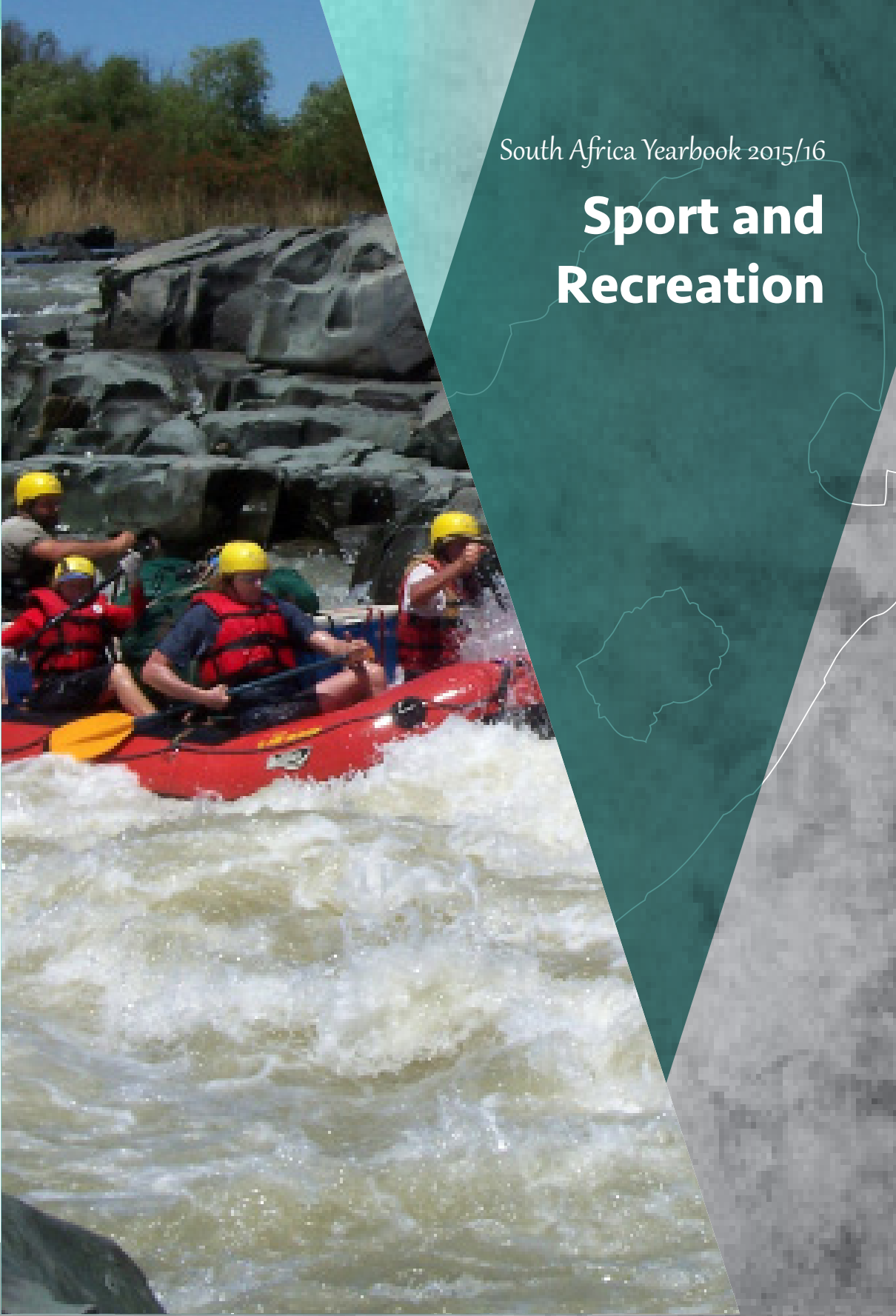


South Africa Yearbook 2015/16

Sport and Recreation



The aim of the Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) is to oversee the development and management of sport and recreation in South Africa.

The department was established in terms of the National Sport and Recreation Act, 1998 (Act 110 of 1998) which 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), which 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 infrastructure and participation.

The department is also guided by the policy documents from the United Nations (UN) which are relevant to the sport and recreation sector. The post-2015 Development Goals were adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015 and they succeeded the Millennium Development Goals.

The SRSA took note of the revised International Charter of Physical Education and Sport by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) that was adopted at its General Conference on 11 November 2015.

Sport and Recreation South Africa

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 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.

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.

Budget and funding

The total allocation for the department was R988,5 million, having gone up by R18,1 million from the previous year's allocation of R970,4 million. This constituted budget growth of 1.87%.

The allocation of the budget was:

- R628,6 million to support the provision of mass participation opportunities in sport and recreation under the banner of the Active Nation programme
- R133,2 million to develop and maintain an integrated support system to enhance the delivery of sport and recreation
- R124,8 million for provision of strategic leadership, management and a support service to the department and the sector
- R92,2 million to support the development of elite athletes
- R9,7 million towards the regulation and management of the provision of sport and recreation facilities.

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; and to promote interaction between associations of boxers, managers, promoters, trainers, officials and BSA.

It also considers applications for licences from all stakeholders in professional boxing. By the end of the 2015, BSA had granted 901 licences. The organisation had 110 newcomers from all the provinces with 13 of them being female.

BSA sanctions fights; implements the relevant regulations; and trains boxers, promoters, ring officials, managers and trainers.

During 2015, BSA established the Disciplinary Committee, Arbitration Committee and the Appeals Committee. The sporting body also established fully functional ratings and sanctioning committees.

BSA planned to host international tournaments in 2015/16 to improve the visibility of the sport domestically and internationally; and also increase its popularity among all relevant stakeholders including athletes, supporters and sponsors. By the end of 2015, BSA had staged 71 tournaments.

In May 2016, Sports Minister Fikile Mbalula announced Tsholofelo Lejaka as the new chief

executive of BSA and detailed SRSA's plan to restore boxing to its former glory.

Over 1.3 million households across the country enjoyed live boxing matches following the return of the sport to the small screen in 2015. The SRSA invested approximately R11 million to roll out the Boxing is Back initiative which was launched in seven of the nine provinces.

Some other key successes in the boxing fraternity included the opportunity for revenue generation for BSA and opportunities for upcoming promoters, boxers and dedicated slots for women boxers.

South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport

The SAIDS, as the national anti-doping organisation, is mandated to promote participation in sport without the use of prohibited performance-enhancing substances and methods.

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

The organisation's key focus areas are:

- **Doping control:** The SAIDS is responsible for the development of anti-doping policies. The institute conducts a comprehensive, independent and effective national doping-control programme on South African athletes competing at regional, national and international levels. The SAIDS also conducts in- and out-of-competition doping control tests on international athletes on behalf of international sports federations and other international anti-doping organisations.
- **Education:** The SAIDS 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.
- **Research:** The SAIDS conducts sociological research about 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 counterparts worldwide to improve the of standards and practices in doping control. South Africa is a member of both the Interna-

tional 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, in order for it to meet the obligations of the new anti-doping code. The budget allocated to SAIDS by SRSA was R19.8 million.

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 August 2015, the Recognition of Women in Sport programme, which aimed to honour the role of women in sport, was celebrated alongside government's Women's Month Programme.

The objective was to encourage women's participation and to highlight the role they play in sport.

Women's achievements in sport were also celebrated during the 2015 South African Sport Awards ceremony held in Mangaung, Free State, in November 2015.

The Ministerial Recognition of Excellence Awards went to Zanele Situ, Faith Sibeko, Zola (Budd) Pieterse, Hestrie (Cloete) Els and Geraldine Pillay.

Role players

South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee

The SRSA and SASCOC cooperate closely on issues of mutual importance, and the SRSA provides funding to SASCOC for initiatives such as the preparation of elite athletes for international events.

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

SASCOC represents South Africa for all multi-coded sport participating in international games, such as the Olympic Games; Paralympic Games; Commonwealth Games; and All-Africa Games.

Working with SASCOC, the Free State Provincial Government and through contributions from all provincial sport and recreation departments, SRSA set aside an amount of R26 million per year, over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, to strengthen the National Training Centre (NTC) based in 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.

African Union Sports Council Region Five (AUSC)

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

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

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

The WADA'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

Wayde van Niekerk, 24, is a track and field sprinter who competes in the 200 and 400 metre races.

He is the 2016 world record holder and Olympic champion in the 400m after breaking Michael Johnson's 1999 record.

Van Niekerk is the first person, in history, to run faster than 10 seconds for 100m, 20 seconds for 200m and 44 seconds for 400m.

He was a silver medallist in the 400m at the 2014 Commonwealth Games and took bronze in the 4x400m relay at the 2013 Summer Universiade in Russia.

Wayde was initially keen on pursuing the high jump but he switched focus to sprinting after qualifying for the 200m at the 2010 World Junior Championships in Moncton, Canada. He always ran 100m and 200m until 2012 when he joined Ans Botha, the great-grandmother coach, who convinced him to run the 400m.

He was born prematurely at 29 weeks, weighed 1.9kg and doctors said he would not survive.

- 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
- Tenniquoits 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 (NSRP)

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 department has ensured that the NSRP is aligned with the National Development Plan.

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 whilst improving the quality of lives of all South Africans.

Of the 100 outputs set out on 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 inter-school 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 2015 National School Sport Championships were held in Pretoria in December.

A sum of R110 million was spent in the School Sport Subprogramme which provides for the roll-out of school sport in provinces and funds the National School Sport Championships.

A sum of R78,9 million was allocated for the championships, which will be hosted once a year in 2015/16 and 2016/17, and twice in 2017/18.

The number of participants is expected to increase from 12 000 to 16 000 as there has been an increase in the number of sports codes included in each championship.

Some 726 schools were allocated sport equipment and attire as part of SRSA's intervention to capacitate a specific number of schools annually.

National Sports Volunteer Corps (NSVC)

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

Major events

Netball World Cup

The Spar Protea Netball team came fifth overall at the 14th Netball World Cup held in Sydney, Australia, in August 2015.

11th African Games

Team South Africa finished third and scooped 122 medals at the 11th African Games in Brazzaville, Congo, in September 2015.

2015 Commonwealth Youth Games

The South African swimming team brought home a total of 35 medals from the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games held in Samoa in September. They won 12 gold, 16 silver and 16 bronze medals.

On 10 September, Zane Waddell was the star of the competition after bagging his fourth gold medal in the 50 m freestyle.

Waddell was also part of the gold-winning 4 x 100 m medley relay team, alongside Neil Fair, Brendan Levy and James Isemonger.

Isemonger and Fair raced in the 200 m breaststroke and 200 m individual medley respectively, and won a bronze medal each.

In the ladies' 50 m freestyle race, Erin Gallagher won silver after finishing her race in 25.80 seconds.

The ladies' 4 x 100 m medley relay team of Gallagher, Jamie Reynolds, Nathania van Niekerk and Kaylene Corbett grabbed the bronze medal.

Corbett also raced in the 200 m breaststroke where she won her second bronze of the night.

10th Annual Indigenous Games Festival (IG 2015)

The 10th annual Indigenous Games Festival, hosted by the SRSA, was held to celebrate Heritage Month from 20 to 24 September 2015 in Polokwane, Limpopo.

The festival was hosted in partnership with the City of Polokwane and Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, as well as the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

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.

The games played included Ncuva, Jukskei, Dibeke, Diketo, lintonga, Morabaraba, Kho-kho, Drie Stokkies and Kgati.

The indigenous games serve as a vehicle to afford all South Africans an opportunity to be athletes, regardless of race, age or cultural background. The event also showcased unity through sport as well as community participation.

International Rugby Board World Cup

The Springboks came third at the International Rugby Board World Cup held in London in October 2015 and walked away with bronze medals.

FINA/Airweave Swimming World Cup

During the Fina World Cup, which took place from August to November 2015 in cities including Moscow and Toyko, Cameron van der Burgh and Chad le Clos came out tops with 369 and 180 points respectively.

Transnet Rural and Farm Schools National Tournament

Established in QwaQwa in 2002, 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 SAFA Transnet Football School of Excellence. The programme targets communities around Transnet's key expansion areas.

Two multi-purpose sport courts were completed in Bankhara Bodulong in the Northern Cape in 2015. Sports apparel and equipment was donated to over 194 schools across the country.

The annual National Tournament for rural and farm schools was held in October 2015, with over 1 551 beneficiaries showcasing their sporting talent to national talent-scouts.

During 2015, more than 22 000 learners from across the country put their talent and training to the test by competing in inter-house competitions but only 2 000 of these athletes were selected to compete in the final Transnet Rural and Farm Schools National Tournament.

South African Sports Awards

Track and field sprinter Wayde van Niekerk was named both the 2015 Sport Star and Sportsman of the Year at the 10th Annual South African Sports Awards held in Mangaung, Free State, in November 2015.

Ashleigh Moolman Pasio was the Sportswoman of the Year for the second year in a row.

The Sportswoman with Disability and Sportsman with Disability awards went to Ilse Hayes and Lucas Sithole respectively. Basketball received the National Federation of the Year title.

The rest of the results included:

- Sport Administrator of the Year – Virginia Mabaso
- School Team of the Year – St Johns College – Junior Men's Pair
- Developing School Team of the Year – Montshiwa Primary School
- Indigenous Games Team of the Year – KwaZulu-Natal Dibeke Team
- Recreational Body of the Year – Indigo Skate Camp
- Photographer of the Year – Veli Nhlapo
- Sport Journalist of the Year – Bareng-Batho Kortjaas
- Newcomer of the Year – Kagiso Rabada
- Team of the Year – Springbok Sevens
- Coach of the Year – Graham Hill
- Volunteer of the Year – Nkosinathi Ngubane.

National Aquatic Championships

Durban's Kings Park Aquatics Centre hosted the SA National Aquatic Championships in April 2016.

The event concluded with a total of 13 Olympic and 17 Paralympic qualifying times.

Alani Ferreira competed in the 200 m individual medley and clocked a new Paralympic African Record with a time of 2:50.43.

Chad le Clos earned his third Olympic qualification time and the gold medal in the 100 m race.

In the non-Olympic 50 m breaststroke final, Cameron van der Burgh won after clocking 27.17 seconds.

In the ladies races, Nathania van Niekerk won a gold medal in the 200 m backstroke. Tayla Lovemore won the 50 m freestyle with a time of 25.97 seconds.

Carissa van Rooyen raced in the 50 m backstroke competition and clocked 30.41 seconds.

In the long distance 800 m freestyle, Michelle Weber walked away with the gold medal.

In the multi-disability category, Aaron Putz claimed the 50 m breaststroke title in 35.33 seconds.

In the S1-S13 events, Hendrik van der Merwe was victorious in 46.85 seconds.

The staging of this event was made possible through the support provided by Swimming SA partners, SRSA, SASCOC, the National Lotteries Commission, Rand Water and the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).

20th Confederation African Athletics Championships

The 20th African Championships in Athletics were held in Durban, South Africa, from 22 to 26 June 2016. It was the second time that Durban and South Africa hosted this competition.

South Africa ranked first with 33 medals: 16 gold, nine silver and eight bronze.

Caster Semenya won three gold medals for each of her races: 800m, 1500m and 400m relays.

Olympic Games Rio 2016

Team South Africa exceeded their Olympic medal record at the August 2016 Olympics held in Rio, Brazil. The athletes won 10 medals: two gold, six silver and two bronze.

Wayde Van Niekerk and Caster Semenya were the gold winners. Chad le Clos brought home two silvers; Luvo Manyonga, Sunette Viljoen, Cameron van der Burgh and the rowing team of Shaun Keeling and Lawrence Brittain each won silver medals for their respective disciplines.

Henri Schoeman and Dylan Sage rounded off the South African medal count with their bronze medals.

Athletics

Henricho Bruintjies set a new national mark in the men's 100m at the Resisprint International meeting held in Switzerland in July 2015. He sprinted 0.01 seconds faster than the previous South African record of 9.98 held by Simon Magakwe.

Athletics South Africa (ASA) successfully hosted the South African Marathon Championships in Mossel Bay in September 2015.

In March 2016, at the fourth Confederation African Athletics Cross Country Championships, South Africa bagged two bronze medals.

In April 2016, Lupho April took the HAJ Hannover Marathon in Germany for the third time. The South African became the first male runner in the history of the event to achieve three victories.

At the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Under-20 Championships held in Poland in July 2016, Team South Africa won three silver medals.

At the end of July, before the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, Stephen Mokoka and Irvette van Zyl secured the national men's and women's titles respectively, at the ASA Half-Marathon Championships held in Port Elizabeth.

Biking, mountain biking, cycling

Cycling South Africa (CSA) hosted the African Road Championships in Mbombela from 3 to 8 February 2015. A total of 26 African nations entered for the championships and elite road cyclists used this opportunity to earn crucial Olympic qualifying points.

The African Road Championships also cemented the region's positioning as a key global cycling hub, with Pietermaritzburg being established as Africa's Bike City.

CSA earned the respect of the continental and international governing bodies by hosting nine major road, BMX, track and MTB events since the Worlds View Challenge races in 2008.

The town of Wartburg, in KwaZulu-Natal, hosted the Confederation of African Cycling Road Cycling Championships from 9 to 14 February 2015. This was the first time that South Africa had ever hosted the continental road cycling showcase event.

In February 2016 the SA National Championships were also held in Wartburg. The SA Track and Para-cycling Championships took place Port Elizabeth in March 2016.

The SA MTB Marathon Championships (Elite, Junior and Youth) were held in Clarens in April 2016. In May, the SA MTB Masters Marathon Championships were hosted by Pietermaritzburg as were the DHI Championships in July 2016.

Major events that were staged in and around Pietermaritzburg, as part of the broader Africa Bike City project, include the Pietermaritzburg MTB Festival, KwaZulu-Natal Development Series, Spur Schools Series and the SA MTB

Masters Marathon Championships which took place in May 2016 .

Boxing

The SRSA planned for boxing to be turned into a leading sporting code in South Africa by 2017.

Vision 2017 was a strategy to resuscitate and promote boxing countrywide. The plan would improve the administration and safeguard the health and general well-being of professional boxers. Authorities also pledged to promote, market and sanction quality boxing events and tournaments.

Revenues would be generated from government grants, bequests, site fees, ticket sales, registration fees, tournament licensing fees, penalties, incomes from invested surplus, sponsorship and fund-raising, broadcast and advertising income.

A sum of R10 million towards development of amateur boxing was set aside for 2015/16. As a result, South African National Amateur Boxing received a once-off allocation for being chosen as the Federation of the Year.

Xolani Ndongeni became the 78th South African to win a championship belt when he knocked Jasper Seroka out in the ninth round to win the IBO lightweight title in East London on 28 November 2015.

The list of boxers who have won some or other world title goes back to 1927 when Willie Smith defeated Teddy Baldock for the British version of the world bantamweight title.

Cricket

The South African cricket team toured India from 29 September to 7 December 2015. The tour consisted of four Test matches, five One Day Internationals (ODI) and three Twenty20 International (T20I) matches.

This was the first time that a four-match Test series between the two nations had been played in India. It was also the first time that the Proteas, as the South African cricket team is known, played a T20I against India in India. South Africa won both the ODI and T20I series.

Starting with this series, all bilateral tours between India and South Africa will be called the Mahatma Gandhi-Nelson Mandela series in honour of the two veterans. The teams will be playing for the Freedom Trophy.

AB de Villiers was presented with five of the nine major awards at a Cricket South Africa ceremony in June 2015. The skipper was voted Cricketer of the Year for the second successive season. His other awards included ODI Cricketer

of the Year, Cricketers` Cricketer of the Year and Supporters` Cricketer of the Year.

Bizhub Highveld Lions all-rounder, Dwaine Pretorius, won the Most Valuable Player title for his performances in the 2015/16 season.

Canoeing, rowing

Andy Birkett won the 2015 FNB Dusi Canoe Marathon. He set a new course record. Lance Kime finished as runner-up, while Sbonelo Khwela rounded off the podium in third place. Laura O'Donoghue won the women's race.

Canoeing scooped four of the 12 awards presented at the KwaZulu-Natal Sports Awards In November 2015.

Hank McGregor won Sportsman of the Year; Tim Cornish was the Best Administrator; Kyeta Purchase won Best Junior Sportswoman and Craig Mustard was named the Best Coach.

Canoeists Bridgitte Hartley and Tim Cornish were shortlisted as finalists for the 2015 Sports Awards.

Birkett claimed victory in the South African Canoe Marathon Championships in Pietermaritzburg, and achieved second place in the doubles together with his racing partner, Greg Louw.

The Natal Canoe Club star won a silver medal at the season-opening 2015 International Canoe Federation Canoe Marathon World Championships held in Hungary in September.

South Africa's rowing team walked away with a bronze medal at the 44th World Rowing Championships which were held in France from 30 August to September 2015.

Golf

In June 2015 the South African Golf Heritage Trust announced that legendary Grand Slam champion Gary Player and LPGA Major winner Sally Little had assisted with the opening of the Mercedes-Benz Southern African Golf Hall of Fame and Heritage Centre at the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town.

Gary Player was named captain of South Africa's first Olympic golf team that competed at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. This was the first Olympic golf competition in 112 years.

Player, a winner of more than 165 tournaments worldwide, was the only person to complete the career Grand Slam on both the regular and senior tours during his 18 Major Championships.

Gauteng North's Keegan de Lange made South African golfing history as the first South African junior to contest the Boys Amateur Championship final held in North West England in August 2015.

In the same month, Altin van der Merwe finished as a runner-up in the final round of the Global Junior Golf Tour's RB German Junior held at Heidelberg Golf Club.

Dylan Frittelli finished joint runner-up while Sunshine Tour rookie Zander Lombard earned a fourth place finish in the Australian PGA Championship in Queensland in December 2015.

Golf RSA national squad member Dylan Naidoo became the first amateur and youngest winner of a Sunshine Big Easy Tour event when he lifted the Big Easy Observatory title with a two stroke victory at Observatory Golf Club in May 2016.

Cole Stevens and Caitlyn Macnab grabbed top-five finishes in the 13-to-14 age group at the Ciputra Enjoy Jakarta World Junior Golf Championship, while compatriots Symone Henriques and Hilmi Mallick both finished just outside the top 10 in the 15-to-17 age group at Damai Indah Golf in Indonesia in May 2016.

Hockey

In 2015, the South African men's national field hockey team was ranked 15th by the International Hockey Federation.

The women's national field hockey team was ranked 11th.

The South Africa teams finished in their best final positions since the inception of the Indoor Hockey World Cup (IHWC) at the Indoor Hockey World Cup 2015 in the Leipzig Arena, Germany.

The world number 18 Spar women's team beat Canada 4 – 2 after the score was 2 – 2 at half-time and they ended ninth in the IHWC women's event.

The South African men beat Canada 2 – 1 to end 11th.

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

The motorsport fraternity suffered an immense loss after the untimely death of one of the industry's fastest racers, Gugu Zulu, in July 2016.

He died on Mandela Day while attempting to

summit Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for charity.

The Guinness Achievement and the Goodyear Star of Tomorrow awards are just some of the accolades that Zulu had under his belt.

In December 2015, a few months before the tragedy, Zulu was in attendance as Motorsport South Africa honoured its 2015 National Champions, National Protea Colour recipients and Special/Lifetime Award recipients.

The 2015 Official of the Year, the Steve Wicks Photographer of the Year, and the Environmental Award recipients were also honoured.

Two Lifetime Awards were presented to Brian Hoskins and Richard Schilling. Other winners in respective categories included:

- Special Awards – Alan James (AJ) Kernick, Jacques van Wyngaardt, Volkswagen South Africa.
- Official/Volunteer of the Year – Freda Stols
- Steve Wicks Photographer of the Year Award – Trevor Tyler
- Environmental Award – Megan Els

SuperGP championship leader Mathew Scholtz spent the winter break in America competing in the MotoAmerica Superstock 1000 Championship where he scored four consecutive podium finishes.

The selection process for the 2015 Young Driver Excellence Academy involved six qualifying events across the world. The winners of each selection event automatically qualified for a place at the Academy. South Africa's Jordan Pepper, 18, was the Sub-Saharan Africa winner.

Netball

The South African national netball team, coached by Norma Plummer and captained by Maryka Holtzhausen, was rated fifth in the world by July 2015 according to the International Netball Federation World Rankings.

The team, also known as the Spar Proteas, qualified for the 14th World Cup which was held in August 2015 in Australia.

In June 2016, South Africa clinched the SPAR Challenge International Netball Series by beating Wales 64 – 50. The Baby Proteas also played Wales and won by 88 – 21.

Rugby

Jean de Villiers was the South African rugby favourite in 2015. The skipper captained the Springboks at the Rugby World Cup in England in September. The team made it to the quarter finals.

South Africa's Jaco Peyper had the honour of refereeing the opening match at Rugby World Cup.

In February 2016 at the South African Rugby Awards, Lood de Jager was named Rugby Player of the Year for 2015 at the South African Rugby Union Awards held at Vodaworld, Midrand.

De Jager became the second youngest winner of the most prestigious award in South African rugby since Bryan Habana walked away with it in 2005 at the age of 22.

Damian de Allende, Eben Etzebeth, Schalk Burger and Jaco Kriel were also nominated. Kriel walked away with two accolades – the prestigious Players' Player of the Year Award, presented by MyPlayers; and the Currie Cup Premier Division Player of the Year Award.

The Xerox Golden Lions were named the Team of the Year, while Johan Ackermann walked away with the Coach of the Year award for the second consecutive season.

Jesse Kriel was named Young Player of the Year, while Warrick Gelant, one of the Junior Springboks' stars, walked away with the Under-20 Player of the Year accolade.

Werner Kok was named World Rugby's Sevens Player of the Year; Veroeshka Grain earned the Women's Achiever Award and Rasta Rasivhenge won the Marriott Referee Award.

Running

Endurance running is a popular sport in South Africa and it is widely supported. It is highlighted by two annual ultra-marathons: the Comrades Marathon and the Two Oceans Marathon.

Both events are world-renowned and attract large numbers of participants from across the globe.

The Comrades Marathon covers almost 90 km and takes place between Durban and Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Two Oceans Marathon, which takes place in the Western Cape, is divided into two races: The 56 km ultra-marathon and the 21.1 km half-marathon.

The 2015 Comrades Marathon men's race was won by South African Gift Kelehe, 14 years after his brother Andrew won the race in 2001. Six of the top 10 runners in the race were also South African.

History was made by Caroline Wöstmann who won both the Two Oceans and the Comrades Marathon in 2015 – making her the second woman to ever achieve this. The first woman was Frith van der Merwe in 1989.

In Beijing, in August 2015, South Africa's Wayde van Niekerk became the fourth fastest man in history to run the 400 m at the IAAF World Championships.

Soccer

Bafana Bafana played friendly matches against Costa Rica and Honduras when they toured Central America in October 2015.

They beat Costa Rica 1 – 0 at the San Jose National Stadium and drew 1 – 1 in their game against Honduras at San Pedro Sula's Olympic Metropolitan Stadium.

In 2016, 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 qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics and made it to the final group stage.

The South African Under-23 men's soccer team also took part in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Amaglug-glug, as the team is also known, took the third spot in the Africa Under-23 Cup of Nations tournament which took place in Senegal from 28 November to 12 December 2015.

This tournament was formerly known as the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Under-23 Championship until 6 August 2015 when the CAF Executive Committee decided to change the name to the Africa Under-23 Cup of Nations, similar to the senior players' Africa Cup of Nations.

Surfing, surfski, sailing

South African Surfing Team captain Antony Smyth secured a silver medal in September 2015 when he took part in the inaugural International Surfing Association (ISA) World Adaptive Surfing Championship in California, USA.

The South African Junior Surfing Team also took to California in October 2015 to join 34 other teams from different parts of the World in the annual VISSLA ISA World Junior Surfing Championships. The team came in seventh.

South African bodyboarding history was made by Jared Houston when he won an APB World Bodyboarding Championship title in November 2015. He became the first South African to win the title since Andre Botha won it in 1998 and 1999.

In December 2015, Surfski paddlers from around the country took part in the Pete Marlin Surfski Race held in East London. The race doubled as the South African Surfski Championships and had thousands of competitors and spectators

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 August 2015, at the World Deaf Swimming Championships, which took place in Texas, the South African swimming team won eight medals: three gold, two silver and three bronze.

The junior South African swimming team finished in the top spot at the African Junior Swimming Championships in Egypt in October 2015. The team won 69 medals: 24 gold, 29 silver and 16 bronze.

In May 2016, the first local swimming-specific TV show – The Swimming Show – was launched on SABC 2. The programme highlights all that Swimming South Africa has to offer including: Open Water Swim ming, Diving, Water Polo and Synchronised Swimming.

On 29 June 2016, the AUSC held their inaugural Regional Awards in Johannesburg, South Africa. The purpose of these awards was to recognise athletes, coaches and sports confederations from Southern Africa.

Swimming South Africa's National Head Coach, Graham Hill, received the Coach of the Year honour at the ceremony.

Tennis

In September 2015, South Africa's leading tennis player, Kevin Anderson, made history when he kicked Andy Murray out of the Grand Slam in the fourth round. It was the first time, since the 2010 US Open, that Murray had lost before the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam.

This was also the first time that Anderson had ever advanced to the quarter-finals in a major.

By November 2015, Anderson was ranked 12th, as opposed to 16th in the previous year, in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) World Tour rankings. He was also nominated for the ATP World Tour's Fans' Favourite Award alongside other tennis legends such as Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Also in November 2015, Wheelchair Tennis South Africa (WTSA) scored first place at the Jack Cheetham and Letsema Awards in partnership with SASOC.

Top-ranked WTSA players: Kgothatso Montjane, Evans Maripa and quad ace Lucas Sithole jetted off to Australia in January 2016.

They were off to compete in the following major season opening international tennis

tournaments: Queensland Open, Sydney Open, Melbourne Open and Australian Open Grand Slam.

Montjane and Sithole secured spots in the Melbourne Open Finals.

January 2016 also saw South African top junior, player Alwande Skhosana, who was ranked third in junior boys wheelchair tennis worldwide, taking part in the 2016 Cruyff Foundation Wheelchair Tennis Junior Masters in France.

South African wheelchair tennis quad player Bongani Dlamini clinched the EZMED Arizona Open singles title in Tucson in March 2016.

Chess

In July 2015, South African chess International Master and FIDE Trainer, Watu Kobese, launched his isiXhosa chess book, titled Masidale Uthimba, which aims help grow and popularise the game.

In December 2015, the City of Cape Town hosted both the South African Closed Chess Championships. The winners of the tournament were Daniel Cawdrey, Denise Frick and Kulusande Mafanya.

The African Youth Chess Championship, which earns the categorical winner personal rights to the World Youth Chess Championship, took place in Zambia in December 2015.

Represented by 21 players, team South Africa finished with 13 medals. Talia Govender (Under-8 girls' team) and Naseem Essa (Under-12 boys' team) both won gold medals at the tournament.

Speed skating

In September 2015, South African ice skaters Kathryn Winstanley, Michaela du Toit, Matthew Samuel and Ancio van Tonder took part in the International Skating Union (ISU) Junior Grand Prix Series.

Two South African skaters participated in the 2015 Speed Skating World Championships in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei, in November. Thabo Nylato and Emmanuel Ngobeni competed in the junior men category.

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.

Major sporting activities

Major sporting codes in South Africa include, among others: Athletics; Biking; Mountain Biking; Cycling; Boxing; Cricket; Canoeing; Rowing; Golf; Hockey; Ice Hockey; Motorsport; Flying; Netball; Rugby; Running (including South Africa's two world-renowned ultra-marathons – the Comrades Marathon in KwaZulu-Natal and the Two Oceans Marathon in the Western Cape); Soccer; Surfing; Sailing; Swimming; Tennis, and Chess.