

# South Africa's

## **APARTHEID RUGBY**

### The Facts

ISSUED JOINTLY BY:

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THE GOVERNMENT'S SPORTS POLICY AND GUIDELINES:

The following policy was announced on 23 September 1976 and reconfirmed on 21 May 1979:

"The Federal Information Council of the National Party accepts that, taking into account the applicable legislation and regulations, the interests of South Africa and all its peoples in respect of sport can best be served in terms of the following policy:

1. White, Coloured, Indian, and Black sportsmen and women should all belong to their own clubs. Each should control, arrange, and manage its own sporting fixtures.
2. Wherever possible, practical, and desirable the committees or councils of the different race groups should consult together or have such contact as would advance the interests of the sport concerned.
3. Inter-group competition in respect of individual types of sport will be allowed at all levels, should the controlling bodies so decide.
4. In respect of team sports, the councils or committees of each racial group should arrange their own leagues or programmes within the racial group.
5. Where mutually agreed councils or committees may, in consultation with the Minister, arrange leagues or matches enabling teams from different racial groups to compete.
6. Each racial group should arrange its own sporting relationships with other countries or sporting bodies in accordance with its own wishes, and each should award its own badges and colours.
7. If and when invited or agreed, teams comprising players from all racial groups can represent South Africa, and can be awarded colours which, if so desired, can incorporate the national flag or its colours.
8. Attendance at sporting fixtures be arranged by the controlling bodies."

THE CAUSES THAT PROVOKED ANTI-APARTHEID DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE 1969 SPRINGBOK TOUR OF BRITAIN - DO THEY EXIST OR HAVE THEY BEEN REMOVED:

*South African rugby is still as racist as it was in 1969. The all-white South African Rugby Board (SARB) is still in control of rugby in that country. The two national stooge bodies - South African Rugby Association (Africans) and South African Rugby Federation (Coloureds) created by the white SARB are still in existence.*

*However, over the last few years Danie Craven and his South African Rugby Board, in close collaboration with the white government, have tried to apply a veneer of respectability over their all-white rugby. This veneer was necessary to appease world opinion and to provide supporting evidence for the overseas friends of white South Africa.*

PRESENT POSITION IN SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY:

*In 1977 the two national black stooge bodies were allowed to affiliate to the white South African Rugby Board as two separate provincial units. This brought SARB's total membership to 24 unions - the 22 white provincial unions and the two national black stooge bodies. This was hailed in South Africa as the biggest break-through in non-racial rugby.*

*The absurd situation whereby two national organisations (Black) get affiliated to another national organisation (White) which has a 22 - 2 votes majority is only possible in the land of apartheid and racial discrimination. This whole move was intended to further fortify apartheid rugby, while the affiliation of the two black stooge bodies would give white rugby international credibility. Any move by the blacks to improve the situation will be effectively crushed 22 to 2 votes.*

*These two national black organisations are not allowed to enter teams in the inter-provincial Currie Cup competition because their players are "not good enough" for this premier league but these very same players "become" very good when a team is selected to tour overseas or when South Africa entertains an international side. It is true that the playing standard of these blacks is relatively low. This is only so because the majority of blacks and all the superior players play in the leagues of the non-racial South African Rugby Union (SARU) which refuses to have any truck with the racist South African Rugby Board.*

**PERMITS:**

Although there is no law in South Africa which specifically prohibits the playing of mixed sport the following laws make mixed sport illegal:

- Group Areas Act (1966)
- Reservations of Separate Amenities Act (1953)
- Bantu Laws Amendment Act (1963)
- Native Laws Amendment Act (1957)

However, to control the mixing of races, and at the same time to ensure that there is enough mixing to hoodwink international public opinion - and no more - all mixed sports fixtures are controlled by the Permit System. An application for a mixed race sports event is made to the White Department of Sport and Recreation which monitors all mixed sports events. The application is thoroughly scrutinised so as to ensure that all aspects of the government's sports policy are strictly adhered to. This scrutiny also ensures that applicants who are not members of government endorsed clubs and associations do not receive permits to stage fixtures.

Applications which do not conform to policy requirements are rejected. When questioned in parliament the Minister of Sport and Recreation replies:

*"The application did not comply with requirements"*  
*(Hansard - 5 March 1979)*

Sometimes the Department of Sport and Recreation gives a blanket permit for a whole season to certain selected cricket and football organisations over which it has complete control although the organisation might have the apparent facade of being run by Blacks. However, these organisations will still have to make further applications in respect of each fixture, if they wish to admit persons of more than one race group as spectators.

Any sports event which is not "multinational" is refused a permit (i.e. more than 99 per cent of the sports fixtures).

If a Black sports body wishes to defy the government's policy and hold a "mixed" event its officials are politely warned about the consequences - usually loss of sports field, loss of employment, etc. If this does not work the police disrupt the event and transport the offenders to a police station for questioning. Usually no charge is brought against the sports officials but this form of constant intimidation compels the "offenders" to follow government policy.

Background to the Springbok Tour of the United States and New Zealand

South Africa is using its Springbok Rugby team to break out of its sports isolation. The International Olympic Committee, most international sports federations, and the vast majority of the world's governments reject sports contacts with South Africa because of its racist policies.

The tour is designed as a propaganda tool to convince the people of New Zealand and the United States that the face of apartheid is changing and that progress is being made toward integration. To do this, it included coloured (mixed ancestry) manager Abie Williams and coloured player Erroll Tobias in the team. They have proclaimed 'progress through rugby' at every stop in New Zealand.

However, the real situation was captured when Govin Van Eyk the coloured captain of a multi-racial rugby team, was arrested by Port Elizabeth police on 4 August 1981 when he went to see a black rugby game. He was charged with not having a permit to enter a black area. The South African police did this in the middle of the highly controversial tour of New Zealand.

This is the first national sports team from South Africa to go to New Zealand in decade. Public opinion polls there indicated most New Zealanders were against the tour. More than 125,000 demonstrated before the team arrived on July 19th. Tens of thousands have demonstrated during the tour. More than 500 have been arrested. Anti-apartheid leaders have been beaten up in their homes as violence has spread. The army and air force are now reinforcing the police.

No South African national team has come to the United States since the 1978 Davis Cup team. The largest anti-apartheid demonstration in the country's history took place at that time, in Nashville. The Springbok rugby team is scheduled to compete in Chicago (September 19) Albany (September 22) and New York (September 26).

The Stop the Apartheid Rugby tour (SART) coalition has been formed to stop the tour. SART leaders predict massive demonstrations if the tour takes place. SART is made up of more than 60 national civil rights, religious, political and sports groups who oppose the apartheid sports policies of South Africa.

# we say no to apartheid

**EXIT · UITGANG**  
**WHITES**  
**BLANKES**  
**NON WHITES**  
**NIE-BLANKES**

**ALGEMENE WAGKAMER**  
**PADVERVOER PASSASIRS**  
**NET BLANKES**

**GENERAL WAITING ROOM**  
**ROAD TRANSPORT**  
**PASSENGERS WHITES ONLY**

**THIS PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IS RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR USE  
 BY CHILDREN WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE WHITE GROUP.  
 NO DOGS ALLOWED IN THIS AREA.**

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**HIERDIE SPEELTERREINTOERUSTING IS UITGEHOU VIR DIE UITSLUTLIKE  
 GEBRUIK VAN KINDERS WAT LEDE VAN DIE BLANKEGROEP IS.  
 GEEN HONDE WORD BINNE HIERDIE GEBIED TOEGELAAT NIE.**

# will you say no to apartheid?

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**DO NOT PLAY WITH APARTHEID**  
**CAMPAIGN FOR TOTAL ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICAN SPORT**

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