

ABSTRACT FOR SASRECON
TRACK 2: High Performance Sport

**THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SPORT ACADEMY SYSTEM
TOWARDS HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT DEVELOPMENT**

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In most countries with high success rates in Olympic sports, High Performance Sport policies have shifted towards becoming more systematic and scientific, encouraging an institutionalist design of elite sport. In recent years, there has been growing interest from both researchers and policy makers alike, in determining international success of elite sport due to this evident shift worldwide. Sport operates in an open system that is significantly influenced by social, cultural and economic conditions of a country, which may be perceived as confounding factors influencing each nation's international sporting success separately. In literature, an elite sport development system is often a description of established practises with little regard for effectiveness, or its operations and relationships within its specific environment. This study investigates elite sport success dimensions, contextual factors and power relationships between stakeholders in South African sport. This project will apply the evaluation of sport policy effectiveness and advance current literature by analyzing the pragmatic approach of a theoretical framework. The Sport Policies Leading to International Success (SPLISS) model, which is a validated multi-dimensional comprehensive framework linking sport policy to success, is paralleled to this study. The convergent parallel mixed methods design is used to collect data at multiple points of the input-throughput-output phases. The policy analysis results in phase 1 revealed 53 success dimensions, which ultimately is the foundation of high performance sport in South Africa. The theories guiding the methods in phase 2 will be the systems theory, resources dependence theory and inter organisational relationships theory. In conclusion, this study intends to systematically address all factors aforementioned to identify how these aspects influence the elite sport policy effectiveness in South Africa as developing country. This will describe the environment of elite sport as a whole.

Key words: High Performance sport, sport policy, effectiveness