



DA Policy on Sport and Recreation

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1. Introduction – the DA’s vision for sport in South Africa

The DA understands the role that sport can play in our democracy and the defining role it plays in shaping and influencing our identity – as individuals and as a country. We also understand that sport can play a role in more practical terms, as a mechanism to uplift and empower, as an opportunity to enrich day-to-day life, as a means to healthy living and as a profession for those with the ability and talent to achieve success at the highest level.

The value of sport and recreation as a social connector is one of its most powerful development attributes.

White Paper on Sport and Recreation, 2012

The National Sport and Recreation Plan (NSRP)¹ recognises the wide-ranging benefits of sport and active living, including its long-term health benefits, its capacity to strengthen relationships between communities, its economic potential and its impact on community well-being (including its success in addressing social challenges such as delinquency, crime, alcohol and substance abuse and domestic violence).

A national focus on sport and recreation therefore makes sense from the perspective of public economics.

For South Africans sport is, however, more than a sensible investment. It is a national obsession that brings people from different backgrounds together to support their sporting heroes. It is a source of national pride, and it builds social and cultural bridges by bringing South Africans together to compete with and against each other.

Our national sport policy must incorporate mechanisms to support the competitive athletes and teams that can become our sports ambassadors, it must develop a pipeline of sporting excellence, it must promote participation in recreational sport and it must unite the nation behind our national teams.

The DA supports the 2030 vision for South African sport as outlined in the National Sport and Recreation Plan, including:

- That South Africa is acknowledged as a leader in world sport and recreation, including its contribution to sports research;
- At least 50% of South Africans participate in sport or active recreation;
- That 80% of prioritised National Federations (NFs) attain and maintain a top three position in world rankings;
- That South Africa must be a choice destination for major events and sports tourism;
- Effective cooperation between sport and recreation entities in the implementation of a national sport plan – based on agreed upon roles and responsibilities; and
- The improvement of corporate governance in South African sporting entities, including ensuring that relevant bodies are appropriately constituted, that they are capacitated to perform their functions and that they align their activities with the objectives of the NSRP.

¹ Sport and Recreation South Africa. 2012. *National Sport and Recreation Plan*. Available. [Online]: <http://www.srsa.gov.za/pebble.asp?relid=1439> (October 2013).

To achieve these objectives, Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) (the National Department of Sport and Recreation) must be developed into a professional sport support body with highly skilled personnel with the necessary expertise and experience to provide strategic support for sports development in South Africa.

2. The DA's policy offer on sport in South Africa

The DA's policy offer on Sport and Recreation sets out how our governments on local, provincial and national levels will respond to some of the key challenges in the pursuit of the 2030 vision for sport. We make specific proposals on how we can build an active, healthy and happy nation.

These include:

- Developing effective mechanisms to promote participation in active recreation and monitoring the impact of investments in mass participation;
- Providing integrated support to competitive athletes, teams, coaches and referees to enhance their performance on an international level;
- Establishing a successful talent identification strategy, to ensure that athletes with potential for high-level participation in sport are drawn from a diversity of backgrounds and receive appropriate support to develop their skills;
- Promoting access to sport and recreation facilities – especially in rural and under-developed areas;
- Adopting an approach to transformation in sport that promotes sporting excellence from the grassroots upwards, rather than artificially manipulating the composition of elite sports teams; and
- Ensuring better cooperation and clarifying the mandates of the various levels of government, sporting bodies (National Federations), non-government organisations (including the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee – SASCO) and enabling departments (including the Departments of Basic Education, Higher Education, Health and Tourism).

2.1. Sport and identity

2.1.1. Sport as a nation-builder

Sport and recreation positively contribute to many of the factors which build social cohesion, such as better physical and mental health, high educational attainment, reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, creating better employment opportunities and earning potential, and ensuring a fit and healthy workforce.

UK Sport and Recreation Alliance

Sport has a unique capacity to overcome social barriers and to engage citizens in community life. The national investment in sport is an investment in the reconciliation of the people of South Africa and in our pride as a nation.

To fulfil this role, citizens must have access to facilities where they can participate in sport, there must be domestic competitions that can draw crowds from across the country and we must develop top-class athletes and teams that can participate and succeed in sport on an international level.

The interventions outlined in this document are aimed at providing these building blocks for sport to fulfil its role as a nation builder.

Specific interventions to enhance the role of sport as a nation builder can include:

- Hosting high profile international events. The DA's position on aspects to be considered in hosting decisions is outlined in Section 2.3 below.
- Using sport as a celebration of heritage. The Indigenous Games hosted by the Department of Sport and Recreation promotes participation in traditional sports, like dibeke, khokho, diketo, ncuva, intonga, kgati, morabaraba and jukskei. These games offer an opportunity for community interaction whilst revitalising mass participation and development. The DA supports these games and actively promotes it where we govern in the Western Cape – for example, by hosting indigenous games tournaments in celebration of Africa Day.
- Hosting an Annual Reconciliation Walk in various towns and cities – both to promote wellness and a healthy lifestyle and encourage interaction between different communities.

2.1.2. International relations

Sport has long served as a diplomatic tool, both to establish friendly relations between nations and to give expression to the attitude of the community of nations towards non-democratic regimes.

To ensure that South African athletes can participate in international events, local sporting bodies must be encouraged to affiliate to their international counterparts and there must be support for South African representation in multilateral sports organisations.

As a country, we must avoid sporting engagements with non-democratic regimes or regimes guilty of human rights violations that can be interpreted as implicit approval of their political abuses.

2.2. Sport, development and wellbeing

Participation in sport can improve mental and physical health² and must be promoted as a key component of a healthy lifestyle.

Sport is, however, about more than the physical activity and the pursuit of excellence. It can be a source of positive values and life skills.

Team sports can teach people, particularly the youth, the value of discipline and working together to achieve shared objectives.

² SportandDev. n.d. *The Health Benefits of Sport and Physical Activity*. Available. [Online]: http://www.sportanddev.org/en/learnmore/sport_and_health/the_health_benefits_of_sport_and_physical_activity/ (October 2013).

Sport can also play a role in creating stronger communities, in promoting community safety through the reduction of anti-social behaviour and in reducing the propensity for crime³.

It brings together people from different backgrounds, uniting them through a common purpose.

Targeted support for community level sport and recreation facilities, school sport and club sport can serve to boost participation in active recreation and to establish a pipeline for sporting excellence. Sufficient consideration must also be given to the development of sport facilities and the promotion of participation in active recreation for persons with disabilities.

2.2.1. Community-level sport and recreation facilities

There is a need for better coordination in terms of sport infrastructure and facilities. The DA supports the proposal in the NSRP for a national audit of sport facilities and the development of a plan to assist under-resourced areas in developing sport infrastructure. Our government in the Western Cape has already conducted such an audit in cooperation with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and uses the information gained from the audit to guide our planning and investment in sport infrastructure.

The DA's provincial government in the Western Cape promotes sport and recreation on community level through its Mass Participation, Opportunity and Access, Development and Growth (MOD) programme. There are currently 174 MOD centres in the Western Cape. The programme expanded dramatically since 2010 and now provides employment and skills development to over 500 community members. MOD centres provide facilities on the community level and provides access to recreational and sport skills development, life skills development and healthy lifestyle initiatives to over 12 000 learners from disadvantaged communities.

We will continue to roll out MOD centres where we govern as part of a whole-of-society approach to wellness.

We will also encourage closer cooperation between hospitals, clinics and sport and recreation centres (like the MOD centres) to encourage wellness. For example: patients that can benefit from increased physical activity should be able to join an active lifestyle programme at a local MOD or wellness centre to improve their long term health in a sustainable manner.

In addition, MOD centres will be encouraged to partner with homes for the elderly to encourage active lifestyles amongst older persons.

Mass participation in sport can also be promoted through corporate wellness programmes that include sport and recreational activities. Investment in such programmes should be recognised as a contribution to socio-economic development of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BB-BEE) Scorecards of South African businesses.

³ Sport and Recreation South Africa. 2012. *The White Paper on Sport and Recreation for the Republic of South Africa*. Available. [Online]: <http://www.srsa.gov.za/MediaLib/Home/DocumentLibrary/23%20WHITE%20PAPER%20FINAL%20August%202012.pdf> (October 2013).

In the Western Cape, community-level sport and recreation is encouraged through a rural and farm worker sport programme aimed at mainstreaming rural sport teams, ensuring that farm communities have their own clubs and establishing structures to represent them at provincial level. The DA will prioritise investment in sport programmes for farm workers and rural communities everywhere we govern.

2.2.2. Schools

School sports provide structured platforms for both mass participation and long term athlete development for sporting excellence.

School sport development currently receives funding from the Department of Sport and Recreation's Mass Participation programme. The Mass Participation Programme receives the bulk of SRSA funding, but in 2013/14 only 7.6% of the budget for mass participation went to school sport.

The DA supports the following interventions with regard to school sports:

- An increase in the budget allocation for school sport – potentially by a moderate redirection of funding from the community mass participation sub-programme and supporting this programme in leveraging the resources at schools more effectively;
- A clear Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Department of Basic Education, clearly outlining the responsibilities of each with regard to facilities roll-out and management, school sports leagues and national competitions;
- The provisions in the Regulations Relating to Minimum Uniform Norms and Standards for Public School Infrastructure (as published in the Government Gazette on 29 November 2013) which require all schools to have “areas where sport and recreational activities can be practised” – either on their own grounds or in terms of an infrastructure sharing agreement with another school or a local community;
- A coordinated audit of school sport governance with a view to developing best practice models and identifying problem areas requiring intervention;
- A greater focus on physical education in schools – presented by trained teachers;
- Investment in coaching and sports management capacity for school teachers and incentives to encourage teacher involvement as coaches and organisers for sport and recreation activities at school level;
- The deployment of sports coordinators funded by the Department of Sport and Recreation to support clusters of schools. Many schools already appoint sport coordinators sponsored by their school governing bodies. The Department of Sport and Recreation could provide financial support for these positions provided that coordinators serve a collection of schools.;
- Continued investment in the SA Youth Games and competitive tournaments on all levels of school sports (starting on the ward level and progressing upwards);
- Appropriate support for schools in the qualifying process for national games;
- The establishment of sport focus schools in all provinces, focussing on sporting codes identified as national priorities;
- Encouraging students at higher education and training institutions to become involved as coaches and officials at school sports as part of the community outreach programmes of their institutions of learning;

- Partnerships between the Department of Sport and Recreation and top sport schools to provide bursaries to students with sport potential;
- The promotion of modified sports (e.g. mini netball, mini cricket, “kaalvoet” rugby and mini hockey) to encourage participation in sports from a young age; and
- The effective roll out and operation of the recently established National Sports Volunteer Corps. This corps of sport volunteers and sporting legends have been invited to become involved as coaches, talent identifiers, technical officials, sport administrators and sport and recreation facility managers⁴.

2.2.3. Clubs

The growth of sports through a good club system is primarily the responsibility of National Federations.

To ensure that clubs can perform their role in facilitating mass participation:

- SRSA in cooperation with provincial governments must ensure that information is available on sport clubs operating in different areas and that sport and recreation clubs are affiliated to the relevant National Federations;
- Clubs must be supported in the development of appropriate governance structures; and
- Active steps must be taken to implement the proposals of the NSRP with regard to encouraging businesses and parastatals to “adopt” clubs and developing stronger links between clubs and schools (particularly with regard to sharing infrastructure).

2.2.4. Tertiary Sport

Tertiary sport can play an important role both in promoting active lifestyles and supporting high performance sport.

Many tertiary institutions are hubs of excellence where the majority of high performance athletes are trained and prepared for national and international participation.

If we are serious about catering for talented sports people after they have left school, it is imperative that adequate support must be provided for University Sport South Africa (USSA). USSA and its member institutions provide opportunities for participation at various levels, including the Confederation of University and College Sports Associations (CUCSA) Games, the Federation of Africa University Sport (AFRICA - FASU) Games, and the International University Sport Federation (FISU) World Student Championships).

The DA also supports:

- The expansion of inter-university sports leagues (such as Varsity Cup rugby, netball and hockey leagues) as a tool to promote participation in tertiary sports and to serve as a talent identification opportunity for elite sport on a national level; and

⁴ Government Communications Information System (GCIS). 2013. *SA Yearbook 2012/13: Sport and Recreation*. Available. [Online]: <http://www.gcis.gov.za/content/resourcecentre/sa-info/yearbook2012-13> (October 2013).

- The development of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between the SRSA and universities and colleges across the country to facilitate student participation in sport development (particular for students studying towards degrees in sport sciences).

2.2.5. Disability Sports

Sport works to improve the inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities in two ways — by changing what communities think and feel about persons with disabilities and by changing what persons with disabilities think and feel about themselves.

(Right to Play, 2008)

According to World Bank estimates, around 600 million people in the world (10% of the world population) have a disability, and 80% of these live in developing nations⁵.

The DA fully supports the objectives of Article 30.5 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In terms of this convention, state parties must enable persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis in recreational, leisure and sporting activities through the following measures:

- To encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels;
- To ensure that persons with disabilities have an opportunity to organise, develop and participate in disability-specific sporting and recreational activities and, to this end, encourage the provision, on an equal basis with others, of appropriate instruction, training and resources;
- To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to sporting, recreational and tourism venues;
- To ensure that children with disabilities have equal access with other children to participation in play, recreation and leisure and sporting activities, including those activities in the school system; and
- To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to services from those involved in the organisation of recreational, tourism, leisure and sporting activities.

We believe that this can be promoted through, among other things:

- Establishing national and provincial representative bodies for disabled sports and encouraging such bodies to affiliate to national sporting federations;
- Active participation in international bodies focussed on promoting both mass participation and competitive sport for persons with disabilities;
- Ensuring that public sport and recreation facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities;
- Partnering with the private sector to promote and fund sport participation and events for persons with disabilities; and
- Special discounts by municipalities and other state organs for renting sporting facilities to disabled sporting bodies or for disabled sport events.

⁵ Sport for Development & Peace. 2008. *Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace: Chapter 5 - Sport and Persons with Disabilities: Fostering Inclusion and Wellbeing*. Available. [Online]: http://www.righttoplay.com/International/news-and-media/Documents/Policy%20Reports%20docs/Harnessing%20the%20Power%20-%20FULL/Chapter5_SportandDisability.pdf (November 2013).

2.3. Sport for growth

South Africa is gaining a reputation as a host for prestigious sporting events. We have successfully hosted (among many others) the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the 1995 Rugby World Cup, the 2003 Cricket World Cup (in association with Kenya and Zimbabwe) and the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations.

There are also a number of “home-grown” competitions that attract athletes from all over the world⁶. These include the Nedbank Golf Challenge, the Cape Argus Pick 'n Pay Cycle Tour, Giro del Capo, the Cape Epic, the Comrades Marathon, the Two Oceans Marathon and the Dusi Canoe Marathon.

These events attract both local and international visitors that can boost tourist income and provide impetus for investment in sport infrastructure. They also provide opportunities to market South Africa as a tourism and investment destination.

To ensure that these events serve their intended purpose, the DA supports the following:

- The development of effective monitoring and evaluation tools to assess the impact of events and develop best practice models for how mega events should be managed and funded;
- National guidelines for bidding for national events and effective cooperation between SASCOC, National Federations and SRSA to ensure a roster of approved and proposed events is maintained and that competitive bids from *within* South Africa are avoided;
- Funding transfers from SRSA to National Federations to assist them in bidding for strategic events; and
- Appropriate support from the national government to provinces and cities that must invest in and maintain infrastructure developed for mega-events.

2.4. Sporting excellence

National athletes that perform at the highest level are a source of pride for the country, and competitive sports bring together South Africans from all walks of life in support of their favourite athletes and teams.

We support the core aspects of elite sport development as outlined in the NSRP, including:

- The need for talent identification and development;
- Support for athletes and coaches;
- Domestic competitions to develop athletes to participate on the international level;
- Maintaining South Africa’s presence and performance in international competitions; and
- Recognising sporting achievement through national colours and emblems, and both individual and team-based national awards for sporting excellence.

⁶ South Africa Info. n.d. *Hosting the big sporting events*. Available. [Online]: <http://www.southafrica.info/about/sport/features/events10.htm#UmpHcHAMuiM> (October 2013).

2.4.1. A national sport academy system

A national sport academy system should be developed both in support of sporting excellence and with the objective of identifying and developing sporting talent. Academies will provide avenues into competitive sport for both coaches and athletes.

The academy system should be led by a National Sport Academy Council that will take responsibility for the operationalisation of its objectives.

Existing national sport academies and high performance centres should have the option to affiliate with the national system. Acceptance into the academy system should be predicated on adherence to a clear set of norms and standards for sport academies, with public funding prioritising multi-code academies.

Academies will be responsible for:

- Developing a pipeline of sporting talent through long term athlete development;
- Providing coordinated sport science and medical support to competitive athletes;
- Assistance to competitive athletes in entering professional sport careers; and
- Providing coordinated support to sport coaches in evidence-based technical coaching techniques, sport psychology, game analysis and sport technology.

Participation in the academy system will be merit-based, but national talent scouts will have a strong focus on identifying talent in previously disadvantaged areas.

To ensure the effective coordination of activities within the academy system, the National Sport Academy Council should:

- Maintain a national tracking system to ensure that individuals and teams participating in competitive sport are monitored and supported as appropriate;
- Deploy a national corps of talent scouts that can bring athletes with potential for sporting excellence into the academy system (this should be done in cooperation with the National Sports Volunteer Corps);
- Work with National Federations to develop an appropriate grading systems and a database of South African sport coaches;
- Work with National Federations and academies to develop an accreditation system for sport science practitioners;
- Provide sponsorships for young athletes to attend academies;
- Partner with identified first rank sport schools and universities to provide bursaries for young athletes;
- Engage with the private sector to secure sponsorships and funding for accredited academies; and
- Maintain a close working relationship with the SASCOC Operation Excellence Programme (OPEX) to support South Africa's top level athletes.

2.4.2. Recognising excellence

The DA supports sport awards that recognises and rewards the achievement of our national athletes.

We do, however, believe that the current expenditure on sport awards by the national government is excessive. The SA 2013 Sports Awards cost R65 million, with R21 million of this amount coming from the Department of Sport and Recreation. This is equivalent to more than 21% of the total transfer to sport and recreation bodies in 2013/14.

Considering what could have been done with this funding, the DA would support a more modest national sport awards event, with as much funding as possible going into the development of sport and recreation bodies and financial and governance support to sport and recreation bodies.

In the Western Cape, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Sport and Recreation also hosts a Sport Legends Award that recognise sporting icons and people who have given a lifetime of service to sport. We will continue to support this type of recognition programme where we govern.

2.4.3. Priority codes

To further the most effective application of the limited resources available for the development of sport and recreation, the DA favours the proposal in the NSRP for the identification of priority sporting codes that will be the focus of infrastructure expansion and support.

SRSA has identified football, rugby, cricket, netball and athletics as the first set of priority sports. This choice of sports was informed by: (i) previous success at Olympic level, (ii) mass appeal, (iii) the extent to which the sport can be easily scaled up, (iv) affordability and accessibility to enable broad participation, and (v) mainstream sports that hold the possibility of participation by disabled sportspeople⁷.

Following an assessment conducted in 2012, SRSA also identified 16 sporting codes for prioritisation at school level. These include: 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)⁸.

By identifying priority sporting codes, investment in sport can be targeted more effectively. When the necessary facilities and support structures for priority sports are in place, additional priorities can be identified.

The DA also supports the proposals by SRSA that local governments should identify sporting codes that they can specialise in – depending on their environment or existing infrastructure. For example: Pietermaritzburg is effectively marketing itself as a destination for mountain biking.

⁷ Moemi, A. 2012. 'National Department of Sport and Recreation Perspective': Presentation to the Municipal Conference on Sport and Recreation. Available. [Online]: <http://www.srsa.gov.za/MediaLib/Home/DocumentLibrary/MUNICIPAL%20CONFERENCE%20ON%20SPORT%20AND%20RECREATION%20REPORT%20JUNE%202012%203.pdf> (October 2013).

⁸ SA Yearbook 2012/13.

2.5. Enabling sporting growth and excellence

2.5.1. Funding

Government investment in sport happens indirectly, through its financial support to around 70 national sport and recreation bodies, and directly through its spending allocations for sport infrastructure and on sport promotion activities hosted by the department (including: the national youth championship, the national indigenous games tournament, Active Aging events and Sport for Social Change and Development events).

In 2013/14, more than 50% (R553 million) of the Department's total budget went to its Mass Participation programme. This included R469.6 million transferred to provinces for the mass participation and sport development grant.

The DA supports a system of transfers to provinces and municipalities in which the guaranteed portion of funding is limited and conditional funding is made available for specific projects. This will ensure that funding is not absorbed for non-related purposes or that quick-fix solutions to spend budgets are not put in place without any positive outputs.

More should be done to attract private sector investment in sport. This can be achieved by putting greater emphasis on sport as a tool for socio-economic development in the empowerment scorecard for businesses operating in South Africa and by improving the governance in sporting federations – thus improving business confidence that funding/ sponsorships will be spent wisely. Sporting bodies should be encouraged to register as Section 21 companies, allowing donors to deduct their contributions to these bodies from their taxable income. Sporting bodies and national academies should also pro-actively engage with likely sponsors to involve them in flagship projects, with a specific focus on demonstrating potential benefits to the sponsors (e.g. in terms of advertising rights).

The national department also currently maintains a large annual investment (around R33 million) in the *loveLife* programme focused on using sport and recreation to build an HIV and Aids free future. The promotion of HIV awareness and public information through sport is an honourable objective. *loveLife* has, however, historically been unable to provide clear details on exactly how its funding allocation from the Department of Sport has been utilised. This funding should be carefully reviewed and consideration should be given to incorporating *loveLife* awareness activities with other mass participation events rather than as a stand-alone initiative.

Greater predictability should be introduced in sports funding allocated from the National Lotteries Fund. The DA has long advocated for clear turnaround times for responses to funding applications and for multi-year funding applications to give funding beneficiaries greater certainty about long term funding, and to boost their capacity to use this funding for capital investments where appropriate.

2.5.2. Governance

Whilst it is important to maintain the independence of national sport federations, they do receive public funding and must, as such, be subject to effective oversight based on clear service level agreements.

The governance of national sport federations can be improved by:

- Supporting the boards of federations through training on financial management and corporate governance;
- Greater alignment in the planning cycles and financial years of sporting federations and SRSA;
- Regular engagement between the leadership of sport federations and the portfolio committee on Sport and Recreation;
- Establishing a national hub for sport federations, where facilities and expertise can be shared (as per the “Sports House” proposal in the White Paper on Sport and Recreation);
- Limiting the guaranteed funding provided to entities and increasing the conditional funding provided for specific projects with clear objectives, business plans and implementation frameworks;
- Introducing greater predictability in the funding provided to federations, e.g. through multi-year funding commitments – enabling federations to improve their financial planning; and
- Making continued funding conditional on adherence to service level agreements.

2.5.3. Research and information

The NSRP recognises that sports related data, information and knowledge are utilised in acquiring and improving skills at all levels to (i) improve performance levels, (ii) facilitate sports development, (iii) gather and interpret information about events, and (iv) improve decision-making and planning.

SRSA must:

- Invest in and disseminate data and information on sport; and
- Partner with higher education and research institutions to identify knowledge gaps and invest in research to address knowledge needs.

The DA supports:

- The proposal in the NSRP to establish a *Think Sport* Journal that can encourage research and disseminate scientific information on sport;
- The development of a Sport and Recreation Library (possible linked to the support hub for sports federations) to provide a knowledge base for sport and recreation – including research works and databases on sports science, sports psychology, coaching, sport administration and governance and best-practice models for social investment in sport;
- The establishment of a National Sports Museum to chronicle South Africa’s sporting history and celebrate its successful athletes and sports teams and those that have made important contributions to sports development in the country.

2.5.4. Infrastructure

The building and maintenance of infrastructure for sport and recreation is funded mainly through the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) paid to local governments, with 15% of grant funding earmarked for investment in sport and recreation facilities.

The DA supports the ring fencing of funding for investment in sport and recreation infrastructure on local government level, or at the very least, clear guidelines on the percentage of the MIG which should be spent on such infrastructure. Spending must then be carefully monitored by SRSA.

Spending decisions in local governments should be guided by the national prioritisation of sporting codes and the suitability of their environment and facilities for specific sports.

In government, we also support a regional architecture approach to infrastructure development for sporting excellence in which different regions within a province identify a specific sport or sports for which they will develop infrastructure that could be used for competitive tournaments.

Infrastructure investment on the local level would be more effective if it was based on good information about infrastructure needs.

We support the proposal in the NSRP to invest in an audit of sporting facilities, both to guide investment and to ensure that existing facilities are used optimally.

DA governments will encourage schools with good sport and recreation facilities to provide access to communities or under-resourced schools – based on clear agreements on the conditions. Where possible, local governments should lease existing sports facilities for public use.

Municipalities should also be encouraged to use grant funding for sport and recreation facilities for maintenance purposes. Spending patterns that do not prioritise the upkeep of existing infrastructure will result in deteriorating facilities and will increase the cost of infrastructure in the long term.

On the mass participation level, we support the promotion of choice with regard to sport and recreation opportunities and infrastructure, and believe that this can be achieved by making greater use of multi-purpose facilities.

Large infrastructure projects developed for the 2010 FIFA World Cup must also be managed effectively. In the City of Cape Town, the DA-run municipality has embarked on extensive public consultation to determine community needs and priorities with regard to the World Cup infrastructure, particularly the Cape Town stadium. Based on inputs of the affected communities a decision was taken to continue with the programme to encourage commercial use of the stadium, to prioritise the identification of an anchor-tenant and to actively seek compensation from construction companies who have been found guilty of collusion to inflate the prices of World Cup infrastructure. It will remain our priority to involve communities in making decisions on these large infrastructure investments.

2.5.5. Education and training for sport

Both sporting excellence and mass participation in sport rely on a sufficient supply of coaches, referees, sports health professionals, administrators and technically skilled officials.

The national Department of Sport and Recreation must determine the skills needs in the sports and recreation sector and actively engage with higher and further education institutions to develop training programmes and attract students to address skills needs.

To enhance both the performance of our athletes and the impact of mass sport and recreation investment, there must also be a focus on sport-related research. The national department should engage with sports science departments at universities in South Africa to assess resource needs for sports-related research, develop support programmes for this research and determine the most effective means through which research findings can be disseminated.

2.5.6. Cooperation

Sport is a provincial and local competence, with the national Department of Sport and Recreation developing national policies and programmes and providing strategic direction for public investment in sport.

The health, social and cultural benefits of sport and recreation make it a worthwhile public investment. The impact of the public investment in sport and recreation can be maximised if the activities of various levels of government are carefully planned and coordinated.

To promote coordination in the activities of government with regard to sport and recreation and to ensure that sport and recreation receive sufficient consideration in strategic planning at all levels of government, the DA would:

- Ensure that the national department is capacitated to fulfil its oversight and coordination function, by staffing this department with appropriately skilled as experienced officials;
- Encourage all levels of government and other stakeholders (including national sport federations) to integrate the National Sport and Recreation Plan in the planning and implementation of their projects;
- Where we govern, ensure that Provincial and Local Sport Councils are established to integrate the development of South African sport at provincial and local levels, to coordinate sport development activities in their designated areas and to provide a platform for interaction with national sporting bodies and local, provincial and national government;
- Support the identification of core sporting codes which would be prioritised by all stakeholders (subject to continuous review and adjustment);
- Require municipalities to clearly outline their sport and recreation objectives in their Integrated Development Plans and in the strategies of Local Economic Development units;
- Encourage provincial governments to prioritise investment in sport and recreation as a strategy to contribute to a socially inclusive, active society and to harness the positive impact of sport and recreation in communities;

- Accept the private sector and potential sponsors as partners in reaching the objectives of the NSRP, engage them on the vision and strategies outlined in these documents and develop platforms for regular engagement;
- Encourage all sporting bodies/federations to appoint a head coach that will be the point of contact within every federation with regard to participation and performance in the relevant sporting code;
- Ensure that the relationship between the national Department of Sport and Recreation and SASCOC, as well as the relationships between other sporting bodies and the national department, are managed by clear Service Level Agreements; and
- Retain SASCOC and capacitate it appropriately to:
 - Accommodate affiliation by all national federations;
 - Interact appropriately with Provincial Sport Councils;
 - Award national colours to qualifying athletes and officials;
 - Act as the national multi-coded sporting body taking responsibility for the “preparation, presentation and performance of teams to all multi-coded events” (including: the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Commonwealth Games, World Games, All Africa Games, Olympic Youth Games, Commonwealth Youth Games and Zone VI Games); and
 - Continue acting as the single point of contact with international sporting bodies.

It is also important to ensure that appropriate bodies are created to mediate disputes with regard to sport and sport administration. In the Western Cape, the Provincial Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport has created a Sport Mediation and Arbitration Forum. This body is selected from candidates recommended by the Provincial Sports Council. Where disputes arise, the Minister allows the Forum to investigate and make a recommendation as to the manner in which the dispute can be resolved. We would encourage such formations in all provinces where we govern.

2.5.7. Ethics

The use of performance enhancing drugs detracts from the spirit of sporting activities and the concept of sport as the pursuit of excellence.

The South African government has committed itself to working with other governments and international sporting bodies to eradicate doping.

The DA will:

- Continue supporting the work of the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS) to combat doping in sports and encourage engagement between the SAIDS and individual sporting bodies/federations to develop tailor-made strategies to combat drug use in sport (based on best practice models from countries around the world);
- Support the activities of the SAIDS to promote awareness of the negative effects of doping among schoolchildren;
- Encourage the development of a Code of Conduct for sport and recreation in South Africa, which can be used by sporting bodies as a basis to hold athletes and other role-players accountable for their actions; and

- Encourage the participation of South African sports teams in “sport for good” events – in which social awareness around specific societal challenges is promoted through sport.

2.6. Transformation in sport

South Africa’s history of unequal development left the country with significant inequalities in access to sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for participation in sport.

Our sport and recreation policy must recognise these inequalities and actively pursue redress in this regard.

The DA strongly supports the position in the White Paper on Sport and Recreation that “national teams should be selected on merit but transformation should be implemented at school/youth levels to prepare a broad basis of athletes for participation at higher levels in future”.

“Transformation of teams should be from the bottom up. There should be a “catch-up strategy” in underdeveloped areas funded by government so that more young people from disadvantaged areas are afforded the opportunity to unlock their potential. Government must ensure that all athletes have equitable opportunities to excel.”

White Paper on Sport and Recreation, 2012

SRSA argues in the White Paper on Sport and Recreation that “stronger and more competitive national teams for the country should be the logical outcome of investing more resources at a grassroots level”. The DA agrees with this position.

To ensure the transformation of sport, a national DA government will:

- Prioritise investment in grassroots level sport, with a specific focus on women, the youth, people with disabilities, the aged and rural communities;
- Invest in a national talent identification process (as discussed above);
- Require national federations to develop transformation plans to broaden participation in their respective codes;
- Focus investment in sport and recreation facilities at local and provincial level on facilities for communities in previously disadvantaged communities;
- Promote the roll-out of MOD centres across all provinces; and
- Invest in audience development for priority sports – across all South African communities.

3. Conclusion

Few things better capture South Africa’s potential for excellence – and the realisation of our hopes and dreams – than sport.

The National Sport and Recreation Plan is a blueprint for excellence behind which all role-players should unite to turn South Africa into an active and winning nation.

The DA will continue to prioritise investment in sport as a social development tool, a source of national pride, a health enhancer and an opportunity to promote social inclusion.