

Opposing Apartheid through sport. The role of  
SACOS in South African sport, 1982 – 1992.

By

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## DECLARATION

I declare that OPPOSSING APARTHEID THROUGH SPORT – THE ROLE OF SACOS IN SOUTH AFRICAN SPORT 1982 – 1992, is my own work, that it has not been submitted before for any degree or examination at any other university, and that all sources I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by complete references.

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## ABSTRACT

This study analyses and evaluates the role of SACOS in South African sport between 1982 and 1992. This analysis reveals that SACOS was marginalised by 1992. Whilst its role is discussed, this study sets out to explain how and why SACOS was marginalised. How did it come about that the vanguard of the sport struggle found itself in this position in 1992? The role of SACOS and its subsequent marginalisation is explained through the discussion of:

- 1) the prevailing political conditions in South Africa between 1982 and 1992;
- 2) the prevailing conditions of South African sport between 1982 and 1992; and
- 3) the position SACOS occupied in South African sport between 1982 and 1992.

This study offers a broad historical overview of South African sport before 1982 and the development of SACOS. The purpose of this broad historical overview was to demonstrate that SACOS was a major factor in SA sport before 1992 and to highlight the role it played.

The structure, policies, membership and leadership of SACOS were discussed to gain an understanding of the nature of the organisation and the people who drove it. Thereafter the actions and influences of various role players were discussed and the effects of these influences on SACOS. [The major role players identified in this study were the SA government, the international sporting community, SANROC led by Sam Ramsamy, establishment sport, the NSC, the broader liberation movements and big business.]

This was followed by a discussion in which SACOS, its policies and its philosophy, was evaluated against the actions of the various role players and the changing political environment. The relationship SACOS had with various role players is described to illustrate how it came to occupy the peripheral position from which it had no influence.

The central question that was addressed was whether or not SACOS, through its policies, contrived to marginalise itself. The study reveals that SACOS was in no position to determine the agenda for SA sport, that its principled stance stood no chance in the pragmatic politics of the day and that its marginalisation was effected more by external factors than its hard line policies.

## OPSOMMING

Hierdie studie ontleed en evalueer die rol van SACOS in Suid-Afrikaanse sport tussen 1982 en 1992. Hierdie analise openbaar dat SACOS teen 1992 gemarginaliseer is. Terwyl sy rol bespreek word, verduidelik hierdie studie hoe en waarom SACOS gemarginaliseer is. Hoe het dit gebeur dat hierdie voorhoede van die sportstryd homself in hierdie posisie teen 1992 bevind het? Die rol en die daaropvolgende marginalisering word deur die volgende besprekings verduidelik:

- 1) die heersende politiese toestande in Suid-Afrika tussen 1982 en 1992;
- 2) die omstandighede in Suid-Afrikaanse sport tussen 1982 en 1992; en
- 3) die posisie wat SACOS in Suid-Afrikaanse sport tussen 1982 en 1992 beklee het.

Hierdie studie verskaf 'n breë historiese oorsig van Suid-Afrikaanse sport voor 1982 en die ontwikkeling van SACOS. Die doel met hierdie breë Oorsig, was om te demonstreer, dat SACOS 'n wesenlike faktor in sport was voor 1992 en presies watter rol dit gespeel het. Die struktuur, beleidsrigtings, lidmaatskap en die leierskap van SACOS word bespreek, om insig in te bring oor die aard van die organisasie sowel as die leiersfigure. Daarna is die handelinge / funksies en invloed van verskillende rolspelers bespreek, en die gevolge daarvan op SACOS. [ Die hoofrolspelers wat in hierdie studie geïdentifiseer is, was die Suid-Afrikaanse regering, die internasionale sportgemeenskap, SANROC onder die leierskap van Sam Ramsamy, gevestigde sport, die NSC, die breër vryheidsbeweging en groot sake-ondernemings.] Dit word deur 'n bespreking gevolg, waarin SACOS se beleid en filosofie teen die handelinge van verskeie rolspelers en die veranderde politieke omstandighede geëvalueer was. Die verhouding wat SACOS met die verskillende rolspelers gehad het, is bespreek om te illustreer hoe SACOS 'n buite posisie moes beklee, waarvandan hy geen invloed meer kon uitoefen nie.

Die hoof vraag wat beantwoord is, is of SACOS nie homself, deur sy eie beleid, gemarginaliseer het nie. Hierdie studie bring na vore dat SACOS, a.g.v. sy beleid, nie in 'n posisie was om die agenda van Suid-Afrikaanse sport te bepaal nie. SACOS se posisie, wat op sy beginsels gebaseer was, het geen kans teen die pragmatiese politiek van die dag gehad nie en SACOS se marginalisering is oorwegend deur buitefaktore as deur sy standvastige beleid meegebring.

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**ABBREVIATIONS**

Abbreviations and Acronyms used in the text are spelled in full on their first use and for quick access they are listed below.

ANC	African National Congress
ANOCA	Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa
ASASA	Amateur Swimming Association of South Africa
AZAPO	Azanian People's Organisation
BGM	Biennial General Meeting
COSAS	Confederation of South African Sport
COSATU	Congress of South African Trade Unions
DET	Department of Education and Training
DNE	Department of National Education
EPCOS	Eastern Province Council of Sport
FASA	Football Association of South Africa
FIFA	Federation Internationale de Football Association
FPL	Federation Professional [Soccer] League
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
ICAAS	International Campaign Against Apartheid Sport
IOC	International Olympic Committee
KWARU	Kwazakhele Rugby Union
MDARU	Mdantsane Rugby Union
MDM	Mass Democratic Movement
NACOS	Natal Council Of Sport
NEUM	Non-European Unity Movement
NOCSA	National Olympic Committee of South Africa
NOSC	National and Olympic Sports Congress
NPSL	National Professional Soccer League
NSC	National Sports Congress
NUM	New Unity Movement
OAU	Organisation of African Unity

PAC	Pan Africanist Congress of Azania
PSL	Professional Soccer League
RSC	Regional Services Council
SAAAA	South African Amateur Athletics Association
SAAAB	South African Amateur Athletics Board
SAAACON	South African Amateur Athletics Congress
SAASWIF	South African Amateur Swimming Federation
SACB	South African Cricket Board
SACBOC	South African Cricket Board of Control
SACOS	South African Council on Sport
SACTU	South African Council of Trade Unions
SAFA	South African Football Association
SAHCON	South African Hockey Congress
SALTU	Southern African Lawn Tennis Union
SANOC	South African National Olympic Committee
SAN-ROC	South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee
SAONGA	South African Olympic and National Games Association
SAPSSA	South African Primary Schools Sport Association
SATISA	South African Tertiary Institutions Sport Association
SARB	South African Rugby Board
SARU	South African Rugby Union
SASF	South African Soccer Federation (Non- racial body)
SASF	South Africa Sports Federation
SASPO	South African Non-racial Sports Organisation
SASSA	South African Senior Schools Sport Association
SASSC	South African Schools Sports Council
SATTB	South African Table Tennis Board
SCSA	Supreme Council for Sport in Africa
SEDRU	South Eastern Districts Rugby Union
SONAKWAZBO	Southern Natal Kwazulu Board
TASA	Tennis Association of South Africa



TRACOS	Transvaal Council of Sport
UCBSA	United Cricket Board of South Africa
UDF	United Democratic Front
UNCAAS	United Nations Committee Against Apartheid Sport
VEDRU	Victoria East Districts Rugby Union
WEPCOS	Western Province Council of Sport

