

SOUTH AFRICA YEARBOOK 2012/13



Sport and Recreation



Sport and Recreation

Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) is the national department responsible for sport in the country. Aligned with its vision of an active and winning nation, its primary focuses are on providing opportunities for all South Africans to participate in sport; managing the regulatory framework; and providing funding for different codes of sport.

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

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

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

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

The SRSA's goals include:

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

Nkululeko Apleni represented South Africa at the Japanese Shotokan Karate World Championships in Mexico City in July 2012. He was crowned the Karate World Champion, brought home a silver medal and was ranked second best karateka in the world.

trators to reach national and international standards that will contribute to an improvement in South Africa's international rankings

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

Legislation and policies

In terms of the National Sport and Recreation Amendment Act, 2007 (Act 18 of 2007), the Minister of Sport and Recreation has the legislative powers to oversee the development and management of sport and recreation in South Africa.

The main responsibility of SRSA is to develop national policies and guidelines for sport and recreation in the country.

The key implementers are provinces and municipalities as well as the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (Sascoc), sports federations, and other agencies.

In addition to the above, cognisance must also be taken of the fact that SRSA embarked on a legislative process to amend its primary Act, namely the National Sport and Recreation Act, 1998 (Act 110 of 1998 as amended) extensively. It is foreseen that the amendment Act will be promulgated during 2013/14.

The Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Act 2010 (Act 2 of 2010), was drafted as a result of the Ellis Park Soccer tragedy and

the subsequent findings of the Ngoepe Commission of Enquiry. The *White Paper on Sport and Recreation* was amended in 2011.

Two public entities are administered and controlled by the department.

Boxing South Africa 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, are controlled and administered by the department.

The Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 29 of 1999), guides all financial activities of SRSA. The Public Service Act, 1994 (Act 103 of 1994), regulates the conduct of business in the public service.

In 2012/13, the department planned to table the following Bills:

- The South African Boxing Repeal Bill, which provides, among other things, for:
 - dissolving the Boxing Commission
 - repealing the South African Boxing Act, 2001
 - ensuring that its assets and liabilities as well as staff are transferred to Boxing South Africa in its transformed capacity as an association not-for-gain in terms of the Companies Act, 2008 (Act 71 of 2008).
- The South African Combat Sport Bill, which provides, among other things, for:
 - the regulation, control and general supervision of combat sport in South Africa
 - the effective and efficient administration of combat sport in the country
 - the recognition of both amateur and professional combat sport
 - the outlawing of dangerous combat sport
 - building synergy between professional and amateur combat sport to ensure the effective and efficient administration of combat sport in the country.
- The Fitness Industry Bill, which provides, among other things, for:
 - the accreditation of fitness establishments
 - the registration of fitness professionals.

Budget and funding

The department's total budget allocation for 2012/13 was R848,4 million, an increase of R45,7 million from 2011/12.

R525 million was allocated to the Mass Participation Programme, which made up 62% of the total budget.

The school-sport budget within the SRSA increased from R27,3 million in 2011/12 to R42,6 million.

The Sport Support Services Programme increased by R25 million; from R162 million to R187,3 million.

The budget of the International Liaison directorate saw a decrease of R26,6 million, mainly owing to the adjustment budget received in 2011/12 for value-added tax refunds on 2010 FIFA World Cup™ tickets.

Compensation of employees was slightly above the inflation increase, mainly due to additional staff in the school-sport component.

The budget increased from R79,9 million in 2011/12 to R91,9 million in 2012/13.

In 2012/13, the department set aside R470 million to the Mass Participation Programme conditional grant, which was allocated as follows:

- R211 million to school-sport programmes (45% of the grant)
- club development and community hubs received R106 million, respectively, at 23% each.

The remaining budget was allocated for compensation of employees in provinces working on the Mass Participation Programme projects and district academies of sport.

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

In 2012, 19 524 runners had entered the race, made up of 15 176 men and 4 348 women.

In November 2012, South Africa's Comrades Marathon Association received a special award at the 30th anniversary gala of the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races in Athens, Greece. The Comrades Marathon was honoured for being the oldest marathon and ultra-marathon on the African continent.

In 2012/13, the SRSA committed to dedicating all its resources in support of the National Sport and Recreation Plan (NSRP) to ensure the development of athletes from talent identification to the elite levels. For this purpose, starting in 2012, funding to national federations was divided into two tiers: guaranteed and conditional, with the conditional funding being outcome-based. This forms part of a four-year funding drive to reach the goals of Vision 2020.

Role players

South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (Sascoc)

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

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

It is the national coordinating macro-body for the promotion and development of high-performance sport in South Africa, including team presentation, and must consult with relevant sports bodies in this regard.

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

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

South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS)

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

South African heavy-vehicle drivers scooped five awards at the 28th World Professional Drivers' Championships held near Rustenburg in August 2012. Vishnu Naidoo came first in the rigid category, Simon Motsepe was first in the bus category, while Lettah Mokhutswane, one of only two female entrants, came third in this category. In the group category, Team South Africa received four awards.

of the health and well-being of sportspeople.

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

The SAIDS is certified in terms of the International Organisation for Standardisation 9001:2000 standards in compliance with the International Standard for Testing. This is the internationally recognised benchmark for quality assurance and excellence, and represents world best-practice in doping control in sport.

The SAIDS' key focus areas are:

- Doping control: The institute conducts a comprehensive, independent and effective national doping-control programme on South African athletes competing at regional, national and international levels. The SAIDS also conducts in- and out-of-competition doping controls on international athletes on behalf of international sports federations and other international anti-doping organisations.
- Education: The SAIDS provides education, information and awareness for all its target groups, namely athletes; coaches; parents; sports organisations; members of the medical, pharmaceutical and sports-science professions; tertiary-education institutions; and the public. Information on national and international anti-doping issues can be accessed at www.drugfreesport.org.za.
- Research: The SAIDS conducts sociological research into the knowledge, attitude and use of performance-enhancing drugs among South African sportspeople, for the purpose of planning and implementing effective doping-control and education programmes.
- International collaboration: South Africa is an active participant in the global effort to combat drugs in sport. The SAIDS collab-

orates closely with counterparts worldwide to achieve international harmonisation and the improvement of standards and practices in doping control. South Africa is a member of the International Anti-Doping Arrangement and of the Executive Committee of the Association of National Anti-Doping Organisations.

Boxing South Africa

Boxing South Africa'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 and officials and Boxing South Africa.

It also considers applications for licences from all stakeholders in professional boxing. It sanctions fights; implements the relevant regulations; and trains boxers, promoters, ring officials, managers and trainers.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

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

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

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

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
- South African Sports Association for the Intellectually Impaired
- 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

In January 2012, at the age of 19, Nzuzo Mnikathi became the youngest black man to ever reach the South Pole. Mnikathi travelled the 111 km on skis in six-and-a-half days as part of the Unlimited Child South Pole Expedition that aimed to raise awareness of the need for early childhood education in South Africa.

Unlimited Child runs crèches for underprivileged children in the Valley of a Thousand Hills near Durban in KwaZulu-Natal. The organisation was looking for an ambassador for their projects' underprivileged children.

The Top School League initiative was launched in March 2012, along with the Magnificent Wednesdays Project. The latter involved the expectation that learners in all the schools in South Africa would practise a sport every Wednesday in preparation for competing in the national sport leagues.

- South African Sailing
- South African Shore Angling Association
- 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
- Tennyquoits 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

The SRSA continued to play a critical role in fostering social cohesion, nation-building and bridging aberrations in gender, geography, race and religion.

This work contributed towards transformation and also job creation, social development, health, crime prevention, rural development, economic growth and tourism.

The department rendered services to the sports sector through its line function programmes, namely Sport Support Services, Mass Participation, International Liaison and Events and Facilities. Financial support was provided to 50 national federations, two non-governmental organisations (LoveLife and Sascoc) and two public entities.

The aim of this key service was to stimulate the development, promotion and management of sport and recreation in South Africa.

Furthermore, sports equipment was provided to 41 clubs, 77 coaches were trained in basic sport science and medicine, 18 gymnasium instructors were trained as fitness instructors and 1 461 sub-elite athletes received scientific and medical support.

The department involved 28 008 participants who took part in sports projects such as the Indigenous Games, Golden Games, Outreach Projects and Magnificent Fridays.

Sport and indigenous games equipment were provided to various communities.

Toolkits on sport for development were made available and training on the toolkit was conducted for more than 100 hub coordinators and volunteers countrywide.

National Sport and Recreation Plan (NSRP)

The NSRP was adopted at the National Sport and Recreation Indaba in November 2011. It is the product of a structured process of more than 10 months of consultation and robust debates with a diverse and representative sport and recreation stakeholders.

The NSRP seeks to reposition the department's functional efficiencies, accelerate service delivery, enhance organisational excellence and inject new performance energy; while capitalising on the renewed commitment by all stakeholders in sport and recreation to transform and improve sport and recreation.

Furthermore, it provides the basis for the SRSA's 20-year strategy to reposition South Africa to use sport and recreation as catalysts for socio-economic transformation.

The NSRP is an eight-year sustainable implementation plan for the sport and recreation policy framework as captured in the *White Paper on Sport and Recreation*.

While it is envisaged that the White Paper will remain relevant until 2019, the NSRP will be closely monitored annually to identify any hindrances that may impact negatively on implementation and will be reviewed in its totality in 2020.

It is important to note that the NSRP was further adopted by Cabinet as an integral part

of the Programme of Government and was being costed in 2013 to ensure its successful implementation.

Once costed and implemented, the NSRP will give South Africa a clear indication on how many jobs it will create to fight unemployment and poverty.

School Sport Programme

The South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act 84 of 1996), guarantees all learners' access to physical education and sport programmes.

To this end, the SRSA and the Department of Basic Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the delivery of physical education and sport programmes in all the country's schools through the School Sport Programme. This programme is the bedrock of the department's development strategy and the cornerstone of the NSRP.

Its aim is to ensure that all learners in South Africa are provided access to an organised and structured system of sport that offers opportunity for mass participation, talent support and high performance.

The programme also seeks to increase access to school sport, increase the country's athlete base, improve the talent pool and South Africa's performance in international sports.

The programme is underpinned by physical education, top school leagues and the Youth Olympics.

In February 2012, the Department of Sport and Recreation launched a National Sports Volunteer Corps (NSVC) to recruit, recognise and use the experience, expertise, passion for sport and the goodwill of some of the country's national sporting legends. These legends will be used as coaches, talent identifiers, tech-

nical officials, sport administrators and sport and recreation facility managers.

In May 2012, the SRSA and the National Distribution Agency on Sport and Recreation were expected to finalise an allocation of R200 million towards the School Sport Programme.

In 2012, the SRSA planned on integrating 16 sporting codes and indigenous games into the school sport system.

I Play Fair – Say NO! to Doping Campaign

In 2011, SAIDS launched the *I Play Fair – Say NO! to Doping Campaign* to spread the message of ethics, fairplay and anti-doping in sport. SRSA supports the campaign.

The campaign, targeting professional and amateur athletes across the country, provides education about banned substances and runs actual doping tests. SAIDS' latest statistics show that there has been more than a 100% increase in positive tests for doping over the last two years.

The number jumped from 19 in 2009/10 to 50 in 2011. More than 2 000 athletes were tested each year.

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

The campaign was kickstarted at the 2012 Cape Argus Cycle Tour, with the Minister of Sport and Recreation, Mr Fikile Mbalula, leading an *I Play Fair* celebrity cycling team.

The team also participated in other mass sport events such as the 94.7 Cycle Challenge and the SpecSavers Ironman, to give the campaign's message prominence. Minister Mbalula also declared 18 June as *I Play Fair* Day.

In 2011/12, the SAIDS' efforts to keep sport clean included 2 348 urine samples, 59 blood tests and 62 erythropoietin or EPO tests.

In April 2013, the *I Play Fair – Say NO! to Doping Campaign* for the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS), won a gold PRISM award in the public sector category.

SAIDS' *I Play Fair* education and awareness campaign around drug-free sport has catapulted doping issues into the mainstream and has raised the awareness and profile around doping and drugs in sport.

South Africa became the first African country to host the Basketball Without Borders NBA Programme in August 2012, providing many young players with an opportunity to participate in the sport for the first time. The programme promoted basketball while also searching for talent in Africa and giving young Africans the opportunity to meet some of their favourite players.

International Rugby Board (IRB) Keep Rugby Clean Campaign

The International Rugby Board is committed to keeping the game of rugby free of doping.

This commitment includes a rigorous testing programme combined with an extensive anti-doping education and awareness campaign.

Keep Rugby Clean has appointed several international players to join the fight against doping. Among them are South African Sevens star, Cecil Afrika and Springbok, Bryan Habana.

As role models these dedicated individuals let their natural abilities shine on the field and along with the IRB hope to raise the profile of anti-doping within the rugby community so future generations can continue to enjoy the game in a doping-free environment.

The IRB undertook 1 542 in- and out-of-competition controls across IRB tournaments and events in 2012, including the HSBC Sevens World Series, Rugby World Cup 2015 qualifiers, men's and women's tests and age-grade rugby.

The programme saw 21 anti-doping cases, equating to 1,36% of the IRB's entire programme.

While 2012 rugby figures published by WADA are still pending, 2011 saw more than 6 000 tests undertaken in rugby worldwide by national anti-doping agencies, unions and the IRB combined with 53 violations.

The IRB also remains committed to blood testing across its portfolio of events and has conducted 482 tests since its debut at the Rugby World Cup 2007 in France.

The IRB also focused on increased educational programmes in 2012, including the delivery of *Keep Rugby Clean* awareness cam-

paigns at IRB age-grade and Sevens events to more than 1 000 players during the year.

ThinkSport Journal Project

The *ThinkSport Journal* of the SRSA was launched in November 2012.

The journal is a structured response to the instruction by the National Sport and Recreation Indaba to continue the intellectual debates and discussions about issues affecting sport and recreation.

It also provides an opportunity for continued positive intellectual dialogue on the course of transformation of sport and recreation in South Africa.

Little Green Book Project

In November 2012, the SRDSA launched the *Little Green Book*. This project is the department's contribution to recognise the country's prominent sportspeople who have contributed immensely in profiling sport inside and outside South Africa.

It will contain names and categories of those South African sportspersons who are recognised by millions of South African people as people of honour in society who are active in different aspects of sport activism, both in South Africa and globally.

Major events

Olympic Games

South Africa finished the 2012 London Olympic Games as Africa's best performing country, placed 24th on the medals table.

With three golds, two silvers and one bronze medal, the London Olympics, held in July and August 2012, were South Africa's most successful Games since the country was readmitted to the Olympic fold at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Government, together with the National Distribution Agency for Sport and Recreation and the business sector, invested around R31 million in the preparations for the success of Team South Africa. Among the great performances of the 2012 Olympic Games was Chad le Clos'

victory in the 200-m butterfly. He came from behind to beat Michael Phelps, the winner of the most Olympic gold medals in history in his signature event – and in which he has been unbeaten for a decade.

Le Clos later added a silver medal in the 100-m butterfly and went on to be named the South African Sports Star of the Year in November 2012.

South Africa had managed just a single silver medal at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, but 2012 was a far better year for the country.

Cameron van der Burgh set the ball rolling with some wonderful performances in the 100-m breaststroke.

He was the only swimmer to go under 59 seconds in the semi-finals, setting an Olympic record of 58,83 seconds in doing so.

In the final, Van der Burgh raised the bar even higher, winning convincingly in a world record time of 58,46 seconds.

South Africa's third gold medal was every bit as unexpected as the one won by Le Clos.

The men's lightweight fours rowing team of Matthew Brittain, Lawrence Ndlovu, John Smith and James Thompson raced to a stunning victory at Eton Dornay after being in fourth place at the three-quarter mark, with 500 m to go. This was a first ever rowing gold for Africa at the Olympics.

The team's performance later earned them the World Rowing Male Crew of the Year Award at the World Rowing Awards.

They were also named Team of the Year at the South African Sports Awards.

Caster Semenya rediscovered her form in time to make an assault on the Olympic 800-m title. She finished in the silver medal position with a finishing time of 1:57.23, her fastest of the season.

Bridgitte Hartley won South Africa's only bronze medal in the women's K1 500-m canoe sprint. She came from fifth at the halfway mark – almost one and a half seconds behind the leader – to claim a podium place.

It was the first sprint canoe medal for the country in 18 Olympic Games.

Paralympic Games

The Paralympic Games London 2012 followed the close of the Olympic Games in August and September 2012.

South Africa's Paralympians won 29 medals – eight gold, 12 silver and nine bronze.

The standards in London were hugely improved since Beijing in 2008, with 251 world records being broken in only 11 days.

Natalie du Toit brought the curtain down on her career by winning three gold medals and one silver to take her career total for the Paralympics to 13 gold and two silver medals.

Charl Bouwer also showed his speed in the pool, winning the men's T13 50-m freestyle gold.

In athletics, Oscar Pistorious stormed to victory in the men's T43/44 400 m; Fanie van der Merwe won the T37 100 m gold; South Africa's T42/46 relay team set a world record in capturing gold; and Ilse Hayes won the women's T13 long jump.

Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) 2013

South Africa has once more proved that it is a destination of choice for major sporting events after hosting a successful Afcon 2013, held from 19 January to 10 February 2013.

The three-week tournament concluded at Johannesburg's National Stadium, with Nigeria being crowned champions of Africa for a third time after beating their West African neighbours Burkina Faso 1-0 in the final.

All-Africa Games

The 10th All-Africa Games took place in September in Maputo, Mozambique, which featured 20 sporting disciplines in which 53 countries took part.

South Africa claimed first position and 16 medals – five gold, six silver and five bronze – at the 2012 World Gold Panning Championships at Pilgrim's Rest in October. Gold medals went to Bianca Brower, Morele Keabetswe, The Tigers three-person team, Albie Nyschen and Mia Mason. South Africa is the youngest member of the World Gold Panning Association's 20 members.

Disabled events also featured in swimming and athletics.

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

The next All-Africa Games will be held in 2015 in Brazzaville in the Republic of the Congo.

South African Sports Awards

The SRSA and Sasoc created the South African Sports Awards to honour the country's sports stars in local and international sports events.

In 2012, swimming star Chad le Clos was crowned the Sport Star of the Year. He was named Newcomer of the Year in 2011. As Sports Star of the Year Le Clos won R1 million and a new BMW.

Cricketer Vernon Philander, after a sensational start to his test career, in which he became the second fastest player to 50 wickets ever, won the Sportsman of the Year trophy.

The Sportswoman of the year award went to Caster Semenya, who won a silver medal in the 800 m at the London Olympic Games.

The Team of the Year went to the Olympic gold medal winning men's coxless lightweight fours combination of Sizwe Ndlovu, Matthew Brittain, John Smith and James Thompson for their stirring victory at Eton Dornay. Their win at the Olympics was the first rowing gold for Africa in the history of the Games.

Rowing won two further awards as Rowing South Africa president Wimpie du Plessis was named Administrator of the Year and the sport was named Federation of the Year.

The Coach of the Year award went to Joseph Mkhonza, who led Banyana Banyana to a place at the Olympics for the first time ever. Places at the Olympic Games were open to only two African teams.

Paralympic great Natalie du Toit, who retired after the London Paralympics, where she was South Africa's leading medal winner, was named Sportswoman of the Year with Disability.

Oscar Pistorius, who competed at both the Paralympic and Olympics, where he made the semi-finals of the 400 m, was named Sportsman of the Year with a Disability.

The Newcomer of the Year Award went to Western Province and Stormers' flanker, Siya Kolisi.

Former Springbok legend, Joost van der Westhuizen was one of six recipients honoured with the Steve Tshwete Lifetime Achievement Award at the South African Sports Awards in Sandton.

The other honourees were: Petrus Molemela (life president of Bloemfontein Celtic soccer club); the late Sewsunker "Papwa" Sewgolum (golf); sports administrator Sam Ramsamy; Petrus "White Hair" Molemela (football); and Sally Little (golf).

National Indigenous Games

The 2012 National Indigenous Games Festival, which is organised annually by the SRSA, took place at the Tshwane Events Centre from 23 to 25 March 2012. Eight of the nine provinces participated in all the codes.

SRSA will focus on formalising structures and profiling the games to become a brand of its own and as competitive as other mainstream sports.

The games played included *khokho*, *intonga*, *ncuva*, *morabaraba*, *diketo*, *drie stokkies*, *kgati*, *dibeke* and *juskei*, all of which are indigenous to South Africa and played in various parts of the country.

The 2012 Tour de Free State, a five-day tour backed by world cycling's governing body, the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), took on extra significance in its second year when it became the only Olympic qualifying road race for women in Africa.

The success of the inaugural Tour de Free State in 2011 opened the door for the second running of the annual event to be featured as a UCI 2.1 WE race by the UCI, making it an Olympic qualifier.

Besides being the first ever UCI women's road cycling tour in South Africa, the tour, which ran from 23 to 27 May 2012, was also the last opportunity for nations to increase their national rankings before the UCI's 31 May deadline for qualification for the London Olympic Games in July/August 2012.

The Games also provide recreational activities for young children and families.

National Sports Volunteer Corps (NSVC)

The SRSA launched the NSVC Programme on 13 February 2012 in Kempton Park.

Sports legends, former athletes and players have shown enthusiasm and interest and have pledged their support for this programme.

The NSVC Programme's objectives include:

- recognising and use the experience and expertise of sports legends, former players, athletes, coaches and administrators to develop young talent at schools and sports clubs
- supporting teachers to coach children at school and identify talent in the school sport environment
- supporting national federations that do not have reach in all 52 demarcated regions
- providing training and development opportunities for former athletes and players who would like to become coaches, administrators and technical officials
- providing opportunities for further study and international exchange programmes for unemployed graduates of sport science and sport management
- training former athletes in life skills, comprehensive wellness programmes and business skills such as financial management and public speaking.

Sporting achievements in 2012

Archery

South Africa took a total of 30 medals – 14 gold, 11 silver and five bronze – at the 2012 World Field Archery Championships held in the coastal town of Miramar, Argentina in November 2012.

The South African delegation of 50 members, consisting of 21 Protea archers and 19 South African National Indoor and Field Archery Association archers, formed part of the 200 archers represented by 15 countries in this international field archery tournament.

Jakkie Flemming, Kayla Venter and Jarrod de Klerk shot new world records (field round) in their respective competing divisions.

Flemming bettered the world record held by a fellow South African since 2004.

On the third day, 13 of the South African archers managed to shoot a perfect full score of 560/560 for the animal 2D paper round.

On the day, Kayla Venter shot another new world record.

The South Africans kept their lead in the top three ranking archers of each style they competed in for the next two days of the tournament with Fernando Rueda Jnr, Kayla Venter and Tertius Loots shooting another three new world records on days four and five of the competition.

This meant seven new world records for the South Africans.

South Africa also obtained first and second positions in the Team Style competition in the Adult Male Freestyle Unlimited, the Adult Male Bowhunter Unlimited and Adult Male Longbow divisions.

In December 2012, South African compound archer, Danelle Wentzel, won the Indoor World Cup Stage 1 in Singapore. She was subsequently named World Athlete of the Week by the World Archery Federation.

Athletics

In June 2012, the South Africa team received 24 medals at the African Championships in Benin – six gold, 10 silver and eight bronze.

In December 2012, the South African athletics team added 19 medals on the last two days of the Zone 6 Games in Lusaka, Zambia.

They won seven gold, eight silver and four bronze medals, to bring the total medal count for the week to 42, seven better than the previous best performance at the Games.

Biking, mountain biking, cycling

Teenager Wade Young delivered an amazing performance to win the 2012 Roof of Africa, one of the world's foremost extreme motorbike enduros, defeating the world's number one rider in the format, Graham Jarvis, to take the

title. At 16 years of age, he was the youngest ever winner of the event in its 45-year history.

Greg Minnaar cemented his status as one of the all-time greats of downhill mountain biking during the course of 2012 by winning the *Union Cycliste Internationale* (UCI) World Cup in Pietermaritzburg.

He then raced to victory in the World Championships in Leogang, Austria.

Minnaar's record now includes three overall World Cup titles and two World Championship gold medals.

Burry Stander continued to excel in cross-country mountain biking, winning the UCI World Cup in Windham, New York, in the United States of America (USA).

He was second in the World Cup in Pietermaritzburg and narrowly missed out on an Olympic medal when he finished in fifth place.

Standar and Switzerland's Christoph Sauser were also successful in their defence of the Absa Cape Epic title in the beginning of April.

Cherise Stander made history by winning a stage of the 2012 Route de France, the women's version of the Tour de France.

Ashleigh Moolman-Pasio shone in the Giro d'Italia Internazionale Femminile, the toughest stage race in women's road cycling, by finishing in tenth place, becoming the first South African woman to make it into the top 10.

Robbie Hunter made history at the Giro d'Italia when his team won the time trial in Verona. This made him the first African to win a stage in all three Grand Tours.

Pietermaritzburg hosted the 2012 UCI World Cycling Tour Final and local cyclists produced some superb results, winning four world titles.

On the track, Nolan Hoffman flew the South African flag high at the 2012 UCI Track World Championships in Melbourne, Australia, winning silver in the 15-km scratch race.

Boxing

International Boxing Organisation (IBO) super-middleweight champion Tommy Oosthuizen was chosen as the 2012 SuperSport South Africa, Boxer of the Year.

In May 2012, Gary Player became the tenth recipient of the PGA Tour's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Created in 1996, it honours individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Tour over an extended period of time through their actions on and off the course.

The South African junior heavyweight title is vacant.

At international level, six South Africans fought for titles offered by the International Boxing Federation (IBF), eight for IBO belts, two for World Boxing Federation titles and one for a World Boxing Foundation belt.

South African boxers won 11 of these 17 fights.

Three were for IBF titles and the others were for belts offered by other organisations, including the IBO, World Boxing Federation and the World Boxing Foundation.

Cricket

South Africa's national team, the Proteas became world leaders in the test arena after series victories over Sri Lanka, New Zealand, England and Australia.

Five players were selected for the World Test Team of the Year at the International Cricket Council (ICC) Awards, underlining how good the year under coach Gary Kirsten had been.

The series victory over England in England to claim the ICC Mace as the number one team in the world was particularly special, as was the win over Australia in Australia to retain it.

There were some exceptional performances from individuals. Leading the way was Hashim Amla with 311 not out against England at The Oval, the first ever triple test century by a South African. He is now considered one of the biggest stars of the game.

In the same match, Graeme Smith scored a century in his 100th test, making him only the seventh man to achieve the feat, while Jacques Kallis, who tallied 182 not out in an unbroken partnership of 377 with Amla, finally began to get the credit he deserves as he continued rolling along while Australia's Ricky Ponting and India's Sachin Tendulkar saw their form slip.

Dale Steyn, Morne Morkel and Vernon Philander came to be universally recognised as the best pace bowling attack in the game. In an extraordinary first season with the national team, Philander captured 50 wickets in only seven tests and was named the South African Cricketer of the Year.

South Africa also lifted the Hong Kong Sixes title, thumping defending champions Pakistan by 37 runs in the final.

Canoeing, rowing

South Africa's men's lightweight fours rowing team – Matthew Brittain, Lawrence Ndlovu, John Smith and James Thompson – raced to a stunning victory at the London Olympic Games.

It was a first ever rowing gold for Africa at the Olympics. The team was subsequently named World Rowing Male Crew of the Year at the World Rowing Awards. They were also named Team of the Year at the South African Sports Awards.

Bridgitte Hartley won South Africa's only bronze medal in the women's K1 500-m canoe sprint. It was the first sprint canoe medal for the country in 18 Olympic Games.

Hank McGregor dominated the South African National Marathon Championships in June, winning the K1 for a sixth time and then teaming up with Grant van der Merwe and winning the K2.

In July 2012, Peter Lambert made history by becoming the first South African to win the Diamond Skull Race at the Henley Royal Regatta on the river Thames in London, United Kingdom (UK).

Giniel de Villiers, who finished third overall and first in the class for petrol-engined 4x4 vehicles in the 2012 Dakar Rally, received the Bridgestone/Guild of Motoring Journalists Motor Sportsman of the Year Award for 2012, at a function in Johannesburg in February 2013.

Driving a South African-built Toyota Hilux in the all-South African Imperial Toyota team's first attempt at the world's longest and toughest motor race, the former South African touring car, off road champion and 2009 Dakar Rally winner scored his fourth Dakar podium in five races.

South Africa bagged a double at the Avon Descent Canoe marathon in Western Australia, with McGregor and Van der Merwe win the race overall and Abby Adie and Hillary Pitchford taking the women's title.

Golf

In 2012, Ernie Els won the Open Championship at Royal Lytham and Saint Annes and was nominated for the 2013 Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award.

Branden Grace started the year ranked 265th in the Official World Golf Ranking and rose as high as 34th place after winning four titles on the European Tour.

Grace is the only man to achieve this the year after he qualified for the tournament.

His victories came in the Joburg Open and Volvo Golf Champions in South Africa, the Volvo China Open and the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship in the UK.

Louis Oosthuizen enjoyed a strong year, playing consistently well, finishing it ranked fifth in the world.

His results included victories in the Africa and Malaysian Opens and a runner-up finish in the US Masters after a playoff.

At the 2012 Thailand Golf Championship, Charl Schwartzel set a tournament record score of 25-under-par 263 and won by a massive 11 shots over 2012 Masters' winner Bubba Watson and Thailand's Thitiphun Chuayprakong.

South Africa's prominence in the golf world and the success of the country's players was underlined in November when it was awarded six events on the 2012/13 European Tour, more than any other country.

Hockey

In January 2012, the Proteas played a five-test series against Spain in South Africa.

The first game was a draw, Spain won the second, and the Proteas won the third and fourth, before drawing the final game to take the series 2-1.

In February, the Proteas played in an Olympic qualifying tournament.

They beat Poland 2-1 in their first match, and then beat the Ukraine 2-0, with Pietie Coetzee scoring her 233th goal in 236 tests.

They drew their third game against Italy 1-1 before beating India 3-1 in the final, thereby qualifying for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

In May, they played an unofficial test against Great Britain, losing 5-1.

They then played a five-test series against Scotland, drawing the first test 2-2, won the second 2-1, before taking an unassailable lead after beating Scotland 4-2 in the third test. They won the final test 4-1, sealing a 4-0 test victory.

They followed the Scotland Tour with the Investec London Cup in June, beating Great Britain 3-1 but losing 1-0 to Germany. In the semi-final match, they drew 2-2 with The Netherlands, before losing out on a penalty shootout for the final.

South African captain Marsha Marescia was named Player of the Tournament.

Horseracing

Horse racing is a popular sport in South Africa, with regular racing taking place at various venues in the country. In South Africa the sport has a long and rich history that can be traced back to 1797! The first recorded race club meeting took place five years later in 1802.

The National Horse Racing Authority previously operated under the name of The Jockey Club of South Africa, which was founded in 1882. Racing in South Africa is controlled by two bodies: Phumelela Gaming and Leisure Limited, and Gold Circle. Phumelela controls ra-

Netball is the most popular women's sport in South Africa and the second biggest sport overall in the country. Sport and Recreation South Africa is developing a professional netball league, involving 10 clubs spread across South Africa with the intention of establishing a netball premier league in 2013. A professional league will give top players the opportunity to play regular games at a very high level. Government is looking for sponsors for the clubs, who will employ the players. This will mean that top players, like in other professional sports, will be able to devote their time to their game.

cing in the Free State, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and Gauteng, while Gold Circle has the reins in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

There are three major races that stand out above the rest, one in each of the three biggest cities in the country. The Summer Cup, the J & B Met and the Vodacom July (also known as the Durban July) which was first run in 1897 at its present home, Greyville.

Motorsport

In January 2012, South Africa's team Imperial Toyota – Giniel de Villiers and co-driver Dirk von Zitzewitz – continued the country's fine tradition in the Dakar Rally in Lima, Peru with a remarkable performance for a first-time outfit.

It marked the third time the pair had finished on the podium in the Dakar. Previously, they won the event in 2009, and finished as runners-up in 2010.

Theirs was also the first petrol-powered vehicle to make it onto the podium since 2009.

There was also a strong finish for the Toyota-powered buggy of Mark Corbett and Francois Jordaan.

Reigning South African Volkswagen Cup champion, Kelvin van der Linde, recently got his international motor sport career off to a fast start by emerging as the fastest driver after a two-day test at the Oschersleben circuit in Germany, in preparation for the 2013 Volkswagen Scirocco R-Cup Championship.

Netball

In May 2012, the SRSA announced a flagship project to professionalise netball in South Africa. Netball is the most popular women's sport in South Africa, with more than two million active participants.

Despite the lack of a professional netball league, South Africa – with a pool of only 50 non-professional players – ranked fifth in the world in May 2012. To broaden the pool of netball players, the SRSA and Netball South Africa hosted an annual quad-nation netball tournament called the Netball Diamond Challenge, which included South Africa, Botswana, Uganda and Malawi, in August 2012.

The department announced plans to launch a full professional netball league in April 2013. This should ensure that Netball SA will have approximately 220 full-time professional and elite players to select to the national team.

The SRSA also committed to work closely with Netball South Africa to bid and host the Netball World Cup in 2019.

In April 2012, the South African netball team played a triangular series against Botswana and Singapore. They assured their place in the final by a 62-32 victory over Singapore and then sealed the series when they beat Botswana 56-36.

The Proteas travelled to the West Indies in June for a three-match test series against Jamaica. The hosts won the first test 63-48 and the second 61-46, before the South Africans claimed their first victory over Jamaica in 45 years with a 56-49 final score.

The team subsequently beat Ireland 61-37 in the opening test of the Netball Challenge at the Good Hope Centre in Cape Town. South Africa lost their opening match against New Zealand in the Quad Series by 63-27.

The World University Netball Championship was held in Cape Town in July. South Africa went unbeaten in the group stages, and then beat the USA 93-14. They defeated Namibia in the quarter-finals by 67-26. A closely fought 41-39 victory over Jamaica booked their spot in the final, where they lost 53-49 to Great Britain.

In August 2012, the Proteas beat Malawi in the final of the inaugural Diamond Challenge in Pretoria, Gauteng.

Rugby

Rugby is one of South Africa's big three sports, alongside soccer and cricket. The Springboks are the national rugby team and traditionally one of the sport's international powerhouses.

The highlight of the Springboks' 2012 season was an unbeaten tour of the Northern Hemisphere. The Boks beat Ireland 16-12, Scotland 21-10 and England 16-15.

South African Rugby Player of the Year Bryan Habana, the leading test-try scorer in Springbok history, received the International

Rugby Players Association award for Try of the Year for a five-pointer he scored against New Zealand in Dunedin.

Another highlight for South African rugby in 2012 came from the junior ranks as South Africa scored a victory over four-time defending champion New Zealand in the final to lift the IRB Junior World Championships in Cape Town.

In Super Rugby, South Africa provided three of the six playoff teams. The Stormers topped the log and were joined by the Sharks and Bulls in the playoffs. The Sharks, though, went on to make the final where they were beaten by the Chiefs.

Running

Endurance running is a popular sport in South Africa and is widely supported. It is highlighted by two ultra-marathons, namely the Comrades Marathon and the Two Oceans Marathon. Both marathons are world-renowned and attract large numbers of participants from across the world. The Comrades Marathon takes place in KwaZulu-Natal and the Two Oceans in the Western Cape.

In 2012, for the first time in 15 years, the first and second positions in the Comrades Marathon were secured by South Africans.

Ludwick Mamabolo won the race in a time of 5:31 and Bongumusa Mthembu from Pietermaritzburg came in second position with a time of 5:32.

Elena Nurgalieva took the women's title in her fastest Comrades run of 6:07:12.

Stephen Muzhingi of Zimbabwe won the 2012 Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon in a time of 3:08.

Elena Nurgalieva of Russia was the first woman home, claiming her fourth Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon title. Her twin sister, Oleysa, did not compete in 2012, but the second place was still claimed by a Russian, in the form of Natalia Volgina.

Soccer

As they did in 2011, the South African national women's football team, Banyana Banyana,

stole the limelight from their male counterparts in 2012. Their year was highlighted by a first ever appearance in the Olympic Games.

One of only two African representatives in the elite 12-team field, South Africa was also in the toughest group, which included World Cup holders Japan, world number four Sweden and world number seven Canada.

While Banyana Banyana failed to win any of their games, they showed improvement through the course of the competition. They fell 4-1 to Sweden in their first game, but the goal scored from 45 m out by Portia Modise was a pearler, possibly the best goal of the Olympic Games.

In their second match, Canada, who would go on to win the bronze medal after losing to the USA in the semi-finals in extra time, ran out 3-0 winners.

Saving their best for last, Banyana held Japan to a goalless draw in their last outing. The World Cup champions went on to claim silver after going down to the USA in the final.

Buoyed by their Olympic experience, Banyana next set their sights on the Confederation of African Football's African Women's Championship.

After a loss to hosts Equatorial Guinea in their opening match, South Africa defeated Senegal 1-0 and then romped to a 4-1 victory over the Democratic Republic of Congo to progress to the semi-finals.

That set up a semi-final showdown with defending champions Nigeria, the dominant team on the continent since the advent of the African Women's Championship, and a team that Banyana had never beaten.

Earlier in 2012, however, the teams had shared draws home and away, which gave them hope of breaking Nigeria's hold over them.

A goal from central defender Janine van Wyk secured Banyana the victory they sought and put the team through to the final of the tournament, where they once again faced Equatorial Guinea, who had won the tournament previously when they also hosted it in 2008.

Once again, playing at home proved the charm for Equatorial Guinea. They scored a

goal late in the first half and went on to add three more as South Africa failed to rise to the occasion in the title-deciding contest.

Coach Joseph Mkhonza efforts were, however, recognised during the tournament when he was named the South African Coach of the Year at the South African Sports Awards.

Prolific striker Portia Modise went on to be nominated for the African Women's Footballer of the Year Award.

It was a less than satisfactory year for the national men's team, Bafana Bafana. They began the year in 56th place, but dropped to 84th in November.

The national under-20 team, Amajita, provided cause for optimism with their performance in an eight-nation tournament held in Cape Town in June 2012. The teams that took part in the event had won 11 under-20 World Cup titles between them.

The team took eventual champions Brazil to a penalty shootout in the semi-finals. They went on to finish third after defeating Japan from the spot.

In pool play, five-time World Cup winners and eventual runners-up, Argentina, beat South Africa 3-1. Amajita responded by downing 2009 FIFA Under-20 World Cup™ winners Ghana 2-0 and then defeated Nigeria 1-0.

Surfing, surfski, sailing

In January 2012, Hank McGregor paddled his way into the history books by becoming the first canoeist to win three back-to-back K1 titles in the Global Trader Drakensberg Challenge, while defending women's champion Abby Adie came second in her division.

In November 2012, three of South Africa's greatest tennis players, Wayne Ferreira, Cliff Drysdale and Frew McMillan, were among the varied international recipients of the ITF's Davis Cup Commitment awards.

Ferreira and Drysdale were both consistently ranked among the top 10 players in the world.

Doubles specialist McMillan was in the forefront when South Africa won the Davis Cup for the only time in 1973, when India refused to compete in the final for political reasons.

Defending champions Andy Birkett and Jason Graham won the Unlimited Dusi canoe marathon title in February 2012. McGregor and Len Jenkins finished second, with Thulani Mbanjwa and Sbonelo Zondi in third.

The three-day event covers 120 km and is raced between Pietermaritzburg and Durban on the Umsindusi and Umgeni rivers. It is one of the largest canoe marathons in the world, and regarded as one of the toughest.

South Africa finished third out of 17 nations at the inaugural International Surfing Association World Stand Up Paddle (SUP) and Paddleboard Championships in Lima, Peru in February.

The South Africans won medals in seven of the 10 individual categories, plus the team relay and the overall team standings.

Anna Notten won silver medals in both the short (5 km) and marathon (18 km) women's paddleboard races. She also participated in Team South Africa's bronze medal effort in the team relay.

Bridgette van Aswegen collected a bronze medal in the women's marathon SUP race and a copper medal for fourth in the women's technical (short course) SUP race.

Ryan Butcher won two medals in the men's paddleboard disciplines, earning a bronze in the short race and a copper in the marathon.

Former South African junior surfing star, Penny Stemmet took bronze in the women's SUP surfing final.

South African longboard surfing champion Justin Bing ended ninth in the men's SUP surfing category, with South African SUP champion Ivan van Vuuren finishing 11th overall.

The Bertish brothers, Chris and Greg, placed 12th and 16th respectively in the marathon SUP race, and ninth and 20th in the technical SUP race. South Africa's relay team, comprising Notten, Van Aswegen, Butcher and the Bertish brothers came in third in the relay.

Three-time Dusi champion, Andrew Birkett, won the Unlimited Non-Stop Dusi on debut in March 2012. Under-23 stars Kwanda Mhlope and Lance Kime placed second, while Robyn Kime won the women's title, also in a K1, setting a new record.

In March 2012, South African sheep shearer Mayenzeke Shweni became the world champion blade shearer at the World Shearing Championships held in Masterton, New Zealand. Shweni's team-mate, three-time champion Zweliwile Hans, finished second in the blade shearing division. Shweni and Hans are full-time shearers from Sterkspruit in the Eastern Cape. Wool shearers from 25 countries competed for the world crown in the hand and blade shearing events at the biennial competition. Sheep shearing is recognised in South Africa as a national sport and the Sheep Shearing Federation is affiliated to the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee.

The Unlimited Non-Stop Dusi takes place over one day instead of the traditional three days of the Unlimited Dusi.

Teenager Bianca Buitendag scored 16,65 out of a possible 20 in the final to win the women's event in the CHIKO Pro Junior surf event at Mereweather beach in Newcastle, Australia in March 2012. In April, she came first in the Bréti Girls Pro Junior at Les Dunes in Brétignolles-sur-Mer, France.

Jordy Smith placed fifth in the Rip Curl Pro Bells Beach at Bells Beach, Australia in April.

In May 2012, Oscar Chalupsky won the 53-km Molokai World Championships surfski race in Hawaii when he raced to his 12th victory in the event at age 49.

Swimming

South Africa has a proud record of excellence in swimming and boasts a number of Olympic medal winners. These include among others, Penny Heyns, Roland Schoeman, Ryk Neethling, Lyndon Ferns, Chad le Clos, Cameron van den Burgh, Natalie du Toit and Charl Bower.

The objective of Swimming South Africa as the governing body of aquatics in South Africa, is to encourage the practice of aquatic disciplines for all in South Africans with the purpose of promoting swimming as a life skill through training programmes; providing healthy exercise to South Africans of all ages and races; recruiting recreational swimmers to compete in the various competitions; and promoting competition and athlete development to the highest level.

Apart from South Africa's excellent performance in the pool during the London Olympics, Chad Ho rewrote the history books of the aQuelle' Midmar Mile. He became the first man to capture three consecutive Midmar titles when he produced a clinical and dominating display, finishing in a time of 18 minutes and 48 seconds, well ahead of a second placed Troyden Prinsloo (19:09) and Italian Federico Colbertaldo (19:24).

The Midmar Mile, which attracted 17 000 entries in 2012, is the world's largest open-water swimming event. Later in the year, it was voted into the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame. The event's name will be permanently inscribed on the Sea Goddess, the official trophy for the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame.

Tennis

In March 2012, the Northwest University in Potchefstroom hosted the African Junior Championships for under-18s.

Ilze Hattingh won both the single and the doubles title, beating fellow South African Madrie le Roux in the singles final before teaming up with her to win the doubles final.

Wayne Montgomery and Matthew Rossouw won the boys' doubles title.

Team South Africa was named the best under-18 junior tennis nation in Africa by the Confederation of African Tennis and the International Tennis Federation.

This status was confirmed at the African Junior Tennis Championships held in Cairo in April. This tournament caters for the under-14 and under-16 age groups.

Hattingh again won both the single and doubles titles for the under-16 group, teaming up with Theresa van Zyl to win the doubles title.

Calvin Jordaan won the boys' under-14 singles title.

Also in March 2012, Kevin Anderson won the Delray Beach International Tennis Championship.

In May, the South African wheelchair tennis team played in the BNP Paribas World Team Cup in Seoul, South Korea.

The men's team of Evans Maripa, Sydwell Mathonsi, Marshall Marsh and coach Gerald Stoffberg won promotion to the elite World Group 1 of the game when they took silver in the men's open competition, while Kgothatso Montjane went undefeated in the women's singles.

In June, South Africa's wheelchair tennis champion, Lucas Sithole, won the Korean Open title, making him the world's eighth-ranked player.

Conclusion

Over the medium term, SRSA will develop a single governance framework for recreation to strengthen the delivery of recreation programmes. It is envisaged that these programmes will not be institutionalised, but will be community initiatives driven by educational and public promotional campaigns.

In addition, SRSA will also prioritise federations and ensure that such federations are capacitated to optimally deliver their programmes to realise the SRSA's vision of an active and winning nation.

Factors influencing the prioritisation of a federation will include among others:

- the promotion of mass participation
- an existing strong presence with a national footprint
- the ease of roll-out in terms of affordability and sustainability
- the promotion of equity principles, redress and transformation.

The following federations have been classified as priority federations for school sport following an initial assessment conducted in 2012: football, netball, rugby, cricket, athletics, hockey, swimming, tennis, table tennis, basketball, gymnastics, softball, volleyball, goalball, boxing, chess and indigenous games (*morabaraba, ncuva, dibeke, kgati, jukskei, khokho, diketo* and *iintonga*).

A federation to receive intensive support will be selected each year. In 2012, additional assistance was rendered to netball, as the most popular women's sport in the country. The assistance provided focused on establishing a

netball premier league which to be launched in 2013.

Basketball was also a beneficiary in 2012, and this federation will be prioritised in 2014. The national basketball league, after being launched in March 2013, will kick off in September 2013. In 2013, tennis is earmarked to benefit from additional support with the revival

of the Soweto Tennis Open being a prioritised event for April 2013.

Looking at the way forward, SRSA will continue to establish links between the internal workings of SRSA, provincial sport and recreation departments and Sascoc, as well as sport federations and civil society at large.

Acknowledgements

Beeld

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