



ANNUAL REPORT

2019/2020



Our Vision

- To see someone playing tennis, somewhere, every day.

Our Mission

- To enhance the quality of life for all South Africans, of any age group, by growing the sport of tennis at every level, for everyone who wants to become involved.

Our Values

- Transparency.
- Personal Accountability.
- Sportsmanship.



Contents.

- 05. Highlights from 2019/2020**
- 08 The year in review: Report**
- 18. Financial analysis of the year**
- 22. Tennis in a time of COVID-19**
- 24. Our governance structures**
- 27. Departmental reports**
 - 27. Transformation
 - 31. High-Performance
 - 34. Coaching
 - 37. Schools
 - 39. Juniors & tournaments
 - 43. Seniors
 - 48. Wheelchair Tennis
 - 52. Officiating & new formats
- 58. Commercial partners**

This report covers the period from the 1st April 2019 to the 31st March 2020.







Highlights from 2019/2020

Eighteen highlights from the year in review – 1st April 2019 to the 31st March 2020.

Part One: April to September 2019



The SA wheelchair quads win a bronze medal at the World Team Cup



Raven Klaasen wins the Halle Open & Citi Open doubles titles (ATP 500 events)



Growthpoint renew their headline sponsorship of TSA for a further three years



Year one of Rising Star Tennis for schools is launched



Jeff Coetzee guides his Colombian pair to Wimbledon & US Open doubles glory



Wheelchair Tennis becomes a part of Tennis SA



Our U14 girls team qualify for & participate in the ITF World Finals



Team SA win their Davis Cup tie v Bulgaria in Cape Town



Kholo Montsi wins the Samaai Junior Open (ITF Grade A)



Part Two: September 2019 to March 2020



The first Spring Open (combined able bodied & wheelchair tennis ITF event) takes place



KG makes it to her first Grand Slam final (doubles) at the US Open



Jeff Coetzee is appointed as TSA's Director of Tennis



Team SA participates in the first ever ATP Cup team event



Lloyd Harris reaches his first ever ATP tour final in Australia



Kevin Anderson returns to SA to play a match in Soweto



Kholo Montsi becomes the U18 African Junior Singles Champion



SA hosts its first ATP Challenger, in seven years, in Potchefstroom



The Ilana Kloss International ITF events take place in Potchefstroom







The year in review: Report



Kevin Anderson & Lloyd Harris in action in Soweto

The 2019/2020 financial year was quite the 12 months - some exciting progress in a number of key areas, followed by a COVID-19 'sting in the tail' in the final month of the financial year.

Three-year Strategy

In March 2019, those available Board Members convened in Bloemfontein for a strategy workshop. Our last workshop took place some four years ago and it was important to both re-evaluate our long-term strategies, but more importantly, it was decided that we needed to set a medium-term three-year strategy for our organization. In summary the following table sets out our priorities for the next three years.

Workstream	Key priorities
Resourcing & enablers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity building at the TSA office: Recruit a director of tennis and a participation manager. 2. Diversify revenue streams: Identify and launch new revenue streams.
Participation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Coaching: Embed our ITF Silver status by continuing to strengthen our structures and thereby increase our number of registered coaches. 4. Schools: Launch National schools competition for primary and high schools. 5. Universities: Launch local partnerships in SA and a US College JV in the USA. 6. Seniors: Activate new transformation action plan.
Transformation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Academies: Roll out of sustainable township academy programme.



	8. Dev. Centres: Increase funding sources for existing Growthpoint centres.
High-performance (HP)	9. Roll out of HP Pathway Guidelines: for coaches, parents, and players.
Tournaments	10. International tournaments: Increase number of ITF events and re-launch an ATP Challenger event in SA.

It is promising to see progress in a number of the key workstreams in the last 12 months – more of which is detailed in various parts of this annual report. However, there is still much work to be done.

International Events

One of the areas that has seen the most progress in 2019/2020 was the number of new international events launched in South Africa – specifically:

- The Spring Open – An ITF event for able-bodied and wheelchair tennis players in Johannesburg
- The Tuks Open – An ITF \$15 000 combined event for men and women in Tshwane
- The Samaai Junior Open – An ITF Junior Grade A event in Cape Town
- An ATP Challenger 50 in Potchefstroom
- An ITF \$25 000 men's event in Potchefstroom
- The Ilana Kloss Internationals - Two weeks of ITF \$25 000 women's events in Potchefstroom



These events are important building blocks for a sustainable high-performance pathway as our young up and coming players transition from junior to entry level professional tennis.

The Spring Open was a unique event on the local and international tournament calendar – comprising of both a Wheelchair Tennis ITF Grade 2 tournament and an able-bodied ITF World Tennis Tour \$15 000 event – for both men and women. The first year was an overwhelming success and Vision View Productions, the commercial power behind the tournament, have big plans to grow the event in forthcoming years.

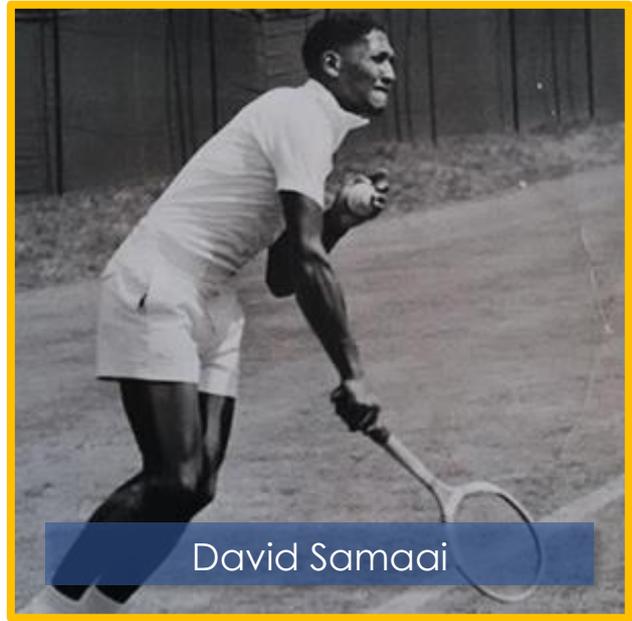
The ATP Challenger in Potchefstroom was the first ATP tournament in South Africa in seven years. The event was made possible thanks to an innovative commercial joint venture between TSA and Henico Schalekamp, corporate finance partner at PKF Octagon, as well as support from the ATP. The joint venture saw TSA and Henico partner to co-fund the event, with the objective of growing and elevating the profile and stature of the tournament in future years.



The new ITF \$25 000 women's events in Potchefstroom were named after well-known former South African No. 1 player and social activist, Ilana Kloss. This is a fitting recognition of Ms. Kloss' many achievements - both as a player and subsequently as a business leader and a champion for social change. Sadly, the second week of the Ilana Kloss International and the ATP Challenger were cancelled due to the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic but more of that later in this report.

Meanwhile the ITF Junior Grade A, one of only six tournaments globally and recognized, after the four Grand Slams as being in the top tier of international junior tournaments, was named in honour of the legendary SA player, David Samaai, who passed away in June 2019. Despite playing during the apartheid years, Samaai defied the odds stacked against him to play at Wimbledon, the French Open, the Swiss Open and the German Open. In 1999, the Paarl resident received the Presidential Sports Award for lifetime achievements in tennis.

It was fitting to see our rising junior star, Kholo Montsi, winning the boys singles at the Samaai Junior Open.



Finances

The Board, and in particular the MANCO and the Risk and Audit Committees, continue to closely monitor our financial position carefully. The Board and the Committees responsible for our finances are fully committed to ensuring that all financial reports produced are fairly presented, timeous and are accurate.

Whilst this year's financial statements reflect a loss, it should be noted that this is because of the impact of COVID-19 in March 2020. The cancellation of the Potchefstroom international events saw us lose a significant amount of budgeted tournament income, furthermore due to the resulting lockdown there was a delay in some sponsorship revenue, due to be paid at the end of March 2020, being received. The resulting negative revenue swing in March was in excess of R1.6m.

One of the challenges an organization of our nature faces is the difficulty in building up meaningful reserves. Both the Finance and Audit Committees have committed to addressing this point. Based on the forthcoming year's approved budget and cash flow, our cash reserves will be better in March 2021, than they were in March 2020. This is largely down to prudent financial management, cost-cutting in some areas as well as the full support from our key sponsors – despite the ongoing COVID-19 world in which we find ourselves. Indeed, we have been especially over-whelmed by the support of our key sponsors during this extremely difficult period.



Sponsors

As you will see from the financial analysis elsewhere in this report, sponsorship income accounts for 48% of our total annual income. Four years ago, income from sponsorship would have been less than 15%. It is very encouraging to see the number of sponsors we have secured in the past few years as well as the willingness of many of our key sponsors to renew and increase their support – especially in the past 12 months.



- **Growthpoint:** In June 2019 we announced that Growthpoint Properties had renewed their headline sponsorship of TSA for a further three years. Growthpoint have proven to be an outstanding partner to our organisation. Their focus on the grassroots of the sport are sure to pay dividends in the coming years.
- **Tsogo Sun:** A new addition to our partner programme in the financial year in review was Tsogo Sun. As part of this new partnership TSA members and registered coaches will have access to preferential hotel rates from the country's leading hotel group, during TSA tournaments and events.
- **Dunlop:** Meanwhile, following a highly competitive tender process, Dunlop renewed their official ball of TSA partnership in late 2019
- **BNP Paribas/RCS:** Finally – BNP Paribas and their local subsidiary, RCS, also demonstrated their confidence in TSA by not only continuing their support for our coaches mentorship programme but also extending their investment into schools tennis.

“Our sponsorship reinforces the company's focus on championing grassroots sports development for children from all backgrounds, investing in their potential, and shining the light on the country's tremendous talent.”

**Estienne de Klerk, CEO of
Growthpoint Properties SA.**

Schools Tennis

Indeed, a fantastic new programme launched in 2019 was BNP Paribas RCS Rising Star Tennis – a national competition to find the best boys and girls primary school tennis teams in the country. Close to 400 primary schools across South Africa participated in the provincial events and year one culminated in a national final at the Arthur Ashe facility in Soweto – with the showpiece of the weekend being an exhibition match between two of South Africa's leading players, Kevin Anderson and Lloyd Harris. The event is set to grow in future years with the addition of a similar high schools competition – hopefully commencing in 2021. We firmly believe that Rising Star Tennis has the potential to substantially grow schools tennis across the country in the coming years.



Advantage All

TSA hosted the first ITF “Advantage All” seminar which is focused on empowering female officials, coaches, and administrators. The seminar was organised in conjunction with ITF Officiating and was focused on the ITF certified officials in Africa, along with then inviting local officials and coaches to be part of the seminar and interaction. The seminar was led by Louise Engzell and Kelly Thompson, both ITF female chair umpires. Guest speakers were arranged by the TSA Female Taskforce and these included: Helene Botha – North West University, Fran Hilton Smith – Football and Dumisani Chauke – Netball. The guest speakers were inspirational and really set the tone for the seminar.

Wheelchair Tennis

For a number of years Wheelchair Tennis has been run successfully as a totally separate business from Tennis South Africa. Following extensive negotiations and a comprehensive due diligence process, wheelchair tennis became a fully-fledged division within Tennis South Africa with effect from the 1st of July 2019.

Since July, the focus of the new wheelchair tennis department has been to put a new structure and plan in place for this critical area of tennis.



One of the most significant developments in the wheelchair tennis space was the formalisation, in October 2019, of a strategic partnership with the University of Pretoria (TUKS) that saw TuksSport become the official home for the TSA wheelchair Tennis high performance programme. The innovative collaboration, sees five of South Africa's most high-profile high-performance wheelchair tennis athletes basing themselves at the University and having access to Tuks' world class facilities and sports science programs – covering:

- Use of the TuksTennis facility, including coaching support.
- Accommodation for selected athletes.
- The provision of extensive sport science and medical services at the Tuks High Performance Centre.

Another highlight in the high-performance wheelchair tennis space was at the ITF World Team Cup in Israel, where our Quads team finished in the bronze medal position.

Less positive was the news, in January 2020, that leading local wheelchair tennis athlete, Lucas Sithole was banned by the ITF from all forms of competition for two years, as a result of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation under Article 2.4 of the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme. Sithole was charged with missing three anti-doping tests in a 12-month period in 2019. TSA is committed to supporting Lucas during his ban.



High-Performance Tennis

Securing Jeff Coetzee as our new Director of Tennis, in December 2019, was a significant coup for the Federation. 2019 was a golden year for Coetzee who guided the Colombian duo, Juan Sebastián Cabal and Robert Farah, to the number one spot in the ATP doubles rankings, in the process claiming two Grand Slam titles. Jeff will combine his current ATP Tour coaching responsibilities with the new position.

Although COVID-19 has impacted on his planning, Jeff has been hard at work conducting high-performance workshops via video conferencing, building strategic relations with overseas Federations and academies, and has focused on improving communication channels between TSA and the private coaching fraternity.

It was a rollercoaster of mixed fortunes for our Davis Cup and Fed Cup teams in the 2019/20 financial year. Our Davis Cup team won their home tie against Bulgaria, in September 2019, but lost the next tie away to Bosnia and Herzegovina in March 2020. This meant that the Davis Cup team were scheduled to face Venezuela later in 2020 in a World Group 2 tie. The winner will contest the World Group 1 play-offs. However, this tie was postponed due to the onset of COVID-19 and will be played in 2021. Meanwhile our Fed Cup team were relegated from the Euro/Africa Zone Group II (a year after being promoted) after finishing bottom of their group at the week-long event in Luxembourg in early 2019.

January 2020 saw a South African men's team participate in the inaugural ATP Cup. Coached by TSA Director of Tennis, Jeff Coetzee, and spearheaded by Kevin Anderson, the team narrowly missed out on the quarterfinals after finishing second in Group A behind Serbia. During the group stage the team enjoyed fine wins over Chile and France.

There were also a number of promising individual performances with Lloyd Harris reaching his first ever ATP final down-under in January 2020. Lloyd is now firmly entrenched in the top 100 of the men's ATP singles rankings. Raven Klaasen also continues to fly the SA flag on a consistent basis as he, and then partner, Michael Venus won two ATP 500 doubles titles and reached the finals of the doubles at the ATP finals at the end of 2019. Elsewhere, Chanel Simmonds won a singles silver medal, on clay, at the African Games.

"This is a great platform for me to give back to tennis in SA and to be part of the growth of the sport in our country. There has been a lot of progress within TSA in the past few years, but there is still much work to be done.... we have huge natural talent, but we need to benchmark ourselves against the best in the world and then deliver on these benchmarks."

Jeff Coetzee on his appointment as TSA Director of Tennis.



In the junior high-performance space, congratulations are due to Kholo Montsi, who was crowned as the U18 boys singles champion at the 2020 African Junior Championships in February. Before COVID-19 struck, Kholo was ranked in the top 20 in the ITF junior boys global rankings. Meanwhile it was encouraging to see our U14 girls team qualify for the ITF Junior World Team Finals, where they finished 15th.

Coaches



A key foundation of our coaching structure is recognition by the International Tennis Federation in terms of our ITF silver status accreditation. The benefits for our coaches are numerous, inter alia, having world recognized coaching qualifications and being up to date on the latest coaching techniques and developments. The ongoing Professional Education Programs that coaches are required to retain their license are informative, relevant, and practical. The tennis public can in turn be assured of professionalism that includes integrity, excellent and current coaching techniques, and knowledge. Our coaches department has worked very hard over the last few years, to ensure we retain this status and we are delighted by the recent news that the ITF has recognised our Silver Status for a further four years. The TSA Board has tasked the Coaches Department to commence the process of elevating our status to that of a Gold Status Coaching Accreditation with the International Tennis Federation.

Of special mention is the coach mentorship program that Tennis South Africa is running with the aid of the BNP Paribas funding. This past year 96 aspiring coaches were enrolled in this program. BNP Paribas has continued their support for year three – which is currently underway. Interestingly the programme was a finalist in the development programme of the year category at the Hollard Sports Industry Awards and was shortlisted in the top 3 for The World Academy of Sport for their Inaugural 'International Award for Excellence in Sports Education'

Provincial Tennis

With the passing of our new Constitution in 2018, the number of Provincial affiliates reduced from fourteen to nine. In particular three new provincial bodies came into being, namely Western Cape Tennis, Eastern Cape Tennis and Gauteng Tennis. All three of these bodies have Constitutions in place and have been operating reasonably well since their inauguration. However, we have some Provinces that for all intent and purposes have no functioning tennis body. The new Constitution gives



Tennis South Africa the right to intervene in under-performing or dysfunctional Provinces. At present we are directly intervening in two Provinces to help create the necessary structures. The majority of Provinces do not have the capacity to do much more than organize leagues, as administrators are volunteers and are not remunerated. Tennis South Africa accepts that the possible long-term solution is the employment of Development Officers - initially in the larger Provinces.

Club Tennis

Despite the number of registered players increasing steadily over the past couple of years, we must concede that the level of both participation and standard of Club tennis in South Africa remains a challenge. Whilst Tennis South Africa has neither the mandate nor capacity (or intention) to assist in the day to day running of clubs, we do believe in creating an enabling environment that will hopefully assist clubs with the running of their affairs and holding events that require clubs to enter teams. A fixture in recent years has been Growthpoint Top Guns – National Club Championships. Unfortunately, the national final of the 2020 Top Guns had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. We hope that Top Guns will return, bigger and better than ever in 2021. Meanwhile a key focus of this year has been to deliver more benefits to club members. Although this is work in progress we have started to do so – three examples spring to mind:

- The Sportsmans Warehouse retail discounts that are offered to members.
- The significant number of tickets we managed to secure for the Federer v Nadal Match in Africa – which were passed onto members via a member ballot.
- The Tsogo Sun accommodation discounts available to members.

International Tennis Federation

We remain a committed and active member of the world's global governing body of tennis (we are one of its founder members). Our President and Vice-President continue to nurture Tennis South Africa's relationship with the International Tennis Federation. We firmly believe that as South Africa strives to establish its position as a "world-class tennis nation" we need to positively engage with and be part of the International Tennis Federations processes, engagements, and structures.



In early June 2019 we were privileged to host Mr David Haggerty, the incumbent President of the International Tennis Federation. David has been very supportive of TSA and we have benefitted immeasurably in terms of additional funding, recognition and status from our numerous engagements and the committees we serve on at the International Tennis Federation. We are of the opinion that there continues to be significant improvements and advances being made in our ultimate mother body.



Confederation of Africa Tennis

TSA is a member of the African tennis body. African tennis is notable for the fact that most tennis is played in the north and in the south with generally a large void in-between. Facilities are likewise on the whole situated in the north (mainly clay) and in the south (hard court). We continue to be proactive in the Zone 5 region and have been engaging with the International Tennis Federation with a view to looking at the possible re-establishment of a High-Performance Training Centre in the region. Whilst Tennis South Africa has good relationships with the majority of African tennis nations it is our view that the level of activity and co-operation between countries needs to be increased in order for tennis to grow on the continent.

COVID-19 and our Prospects for 2020/2021

Despite the ongoing impact of COVID-19, the Board of Tennis South Africa continues on its strategy of:-

- reassessing what stakeholders need against the cost of providing such services;
- changing tournaments into events that result in an income;
- carefully assessing the overhead structure to ensure operations run efficiently;
- actively seeking sponsors who wish to see the game of tennis prosper at all levels.

Transformation and development in our game is non-negotiable. The TSA Transformation Charter is available on our website. Our Transformation and Development Committee has set out its strategies for the next three years and we would encourage you to read the transformation- section of this report. We are now part of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture Eminent Persons Group (EPG) reporting requirements and are evaluated on an annual basis. I am happy to say that we passed our third evaluation earlier this year. Lots of work still needs to be done if our goals in this regard are to be met.

The impact of COVID-19 has been felt at all levels of our game and our focus, at the time of writing this report, is on resuming as many tournaments as possible – under strict health and safety protocols. While the impact of COVID-19 has been severe on our country, it does present some opportunities for tennis to grow. Tennis is a naturally social-distance sport and with the return of tennis in the country, we are seeing an encouraging increase in participation in many provinces. This is an opportunity we need to seize if we are to continue on our journey to deliver on our vision and mission to grow our game in all communities in South Africa.



The impact of COVID-19 has been severe on all areas of the South African tennis ecosystem. However, the impact of the lockdown was perhaps most impactful on tennis coaches and officials who were not able to operate under levels 4 & 4 of the national lockdown. In May of this year, TSA joined hands with former SA Davis Cup and Fed Cup captain, John-Laffnie de Jager, and the Caring Daisies charity to launch the 'Tennis Cares' fundraising drive - a campaign aimed at supporting registered tennis coaches and technical officials that have been affected by the ongoing pandemic. To date Tennis Cares has made over 250 voucher allocations.

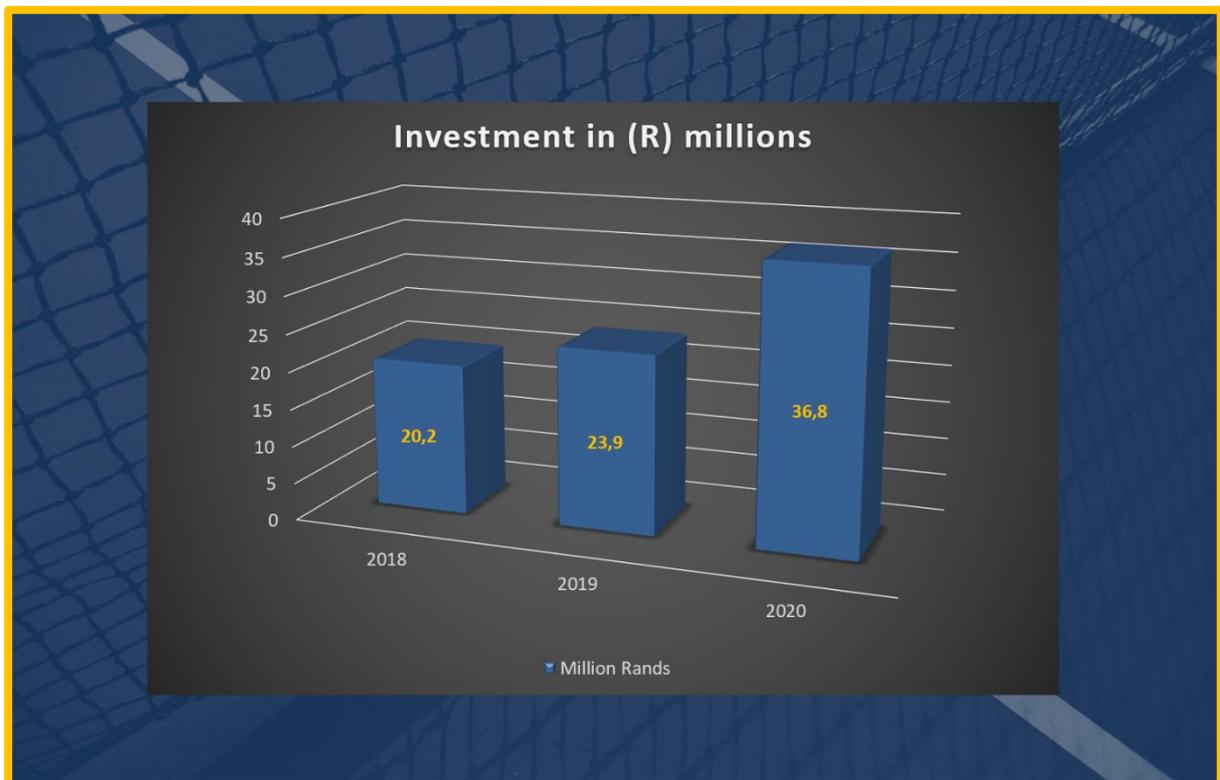




Financial analysis of the year

Introduction

Please note that 2019/20 Audited Financial Statements are due to be reviewed and approved by the TSA Council of Members at the forthcoming AGM. The full financial statements will be added to the TSA website once they are approved at the AGM. TSA adopts a conservative accounting policy of recognising income and expenses as and when actually received or incurred. This can and does result in a mismatch of income being received in advance of or in arrear of expenditure actually being incurred. Furthermore, as you can see from the below analysis TSA has significantly increased its investment in tennis in the past three financial years. We believe this investment is reasonable and justified if we are to grow our sport in the long term.



Some of the projects and programmes that TSA has invested in over the past 12 months include:

Clubs:

- Top Guns National Club Championship (14 regional events)

Transformation and development:

- 4 x National Development Centres.
- Player Thrive Fund
- Coaching mentorship programme



High-performance:

- Davis Cup and Fed Cup ties – home and away
- Monthly player support – Davis Cup and Fed Cup players
- Wiphold Squad and Next Gen Camps
- National junior squad camps and teams

International events:

- ATP Challenger 50 in Potchefstroom **(NEW)**
- ITF \$25 000 men's event in Potchefstroom **(NEW)**
- Two weeks of ITF \$25 000 women's events in Potchefstroom **(NEW)**
- Spring Open – ITF event for able-bodied and wheelchair tennis players **(NEW)**
- Tuks Open – ITF \$15 000 combined event for men and women **(NEW)**
- Samaai Junior Open – ITF Junior Grade A event **(NEW)**

New formats:

- Beach tennis ITF events

Schools and Junior Tennis:

- Provincial subsidies for Inter-Pro teams
- Enhanced Junior Nationals and Masters
- Rising Star Tennis for primary schools **(NEW)**

Wheelchair Tennis:

- Taking over the operations of this new department **(NEW)**

Seniors:

- Contribution to Inter-Pros

Analysis of income and expenses - 2019/20 Financial Year

The 2019/2020 financial year saw a significant increase in income and expenses driven mainly by the number of new international events launched in the country, coupled with year one of BNP Paribas RCS Rising Star Tennis.

Unfortunately, TSA was heavily impacted financially by the impact of COVID-19 before the national lockdown was implemented in the country.

- With the threat of COVID-19 growing internationally, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) made the decision to cancel our events in Potchefstroom mid-way through. This saw TSA lose R440 000 (R440k) of budgeted sponsorship revenue for the events, due to their early cancellation.
- Furthermore, the resulting national lockdown saw one sponsor delay their March payment (subsequently received in the current financial year) and another sponsor decide to postpone their March sponsorship payment until 2021. The combined impact was a loss of R1 200 000 (R1.2m) in budgeted March sponsorship revenue.

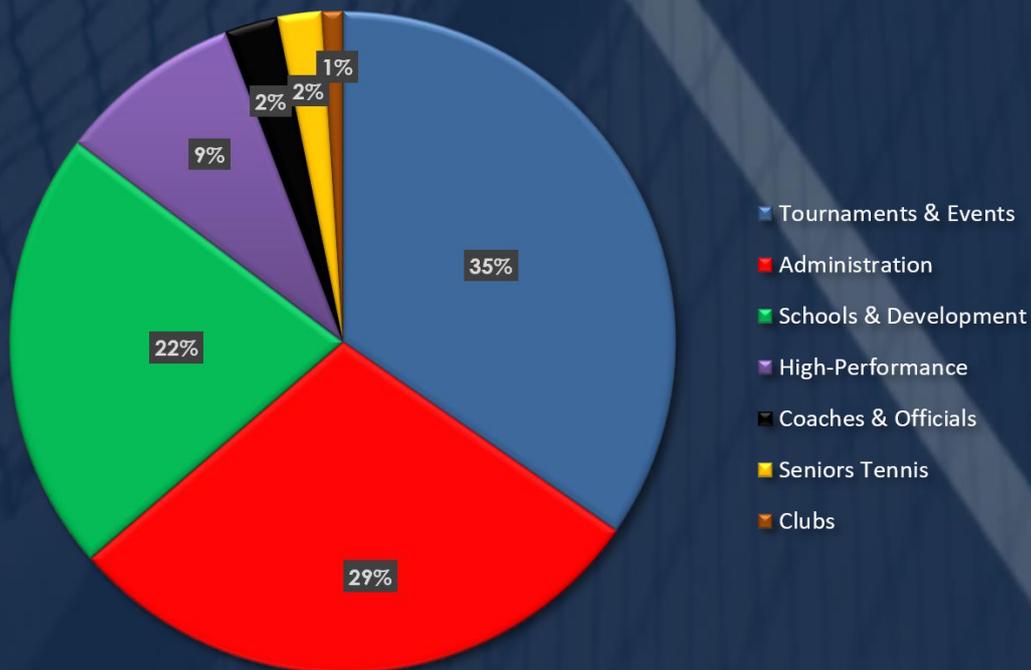
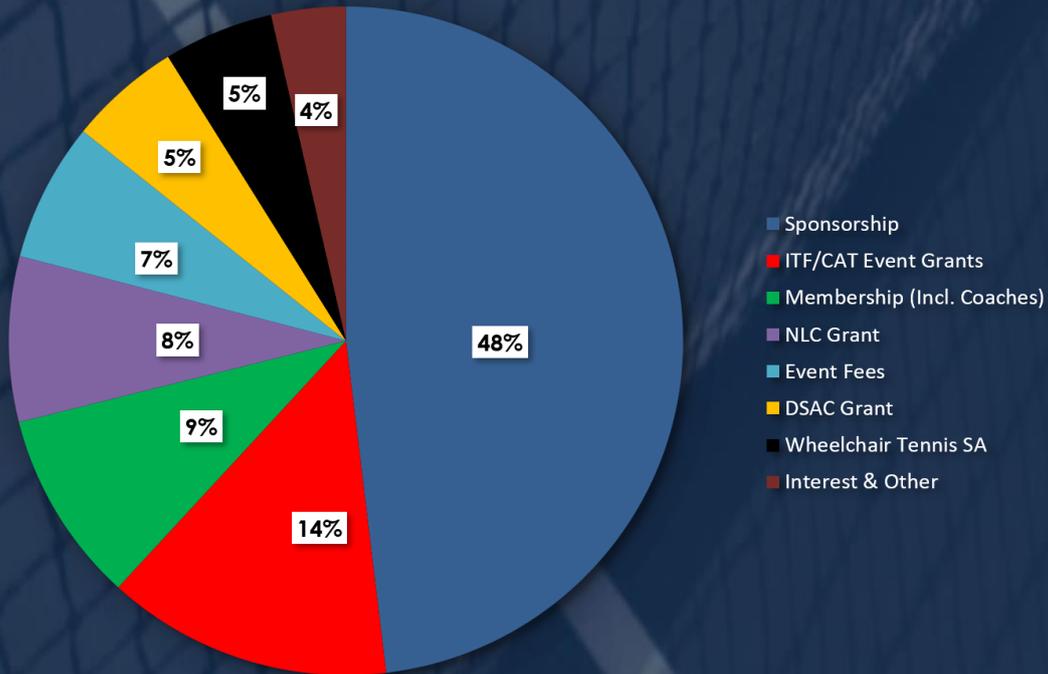
As a result of these multiple unexpected March setbacks we were pushed into an overall loss-making position for 2019/2020 financial year as detailed on the following page.



Income
R35 538 453

Expenses
R36 863 223

Deficit
(R1 324 770)



COVID-19 INFOGRAPHIC

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR COACHES AND PLAYERS



Check COVID-19 Coaching License



Maximum 2 per court



Restrict balls to specific person



A Supervisor must be on duty



Minors to be dropped/fetched at entrance



Only attend during organized days



Plan for 15 min between lessons



Coaches to maintain distance from pupils



Only use of toilets in an emergency



Club bar/shop to remain closed



No sharing of benches or chairs



Change ends in a clockwise direction



Courts to be prepared by the coaches



After completion of lesson, return home



No parents or guardians permitted onsite

BASIC HYGIENE RULES

- Always maintain 1.5 m distancing
- Wash hands before and after lessons
- No shaking of hands and no "high fives"
- Remember to sneeze in your elbow
- Remain at home if you, or any member of your family has any symptoms of COVID-19



Regulations can be found at
www.tennissa.co.za



Tennis in a time of COVID-19



A source of some pride within the TSA office is the fact that tennis was one of the first sports to be allowed to return to play under the national COVID-19 risk adjusted strategy. A huge amount of work went into negotiating and securing the return of the sport we love, and we are delighted to see so many people back on the courts.

The return to tennis has been rolled out on a staggered basis:

- Phase one was a return for training, playing and coaching purposes.
- Phase two was a return to tournament play – initially on a province or district specific basis, followed by more national or inter-provincial events. While we continue to operate in a very fluid environment, at the time of writing, we are cautiously optimistic of delivering a significant number of local tournaments in the 2020/21 financial year.

While we respect that some of the regulations and protocols, we have had to put in place are not popular, these are to ensure compliance with the national government gazetted regulations and ultimately to protect the well-being of all tennis players, officials, and coaches.

From a pure Federation perspective - the immediate impact of COVID-19 on the 2019/20 financial year was detailed in the previous financial analysis section. However, thankfully (and perhaps surprisingly) the impact of COVID-19 has been manageable in the current financial year.

The impact has been mitigated by the implementation of a prudent cost-cutting programme, as well as the fact that several of our key sponsors have honored their full sponsorship commitments – despite the cancellation or postponement of some events.







Our governance structures

Introduction

The TSA Board met three times during the past year. The TSA Board is a unitary body consisting of both elected (ten) and co-opted (seven) members. Four of the co-opted members are Special Interest Group appointments – namely seniors, coaches, wheelchair, and schools. The remaining three co-opted Board Members bring important specialist skills to meetings and the governance of our organization.

Board Meetings are robust, proposals are rationally debated and informed decisions are taken. Governance remains a non-negotiable element of all interaction, interrogation and decision making. In line with good governance practices, principally guided by King IV, various Board sub-committees exist and hold meetings, both in person on a scheduled basis and telephonically as the need arises.

Terms of Reference have been drawn up for each of these Committees and, as and when approved by the Board, are added to the documentation available to all stakeholders on our website. That said, the majority of the sub-committees have functioned well and a significant amount of positive work and results have emanated.

No TSA Board Member is remunerated for his or her services as a director of the company. A number of Board Members also do not accept reimbursement for their costs incurred in travelling to Board, Committee Meetings, and other Federation commitments.

Tennis South Africa Board of Directors

The board of directors' key purpose is to ensure the company's development and growth, by collectively directing the company's affairs, whilst meeting the appropriate interests of its stakeholders. The current board of directors at TSA is as follows:

Name	Designation
1. Gavin Crookes	President & elected board member
2. Riad Davids	Vice-President & elected board member
3. Hubert Brody	Elected board member
4. Shaun Liebenberg	Elected board member
5. Nwabisa Mningiswa	Elected board member
6. Anthony Loubser	Elected board member
7. Jacob Klaasen	Elected board member



8. Fuad Cassim	Elected board member
9. Allan Karam	Elected board member
10. Gustav Fichardt	Elected board member
11. Gugu Ntuli	Co-opted board member
12. Geoff Whyte	Co-opted board member
13. John Seymour	Co-opted board member
14. Bridget Visee**	Coaches Representative
15. David Jaquire**	Schools Representative
16. Bertie Conradie**	Seniors Representative
17. Muditambi Ravele**	Wheelchair Tennis Representative

Note: **represent a special interest group.

Board sub-committees

The sub-committees consist of board members and each focus on a particular task or area. The TSA sub-committees (and chairperson for each) are as follows:

1. **MANCO:** Gavin Crookes
2. **Audit:** John Seymour
3. **Risk, Social & Ethics:** Hubert Brody
4. **Transformation & Development:** Anthony Loubser
5. **Remuneration:** Gavin Crookes
6. **Innovation:** Gugu Ntuli
7. **International Tennis:** Jacob Klaasen
8. **Juniors:** Riad Davids
9. **Seniors:** Bertie Conradie
10. **Coaches:** Bridget Visee
11. **Wheelchair Tennis:** Muditambi Ravele
12. **Schools:** David Jaquire
13. **Technical & Officiating:** Gavin Crookes

All committees meet at least once per year. The committee which meets most regularly is the MANCO. This committee is made up of the TSA President, Vice-President and two board members, as well as the TSA CEO and key staff, and is responsible for providing oversight on operational and management decisions.







Departmental reports

Transformation.



TSA is committed to Transformation both as:

- a **moral imperative** - a process which addresses the imbalances of the past by seeking to restore trust and remove conditions undermining relationships of trust, whether of a socio-economic, political, or structural nature, as well as
- a **strategic imperative** - the incubation, nurturing and development of the country's actual and potential human capital and the creation of an environment in which human capital can be nurtured and can prosper and grow.

As such TSA's commitment to transformation is grounded in the belief that as a tennis nation, we can compete effectively in the global arena based on innovative and creatively crafted strategies, such as the TSA Transformation Strategy.

Principles underpinning our strategy

1. TSA's transformation strategy is multi-dimensional and focused on **changing demographic profiles** on and off the field of play;
2. It will ensure **equitable access, participation, and resource availability** through extensive **community involvement**;
3. It will **develop skills and capability on and off the field**;
4. It will build and shape relationships with **future support and spectator base** and future leaders and decision-makers based on **broad-based community engagement**;
5. TSA is committed to practicing **Employment Equity, Gender Equity, Preferential Procurement**, and the Promotion of **Disability Sport**;
6. The strategy is underpinned by **Good Governance**;



7. It will **uphold standards** while at the same time removing barriers to access, thus creating a system that is accessible, demographically representative, sustainable, and competitive;
8. The Strategy will see TSA co-operate with **government initiatives** and to align our portfolio of programs/projects with that of national, provincial, and local government and sport structures.

Our Commitment

TSA will:

1. In keeping with the values enshrined in the Equality Clause of the Bill of Rights of the South African Constitution, ensure that no player, coach, administrator, etc, is unfairly discriminated against on the basis race, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital status, family responsibility, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, HIV status, conscience, belief, political opinion, culture, language or birth. It shall not be deemed unfair discrimination when affirmative measures are taken and implemented which are consistent with the Transformation Policy of TSA.
2. Monitor and evaluate its Transformation status and progress by the implementation of a balanced scorecard reflecting the sum of the weighted contributions of each of the selected focus areas as well as the trends in each one of these focus areas.
3. Ensure that each Provincial Affiliate adopts a similar balanced scorecard to monitor and evaluate its Transformation status and progress.
4. Report regularly to the appropriate agency of the South African Government in accordance with government regulations on its Transformation status.
5. Review its Transformation Strategy and Policy at least every three years.
6. Set up a transformation committee, under the Chairpersonship of a TSA Board Member, to oversee the implementation of the TSA Transformation Strategy.



Recent activity

Task Team - A Transformation and Development Delivery Team (TADDT) has been set-up to deliver on all Transformation and Development objectives. The team comprises of Tony Loubser, Clifton Swartz, Anthony Moruthane and Silindile Makhathini.

Provincial Health Checks - During the COVID-19 induced lockdown, The TADDT engaged with all provincial bodies to conduct transformation health checks and to discuss ways in which the team can collaborate more closely in this critical space.



Through the engagements, several ambassadors were identified to drive transformation and development in different districts.

Next steps – Following the provincial health checks, the TADDT is looking to assist provincial bodies with National Lotteries Commission application submissions, provided that a portion of the funding received will be used towards development and transformation within provinces. TADDT proposes that TSA should enter into MOUs with provincial bodies to govern the partnerships in this regard.

Tennis for All Campaign – The TADDT has launched a 'Tennis for All' initiative to resuscitate tennis in rural and township communities through support from local and provincial government for the refurbishment of tennis facilities and sourcing funds for development programmes. The TADDT is working closely with provinces and districts to identify facilities that have potential to be sustainable for the roll out of the initiative.

Issues Portal - To make it easier for members of the tennis community to raise concerns around racism and discrimination, an online Transformation Issues Portal (TIP) has been launched on the TSA website (www.tennissa.co.za). The portal is currently being translated into three African languages – Sepedi, Isizulu and Xitsonga.

KEY FOCUS AREAS (2021/2022)	
TRANSFORMATION	<p>Disciplinary Procedure - The TADDT is in the process of refining its procedures to include an independent mechanism for handling disciplinary issues.</p> <p>Transformation Training - TADDT has begun plans to organize diversity training and organisational transformation programmes for the board, staff, national team coaches and junior national squad players.</p> <p>Summit – A national transformation summit will be held post the COVID-19 pandemic. TADDT is also looking to develop a transformation code.</p>
COACHING	<p>Opportunities for black coaches – The TADDT is currently building a model to create entrepreneurship opportunities for black coaches with a plan of supporting several development academies across the country.</p> <p>Unregistered coaches – The TADDT has identified an opportunity to grow the sport by getting all unregistered coaches working on volunteer basis in township and rural communities into the TSA system. The TSA Coaching Department is working on a model to introduce a portfolio for volunteer coaches.</p> <p>Structures - The structuring or restructuring of coaches to be representative and inclusive of ALL at district, provincial and national level was one of the critical areas for transformation. A national Coaches Conference will be held to cement this and plot the path for the holistic education and training of coaches at all levels.</p>



<p>ACCESS</p>	<p>Schools - The TADDT will begin engagements with the National Department of Basic Education, School Sports and the Department of Sports, Arts & Culture, to increase participation at schools primarily targeting tennis ready schools with facilities in townships. The other objective is to raise awareness about the sport through the introduction of tennis programmes at targeted schools and build campaigns that will promote tennis and educate schools in partnerships with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Tournaments – The TADDT is looking to introduce entry level one-day tournaments with minimal charge to offer previously disadvantaged players more opportunities to play in tournaments and to remove the cost barrier.</p> <p>Hub Challenge Competitions - will be launched through the development centres to revive tennis in the townships and create an opportunity to also select high performance players for Development centre squads who will represent at Provincial league tournaments.</p>
<p>RURAL & TOWNSHIP</p>	<p>Audit – During the provincial engagements, provincial and district bodies were tasked to provide information of all tennis facilities in their rural and township communities and coaches' database. This information will be collected for the purposes of identifying opportunities and introducing more programmes into rural and township communities.</p> <p>Clubs - Resuscitation of 'old' clubs, strengthening of existing clubs and formation of new clubs where viable.</p>



High-Performance.



Sinazo Solani and Chanel Simmonds with Fed Cup Captain, Rene Plant

The high-performance remit covers Davis and Fed Cup teams, junior national teams and squads and the high-performance pathway.

The recruitment of Jeff Coetzee strengthens our efforts in this space and he has made an immediate impact, despite COVID-19, with a number of new initiatives and projects – which are covered in more detail below.

The exploits of our Davis and Fed Cup teams have been detailed elsewhere in this annual report and so this section will focus more on some of the achievements of our junior high-performance teams and players.

Kholo Montsi crowned African Junior Champion

The country's top seed Kholo Montsi gave the home fans plenty to cheer about, becoming the first South African to claim the 18 & Under African Junior Championships title since Philip Henning in 2018 in Morocco.

The 17-year-old Montsi eliminated his mate and Australian Open doubles partner Eliakim Coulibaly from Ivory Coast 6-4 6-1.

Speaking after his match, Montsi said, "I'm super happy with the victory. I have lost to Eliakim (Coulibaly) in our previous three encounters, so to come out today with a win is something really special to me. There was a moment after my match where I found myself crying - it's a big win to get my African Junior Championships title in my last year (as a junior) and it feels even better to get a win against Eliakim because he is such a great player."

It was Montsi's first win over Coulibaly in their four previous encounters. Their last clash was in the 2019 African Junior Championships in Morocco where Montsi lost to the Ivorian in the semi-final round.



Later in the day, Montsi teamed up with Carl Roothman in the boys doubles final against compatriots Devin Badenhorst and Mikaeel Woodman. The top seeded pair defeated Badenhorst and Woodman 6-2 6-3 to claim the doubles title.

U14 Girls qualify for ITF World Junior Tennis Finals

South African Under-14 Girls team (Kaitlyn Ramduth, Anna Wise, and Carle Botha) finished in 15th position at the World Junior Tennis Finals in Prostějov, Czech Republic, after defeating Brazil 2-1.

Team Coach Asnath Sebati said, "We are glad to win a tie especially to the same team we lost to on Wednesday. We were determined to get Africa two spots for next year, that gives us hope that we will come back again to the World Junior Finals."



"Credits to the girls for the fight, there's a lot we have learnt from this tournament," added Sebati.

Other notable national team performances

- U/14 & U/16: CAT Zonals: Windhoek, Namibia: January 2020 - Individual Final Result: 1st place – SA, Team Final Result: 1st place – SA.
- AJC 18 & U: Pretoria: February 2020: SA Team wins AJC Nations trophy – Gold medal.

Key objectives for 2020

During Lockdown period:

- Zoom Meetings with various Pro players, Nutritionist, Coaches & Mental experts, Coaches, Parents, Players: the long process of becoming a successful tennis player
- Bringing the private coaching sector closer to TSA
- Periodisation and conditioning guidelines: How to build fitness and be ready after lockdown

Raising the standard for our top U/12 & U/14 junior players:

- Age 12 & 13 to start building a CAT ranking: Benefitting SA teams in CAT events
- Clay court camps for 14 & U top players – Potchefstroom (Dates TBC)
- Exposing our top 13&14 year's old players to start playing local ITF's in 2020/2021

Prioritising ITF tournaments and exposure for U/16 & U/18 players:

- Improve ITF ranking for acceptance into and seeding for Zonals and AJC's
- Performance stage: Junior ITF's, link with International Academies - More exposure
- Building relationships with overseas based Academies and Federations
- Assisting our top Juniors with Wild Cards into local ITF's



Creating partnerships with academies in Europe – Important link for SA junior players to train:

- Rafa Nadal Academy, Good to Great Academy (Sweden), Waske Academy (Germany)
- Establish a link for SA junior players to train and use these Academies as a base

Periodisation and player pathway relating to our South African players

- Top Junior players building and maintaining good TSA ranking for possible team selections
- Proper planning: Supporting and competing in Growthpoint tournaments
- Dual pathway: Finding the balance between ITF's and Growthpoint tournaments

Fed Cup and Wiphold structure

- Younger generation closing the gap
- Planning of Wiphold "Next gen" in July 2021 when all College players are in SA
- Jan 2021: Possible 8 player UTR tournament with top U/18's to assist with FC selections

Developing a database and communication channel for US College players

- Assisting them to build a UTR rating as well as with future College placements
- Communication and posting: SA College players playing NCAA's posting on TSA social media and platforms

Junior National Team Coaches:

- All travelling documents were updated. They include:
 - *Player Responsibilities & Code of Conduct,
 - *Team disciplinary procedures
 - *TSA Team Coach responsibilities,
 - *Tennis parent's agreement document
- Monthly meetings involving TSA HP, Coaching Department and National Team Coaches
- Improve communication between TSA and National Team coaches while on tour



Coaching.



ITF General Update & Silver Status

TSA hosted a Regional CBI Tutor Course 12-15 September 2019 in Pretoria. Four of the eight attendees were from TSA – Gauteng, KZN, and the Eastern Cape were represented.

The ITF Academy launched March 2019, this is an additional resource for coaches to access online courses and information and have formed part of the TSA continuous professional development as well as pre-course preparation of TSA coach certification structure.

The ITF Worldwide coaches conference was hosted in Thailand in October 2019 with over 600 coaches in attendance. During the conference, Tutor and JTI Coordinator workshops and two grant recipients were invited from SA.

The TSA Coaches Manager served on the ITF Coaches Commission in 2019 and attended two meetings.

Zimbabwe hosted an ITF/OS CHP course 29 November-9 December 2019 – three coaches from SA attended and TSA HP Manager Andre de Beer assisted as tutor.

BNP Paribas Coaches Mentorship Programme

This year's programme includes 96 coaches across all Provinces. TSA received over 120 applications however most applicants came from Gauteng and the Western Cape.

Statistics Year 2:

- 96 Coaches Across all 9 Provinces in South Africa
- Province distribution: EC-13, FS-6, GAU-24, KZN-6, LIM-11, MP-9, NC-6, NW-4, WC-17
- 52% Female Candidates
- 42% No coaching certification (41 coaches)



- 98 % Face to face activity

Overall Activity Year 2:

- Play Tennis Attendees: 43
- Instructor Attendees: 1
- Advanced Instructor Attendees: 2
- First Aid Certificate: 76
- Tennis SA Workshops: 80

In addition to the programme, we hosted Provincial workshops for mentorship coaches only. The various workshops hosted across the country was an opportunity for coaches to meet, interact and share ideas with fellow coaches within the Province. The focus being life skills and personal development. Training manual was developed by one of the mentorship candidates.

The programme was a finalist in the development programme of the year category at the Hollard Sports Industry Awards and was shortlisted in the top 3 for The World Academy of Sport for their Inaugural 'International Award for Excellence in Sports Education'

Coaching Calendar

Summary: There were 41 courses/workshops/conferences that took place across South Africa. The National coaches conference and remainder courses scheduled for March 2020 had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

Total Course attendees: 502.

Total Workshop Attendees: 220.

- TSA Play Tennis Courses – 12
- TSA National Tennis Instructor – 3
- Advanced Instructor – 1
- Special Update Instructor – 3
- Provincial CPD Workshops – 6
- BNP CPD Workshops = 9
- School Tennis Initiative – 5
- ITF CBI Tutor Course – 1

Registrations

The 2019/2020 year concluded with 507 registered coaches. The department anticipated a decrease in registrations due to the list of new requirements. Requirements before payment of coaching fee included: Recognised coaching qualification, 10 CPD points over 3-year cycle; valid first aid certificate; police clearance; safeguarding of athletes prescribed course/child protection; TEAM APP Registration

There was no increase on coaching registration fees for 2019-2020 calendar year. The fee include: TSA Coaches Registration; Provincial Fee; TSA membership fee; Provincial coaches membership fee; CPD Fee (free update courses and workshops; ITF



Academy Membership; GAP Cover discount offers; TSA partner discounts (Sportsman's Warehouse retail discount, Tsogo Sun).

Number of Pre-2008 coaches that completed update courses under the ITF Syllabi increased to 77%.

The decision to launch a coach app to deliver instant access and notifications on any smartphone or tablet has served as an excellent platform for registrations, calendar info, communication, and news. The chat function allows for instant question and answers.

Coaches Education

Online courses via the ITF Academy were the only addition to the current structure in place for the various courses offered.

The volunteer/teachers course structure/schedule was adjusted as a pilot to make it more accessible for teachers to attend and see if more Provinces can host courses through SRSA support.

Centres of Apprenticeship – this year proved to be more successful and the CAP centre programme is not unfamiliar anymore. There was an increase in assessment submissions from the 2018-2019 calendar year. CAP reports of candidates prove that the practical hours are beneficial to the candidate and development of preparing for the workplace. Total CAP Centres across SA: 63

Provincial CPD Workshops: The business of coaching was recommended theme for this year's workshops There was a decrease in attendance as many coaches met the CPD point requirement. Hosted: GAU, KZN, WC, FS/NC. Need to host 2 days in the coming year. (WC, LIM, MP, NW)

The coaching and sport science task force will need to be restructured and the coaching department want to prioritise specific research projects going forward.

Provincial Matters

The Provincial Chairpersons Meeting took place in Pretoria in February 2019. All Provinces were represented.

The department had a strong focus to improve communication and relationships with the Provincial committees. Limpopo Province managed to form a working committee. There is still great room for improvement for committees to be more active to represent coaches within the Province.

Professionalisation of Coaching - SA Sports Coaching Association

The professional body is functioning. Coaches can now join as a member of community of professional sports coaching from the nine sports coaching designations, from apprentice sports coach to master coach and from the coach developer stream, from assistant provincial coach developer to National coach education advisor.



Schools.



Lloyd Harris in action at the national final of Rising Star Tennis

BNP Paribas RCS Rising Star Tennis

The 2019/20 financial year saw the launch of BNP Paribas RCS Rising Star Tennis - a national tennis championship to find the best primary school girls team and boys team in the country.

The event culminated in a national final at the Arthur Ashe tennis complex in Soweto – where 11 boys teams and 11 girls teams competed for the national title.

Kevin Anderson and Lloyd Harris were on hand to meet the players and also played an exhibition match at the venue before presenting the winning teams with their trophies. Congratulations to Grey College (boys) and Oranje (girls) who were crowned as the inaugural Rising Star Champions!

Four inspiring stories from year one:

1. The Atteridgeville boys team 4th at the national finals (i.e. 4th in the entire country).
2. Sandton Sports Club have adopted two schools in Alexandria Township (a neighboring historically disadvantaged community) to start tennis programs at the schools.
3. Two historically disadvantaged players from Tshwane were spotted at the Gauteng North leg of BNP Paribas RCS Rising Star Tennis and have been invited to join the Gauteng North provincial junior high-performance squad in 2020.
4. A young player from a historically disadvantaged community in KZN participated in year one of BNP Paribas RCS Rising Star Tennis and has now been selected for the KZN provincial primary schools team.



Grey v Durban Prep



TSA Primary Schools Tennis week: March 2019, Bloemfontein

16 Teams participated from 14 regions – with the Western Cape and KZN sending B-teams to complete the 16. We need to get provinces compliant with qualified coaches and teachers named as managers. The teams were ranked according to the combined total of their individual ranking on the TSA u/13 ranking. Where a player did not have a ranking 499 was allocated to the individual. There were more players with rankings than in previous years. We are very happy about this.

Final Positions:

1. WC Disas
2. WC Cavaliers
3. Gauteng Central

Very encouraging is the number of black players ending up in positions 1-4 in their provinces. We also feel that the standard of play improved this year very much compared to the previous years. Looking at the final positions in some rural provinces, tennis is quite strong and the lack of tournaments and exposure at this age do not have a big impact if you have ball skills. Worrying is some provinces with Mini tournaments do have good rankings but their players do not perform during the school's week.

TSA High Schools Week: March 2019, Pretoria

Final Positions:

U15

1. Gauteng Central
2. KZN
3. Gauteng North

U19

1. Gauteng Central
2. Gauteng North
3. Free State

The 2019 event was the first in many aspects.

It was the first year that we participated as 9 provinces (the number of teams remained the same though). Gauteng and Western Cape were allowed 3 teams each and Eastern Cape two. This went smoothly. We started last year with the implementation. Eden withdrew but Western Cape managed an invitational team. Being one province benefitted the competition. Players from over the whole province could be included.

The High schools reduced the full sets in the singles to ITF sets, starting at two all. It was a general feeling that the tennis being played in these 3 weeks with the SA Schools match following the Schools week, followed by the Free State tournament, followed by Nationals is too much tennis. The feedback was mixed with a 70% to 30% in favour of the shorter sets. We allowed one B-team in the past to get the number of teams to 16. This year the B-team was replaced by a Growthpoint Centre team.



Juniors & Tournaments.



Overview

The 2019 season saw us hosting 6 new tournaments in the previously disadvantaged communities. There were 3 Growthpoint Junior Mini's in Soweto & 3 Growthpoint Junior Mini's in Atteridgeville, the events were well attended by players of all backgrounds and became large, that at the last 2 events in Soweto we had to limit the number of entries into the tournament.

TSA managed to host 8 Junior ITF events across the country inland and coastal – a new addition to the ITF calendar was the Samaai Junior Open (ITF Grade A) – which is a big boost to our local tennis.

The Super 8 Growthpoint events saw an increase of players compared to the 2018 season; the Growthpoint Series Race kept the players fighting for titles so that they could be rewarded with the free entry to tournaments for the year.

2019 Growthpoint Junior Nationals

The Growthpoint junior nationals once again took place in Bloemfontein and had an entry of 631 participants in the 2019 season. The event was played with a 32 Main draw and an open qualifying. Below are the results of the Growthpoint Junior Nationals finals:

Singles

Boys:

Under-18

3-Joubert Klopper bt Pierre Malan 6-1 3-0 (Retired)

Under-16

3-Carl Roothman bt 8-Devin Badenhorst 4-6 6-2 6-2

Under-14

10-Leonardo Sola bt Guy Vorwerk 6-3 6-2



Under-12

4-Pieter Kotze bt 1-Ben Scholtz 6-1 6-4

Girls:

Under-18

Delien Kleinhans bt 4-Tamsin Hart 6-1 6-1

Under-16

2-Leigh Van Zyl bt Sarah Millard 3-6 6-4 7-5

Under-14

5-Carle Botha bt 7-Erin McKenzie 6-1 7-5

Under-12

Korona Rugara bt 2-Danielle Chapman 4-6 6-2 6-2



Doubles

Boys:

Under-18

1-Alec Beckley/ Joubert Klopper bt Robbie Arends/ Luan Krige 6-4 6-4

Under-16

Daniel Crowie/ Rohan Loubser bt Devin Badenhorst/ James Edley 7-5 3-6 10-6

Under-14

2-John Coetzee/ Franswillem Van der Merwe bt 1-Leo Matthysen/Guy Vorwerk 7-5 6-3

Under-12

1-Gareth Igesund/ Pieter Kotze bt 2-Willem De Waal/ Ben Scholtz 6-1 6-7(5) 10-7

Girls:

Under-18

3-Tamsin Hart/Delien Kleinhans bt 4-Maretha Burger/Makayla Loubser 6-2 7-6(3)

Under-16

1-Christine Kruger/Ine Lamprecht bt 2-Heike Janse van Vuuren/Leigh Van Zyl 7-5 6-4

Under-14

1-Mikayla Faure/ Anna Wise bt 4-Carle Botha/MariLouise Van Zyl 4-6 6-2 12-10

Under-12

Korona Rugara/Amelie Van Zyl bt 2-Ansone Theron/ Rune Van Wyk 6-0 6-4



Growthpoint Junior Masters

The Growthpoint Junior Masters was held in Potchefstroom in 2019.

This event celebrates the best of junior tennis - where the top 8 juniors in every age group from U12 – U18 gets to play for 3 days to compete for the title.

Below are the results of the finals at the Growthpoint Junior Masters:

Boys

Under-12

[1] Willem De Waal def. [3] Gareth Igesund 7-6(5), 6-4

Under-14

[1] Drikus De Jager def. [2] Jordan Georgiev 6-2, 5-3 (Ret.)

Under-16

Mikaeel Woodman def. [1] Carl Roothman 6-4, 1-6, 6-3

Under-18

[2] Robbie Arends def. Nikolai Hensberg 6-1, 6-3

Girls

Under-12

[2] Amelie Van Zyl def. [1] Danielle Chapman 7-6(5), 7-5

Under-14

Tayla Wilmot def. Erin McKenzie 6-3, 3-6, 6-3

Under-16

[2] Kelly Arends def. Ine Lamprecht 6-4, 6-0

Under-18

[2] Lara Van Der Merwe def. [4] Isabella Wetherhead 6-3, 6-1

The Growthpoint Junior Masters tournament drew to a close on the final evening with the Tennis South Africa Junior Awards held at Feather Hills in Potchefstroom. The awards honoured the players, officials, and parents for their outstanding sportsmanship throughout the year. Rising star Kholo Montsi stole the show by walking away as the Boys Player of the year & Players Player of the year.



Full list of award winners:

- OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR - David Kempele
- PARENT OF THE YEAR - Camilla Hartmann
- JUNIOR TOURNAMENT OF THE YEAR - Free State Super 8
- PLAYERS PLAYER OF THE YEAR - Kholo Montsi
- FAIR PLAY AWARD - Naledi Manyube
- GIRLS PLAYER OF THE YEAR - Delien Kleinhans
- BOYS PLAYER OF THE YEAR - Kholo Montsi.



New events on the calendar

The Samaai Junior Open was the first Grade A event to be held in Africa in 34 years. Kelvin Grove hosted the event and all the visiting players were impressed by the venue and general organisation.

The event followed onto the Stellenbosch Junior ITF events, which were also upgraded to further enhance the quality of the Junior circuit.

Kholo Montsi winning the boys title was the icing on the cake in terms of why TSA hosts these events to ensure that local players have the advantage. Kholo took this with open arms, showing great determination as he was down in a number of his matches and had to fight back to win.

Meanwhile, the 2020 season started with the inaugural R100 000 Premiere Challenge in East London the event was held in East London and had a lot of juniors and former top players playing. The winners in the men's and women's event both took home R20 000 in cash. The event had good media coverage as the highlights were shown on DSTV.



Seniors Tennis.



Growthpoint Seniors Inter-Provincials

The Growthpoint Seniors Inter-Provincial (50-60+) was very successfully hosted in Mpumalanga in April. The IPT was run on SportyHQ for the first time and apart from one or two small problems it ran smoothly.

The Growthpoint Super Seniors Inter-Provincial (65 – 75+) was held in Durban, KZN from 19th to 24th May 2019. Jackie Zylstra, current World Champion in the women's 85+ age category, was honoured at the prizegiving dinner. A representative from Growthpoint, Craig Davis was in attendance and addressed the players. Gavin Crookes also attended and gave the players a brief overview of the progress made in tennis in South Africa. This was very well received by the players!

The Growthpoint Young Seniors Inter-Provincial (30-45+) held in Potchefstroom was a great success. The functions were hosted at an outstanding venue which was highly rated by all the players!

Richard Glover managed to secure the Growthpoint sponsorship for TSA for the next three years, including for the seniors, so the decision was taken by the NSC to once again donate R100 per player to the provincial committees hosting the three seniors Inter-provincials during 2019. This sponsorship is most welcome as it ensures that the hosting provinces are able to cover the costs of hosting these events.

A full review of the Growthpoint Inter-provincial format for 2020 was undertaken by the NSC at the Workshop in an attempt to encourage more players to participate. It was decided to introduce a new shortened IPT format for 2020. The event will now take place over four days instead of a week. The playing format will be shortened accordingly to allow two ties to be played in one day.

Herman Putter generously donated R11, 600 towards the SIX TROPHIES that we will now be introducing in 2021 as all Inter-provincials were cancelled for 2020 due to budget cuts during the pandemic. There will be a WINNERS trophy and a SPIRIT TROPHY for each of the three InterPro.



Growthpoint Seniors Masters

The inaugural Growthpoint Young Seniors Masters (30-45+) was held at Parkrand Tennis Club in Boksburg in November 2019.

There was one event for men and one for women to determine the best Young Seniors in the country. Each event was drawn of 16 with a total therefore of 32 players. The players played in four round robin groups with playoffs thereafter. There was prizemoney and trophies were awarded which have subsequently been engraved. The men's winner was Roberto Vaglietti from Gauteng and the women's winner was Kim Peters also from Gauteng.

The event was a huge success and the players were very complimentary about the format and how the event was run. The event for 2020 was scheduled to take place in November at Kelvin Grove in Cape Town but will now take place there in 2021 instead.



2020 Growthpoint Seniors Nationals

This tournament was held for the sixth time in a row in Bloemfontein. It ran very successfully and players gave very positive feedback. This was the last to be hosted in Bloemfontein for a while.

Nationals was the last seniors tournament to be hosted before the severe lockdown was announced by the SA Government due to the world-wide coronavirus pandemic.

An NSC meeting was held during Nationals to consider the two tenders for hosting this event received from Gauteng and Kwa Zulu-Natal. The two tenders were both scored using the same criteria and the winning tender was from the district of Gauteng North, so they will be the hosts of the Growthpoint Seniors Nationals for the next three years.

Seniors Ranked Provincial Tournaments

There was good attendance at local tournaments in the months prior to the pandemic. The only cancellation during 2019 was the North West Seniors which unfortunately followed on very closely to an Inter-provincial in Potchefstroom which negatively affected the attendance. Ranked tournaments are due to resume at the end of September 2019.

ITF Seniors World Championships

The selections for the 2019 ITF Seniors World Champs in Portugal were done after Nationals and the six teams competed from 4th to 10th August 2019, three women's teams and three men's teams. We had some good results. W55 finished 9th out of 19



entries and the W60 finished 8th out of 17. The ITF raised the team entry fee substantially from \$375 per team to \$500 for 2019. This equated to a total additional amount of approximately R25,000.00 for the three World Championships.

Four women's teams, including an 80+ team and one men's team were selected for the 2019 ITF Super Seniors World Champs being held in Croatia in September 2019. Many players did not want to go to Croatia for a third time. Our 75+ Women's team came fourth out of 10 to receive bronze medals!



Petro Kruger (75+) defended her titles and again achieved gold in the Mixed Doubles and Silver in the Women's doubles in the individual event! Outstanding achievement! Unfortunately, Jackie Zylstra (85+) who was also going to defend her World Singles Title had to withdraw as a result of ill-health. One of our ladies teams had to be withdrawn due to a last-minute injury sustained by one of our key players.

The five 2019 ITF Young Seniors teams participated in the ITF World Championships in Miami Beach in October. There were three men's teams and two women's teams. Our men's 35+ team had an outstanding result. They came 6th out of 20 countries! The new Lotto clothing was very well received.

Although teams were selected in December 2019 for the 2020 ITF Young Seniors World Team Championships due to be played in Florida in April 2020, the event was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. These teams will remain selected for 2021.

Transformation

Two transformation meetings were held, the transformation workshop on the 16 February and a follow-up on 26 March 2019. Robin Baloyi was co-opted onto the committee as of 26 March 2019. He was appointed as the NSC representative at Board level with regards to transformation. He represented Seniors at the conference that took place during the Junior Nationals in Bloemfontein. A Seniors Transformation Plan was approved for 2019 and implementation was progressing well before lockdown when many events had to be postponed.

The Inaugural Growthpoint Soweto Seniors tournament was a resounding success. The tournament entry of 82 players was very encouraging for a first tournament. It was played in an amazing spirit and it was very encouraging to see so many new faces participating in a seniors tournament.

Following on the success of the Soweto Seniors, we hosted a Growthpoint Doubles Derby at Parkrand Tennis Club in August which was attended by 40 players and a second one again in December 2019 with similar numbers.



The Growthpoint Atteridgeville Seniors tournament was added to the calendar and took place from 10th to 13th October. There were 81 players participating, many of them locals and also some of the players who played their first tournament in Soweto. The number of black participants in our tournaments has definitely increased.

Robin Baloyi agreed to email upcoming seniors tournament directors to enquire about what they are attempting prior to their tournaments on the transformation front and also to request feedback from them on what was achieved afterwards. He also agreed to offer guidance and assistance to them.

There will be a waiver of TSA fees and Senior Subs for first-time tournament players in all local seniors tournaments, including Nationals and IPTs. The entry fee will also be reduced for transformation players. The shortfall for tournament directors will be paid by TSA from our Growthpoint sponsorship. Robin Baloyi and I will be looking at initiating an entry level ITF Doubles Tournament and implementing an entry level ranking list.

2019 Seniors Annual National Workshop

The Annual National Seniors Workshop was held on 26th October. This was the first Seniors Workshop where nine provinces were represented instead of fourteen. The number of votes allocated to each province was calculated according to the number of TSA seniors members in the province. One Seniors Chairperson was appointed in each of the nine provinces. Seniors Chairpersons of Districts within the larger provinces will continue to run those districts but will report to the Provincial Seniors Chairperson of their province. Whilst the Provincial Seniors Chairpersons will continue to keep the main Provincial Committee informed on seniors matters, the governance of seniors will continue to be handled by the National Seniors Committee which reports to the CEO, Richard Glover and ultimately the TSA Board.

Seniors Operational Guidelines were drafted and approved by the NSC in which the NSC structures and the new provincial structures were incorporated in line with the approved seniors transformation plan. Four black delegates were voted onto the Nationals Seniors Committee for 2020 in line with the Seniors Transformation Plan.

It was decided at the Workshop that the Seniors fees would remain the same for 2020 but the Seniors subscription would reduce to R150. Three primary goals were set at first meeting of the new NSC Committee in Feb 2020:

- ❖ Meet the Transformation goals for 2020
- ❖ Train seniors officials to be competent in scheduling the large number of draws in seniors tennis.
- ❖ Aim to re-introduce ITF tournaments to the calendar, looking at entry level doubles tournament if possible as well as an entry level ranking for local seniors tournaments.

The COVID-19 Pandemic

The severe lockdown announced by the SA Government from 27th March 2020 due to the corona virus outbreak in the country resulted in all tennis events being halted. Budget cuts were required which meant all international events, masters and transformation events were cancelled and a number of other events postponed until later in the year. Subsequent to this, despite the financial implications of the



pandemic, Growthpoint agreed to continue their sponsorship of TSA tournaments including Seniors in full, which allowed us to re-instate the planning of a number of transformation events to be played in the latter part of 2020.

Exciting new innovations in Seniors Tennis

The NSC, in consultation with the Seniors Transformation Committee has decided to launch the "Growthpoint Abadala Series" later in 2020 with tournaments to be held at Atteridgeville, Soweto and Kwa-Thema. These will be singles and doubles only two-day events. They will be Category C tournaments which will cater for our entry level players. The entry fee will be R250 and membership fees will be waived for first-time tournament players.

The "Growthpoint Bababedi Shootout Series" will also be launched in Ekurhuleni initially. These will be one-day sponsored events comprising of about 40 players. The event will be run on SportyHQ and the entry fee charged will be nominal. We will also be launching the "Growthpoint Super 6 Series" for seniors which will include the six largest local seniors tournaments, who will each receive a Growthpoint sponsorship. Trophies will be awarded to the man and woman with the top number of overall titles in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles across all six tournaments. The trophies will be awarded at the dinner function at the ITF Growthpoint Seniors Nationals each year.

General

Although the effects of the lockdown will be felt for a long time to come, there is great excitement ahead of the "Return to Seniors tennis" planned for September 2020, with a renewed enthusiasm to begin participating in competitive tennis once again! We are all very grateful for the strong support rendered by our CEO, Richard Glover and the TSA Board and the effective interventions that they implemented during this extremely difficult time. Thanks to them Tennis South Africa is alive and well and looking forward to a successful "Return to Tennis!"



Wheelchair Tennis.



There are 2 key aspects to the department namely - Wheelchair Tennis Development and Wheelchair High Performance.

Development

The Wheelchair Tennis Development Programme aims to grow the sport by ensuring accessibility for disabled persons to coaching, equipment and facilities. The main objective that drives the programme is based on providing access and opportunity regardless of geographic location and financial means. Special need schools and disability clubs / centres are proactively approached and offered the programme.

The focus over the past 4 years has been to create a healthy base for the sport. The focus for the next few years will be on expanding the programme, particularly in areas where we have few centres, improving the level of skill of the players and coaches, offering more opportunities for competitive play at all levels, and developing SA's next stars.

The community programme offers regular activity on the ground by supporting a tennis lessons for groups of 4-8 players at each centre on a weekly basis. Communal tennis wheelchairs, and tennis equipment is provided to each centre, and those players who are showing potential and need to be fast tracked are provided additional coaching.

The programme is run in the special need schools, community centres and clubs with a focus on the rural or township areas.

The players development pathway starts with community players, regional players, national players and then at the pinnacle, elite players. All our high-performance athletes have come through this pathway. There are currently 40 wheelchair development centres in total (comprises of special schools, community centres and local clubs).



Activities within the Development Centres (Pathway):

Centre Leagues: All special schools / clubs and community centres take part in leagues within the club providing the coaches a chance to finalize players that will participate in the Regional League (depending results recorded)

Regional Leagues: Top 8 players from each club get a chance to battle with players from other clubs within the region. The Top 4 players from the Region are invited to the next step.

Provincial Leagues: Top 4 players from each Region make it to the provincial leagues. In this step players from the Province compete.

In 2019 the department staged the following Provincial tournaments:

1. Limpopo One day Tournament POLOKWANE (02 March 2019)
2. Gauteng One Day Tournament SOWETO (06 April 2019)
3. Free State One Day Tournament QWAQWA (20 April 2019)
4. Cape Town One Day Tournament TSA CENTRE GREEN POINT (27 April 2019)
5. Limpopo Provincial Tournament POLOKWANE (29 February 2020)

Johan Cruyff Africa Junior Camp Report

Dates: 21-24 September 2019

Host: South Africa

Venue: Arthur Ashe Tennis Stadium Soweto

The Camp started on the 21st with South Africa, Ghana, Tanzania, and Botswana.

The objective of the camp is to empower coaches from all around the African continent and provides a great platform for athletes to compete with juniors from around the continent. The camp is funded by the ITF and has been staged at the Arthur Ashe Tennis Centre and has been remarkably successful.

The Department of Sports, Arts and Culture Annual Winter Schools Games 01-05 July 2019, Durban

The annual winter Games were hosted in Durban from 01-05 July 2019. There were five provinces that participated in Wheelchair Tennis namely, Limpopo, Gauteng, KZN, North West and Eastern Cape.

The event is one the athletes in all our centres who are still in school look forward to participating in, representing their Respective Provinces.

Moving forward the aim is to have all 9 Provinces participating in the wheelchair Event. The 2019 Results are as follows:

Gold: Gauteng Province

Silver: Eastern Cape

Bronze: KwaZulu Natal



High Performance

We currently have 7 athletes that fall within the High-Performance category, namely:

WOMEN:

- Kgothatso Montjane – ITF ranking 7
- Mariska Venter -ITF ranking 33

MEN:

- Evans Maripa – ITF ranking 33
- Leon Els – ITF ranking 68
- Alwande Sikhosana – ITF ranking 117

QUADS:

- Lucas Sithole – ITF ranking 8
- Donald Ramphadi - ITF ranking 21

Tennis SA and Tuks Sport Initiative:

In 2019 Tennis South Africa partnered with TuksSport to assist the Wheelchair High Performance athletes based in Gauteng. 3 athletes are housed in one of the Tuks Sport Houses situated in Hatfield. The house is walking distance to the HPC, the Tuks Tennis Courts and SEMLI Sport Science Lab.

This provides a conducive training environment for the athletes that were scattered due to the dissolution of the old WTSA. Two of the Gauteng athletes (Kgothatso and Mariska) do not reside in the Sport house, but still benefit from a variety of resources provided by the University of Pretoria. The services the athletes receive are:

- Housing for the players
- Sport Science Support (Conditioning by a Sport Scientist)
- Medical Support (for classification purposes)
- Tennis Facilities
- Structured Tennis Coaching



The initiative has encouraged the athletes to work even harder to perform at their best of ability. We also are in talks with the University of North West to assist one of the athletes based in Potchefstroom with similar services.

Below is some outstanding results recorded by our high-performance athletes:

Kgothatso Montjane	SA Spring Open	25 Sep to 29 Sep 2019	Winner
	NEC Wheelchair Singles Masters/ UNIQLO Wheelchair Doubles Masters	19 Nov to 26 Nov 2019	Finalist



	Tweed Heads International Wheelchair Tennis Open	15 - 19 Jan 2020	Quarter Finalist
	Australian Open Wheelchair Championships	29 Jan - 01 Feb 2020	Semi Finalist

Mariska Venter	BNP Paribas International Paratennis Toulouse Balma	07 Nov to 10 Nov 2019	Winner
	Bolton Indoor Wheelchair Tennis Tournament	18 - 22 Feb 2020	2nd Round
	Wrexham Wheelchair Tennis Tournament	13 - 16 Feb 2020	2nd Round
	Gyor Open II	27 - 30 Jan 2020	Runner Up
	Gyor Open I	23 - 26 Jan 2020	Runner Up

Evans Maripa	Thailand Open	10 - 13 Nov 2019	Winner
	BNP Paribas World Team Cup - Africa Qualifier	13 - 16 Feb 2020	Winner
	Nairobi Open	10 - 12 Feb 2020	Winner

Donald Ramphadi	Bangkok Open	02-04 Nov 2019	Winner
	Thailand Open	10 -13 Nov 2019	Winner
	Pattaya Open	06 - 08 Nov 2019	Winner

World Team Cup 2019:

The world team cup event was staged in Israel from 13 – 18 May 2019. South Africa entered 3 teams in the event namely,

- Men: Evans Maripa, Leon Els & Alwande Sikhosana
- Women: Kgothatso Montjane, Mariska Venter & Mabel Mangkele
- Quads: Lucas Sithole, Donald Ramphadi & Danny Mohlamonyane (bronze medal winners)



For the World Team Cup 2020 event, the SA Men had to play the Africa Qualifying Event 09 – 16 February 2020 in Nairobi Kenya. South Africa dominated the continental event going to win it unbeaten, the result meant South Africa qualified for the World Team Cup Finals Event which was meant to be played in Portugal from 04 – 10 May 2020. South Africa was going to stage 3 Teams (Men, Women and Quads). Due to the Corona virus outbreak, this event was cancelled.

Officiating & New Formats.



Officiating

TSA's officiating department had another successful but challenging year. It goes without saying that credibility of officials will always be questioned, in terms of general rule knowledge and the correct interpretation and application thereof. However, when reviewing the number of incidents and reports received, it is positive that the officials generally have made the correct decisions. There have also been cases where reports received about officials not behaving in the required professional manner have been acted upon in order to help improve those officials going forward, but to also allow tournament organisers to see that their reports are acted upon and taken to heart,

The following courses and seminars took place during the year:

- A refresher course was held in the Western Cape in June, along with a line umpire course to select officials to work as line umpires at the Davis Cup tie in September.
- A total of 20 officials attended the Refresher course where various procedures and rules were discussed, with emphasis on communication and code of conduct. Various discussions were also held to help improve internal communication and work processes
- Two level 1 courses were held in Mpumalanga. Middelburg 12 to 14 July, with 13 candidates attending. Nelspruit 2 – 4 August, with 14 candidates attending. Both courses were taught by Johann Greyling.
- A level 1 course was held in Atteridgeville at the beginning of September. Mpho Makhoba taught the course. A total of 18 candidates attended the course.

TSA hosted the first ITF "Advantage All" seminar which is focused on empowering female officials, coaches, and administrators. The seminar was organised in conjunction with ITF Officiating and was focused on the ITF certified officials in Africa, along with then inviting local officials and coaches to be part of the seminar and interaction. The seminar was led by Louise Engzell and Kelly Thompson, both ITF female chair umpires. Guest speakers were arranged by the TSA Female Taskforce and these included:



- Helene Botha – North West University
- Fran Hilton Smith – Football
- Dumisani Chauke – Tshwane University of Technology / Netball

The guest speakers were inspirational and really set the tone for the seminar. A total of 50 females attended and enjoyed the braai that was arranged afterwards. Some of the volunteers from the SA Spring Open attended as guests and a Level 1 course will be held shortly for all the tournament volunteers as a follow up on the seminar.

- Level 1 Course – Eden: Taught by Ephraim Motsiane, with 24 candidates attending.
- Eastern Cape (Port Elizabeth): Taught by Mpho Makhoba, with 15 candidates attending.
- Gauteng (Pretoria): Taught by Mpho Makhoba, with 26 candidates attending.
- Gauteng (Soweto): Taught by Ephraim Motsiane, with 20 candidates attending.
- Line Umpire course in Potchefstroom (training for ATP Challenger): Taught by TSA Officials (Jeremiah Sithole and Tebogo Maleke), 20 students attended.

Tebogo Maleke, Glen Campbell and Denerick October were invited to officiate as line umpires at Wimbledon Qualifying event. This is Denerick's first Wimbledon Qualifying event, while both Tebogo and Glenn were invited in 2018.

Adri du Plessis was invited to officiate at the ITF World Beach Games in San Jose as chair umpire. This event was later moved to Doha. This is the first time this event is taking place and is hopefully a start of moving Beach Tennis to the Olympics.

The following Officials were selected for the delayed 2020 Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo:

Olympics:

- George Phiri: Line Umpire, 1st Olympics
- Iain Smith: Review Official, 3rd Olympics

Paralympics:

- Patrick Selepe: Line Umpire, 1st Paralympics
- Iain Smith: Referee, 3rd Paralympics

South Africa has had representation at all of the Olympics since 1996 and Paralympics since 2012. Patrick Selepe would become the first disabled official (globally) to work at the Games.



The following officials were selected to officiate in Australia:

- Tebogo Maleke officiated at a number of events leading into the Australian Open (Tweed Head – Wheelchair event, Taralgon – Junior ITF, Craigie Burn – Wheelchair event and Burnie ATP Challenger)
- Iain Smith – Review Official. The Australian Open was Iain Smith's 27th Grand Slam, with Wimbledon 2019 being the 25th.

The hosting of the SA Spring Open and Tuks International provided local ITF certified officials with the opportunity to maintain their certifications. Ron Stirling decided to



retire his ITF White Badge as a chair umpire. We thank him for his years of service and support and look forward to his continued support in officiating in the KZN region.

The online exam system is fully operational and was used for all the courses. The benefit of the online examination is that the system generates the result immediately and emails the candidate the certificate. This has reduced the following:

1. Time to circulate examinations - Candidates have opportunity to take examination within a week after completion of course;
2. Online examination is time based so candidates cannot try to cheat with open book approach;
3. Examinations are randomised so no exam is identical;
4. TSA office time has been reduced as internal marking no longer required,
5. Printing of examinations no longer required and certificated are automated by the system

Disciplinary Matters

Two parents were suspended for 8 months and 18 months, respectively. An U16 player was also suspended for 6 months. In addition, all of the guilty parties were also awarded suspended sentences, during which time if any further incidents involving the Code of Conduct should occur following the suspension period, then the individual would be suspended further and possibly have to attend another disciplinary hearing

One incident is pending the outcome due to criminal charges being laid against a parent and the TSA Code of Conduct clearly states that in the event of a criminal case, TSA is required to let the legal process be completed before conducting its own hearing. The alleged incident was investigated by TSA and affidavits were obtained.

TSA is regularly informed of Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) of incidents and suspensions/Lifetime bans being imposed by ITF. Fortunately, there were no incidents that took place during the 2019 World Tennis Tour events that were held in Johannesburg and Pretoria. The TSA Code of Conduct is currently under review to cover all areas of Tennis in SA under one Disciplinary process. This extends to clubs, members, coaches, officials, players, and tournaments. It remains important that our players and coaches are made aware of the TIU matters in order to help them and to advise them of what to do if they are approached or receive "Hate speech" on social media following a match at a Professional event (World Tennis Tour).

Beach Tennis



The beach tennis season commenced with the roll out of the inaugural KIA SA Beach Tennis National Championships. This event was played on a regional basis, culminating

in a National Final. 136 players competed in the four (4) regional competitions. This is an increase from 30 players in 2018 that played at the Rand Show.

Nationals:

The National final was held at Badplaas, with the event also serving as the official launch of the new facility at Badplaas. TSA President, Mr. Gavin Crookes and Mpumalanga President, Mr. Karel Jacobs attended the welcome / opening function and Mpumalanga have already started looking at ways to incorporate beach tennis into their programmes. The finalists in the men's and women's divisions were invited to Badplaas to play-off for the National Title. A round robin was played with all 8 teams in one group, with all teams playing each other and the winner of the group being declared the National Winner. No luck of the draw, everyone played against everyone and had an equal opportunity. It was very encouraging to see the depth of beach tennis and how quickly players improved from their Regional event to the Final, with progress being visibly evident from match to match.

The winners were:

- Men: Michael de Jongh and Ryan Brookshaw (GN)
- Women: Kyla Yelverton and Helga Jeske (GN)

Arnold Classic:

The Arnold Classic again proved to be a success and this year we were fortunate that the man himself attended the beach tennis event for 20 minutes on the Saturday. In order to provide Lynn Kiro and Jody Claassen with opportunity to prepare for Russia they were invited to participate in the event and Jody and Ryan provided a major upset when they defeated a team ranked 80 and 105 respectively in their opening match. This being Jody's 5th Day of beach tennis and first International match.

CAT Beach Tennis:

TSA has made a recommendation to the ITF in terms of the qualification process for the World Team Championships as ITF are looking to have regional competitions. This has been accepted. Africa will be divided into two sections, North and South, with the winners of each qualifying event gaining entry to the WTC.

ITF World Team Championships:

South Africa, being the top ranked Nation in Africa has gained direct acceptance into the 2019 WTC in Russia. South Africa improved on our 2018 result of finishing 17th and finished 15, defeating Tunisia to again be the top African Nation, two years in succession. The players representing South Africa were:

- Michael de Jongh
- Ryan Brookshaw
- Jody Claassen
- Kyla Yelverton
- Helga Jeske



- Lynn Kiro

ITF Cape Town:

Cape Town hosted the first ITF beach tennis event at the same time as Davis Cup at Kelvin Grove. Total of 8 men's teams and 6 women's teams participated, which is a good start.

KIA Summer Slam:

The KIA Summer Slam was held for the second consecutive year and proved to be bigger than the 2018 addition, drawing more than 100 entries from overseas players. The Summer Slam ran along the Eastern and Western Cape, with the first leg commencing in Port Elizabeth, which was a good change in the circuit as allowed for easier arrival to the circuit for players being able to fly to Port Elizabeth initially.

The circuit was held as follows:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| • 6 – 8 December | Port Elizabeth | \$3,000 |
| • 10 – 12 December | Cape St. Francis / St. Francis | \$3,000 |
| • 14 – 17 December | Plettenberg Bay 1 | \$3,000 |
| • 18 to 21 December | Plettenberg Bay 2 | \$35,000 |

History was made when the men's team of Irigaray and Spoto won all four events, becoming the first team to win all legs of a series. The visiting players were all very complimentary of the organisation of the circuit. Positive feedback was received from the players relating to: Additional transportation and airport pickups, Prize money being paid in US\$, the manner in which players are taken care of.

The \$35,000 event was stronger than the 2018 edition, with both men and women's events having 6 of the top 10 players in the world competing, along with the no1 male and female player participating. IN addition, South Africa saw the currently ITF world champions and gold medallists from the inaugural beach tennis games playing on home soil.

ITF:

Helga Jeske was elected to the ITF Beach Tennis Player Commission to represent Africa and South Africa. The ITF will be proceeding with a rule experiment for 2020 where the height of the net for men's events will be raised from 1.7m to 1.8m at certain category events. The women's net height remains at 1.7m. The net height for mixed doubles will also remain at 1.7m. The experiment is to try and negate the power of the serve in the men's game and to increase rally length.







Commercial partners

Tennis South Africa would like to express its gratitude to its commercial partners for making possible many of the new programmes and initiatives that we have launched in the past four years. Our current partners are as follows:



Partner	Partnership focus
Growthpoint Properties	Our Headline Sponsor – covering: Junior tennis, Seniors (veterans) tennis, Transformation and development, the Thrive Fund for black junior high-performance players and the National Club Championships.
BNP Paribas and RCS	Rising Star Schools Tennis and the Coaches Mentorship Programme.
KIA Motors	Davis Cup and Beach Tennis.
Wiphold	Women's Tennis in South Africa.
Tsogo Sun	Official hotel partner of TSA.
Dunlop	Official ball for selected events and the TSA development centres.
Lotto Sport Italia	Official apparel partner for all of our national teams.
Vision Video Productions	The Spring Open – an ITF World Tennis Tour combined (able bodied and wheelchair tennis) event.

