

## A timeline of South Africa: Football and social and political history

Date	Social and Political History	Football in South Africa	Early humans
3.5 million years ago	Early humans live in South Africa. The World's oldest complete fossilised hominid (human-like) skeleton was discovered in South Africa in 1998.		
3,000 – 1,000BC	The Zulus, Khoikhoi, the San, and the Xhosa people, inhabit South Africa.		
1400s	Zulu and Xhosa tribes establish large kingdoms in the South Africa region.		Europeans arrive in South Africa. Colonialism and the fight for power and resources.
1497	Vasco da Gama sets out on an expedition to India via Africa and lands on South African Natal coast.		
1652	Jan van Riebeeck, working for the Dutch East India Company, founds the Cape Colony at Table Bay and Dutch settlement of South Africa starts. They are the first Europeans to settle in South Africa. They bring with them people they have captured from Indonesia, as slaves. These are the origin of the group later described as Cape Malays.		
1795 - 1806	Britain seizes the Cape Colony from the Dutch.		
1809	The British decree that the San and Khoikhoi		

	must work for white employers and place restrictions on their travel.	
<b>1816 - 1826</b>	Shaka Zulu founds and expands the Zulu empire to a great empire, with an impressive and fearless army.	
<b>1835 - 1840</b>	The Dutch, known as Boers, leave the Cape Colony to evade British rule. They migrate to the Transvaal to found what they name as the Orange Free State. The Boers describe their migration as the 'Great Trek'.	
<b>1852</b>	The British take control of Cape Town.	
<b>1858</b>	Boers proclaim the Transvaal a republic.	
<b>1860</b>	Immigration of South Asians from India begins, largely as indentured labour.	1862 The first documented football matches in South Africa are played in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth (between White civil servants and soldiers).
<b>1867</b>	Diamonds are discovered at Kimberley	
<b>1877</b>	The British and the Boers defeat the Zulus in the Zulu War	
<b>1879</b>	The British defeat the Zulus in the Anglo-Zulu war in Natal	
<b>1880 - 1881</b>	Boers rebel against the British, sparking the first Anglo-Boer War. Conflict ends with a negotiated peace. Transvaal is restored as a republic.	
<b>1893</b>	Mahatma Gandhi visits South Africa as a young lawyer and is turned off a train because of his colour. This experience makes him decide to remain in Natal and help the Indian	1892 South African Football Association (FASA) formed, for whites only. 1897 The English 'Corinthians' tours South Africa (and again in 1903 and 1906.)

Colonialism and the fight for power and resources.  
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	community.	1898 The Orange Free State Bantu Football Club tours England, becoming the first South African team to play in Europe.	Increased repression of 'Black' and 'Coloured' population..
<b>1899 - 1902</b>	The second Boer War. Dutch settlers fight the British in the Boer War. Britain eventually gains control of South Africa.	1902 The South African Indian Football Association (SAIFA) is founded in Kimberley, where a national competition for Indians, the Sam China Cup, is held.	
<b>1910</b>	The Union of South Africa is created, joining together British and Boer territories. South Africa becomes independent and part of the British Commonwealth.		
<b>1912</b>	The South African Native National Congress is founded (SANCC). This later becomes the African National Congress (ANC).		
<b>1913</b>	The Black (Natives) Land Act is passed. Blacks, except those living in Cape Province, are not allowed to buy land outside defined reserves.		
<b>1914</b>	Formation of (Afrikaner) National Party	1916 The Durban & District Native Football Association is established.	
<b>1918</b>	Secret Broederbond (brotherhood) established to advance the Afrikaner cause.		
<b>1918</b>	Rolihlahla Dalibhunga Mandela born. A teacher later gives him the English name Nelson.		
<b>1919</b>	South West Africa (Namibia) comes under South African administration		
<b>1923</b>	SANNC changes its name to African National Congress (ANC)		
<b>1926 -1940</b>	A series of Acts is passed restricting the movement and independence of black Africans and enforcing segregation.	1931 Motherwell, a Scottish professional side, tours South Africa (and again in 1934). 1932 The South African Football Association	

		<p>(SAAFA) is formed and it launches the Bakers Cup national tournament.</p> <p>1933 The South African Bantu Football Association (SABFA) and the South African Coloured Football Association (SACFA) are formed.</p> <p>1935 The Transvaal Inter-Race Soccer Board is formed by Africans, Indians, and 'Coloureds'.</p> <p>The Suzman Cup, the first official inter-racial tournament between Africans, coloureds, and Indians, is established.</p> <p>1937 Orlando Pirates football club is founded.</p>	Increased repression.
1944	ANC Youth League formed	<p>1944 The ANC sponsors the first football match at the Bantu Sports Club.</p> <p>1946 The Natal Inter-Race Soccer Board is established with the help of Albert Luthuli.</p>	
1948	The National Party introduces apartheid (separateness) legislation. This separates black people, Indian immigrants and those of mixed race, and white people.		Apartheid and resistance
1949	Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act is passed.		
1950s	<p>The population is classified by race.</p> <p>The Group Areas Act is passed to segregate blacks and whites.</p> <p>The Communist Party is banned.</p> <p>The ANC begins a campaign of civil disobedience, led by Nelson Mandela.</p>	<p>1951 SAAFA (South African African Football Association), SAIFA (South African Indian Football Association) and SACFA (South African Coloured Football Association) form the anti-apartheid South African Soccer Federation (SASF).</p> <p>1952 The South African Football Association (SAFA), representing whites, is admitted to the Federation of Football Associations (FIFA)</p> <p>1953 The Durban &amp; District African Football</p>	

		Association wins the Rhodes Centenary tournament in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). Important Inter-Race football match played (SA Police vs Tongaat) between teams of South African Indians and South African Coloureds, to mark the golden jubilee of SAIFA.	Apartheid and resistance
<b>1954</b>	Federation of South African Women formed		
<b>1955</b>	Forced removal of Blacks from Sophiatown (read Trevor Huddleston's book <i>Naught for your comfort</i> )	1955 Topper Brown, a British coach, leads Natal Africans to victory in both the Moroka-Baloyi Cup and the Natal Inter-Race Singh Cup.	
<b>1955</b>	Congress of the People adopts the Freedom Charter	1956 The government introduces an apartheid sport policy. 1956 The South African Football Association (SAFA) changes its name to the Football Association of Southern Africa (FASA). FIFA officially recognises it as the sole governing body of football in South Africa, but only after it has modified its racist constitution. 1956 Stephen "Kalamazoo" Mokone and David Julius become the first Black South Africans to sign professional contracts in Europe, with Coventry City and Sporting Lisbon respectively. 1958 The South African Bantu Football Association (SABFA) affiliates with the Football Association of Southern Africa (FASA).	
<b>1959</b>	Pan African Congress (PAC) formed British Anti Apartheid Movement is founded	1959 The National Football League (NFL) is launched as the country's first entirely	

		<p>professional club league. It is reserved for whites only.</p> <p>1959 May, Orlando Stadium opens.</p>	Apartheid and resistance
<b>1960s</b>	<p>International pressure against government begins, South Africa is excluded from the Olympic Games.</p>	<p>In 1963 prisoners on Robben Island keep themselves fit by kicking footballs made from rags around in their cells. From this beginning grew a football league in the prison. In 1964 the Robben Island prisoners formed the Makana Football Association. The association kept going until the prison closed in 1991. Football was a passion to many of the prisoners, and they adhered strictly to FIFA rules. The games enabled messages to be passed between prisoners, and training of the men in strategy and political activism.</p>	
<b>1960</b>	<p>In a protest in Sharpeville, police open fire on protesters and kill 67 Africans. Across the world, there is mass condemnation of the government action.</p> <p>The ANC/PAC/SCAP banned.</p>	<p>1960 The Confederation of African Football (CAF) expels South Africa.</p> <p>South African women's football starts.</p>	
<b>1961</b>	<p>Apartheid South Africa declares a republic, and leaves the Commonwealth.</p> <p>South Africa continues to increase in wealth, due to its mineral resources.</p>	<p>1961 FIFA suspends the Football Association of South Africa (FASA).</p> <p>FASA includes some Black players within its structure.</p> <p>African, Indian, and Coloured officials in the anti-apartheid South African Soccer Federation (SASF) form the anti-racist professional South African Soccer League (SASL).</p> <p>SABFA (the South African Bantu Football Association) launches a National Professional Soccer League (NPSL), but it only survives</p>	
			Apartheid and resistance

		one year.
<b>1961</b>	The ANC forms a new military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation). Mandela leads it, and the organisation begins a sabotage campaign.	
<b>1962</b>	Mandela is arrested for plotting against the government, and put in prison.	1962 Orlando Pirates Women's Football Club and Mother City Girls Black women's football teams are set up, but sadly do not survive for long.
<b>1963 - 1964</b>	The Rivonia Trials. ANC leaders are tried for treason. They are given savage sentences, many being sent to the infamous Robben Island. Nelson Mandela is sentenced to life imprisonment. His prison sentence will last for 27 years. Throughout his time in prison he manages to remain politically active.	1963 The FIFA executive lifts the Football Association of South Africa's (FASA) suspension. FASA announces it will send an all-white team to the 1966 World Cup and an all-black team to the 1970 World Cup. 1964 FASA is again suspended by the FIFA Congress. The Federation leadership is persecuted, arrested or banned.
<b>1966</b>	Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd, who led the apartheid policies, is assassinated.	
<b>1966</b>	Black Consciousness Movement leader Steve Biko dies in custody	1965 Leeds United winger Albert Johanneson becomes the first black South African (the first Black ever) to play in an English FA Cup final. 1966 The anti-racist SASL (South African Soccer League) folds due to lack of playing grounds. 1969 The apartheid regime cancels a match between white champions Highlands Park and Orlando Pirates in Mbabane, Swaziland. The racist Football Association of South Africa's (FASA) reputation and international standing is seriously damaged as FIFA had sanctioned the match.

		1969 The South African Soccer Federation forms a six-team professional league.
<b>1970s</b>	<p>More than 3 million people are forcibly resettled in black 'homelands'. Governments across the world impose economic and sporting sanctions on South Africa.</p> <p>The Anti-Apartheid Movement organises protests across the world, and people boycott South African goods.</p>	<p>1970 Coloured and Indian players are purged from African clubs. South Africa is expelled from the Olympic Movement.</p> <p>1972 FIFA clarifies that the White Football Association of South Africa had not been suspended for contravening its rules but because of South African Government policy. FIFA executive gives special permission to the Football Association of South Africa to have overseas teams participate in the South African Games in Pretoria in 1973, asking for assurance that blacks would be allowed to watch the games, and that the games would be multiracial.</p> <p>1973 FIFA subsequently withdraws this special permission when it becomes clear that FASA is planning separate teams for different ethnic groups.</p> <p>The government gives approval “for the staging in 1974 of an open national soccer tournament in which the different South African nations can participate on a multinational basis.</p>
<b>1976</b>	<p>The Soweto Uprisings. Thousands of school students in the black township of Soweto stage protests to demand they be taught in English rather than the Afrikaans. Police fire on the demonstrators, killing school students indiscriminately. This is</p>	<p>16 June 1976 the Orlando Stadium in Soweto is chosen as the venue for the meeting of the protesting school students. Police intercept the students before they reach the stadium. FASA is expelled from FIFA. The Football Council of South Africa is</p>

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	<p>the watershed in dismantling apartheid. This atrocity leads to nationwide riots and international condemnation. The government becomes even more repressive. Police kill more than 500 protesters within a year.</p>	<p>formed. 1977 The National Football League (NFL) folds. South African Broadcasting Company TV makes its first broadcast of a South African football match. 1983 Jomo Sono, a black business director from Soweto, buys Highlands Park, an historically white club in Pretoria and renames it Jomo Cosmos. This move by Sono signals growing Black power in South African football.</p>
<b>1983</b>	<p>The United Democratic Front of South African churches, civic associations, trade unions, student organisations and sports bodies is formed to oppose apartheid. By 1985 it has three million members.</p>	
<b>1984</b>	<p>Archbishop Desmond Tutu is awarded Nobel Prize for Peace for his non-violent campaign to end apartheid. He calls for stronger international action against the South African government and its apartheid regime.</p>	
<b>1984 - 1989</b>	<p>The townships revolt against punitive laws and police violence, and the government imposes a state of emergency.</p>	<p>1985 Unity talks between the Federation and Football Council break down. The Breakaway National Soccer League (NSL) is launched in accordance with anti-apartheid principles.</p>
<b>1986</b>	<p>The European Community and United States impose economic sanctions on South Africa.</p>	<p>1988 ANC representatives meet with National Soccer League (NSL) and Federation officials in Lusaka to discuss “unity” and the role of football in the struggle against apartheid.</p>
<b>1989</b>	<p>P.W. Botha is replaced by F.W. de Klerk. He meets with Nelson Mandela. Public facilities are desegregated. Many ANC</p>	<p>1989 The First National Bank stadium, capacity 76 000, opens at Soccer City (NASREC), between Johannesburg and</p>

	activists are freed.	Soweto.
<b>1990</b>	President F.W. de Klerk announces the lifting of the state of emergency. Nelson Mandela is freed from prison after serving 27 years, and makes his first speech as a free man.	
<b>1991</b>	De Klerk and Mandela begin multi-party talks, in preparation for a democratic election. All apartheid laws are ended. Mandela asks the international community to support South Africa and end sanctions and the process begins. The prison on Robben Island is shut down.	1991 four historically divided and entirely separate bodies unite and found the non-racial South African Football Association (SAFA) in Durban. 1992 SAFA is accepted back into FIFA. South African football is reorganised along non-racial, democratic principles. 1992 South Africa re-enters international football by hosting its first fully representative international football match. The South African national team, later known as Bafana Bafana (The Boys, The Boys), defeats Cameroon 1-0. The Robben Island Makana Football Association ends.
<b>1993</b>	An interim constitution is agreed by Mandela, de Klerk and representatives from 18 other political parties. Chris Hani, head of the South African Communist Party is assassinated, Mandela appeals for calm. De Klerk and Mandela are awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace jointly.	
<b>1994</b>	27 April, the first elections are held with universal franchise. The ANC is elected with a 63% vote. Nelson Mandela becomes	1994 Hours after his presidential inauguration, Nelson Mandela attends, with 80,000 spectators at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, the

The new South Africa

	<p>president of the new South Africa. The Government of National Unity is formed. South Africa's membership of the commonwealth is restored, and South Africa takes its seat in UN General Assembly after a 20-year absence. The international community lifts remaining economic and sports sanctions against South Africa.</p>	South Africa vs. Zambia football match.
<b>1995</b>	<p>South Africa hosts and wins the World Cup rugby tournament. The Rugby World Cup is the first major sporting event to take place in South Africa following the end of apartheid. It is also the first in which the South African national team is allowed to compete, following the end of apartheid.</p>	1995 Orlando Pirates win African Champions' Cup.
<b>1996 - 1998</b>	<p>The Truth and Reconciliation Commission chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu begins hearings on human rights crimes committed by the apartheid government and liberation movements during apartheid era.</p>	1996 South Africa hosts the African Cup of Nations. They go on to become champions of Africa.
<b>1996</b>	<p>The National Party leaves the coalition government, saying it is being ignored.</p>	
<b>1997</b>	<p>Nelson Mandela steps down as president and leader of the ANC. Deputy President Thabo Mbeki succeeds him.</p>	<p>1997 Bafana Bafana qualifies for the World Cup finals for the first time. The South African Football Players Union (SAFPU) is founded. 1998 Bafana Bafana participates for the first time in the FIFA World Cup in France.</p>
<b>1999</b>	<p>South Africa's second all-race elections. The ANC wins a huge victory, and ANC leader Thabo Mbeki becomes president.</p>	2000 Bafana Bafana reach the semi-finals of the African Nations Cup, where they were beaten by Nigeria

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<b>2002</b>	Right-wing extremists explode bombs in Soweto and near Pretoria. 17 people are charged with plotting against the state.	Bafana Bafana participates for the second time in the FIFA World Cup in Korea and Japan.
<b>2003</b>	Walter Sisulu, a key figure working with Mandela in the anti-apartheid struggle, dies.	
<b>2004</b>	Nelson Mandela retires from public life	15 May, South Africa is awarded the right to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup.
<b>2004</b>	Third democratic election. The ANC wins a landslide victory, gaining nearly 70% of votes. Thabo Mbeki begins a second term as president. The government publishes a progress report on its programme since 1994. It shows 1.46 million subsidised houses have been built, 8.4 million people have gained access to water and 3.8 million people have been given access to electricity.	
<b>2007</b>	President Thabo Mbeki resigns and Jacob Zuma is elected chairperson of the ANC. ANC deputy leader Kgalema Motlanthe is chosen by parliament as president.	FIFA presents the Makana Football Association with a certificate of honorary membership to FIFA on Robben Island.
<b>2009</b>	Fourth democratic election. The ANC win 65% of votes. Parliament elects Jacob Zuma as president. In his inauguration speech he pledges to continue the development programme begun by Nelson Mandela. He recognises that Mandela had made reconciliation the central theme of his term of office.	2009 The FIFA Confederations Cup takes place in South Africa. The World Cup draw takes place.
<b>2010</b>	11 June, World Cup competition begins in South Africa.	