



Sport and recreation

South Africans have more than made their mark in international sport. The country has successfully hosted major international soccer events, as well as the rugby, cricket and women's golf world cups and will be sure to impress when it hosts the *Fédération Internationale de Football Association* (Fifa) World Cup in 2010.

Sport in South Africa is a multibillion rand industry and contributes more than 2% to the country's gross domestic product.

Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) aims to improve the quality of life of all South Africans by promoting participation in sport and recreation in the country, and through the participation of sportspeople and teams in international sporting events.

Taking part

The Syiadlala Mass Participation Programme was launched in 2005 to facilitate access to sport and recreation by as many South Africans as possible, especially those from historically disadvantaged communities. The SRSA launched the programme with a budget of R20 million. The department entered the third year of the programme with a budget of R79 million. The SRSA expanded the programme that it launched in 36 activity hubs involving 200 000 participants around the country in 2004/05 to 131 hubs involving 1 239 363 people in 2005/06. In 2006/07, another 133 were expected to be added. The aim, eventually, is to ensure that no child has to walk more than five kilometres to access an activity hub anywhere in the country.

International achievements in 2006

Commonwealth

In March 2006, Team South Africa returned from Melbourne, Australia, with 38 medals in total - including 12 gold. They finished in fifth position overall on the medals table. This is the best-ever performance by a South African team. The medal winners were:

Gold

- Aquatics
 - South Africa 4 x 100 m freestyle relay (Roland Schoeman, Ryk Neethling, Lyndon Ferns, Gerhard Zandberg)
 - Roland Schoeman (50 m butterfly)
 - Roland Schoeman (50 m freestyle)
 - Natalie du Toit (100 m Elite Athlete with Disability [EAD] freestyle)
 - Natalie du Toit (50 m EAD freestyle – world record in heats and final).
- Athletics
 - Sunette Viljoen (javelin)
 - Janus Robberts (shot put)
 - Elizna Naude (discus throw)
 - Anika Smit (high jump)
 - LJ van Zyl (400 m hurdles).
- Boxing
 - Bongani Mwelase (welterweight division, 69 kg).
- Shooting
 - Diane Swanton (trap shooting).

Silver

- Aquatics
 - George du Randt (200 m backstroke)
 - Ryk Neethling (100 m freestyle).

Ten stadiums will be used for the Fifa Soccer World Cup in 2010.

There will be five new stadiums, while five existing stadiums will be upgraded for the world's most popular sporting event.

Three existing stadiums in South Africa's major metropolis, Gauteng, will be upgraded. These are Soccer City (FNB stadium), and Ellis Park in Johannesburg, and Loftus Versfeld in Pretoria. The Royal Bafokeng Stadium in North West will be upgraded, as will Vodacom Park in Mangaung (Bloemfontein) in the Free State.

Five new stadiums will be built or rebuilt. In Limpopo, the Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane will host World Cup games.

New stadiums will be built at Mbombela in Mpumalanga, and in the Nelson Mandela Metro (encompassing Port Elizabeth) in the Eastern Cape.

Kings Park Stadium in Durban and Cape Town's Green Point Stadium will be rebuilt for the event, becoming multisports facilities.

- Athletics
 - Geraldine Pillay (100 m)
 - Hilton Langenhoven (100 m T12 EAD)
 - Alwyn Myburgh (400 m hurdles)
 - David Roos (200 m T46 EAD)
 - Khotso Mokoena (triple jump)
 - 4 x 100 metres relay (men)
 - 4 x 400 metres relay (men).
- Boxing
 - Jackson Chauke (flyweight, 51 kg).
- Cycling
 - David George (cycling road race).
- Shooting
 - Esmari van Reenen (50 m rifle 3)
 - Byron Swanton (double trap shooting).

Bronze

- Aquatics
 - Suzaan van Biljon (200 m breaststroke)

- Roland Schoeman (100 m freestyle)
- Lize Mari Retief (50 m butterfly)
- Gerhard Zandberg (50 m backstroke)
- Troyden Prinsloo (1 500 m freestyle).
- Athletics
 - Geraldine Pillay (200 m)
 - Chris Harmse (hammer throw).
- Gymnastics
 - Francki van Rooyen (Women’s artistic, floor event).
- Lawn bowls
 - Neil Burkett, Eric Johannes, Gideon Vermeulen (Men’s trips)
 - Lorna Trigwell (Women’s singles)

Sports of most interest to adult South Africans, June 2004

Sport	June 2004 %	Feb 2003 %	June 2000 %	May 1999 %
	Multi- mention	One only	One only	One only
Soccer	78	45	49	47
Rugby	47	10	14	12
Cricket	39	16	14	16
Wrestling	25			
Athletics	22	4	1	3
Tennis	22	2	2	3
Boxing	18	2	1	4
Motorsport	12			
Golf	12			
Netball	11	4	3	3

Source: SABC Markinor

In May 2006, South African wheelchair racing athlete Ernst van Dyk won the Laureus Sportsperson of the Year Award for an athlete with a disability at a gala function in Barcelona.

The 'Oscars of Sport' are awarded annually, chosen by 42 sporting greats who make up the Laureus World Sports Academy.

Van Dyk is a six-time winner of the Boston Marathon, and is the world record holder in the wheelchair marathon.

In the past year, besides winning the Boston Marathon, he won the New York and Los Angeles marathons in record time, the Paris Marathon and the Oita Marathon in Japan.

- Shooting
 - Allan MacDonald, Daniel van Tonder (25 m centre fire pistol pairs)
 - Allan MacDonald, Daniel van Tonder (25 m standard pistol pairs)
- Weightlifting
 - Babalwa Ndleleni (Ladies 75 kg category)

Other

- In January 2006, Giniel de Villiers, driving a Volkswagen Touareg 2 Prototype, made history when he achieved second place in the 15-day, 9 000-km Lisbon-to-Dakar Rally, finishing only 17 minutes after the leader.
- In January 2006, Ryk Neethling won three gold medals at the Fina World Cup meeting in Stockholm, Sweden.
- In February 2006, David George of the South African national team won Malaysia's Le Tour de Langkawi, the first time a rider from a non-trade outfit claimed Asia's biggest cycling title.
- In February 2006, South African Rory Sabbatini claimed victory in the Nissan Open at the Riviera Country Club, pocketing \$918 000 – his biggest pay cheque yet.
- In March 2006, South Africa smashed 438/9 at the Wanderers in Johannesburg to beat Australia and win the One-Day International series 3-2.

- In April 2006, Neethling won the opening gold medal of the World Short-Course Swimming Championships in Shanghai. Neethling, who led from the outset, won the 200 m freestyle in 1 min 43.51 sec. He also won the 100 freestyle in 47.24.

A mere 40 minutes later, Neethling lined up for the 100 m Individual Medley which he won in a championship record of 52.42.

In April 2006, South African wheelchair athlete Ernst van Dyk recorded his sixth consecutive victory in the prestigious Boston Marathon

In May 2006, South Africa's Hendrik Buhrmann won his maiden title in Asia, seizing the inaugural US\$400 000 Aamby Valley Asian Masters.

In May 2006, Durban ski paddler Clint Pretorius won the gruelling Molokai Challenge, beating 11-time champion Oscar Chalupsky. The 21-year-old finished the tough 55 km crossing from Molokai to Oahu just one minute short of the race record.

In June 2006, South Africa won the rugby test series against Scotland 2-0.

In June 2006, Cassius Baloyi achieved an important milestone for South African boxing, knocking out Manuel Medina in the 11th round of the IBF and IBO junior-lightweight unification bout to claim both world titles.

South Africa has hosted a number of international sporting events since 1994:

- Rugby World Cup 1995
- African Cup of Nations 1996
- IAAF World Cup in Athletics 1998
- All Africa Games 1999
- Cricket World Cup 2003
- President's Cup 2003
- Women's World Cup of Golf 2005, 2006 and 2007
- Women's World Cup of Cricket 2005
- World Amateur Golf Championships 2006

In July 2006, Hank McGregor bagged the biggest purse in surf-ski racing after a thrilling duel with Dawid Mocke in the Surf-Ski World Cup in Durban.

In July 2006, Trevor Immelman claimed his first US PGA Tour title. He held off Tiger Woods and Matthew Goggin to claim victory by two shots.

In July 2006, Ricky Basnett from Durban won the Six Star World Qualifying Series surfing event, becoming South Africa's first winner since the legendary Shaun Tomson back in 1978.

In August 2006, Roland Schoeman set a world record in the 50 m freestyle while also winning the 100 m individual medley at the Deutsche Ring Aquatics Short Course Competition in Hamburg.

He became the first man in history to break the 21-second barrier in the 50 m freestyle, touching in 20,98 to shave 0,12 seconds off the previous mark.

In August 2006, Cape Town-based team CSC/CVT's Abdelbasset Hannachi became the Arabian national road cycling champion after winning the under-23 elite and elite categories in Dubai.

Team CSC/CVT beat Team HSBC to win top team honours in the six-stage five-day Tour de Maurice, which took place between 30 August and 3 September 2006 in Mauritius.

In August 2006, South African athletes returned from the 15th African Athletics Championships in Mauritius after retaining their number one spot in Africa and increasing their medals tally.

The youthful team, half of whom competed in international competition for only the first or second time, won 10 gold, 12 silver and five bronze medals in difficult, windy conditions.

The female athletes won six of the gold medals with outstanding performances from Janice Josephs in the heptathlon and newcomer René van der Merwe, who won gold in her first international competition for high jump.

Justine Robbeson (javelin), Elizna Naude (discus) and Janet Wienand (400 m hurdles) won individual gold medals while the

4x400 m relay team of Amanda Kotze, Estie Wittstock, Heide Seyerling and Janet Wienand were also victorious.

Chris Harmse won gold in the hammer throw with a season's best of 77,55 m, setting a new Africa record.

Okkert Brits won gold in the pole vault.

LJ van Zyl beat his compatriot and training partner Alwyn Myburgh to take gold in the 400 m hurdles while Gerhardus Pienaar won gold in javelin.

Mbulaeni Mulaudzi, who competed in the 4th IAAF World Finals of 2006, achieved his fifth consecutive win in recent races, winning R210 000 and ending the year as the world's undisputed number one.

His time of 1 min 43.09 sec was the fastest of the year.

In 2005, Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) concluded an agreement with the Department of Education for the resuscitation and revitalisation of school sports and Physical Education programmes. In the 2006/07 budget, more than R85 million was set aside for SRSA's two school sport programmes. Great progress has been made with regard to the sports programme, however, more can be done to resuscitate Physical Education in the schools. Physical Education as a compulsory school subject constitutes the very basis of participation and often provides the reluctant participant with his/her first 'sports' experience that could dispose them more positively toward participation. In future, Physical Education will feature in the life orientation programme of the school curriculum.

SRSA has also introduced programmes that have led to more young people competing more regularly and on more equal grounds. In 2006/07, 798 schools would participate in 56 clusters comprising schools close to one another to facilitate regular interaction between the 200 000 learners involved in this initially. Financial constraints prevented this programme from extending to a larger number of people. The aim was to eventually involve 27 000 schools countrywide in the project. The programme would need the involvement of many teachers, volunteers and learners.

South Africa won the annual canoeing Tri-Nations competition in Australia in August 2006 during the Multiplex Avon Descent, with Sven Bruss and Abbey Miedema winning the men's and women's kayak sections in extremely low river conditions.

After losing their away games in the Vodacom Tri-Nations, the Springboks scored a 21-20 win over New Zealand's All Blacks in Rustenburg in September 2006. A week later, the Springboks beat Australia 24-16 in the final test of the Vodacom Tri-Nations.

In September 2006, Shaun Rubenstein became the canoeing marathon world champion when he beat six-time world champion Manuel Busto Fernandes in the men's K1 World Championship on the Dordogne River in Termolat, France.

Five South African athletes competed in African colours on the opening day of the IAAF's 10th World Cup meeting in Athens on 16 September 2006. LJ van Zyl recorded his third successive second place in a major international meeting in several weeks when he completed the 44 m hurdles in a time of 48.37. Justine Robbeson won a bronze medal for her throw of 61,38 m.

South African Adrian Zaugg made his debut in and won the A1 Grand Prix sprint at Zandvoort in the Netherlands at the end of September.

In October 2006, Retief Goosen shot a final round one-under par 71 to defend his Volkswagen Masters title in Sanya, China. At the end of October 2006, 49 women's teams participated in the World Amateur Team Championships at the De Zalze and Stellenbosch golf clubs. South Africa won the female championship.

In October 2006, Hendrick Ramaala captured the Great North Run half-marathon for the third time in London in a time of one hour, one minute and three seconds.

In October 2006, Bafana Bafana beat Zambia, scoring the only goal in a crucial African Nations Cup 2008 qualifier. The win lifted South Africa to the top of the African Cup of Nations qualifying group 11.

South African sports awards

The South African Sports Awards recognise and honour individuals and teams who have excelled both on and off the field each year.

In September 2006, President Thabo Mbeki presented Ryk Neethling (swimming), Roland Schoeman (swimming), Sibusiso Vilane (mountaineering) and Oscar Pistorius (athletics) with the Order of Ikhamanga for their contribution to and achievements in sport.

Sports Tourism Project

The SRSA launched the Sport Tourism Project at the Durban Tourism Indaba in May 2006. The primary motivation of the project is to exploit the substantial benefits that the tourism industry presents for job creation in South Africa.

It combines the Veza route-finder tool developed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research with sports information, enabling users to plan attendance of sports events, including mapping the route to the venue, booking accommodation and selecting restaurants and other tourist attractions in the vicinity of the venue or elsewhere in South Africa.

Tourism is widely recognised as a major growth sector internationally and it is estimated that 30% of all tourism comprises sports tourism.

The SRSA aims to enhance the sustainability of the project by:

- promoting 'home-grown' events such as the Dusi Canoe Marathon and Argus Cycle Tour, which attract large numbers of international participants and spectators
- working closely with South African Tourism and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to promote more attractive tourist packages for spectators who want to accompany touring sports teams to South Africa

- assisting agencies, in line with a major events strategy and the hosting and bidding regulations, to attract major international sports events to South Africa
- marketing South Africa's sport and recreation facilities abroad
- producing an interactive CD-ROM to provide information on sport and recreation events and associated information on South Africa.

Sports administration

The South African Sports Commission (SASC) Act, 1998 provided for a commission to administer sport and recreation under the guidance of the Minister of Sport and Recreation. By May 2005, a Repeal Act was before Parliament to de-establish the SASC. The functions of the SASC are now shared between the SRSA and the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (Sascoc).

South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee

Sascoc has assumed functions relating to high-performance sport that were carried out by the following controlling bodies: Disability Sport South Africa, the National Olympic Committee of South Africa, South African Commonwealth Games Association, SASC, South African Student Sports Union, and the United School Sports Association of South Africa.

Sascoc also:

- affiliates to and/or is recognised by the appropriate international, continental and regional sport organisations for high-performance sport
- initiates, negotiates, arranges, finances and controls multisport tours to and from South Africa

- ensures, and if necessary, approves that the bidding process relating to the hosting of international or any other sporting events in South Africa complies with the necessary rules and regulations
- facilitates the acquisition and development of playing facilities, including the construction of stadiums and other sports facilities
- ensures close co-operation between government and the private sector relating to all aspects of Team South Africa
- ensures the overall protection of symbols, trademarks, emblems or insignia of the bodies under its jurisdiction.

South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (Sais)

Sais is the South African national anti-doping organisation. It is a public entity established by the Drug-Free Sport Act, 1977 and funded by the SRSA, with a mandate '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'.

Sais is responsible for developing anti-doping policy and implementing a national anti-doping programme across all South Africa's sports codes. It has 54 part-time, accredited doping-control officers based throughout South Africa, who are trained to international standards, who conduct in- and out-of-competition testing on athletes from 57 sporting disciplines, with 76 trained and accredited chaperones to assist the doping-control officers.

Sais is one of the few national anti-doping agencies worldwide with ISO 9001:2000 certification in compliance with the International Testing Standards. This is the internationally recognised benchmark for quality assurance and excellence, and represents world best practice in doping control in sport.