

# Origin and Development of Governmental Sports Policies in the Republic of South Africa: Sport and Separate Development

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Governmental sports policies of the Republic of South Africa, influenced by a traditional system of separate development, have had a profound effect on the development of inter-racial sport within the country. The growth of world opinion and attitudes relating to this system have further thrust such policies into the international scene. To focus on one small segment of the overall situation, this study undertook the investigation of the origin and development of the relevant sport policies, in an effort to more clearly understand the position of inter-racial sport in the Republic of South Africa.

The investigation demonstrated a trend of increasing involvement in sports by the South African government. Wishing to continue its segregated pattern, conflict has resulted with the policies of most of the international sports' federations.

Though debated frequently, policy changes have evolved slowly. Generally, the governmental sport's policies maintained the traditional organization of sports *apartheid*. Under this system each racial group was encouraged to develop competitions and sports' organizations limited to members of their group. Each group was also encouraged to develop its own international sport relations. In essence, the formation of integrated teams, sports organizations and competitions were discouraged. However, in South African competitions with international representation, each group could compete.

The government's policy also had international implications. Prior to 1967, government policy prohibited racially mixed teams of other countries from competing within South Africa. Relenting to pressure, the government issued a statement in 1967 declaring it no longer would dictate team composition of teams visiting South Africa.

The foundation for inter-racial sports has been established. However, considerable disparity remains between the sports policies of the Republic and the non-racial idealism of international sport. So long as these differences persist, it is likely the Republic of South Africa will face further resistance on the international scene.