, as South Africa's national anti-doping organisation, is to tackle doping in sport in order to ensure a culture of ethics and fair play in South Africa.

It has developed and implemented a comprehensive drug-testing programme that includes all South Africa's major sporting codes and conforms to the highest international standards of the industry.

The SAIDS also conducts in-competition and out-of-competition doping control tests on international athletes on behalf of international sports federations and other international anti-doping organisations.

It provides anti-doping education, information and awareness for athletes, coaches, parents, sports organisations, members of the medical, pharmaceutical and sports science professions, tertiary education institutions and the public.

The institute also collaborates with international anti-doping organisations to improve the standards and practices in doping control. South Africa is a member of both the International Anti-Doping Arrangement and the Association of National Anti-Doping Organisations.

Special assistance and support was given to the South African Doping Control Laboratory in Bloemfontein, Free State, for it to meet the obligations of the new anti-doping code. In 2016, the SRSA allocated SAIDS a budget of R19,8 million.

All South African sports organisations and national federations are obliged to recognise SAIDS's authority and to comply with its directives following South Africa's endorsement of the World Anti-Doping Code and UNESCO convention on anti doping.

Transformation in sport

In line with the National Sport and Recreation Plan (NSRP), a pilot transformation audit was conducted on the top five National Federations: rugby, cricket, soccer, netball and athletics.

In September 2016, Cricket South Africa agreed to a minimum of 54% black players and a minimum of 18% black African players across the season and across all formats of the sport.

Role players

South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee

SASCOC is the national controlling body for the promotion and development of high-performance sport in South Africa and consults with relevant sports bodies.

The SRSA provides funding to SASCOC for initiatives such as the preparation of elite athletes for international events.

SASCOC prepares and delivers Team SA to all international multi-coded sporting events such as the Olympic Games,

Paralympic Games, Commonwealth Games, African Games, Olympic Youth Games, Commonwealth Youth Games and AUSC Region 5 Games.

SASCOC is also responsible for the awarding of National Protea Colours to athletes/officials who have met the criteria to represent South Africa in different sporting codes and arenas. In addition, SASCOC endorses applications for bidding and hosting of international events, ensuring all criteria are met.

The 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games were a major highlight. Team South Africa's Olympians and Paralympians brought home 27 medals.

Team SA also performed exceptionally well and was placed first in the 2016 AUSC Region 5 Games in Angola, as has been the case in the previous years.

SASCOC's has various strategies designed to offer support to athletes who have the potential to qualify for participation and returning medals at a higher level in the multi-coded events under the organisation's umbrella of sports. One such programme is the Operation Excellence Programme, which is a premier programme for prospective Olympic and Paralympic medalists. The programme comprises three different tiers that provide varying degrees of funding and support.

The Olympic Committee also collaborates with various stakeholders including other national Olympic committees to ensure that its main mandate is fulfilled.

Working with SASCOC, the Free State provincial government and through contributions from all provincial sport and recreation departments, SRSA set aside an amount of approximately R68 million per year, over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, to strengthen the National Training Centre (NTC) based at the Free State Sport Science Institute.

The NTC is an Olympic preparatory institution for Team South Africa and forms part of the National Academy System for elite and high-performance sports.

The centre prepares national teams and athletes with scientific, medical and sport-specific support.

AUSC Sport Development Region Five

The AUSC Region Five is one of the five regions entrusted with the responsibility to develop sport under the AU. This follows the dissolution of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, under which Region 5 was known as Supreme Council for Sport in Africa Zone VI.

Lloyd Harris, a rising star of South African tennis, is one of 14 players from 12 countries who have been selected to receive the first ever International Player Grand Slam® Grants financed by the Grand Slam Development Fund (GSDF).

The new programme will provide total funding in 2017 of \$650 000 to selected players from around the world as a contribution towards their competition-related costs with the aim of helping them to develop as professional tennis players and compete in Grand Slam tournaments. The GSDF Committee has awarded grants to players who meet specific age, ranking and regional representation criteria and show exceptional potential.



World Anti-Doping Agency

The World Anti-Doping Agency aims to bring consistency to anti-doping policies and regulations within sport organisations and governments across the world.

The World Anti-Doping Agency's NO! to Doping campaign, which has been running since 2010, has become the leading awareness campaign for most sporting codes around the globe.

National sport federations

The various sporting codes in South Africa are governed by their own federations and associations. These include:

- Aero Club of South Africa
- AFL South Africa
- Amateur Fencing Association of Southern Africa
- Anglers and Casting Federation of Southern Africa
- Archery South Africa
- Athletics South Africa
- Badminton South Africa
- Baseball Union of Southern Africa
- Basketball South Africa
- Bowls South Africa
- Boxing South Africa
- Bridge Federation of Southern Africa
- Canoeing South Africa
- Chess South Africa
- Clay Target Shooting Association of South Africa
- Confederation of Cue Sport South Africa
- Cricket South Africa
- Cycling South Africa
- Dance Sport Federation of Sport South Africa
- Darts South Africa
- Deaf Sports Federation of Southern Africa
- Federation Bocce
- Fitness Sport Aerobics Federation of Southern Africa
- Handball Federation of Southern Africa
- Judo South Africa
- Jukskei South Africa
- Karate South Africa
- Korfball Federation of South Africa
- Lifesaving South Africa
- Majorette and Cheerleading Association South Africa
- Martial Arts and Games Committee of South Africa
- Masters Sports Association of Southern Africa Mind Sports South Africa
- Modern Pentathlon Association of South Africa Motorsport South Africa
- National Amateur Bodybuilding Association of South Africa
- National Horseracing Authority
- National Pigeon Organisation of Southern Africa
- National Boxing Organisation of Southern Africa
- Netball South Africa
- Orienteering Federation of Southern Africa
- Parachute Association of South Africa
- Physically Disabled Association
- Powerlifting Federation of South Africa
- Powerboat South Africa

- Ringball South Africa
- Roller Sport South Africa
- Rowing South Africa
- SASCOC
- Scrabble South Africa
- Sheep Shearing Federation of Southern Africa
- Shooting Sport Federation of South Africa
- Snooker and Billiards South Africa
- Snow Sports South Africa
- Squash South Africa
- Soaring Society of South Africa
- Softball South Africa
- South African Amateur Fencing Association
- South African Bodyboarding Association
- South African Deep Sea Angling Association
- South African Figure Skating Association
- South African Fly Fishing Association
- South African Football Association
- South African Gold Panning Association
- South African Golf Association
- South African Gymnastics Federation
- South African Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association
- South African Hockey
- South African Ice Hockey Association
- South African National Archery Association
- South African National Equestrian Federation
- South African Polo Association
- South African Practical Shooting Association
- South African Rugby Union
- South African Sailing
- South African Shore Angling Association
- South African Sports Association for the Intellectually Impaired
- South African Tennis Association
- South African Underwater Sports Federation
- Surfing South Africa
- Swimming South Africa
- Table Tennis Board of Southern Africa
- Taekwondo Federation of South Africa
- Tenniquois Board of South Africa
- Tenpin Bowling Association of South Africa
- Transplant Sports Association of South Africa
- Triathlon South Africa
- Tug of War Federation of South Africa
- University Sport South Africa
- Volleyball South Africa
- Water Ski Federation of Southern Africa
- Weightlifting Federation of Southern Africa
- Wrestling South Africa
- Wushu Federation of Southern Africa.

Programmes and projects

National Sport and Recreation Plan

The NSRP is a 20-year sustainable implementation plan for the Sport and Recreation Policy Framework as captured in the White Paper on Sport and Recreation. The SRSA has ensured that the NSRP is aligned with the NDP.

The strategic focus of the NSRP is to reconstruct and revitalise the sport and recreation sector. It aims to encourage an active and winning nation while improving the quality of lives of all South Africans.

Of the 100 outputs set out in the NSRP, 59% had already been implemented by the SRSA by mid-2016.

While it is envisaged that the White Paper on Sport and Recreation will remain relevant until 2019, the NSRP is closely monitored annually to identify any obstacles that may affect implementation and the plan will be reviewed in 2020.

The five strategic focus points of the NSRP are: transformation, priority codes, ethical environments, geopolitical sports boundaries as well as amateur and professional sport.

School Sport Programme

The Schools League Programme, which is the main project for the School Sport Programme, starts in February and runs until June every year.

Part of the league comprises schools competing in intra-school and interschool league competitions prior to the National School Sport Championships, which take place towards the end of each year.

Other key elements of the School Sport Programme include:

- the capacity development programme, which involves the training of educators and sport volunteers in sport-specific programmes

- providing sport equipment and sport attire support to disadvantaged schools
- providing cluster coordinators to aid the delivery and support of sport
- identifying of sport-focused schools in which athletes can be placed to further their sport development
- the support to school sport structures at local, district, provincial and national levels.

There are more than 25 000 schools in South Africa and around 19 000 are registered to participate in the league system.

The National South African School Sports Championships (Winter Games) took place at the University of KwaZulu-Natal campus in Durban from 10 to 14 July 2017. The sporting codes featured during the Winter Games included chess, football, hockey, rugby, volleyball, tennis and netball, as well as indigenous games such as jukskei and khokho.

National Sports Volunteer Corps

Talented players, athletes, coaches and administrators across different sporting codes have contributed immensely towards South Africa being recognised as one of the best sporting countries worldwide.

The purpose of the National Sports Volunteer Corps is to provide a platform through which sport greats and interested South African citizens can use their experience, expertise and passion for sport to contribute towards the development of future sport stars.

A school sports bursary, which offers R100 000 towards covering the cost of education and support required by pupils, opened many opportunities for sports veterans and attracted



retired sportspeople who had registered with the department to offer their help as coaches, officials and sports administrators.

Major events

12th Annual Indigenous Games Festival 2016

The SRSA, in partnership with Limpopo's provincial Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, held the 12th Annual Indigenous Games Festival to celebrate Heritage Month from 24 to 29 September 2017. The festival was held in Seshego, Polokwane.

Similar to other sport and recreation codes, indigenous games impact positively on socio-economic issues such as African identity, cultural diversity, education and training, accessibility of resources, international relations and economic growth.

Under the theme "Consolidating the Base: Advancing Sport Development and Transformation", the SRSA continues to foster tangible and visible work ethics, promote how its programmes are advancing sport development and transformation; who is benefitting from such an intent and evaluate the impact of the mandate.

The festival is a strategic fit to the SRSA's objective of identifying underprofiled sporting codes and providing opportunities for citizens to participate.

The nine identified games in which nine provinces compete are interwoven by a common thread of being shared among the different communities in South Africa, albeit referred to by different names in these communities. The games are: lintonga, morabaraba, ncuva, kgati, driestokkies, jukskei, diketo, kho-kho and dibeke.

The Indigenous Games Festival campaign, with the motto: "My Games, My Roots, My Future", is a rich, measurable offering responsive to driving the NDP's vision for 2030. This vision involves driving social cohesion and nation-building through sporting platforms, which drive active citizenry participation in sporting codes whose origins are rooted in South Africa's rich history, heritage and culture.

Transnet Rural and Farm Schools National Tournament

The Transnet Rural and Farm Schools Development Programme is one of the flagship projects within the Transnet Foundation's sports portfolio.

The Rural and Farm Schools Sport Development Programme focuses its efforts on sports development and the South African Football Association Transnet Football School of Excellence. The programme targets communities around Transnet's key expansion areas.

South African Sports Awards

The South African Sport Awards are part of SRSA's commitment to promote social cohesion, nation-building and the quality of life among all South Africans through sport and recreation.

The key objectives of the Sports Awards is acknowledging and celebrating sport excellence, reward sport achievement in and off the field of play.

The South African Sport Awards were initiated in 2004 in partnership with SASCOC and the South African Broadcasting

Corporation as well as a host of other generous stakeholders and sponsors

Wayde van Niekerk was the biggest winner at the 2016 South African Sports Awards after winning the Sportsman of the Year and the Sports Star of the Year in Bloemfontein in November 2016.

The full results were as follows:

- Sport Star of the Year: Wayde van Niekerk
- Sportswoman of the Year: Caster Semenya
- Sportsman of the Year: Wayde van Niekerk
- People's Choice Award: Wayde van Niekerk
- Team of the Year: Mamelodi Sundowns
- Coach of the Year: Anna Botha
- Newcomer of the Year Award: Ntando Mahlangu
- Sportswoman of the Year with a Disability: Ilse Hayes
- Sportsman of the Year with Disability: Charl du Toit
- Photographer of the Year: Sydney Mahlangu
- Journalist of the Year: Thabiso Sithole
- School Team of the Year: St Benedict's – Rowing
- Recreation Body of the Year: Egoli Squash
- Indigenous Games Team of the Year: North West Khokho.

National Aquatic Championships

The 2017 National Aquatic Championships took place in Durban with a total of 24 junior and eight senior FINA World Championships qualifications, as well as four Deaf Olympics and seven World Para Swimming Championships qualifiers.

Chad le Clos celebrated the confirmation of his third qualification time for Hungary in the 100-m butterfly when he clocked a fast 51,29 seconds, followed by Ryan Coetzee (53,29 seconds) and Ralph Goveia (54,30 seconds), while

Brad Tandy and Zane Waddell were all smiles in the 50-m freestyle final, claiming the gold and silver in FINA World Championships qualification times of 21,97 seconds and 22,41 seconds, respectively. Douglas Erasmus won the bronze in 22,63 seconds.

Finishing over two seconds ahead of the pack, Brent Szurdoki scooped the gold in the 1 500-m freestyle with a FINA World Championships Qualification time of 15:11:22 to the 15:12:79 requirement, while Jarryd Baxter and Chad Michau booked their place to the Junior competition in the United States of America (USA) in qualifying times of 15:36:22 and 15:58:81, respectively.

Rebecca Meder's outstanding performance in the 400-m individual medley earned her the top spot in the event with a FINA Junior World Championships qualification time of 4:48:49, ahead of Samantha Randle in 4:55:12 and Kate Beavon in 4:57:63.

The 200-m breaststroke was a very rewarding race for five of Mzansi's youth hopefuls when Daniel Swanepoel, Duncan Rudolph, Bailey Musgrave, Likith Prema and Michael Houlie all confirmed their junior qualifications. Swanepoel won the race in 2:15:83 to Rudolph's 2:18:09, Musgrave's 2:18:26, Prema's 2:19:41 and Houlie's 2:19:63.

In the ladies' 200-m breaststroke, Tatjana Schoenmaker was victorious in 2:26:20, while Kaylene Corbett, Christin Mundell and Hanim Abrahams all added the event to their list of Junior Qualifiers in 2:30:07; 2:31:46 and 2:33:98, respectively.

In the 100-m freestyle, Erin Gallagher scooped the gold in 56,28 seconds ahead of Emma Chelius in 56,75 seconds and Seychelles' Felicity Passon in 56,90 seconds, while 14-year-old Olivia Nel, who despite finishing fourth, added her name to the FINA Junior World Championships list by a mere 0,02 seconds when she touched the wall in 58,06 seconds to the 58,08-second requirement.

Gallagher was back in the water to receive the gold for the 50-m butterfly, clocking a winning 27,35 seconds to Chelius' 27,90 seconds and Kenya's Emily Muteti in 28,40 seconds.

Martin Bindell, Neil Fair and Ruan Ras made up the 200-m backstroke medal podium in 1:59:69; 2:01:47 and 2:04:10, respectively, while 15-year-old Luan Grobbelaar was more than happy with his silver medal in the 400-m individual medley in a FINA Junior World Championships qualification time of 4:29:59 ahead of Ruan Breytenbach (4:35:39) and behind Ayrton Sweeney (4:20:41).

In the multi-disability races, Cornell Loubser claimed the top position in the S14-15 200-m individual medley in 2:40:86; with the S1-13 winner was Alani Ferreira in 2:52:03.

In the men's S14-15 medley event, Aaron Putz won the gold in 2:32:38, while Christian Sadie came first in the S1-13 category with a World Para Swimming Championships qualification time of 2:45:59.

The staging of this event was made possible through the support provided by Swimming SA partners, the SRSA, SASCOC, the National Lotteries Commission, Arena and Rand Water.





Athletics

The South African Junior Athletics Team represented the country at the 2016 CAA Southern Region under-20 championships in Lusaka, Zambia in June 2016. The team won 42 medals during the Championships. Sprinters Gift Leotlela and Tamzin Thomas won three medals each.

Biking, mountain biking, cycling

The third round of the South African National MTB Cup Series XCO took place in Bloemfontein at Happy Valley Conservancy in May 2017. Team Spur's Alan Hatherly took the top honours in the Elite Men's race and OMX Pro Team's Mariske Strauss took the Elite Women's title.

The penultimate race of the national series attracted a fair amount of international riders as well, with eight nations represented during the highly competitive event.

At the South African National Track Omnium Championships, held at the Bellville Velodrome in the Western Cape in April 2017, David Maree rode an impressive four rides to come out on top with the points to seal the Omnium title.

Nolan Hoffman fought hard to an impressive second and Gert Fouche finished in third. The omnium discipline of track cycling is typically made up of six events and held over two days, but the Track Commission held four events for the Omnium National Title. Maree won the first and second Elite Men's Omnium events of the day – the scratch and tempo races, and found himself in second place in the elimination event.

Boxing

The 2016 Boxing Awards were held at the Durban International Conference Centre in January 2017. The awards brought renewed energy to the boxing fraternity. Boxing greats such as Brian Mitchell, Dingaan Thobela, Jan Bergman, Irvin Buhlahlu and many others were recognised. Charismatic boxer, Xolisani Ndongeni was crowned the BSA's 2016 Boxer of Year.

Cricket

In August 2016, the Proteas's fast bowler, Dale Steyn, set up a series-clinching 204-run win for South Africa on the fourth day of the second and final Test against New Zealand at Centurion's SuperSport Park. Steyn took three wickets with his first 11 balls of the innings and finished with five for 33 as New Zealand were bowled out for 195 despite a defiant innings of 76 by Henry Nicholls.

South African cricket team's stunning win at Hobart within what was effectively two-and-a-bit days of Test cricket handed the team a series win in November 2016. The Proteas wrapped up victory by an innings and 80 runs.

In women's cricket, opener Laura Wolvaardt topped the batting averages for the Momentum Proteas at the 2017 ICC Women's World Cup, while captain Dané van Niekerk was the best bowler – not just amongst South Africans, but overall.

The South Africans won the hearts of many in their run to the semi-final in England. They were eventually beaten by the hosts, who went on to win the final against India at Lord's.

Canoeing, rowing

The South African Sprint Canoe Championships came to a conclusion in April 2017 with a number of the country's best sprint paddlers rising to the surface. Donna Hutton and Louis Hattingh claimed the overall women's and men's paddlers prizes, respectively.

While some of the events attracted relatively small numbers of entries, the quality of the various age categories was high and the racing went right down to the wire with a number of the category prizes decided right at the end.

The event boasted the likes of Bridgitte Hartley, Chrisjan Coetzee, Stuart Maclaren, Esti van Tonder and Melanie van Niekerk, all paddlers that have represented South Africa in various disciplines.

The performance of the competition came from Donna Hutton. The young star who competed in two A Finals at the 2016 Junior and Under-23 Sprint World Championships showed her dominance as she finished with two wins, a second and a third in the K1 events.

Hutton's impressive efforts were highlighted by the fact that she did not compete in any K2 events, yet she still finished with the highest number of points in the ladies competition.

Esti van Tonder powered her way to victories in the crucial Olympic disciplines of the 200-m K1 and the 500-m K1 events.

The men's victor ludorum was keenly contested with two paddlers in the mix going right up to the end of the competition; however it was the experienced Louis Hattingh who was too strong as he claimed the overall spoils ahead of Stuart Maclaren by two and a half points.

Maclaren was in top form in the K2 events where he came out on top in all four of the events, the 5 000-m, 1 000-m, 500-m and 200-m. Maclaren had three different partners for the four races, partnering Chrisjan Coetzee twice to win the 500-m and 200-m K2 events.

Caitlin and Christie Mackenzie battled it out for the junior girl's honours. Eventually, it was Caitlin who pipped Christie to the line by four points despite the latter's absence from the K2 events.

Alex Masina powered his way to the under-18 boys' title ahead of Callum Davis and Hamish Lovemore. Masina racked up 92,5 points as opposed to 50 points from Davis and 49,5 points from Lovemore.

Golf

Almero Theron defeated tournament favourite Ryan Dreyer in a dramatic play-off to lift the South African Mid-Amateur Stroke Play Championship title at Sun City in May 2017.

Central Gauteng's Marco Steyn joined an illustrious list of champions including Charl Schwartzel, Brandon Stone and Haydn Porteous when he won the Oxigen Prince's Grant National Amateur Invitational. Steyn won by four strokes on a tournament total of 286 and with a final round of 70.

On 17 April 2016, Brandon claimed his first PGA Tour victory at the RBC Heritage after shooting a final round 66.

Hockey

In 2016/17, field hockey received additional support, which allowed the federation

to establish a professional field hockey league for men and women.

In July 2017, the South African national women's hockey team qualified for the 2018 FIH World Cup in London after winning in the FIH Hockey World League. South Africa beat Japan 2-1 in the fifth place play-off match played at the Wits hockey stadium in Johannesburg.

South Africa is 13th on the world rankings. The current SA Women's Hockey National Coach, Sheldon Rostron, has been appointed as the Interim Head Coach for the SA Men's side. Rostron was put in charge of the SA Hockey Men for their World Cup qualifying bid at the African Hockey Cup of Nations in Egypt in October 2017. The appointment was a first for SA Hockey as the Men and Women will have a Joint Team Management Structure for the tournament.

Rostron has been the Head Coach of the Women's National team since 2014. His international repertoire includes winning the African Cup of Nations in 2015, the World League semi-final in Valencia, Spain in 2015 and World League semi-final in Johannesburg in July 2017, where the SA Women qualified for the 2018 FIH Hockey World Cup.

Ice hockey

The South Africa men's team is ranked 40th in the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Ranking and competes in Division II B.

The South African women's national ice hockey team finished in 35th position at the IIHF's World Women's Championships in Istanbul, Turkey, in April 2016.

The ladies' team is the only national women's ice hockey team on the African continent.

Motorsport

Defending champion Michael Stephen won his first GTC victory of the 2017 season. Mathew Hodges and Simon Moss completed the podium. First race winner Gennaro Bonafede had to start from the back of the grid and slowly worked his way through the rest of the field to start the final lap in second place.

At the Classic Racing at Zwartkops, the day's headline event was the 45-minute Castrol Tourist Trophy race for Pre-1968 Le Mans Sports and GT cars. Sarel van der Merwe's co-driver, Mike Briggs was involved in a first corner incident that saw their Daytona Coupe stranded on the side of the circuit.

A number of competitors took advantage of the safety car period that followed to make their compulsory pit stops. This proved to be the correct strategy for Peter Bailey as he ended up with a comfortable lead which he held to the flag.

Last year's winners, Mark and Jonathan du Toit were the only other competitors on the same lap as Bailey at the end of the 45 minutes. Donald Duncan and Steve Hart in their 1962 McLaren took the final podium position.

Netball

South Africa retained their Netball Diamond Challenge title with an emphatic 68-34 victory over Zimbabwe at the University of Durban-Westville in October 2016. The SPAR Proteas won the competition for the second year in a row.

The Western Cape netball team, who had been the best team throughout the tournament, won the SPAR National Netball Championships at the Hoy Park Centre in Durban in August 2016.

Rugby

History was made in Rio de Janeiro as South Africa's Sevens Rugby squad claimed the bronze medal of the Rugby Sevens tournament at the 2016 Olympic Games. It was the first medal ever in Rugby Sevens won by a South African team and highlighted the effort from the Blitzbokke during the three days of competition.

South Africa outplayed Japan 54-14 in the bronze final, scoring eight great tries in the process. A hat-trick by Rosko Specman earned him a spot in the record books as the first South African player to score three tries in a match at the Olympic Games, but overall it was a great team effort by the Blitzbokke that secured a bronze medal for South Africa. Specman's tries were aided by five pointers from Cecil Afrika (2), Juan de Jongh, Justin Geduld and Cheslin Kolbe.

Running

South Africa's Bongmusa Mthembu won the 2017 Comrades Marathon. He completed the up run from Durban to Pietermaritzburg in 5:35:34. Mthembu won the race in 2014 and

finished third in 2016. Charné Bosman, who won the women's race in 2016, finished third in 6:39:51.

South African sprinter, Wayde Van Niekerk, broke Michael Johnson's 17-year-old 400-m world record in August in Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games. Van Niekerk finished in 43,03 seconds – 0,15 seconds faster than Johnson ran in 1999 at the world championships in Seville, Spain. The sprinter became the first South African since 1928 to win an Olympic gold medal on the track.

Caster Semenya won Olympic gold in the 800-m event. She set a national record to win in 1:55,28 seconds and finish well clear of silver medallist, Francine Niyonsaba of Burundi.

The 91st Comrades Marathon in May 2016 saw South African runners claiming the winning positions once again, with TomTom Athletic Club's David Gatebe breaking the "down-run" best time by two minutes and 22 seconds and Nedbank Running Club's Charne Bosman claiming the women's top position.

Olympic marathoner Lungile Gongqa won the 2017 Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon, crossing the finish line in 03:09:43 and becoming the first Capetonian since 1973 to take the Ultra title.

South Africa ultra running sensation, Caroline Wostmann, defended her Two Oceans Marathon title in a time of 3:44:47 in March 2016 in Cape Town. She also won the Om die Dam Ultra Marathon in the same month.

Soccer

In 2017, this South African national football team was ranked in the top 100 by the FIFA World Ranking system.

The country's national women's football team, Banyana Banyana, was also in the top 100. Banyana Banyana participated in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

The South African under-23 men's soccer team also took part in the same competition.

In October 2016, South Africa celebrated victory in the Confederation of African Football's (CAF) flagship club competition, the CAF Champions League. Mamelodi Sundowns, a South African team, was crowned African champions at the Borg El Arab Stadium on the outskirts of Alexandria as they held on to a 3-1 aggregate victory over Egyptian club, Zamalek.

Sundowns eventually represented Africa in the FIFA Club World Cup in Japan in December 2016.

Surfing, surfski, sailing

In March 2017, the Cape Town Surfriders Grommet Team made it six wins in a row when they took overall honours at the 2017 Billabong SA Grommet Games presented by Sea Harvest and supported by the SRSA. The four-day event was completed in perfect weather and choppy two-foot surf at Pipe Beach in Port Elizabeth.

The inaugural Nelson Mandela Bay Surf Pro presented by Billabong wrapped up three days of high performance surfing action in April 2017, with Michael February and Crystal Hulett taking the men's and women's titles, respectively, while Jake Elkington and Kayla Nogueira clinched the pro junior men's and women's crowns. The first internationally rated World Surf League Qualifying Series events to be staged in Port Elizabeth enjoyed

contestable but testing surf and great weather for the three days and featured 128 competitors, including South Africa's top exponents and entrants from the USA and Australia.

Hank McGregor claimed victory in both the singles and doubles clash at the South African Surfski Championship at the Pete Marlin Surfski Race in the Eastern Cape.

In the women's singles race, Nikki Russell pipped Hayley Nixon in a battle up front, handing her a second while Jenna Ward, Kyeta Purchase and Chloë Bunnnett rounded out the top five.

Surfing was officially added to the Sports Programme for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 3 August 2016 during the 129th IOC Session in Rio de Janeiro.

Swimming

In October 2016, Chad le Clos also set a new benchmark in swimming's World Cup series after winning his 20th consecutive 50-m butterfly gold medal at the Japanese leg of the short course series.

Le Clos also broke his own world record for the 100m butterfly at the short-course FINA World Swimming Championship in Windsor, Canada. This came after his earlier victory in the 200-m butterfly and a silver in the 200-m freestyle. Le Clos touched home in 48,08 seconds, improving his own mark of 48,44 seconds set two years ago in Doha, Qatar. He also managed to triumph for the third consecutive time in this event, after his victories in 2014 (48,44 seconds) and 2012 (48,82 seconds).

Le Clos bagged his 110th World Cup medal in the men's 50-m butterfly, while claiming silver in the men's 200-m butterfly. Roland Schoeman represented the country in the men's 50-m breaststroke. His time of 26,62 seconds was good enough to earn him a second place.

Tennis

South Africa's Women's 45+ Team of Jackie Booth, Lettica Venter, Annerie Wessels and Ronel Pieterse earned a silver medal in the Young Seniors World Team Championships in Cape Town in March 2017.

The KIA South African Davis Cup team had a bittersweet end to their Davis Cup tie against Estonia at the Irene Country Club in Pretoria in February 2017.

In a dead rubber final days play, South Africa won and lost a reverse singles giving them an overall 4-1 victory over Estonia in their Euro/Africa Group 2 first round tie.

Raven Klaasen and Ruan Roelofse won the tie for South Africa by clinching the doubles rubber in four sets. Singles players Lloyd Harris and Nik Scholtz also won their respective rubbers.

In January 2017, South African junior tennis players impressed in Namibia and were named the top-performing nation in the ITF CAT Southern Africa Championships in Windhoek. A 14-and-under and 16-and-under girls and boys team represented the country in the championships.

In the individual competition, South Africa won four titles and reached two finals in the eight events played. Thando Longwe-





Smit seeded five in the boys 16-and-under won the sole singles title when he upset top seeded countryman Pierre Malan 3-6 6-2 6-3.

In the three doubles titles won by South Africans, Rohan Loubser teamed up with Namibian Connor Van Schalkwyk to lift the 14-and-under boys title, while Pierre Malan and Charl Morgan won the 16-and-under boys title with Delien Kleinhans and Makayla Loubser winning the 16-and-under girls title.

In September 2017, Kevin Anderson made the finals of the US Open. He is the first South African player to make the final of a major tennis championship since 1994. Anderson produced an historic run at the US Open, before finally losing out to Spain's Rafael Nadal in straight sets 6-3 6-3 6-4 in the title decider.

Chess

Chess South Africa, which was formed in 1992, is the National controlling body of chess in South Africa.

Speed skating

In April 2016, South Africa's junior contestants for the ISU World Development Trophy tournament, held in Poland, were Donatella Glatter, Sinali Sango and Jaydean Brits. Glatter came 23rd, Sango seventh and Brits got 17th place.

In May 2016, Sango stepped up his game and came back with a bronze from the Eighth Rooster Cup held in Paris, France.

Figure skating

The South African Figure Skating Championships are held annually to determine the top skaters in South Africa. The event is organized by the South African Figure Skating Association. Skaters compete in the disciplines of men's singles, ladies singles, pair skating, ice dancing, and synchronised skating, however, not all disciplines have been held in every year due to a lack of competitors. The levels of competition are Juvenile through Senior, as well as age groups. South African nationals were first held in 1947.

