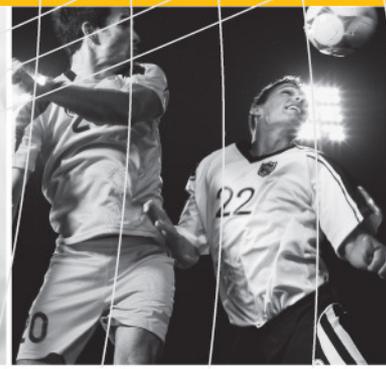
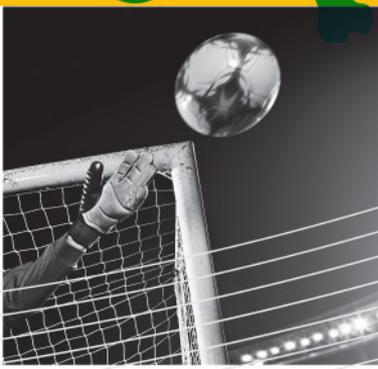




THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOOTBALL PHILOSOPHY (SAFP)



GOAL OF VISION 2022

Sustained international success for all our national teams

- ▶ **Consistently in top 3 in Africa**
- ▶ **Consistently in top 20 in World**



WHAT IS A FOOTBALL PHILOSOPHY

- ▶ The South African Football Philosophy (SAFP) defines the desired structure and style of our football, integrating global best practice with the specific values, football traditions and cultural patterns and resources of our players and of our nation. The SAFP undergirds and supports the process of talent identification and development that will best draw out the strengths and mitigate the weaknesses that we identify. The SAFP allows us to draw from our strengths as a nation while being open to learn at all times from the ever-deepening well of global football trends.
- ▶ It is critically important that we define and implement the SAFP, so that we can align coaching practices, talent identification and development processes and practices, and the style and structure of our national teams of all ages.
- ▶ The SAFP defines who we are as a footballing nation, and how we play. **Our game, our way.**



The South African Football Philosophy: Ubuntu, Tsamaya, Phakathi

The SAFFP of “**Ubuntu, Tsamaya and Phakathi**” is distinctly unique. It’s competitive in approach, skillful by nature, and results in a common winning goal.

This is achieved through a maximised collective performance, enhanced by a dominant individuality and versatility in a functionally balanced playing system of defence, transition and attack.

- ▶ **Ubuntu** recognizes a collective team, dependent and caring of each other, building on and cherishing our diversity whilst acknowledging that all our individual actions must be aligned to a common goal through compassion and humility.
- ▶ **Tsamaya** recognizes and expresses our mentality of creative, skillful, guileful and joyful expression of flair and individual brilliance that is celebrated within the collective. Our rich talent of ball control, guile, skill and individual brilliance must produce game-breaking moments against well organized defensive patterns.
- ▶ **Phakathi** recognizes that winning the game is by putting the ball in the net. Without the direction and objectives summarized by the value of **Phakathi**, our skill can be wasteful and our collective be stifling. Our game must have the final product of scoring the goal.



Defensive Play

- ▶ Compact but flexible organization/systems with **distance between players of 8 – 12m**.
- ▶ Team shifts towards the ball action to slow down attacks and regroup.
- ▶ Collective team effort to regain possession by sustained pressure on the ball by 4-5 players to neutralize/dispossess as high up the pitch as possible.
- ▶ Use mini defensive units of 2-3 players to pressurise and dispossess the opposition's most influential/creative players when on the ball.
- ▶ Rapid repositioning (triangles).
- ▶ Consistently pressing high.
- ▶ Controlled aggressiveness – "a no foul mentality".
- ▶ Defensive anticipation.
- ▶ Decisive Goalkeeper to act as defence' support player with good distribution.
- ▶ Defenders good in 1v1, ground and in air.



Offensive Play

- ▶ Use the advantage of our players' multi-functional ability to construct, support, complete attacks.

Disorganized Opposition

- ▶ Attacks are done at high speed and acceleration with elements of risk taking and surprise.
- ▶ With numerical superiority and decisive attempts at goal.
- ▶ Change point of attack.

Organized Opposition

- ▶ Attack is based on possession with continuous mobility using direction changes and disguise.
- ▶ Creating space through intelligent/creative players' rotations/interchanging of positions.
- ▶ Individual 1v1 actions/dribbling with quick and decisive penetration and scoring attempts.



Offensive Play cont'

- ▶ Maintaining width and depth with wide midfielders cutting in, creating space for high wingbacks to join in attack.
- ▶ Combination play through simplicity of increased speed of passing by a sudden increased tempo.
- ▶ Use one two combination play - predominantly short and ultra-short passing (inside 2m) used with **variations of pace, elements of surprise/ unpredictability and combined with decisive dribbling.**
- ▶ Structural flexibility through continuous interchanging of positions whilst maintaining a well organized defensive pattern.



Fast Transition

- ▶ Early pressing after losing possession.
- ▶ Cutting off the short passing by squeezing the opponents space.
- ▶ Speed of perception and reaction after gaining possession (1st seconds crucial).



Player Attributes

Mental

- ▶ Ability to assess and respond accurately and quickly to play situations - **Game Intelligence**
- ▶ Initiative, creativity, disguise, anticipation, confidence, risk-taking.
- ▶ Positive arrogance/assertiveness.
- ▶ Distributive attention, concentration, analytical capacity, communication, commitment.
- ▶ Resilience, emotional control, high esteem.
- ▶ Correct decision making under pressure.



Technical / Tactical

- ▶ Learning the complete range of ball skills.
- ▶ Ability to combine intricate movement related to rapid direction change, feinting, disguise with technique of dribbling, passing and scoring.
- ▶ Capacity to apply all ball and movement skills in conditions of intense marking pressure ('No space, no time' game situations).
- ▶ Use of both feet.
- ▶ Competent to take risk by using difficult/complex techniques in decisive play situations.
- ▶ Aware of tactical/ psychological benefits of ball skill superiority against opponents of superior physicality/aggression.
- ▶ Creative aptitude in the application of techniques.
- ▶ Discover and develop new skills/techniques.



Physical Attributes

- ▶ Efficient, fluent and skilful movement based on excellent agility, coordination, dynamic balance, timing and rhythm.
- ▶ Aptitudes for reaction of **explosive speed** and speed-endurance.
- ▶ High endurance rate of sustained intense and complex actions.
- ▶ Efficient recovery - **Somatic factor (biomechanical advantages of average or smaller body-frame/height in modern game's dynamics)**



Social & Cultural Influences

- ▶ Love & passion for the game.
- ▶ Education, mentality.
- ▶ Inspiring traditions.
- ▶ Social factors.
- ▶ Role models.
- ▶ National and local success history.
- ▶ Cultural understanding.



Trends & Challenges

- ▶ Diversification of playing philosophies
- ▶ Intelligent application of technique and intricate movement
- ▶ Increasing competitiveness especially at junior levels(U/5-U/12)
- ▶ Higher number of excellent quality players – superior mental, technical and conditioning attributes
- ▶ Significant increase of variety in attack mainly due to dominant individuality within the collective performance (creativity& initiative)
- ▶ Increased efficiency of short passing and dribbling combinations through superior movement with & without the ball.
- ▶ Less positional play through expanded players' functionality & mobility.
- ▶ Flexible defence compactness and high pressing (ball oriented).
- ▶ More effective counterattacks and defence response to quick attacks (**improve both aspects of transition**).
- ▶ Increasingly more fluent styles with less fouls.



Implementation Pillars

Coach Education Content

- ▶ Refine all coaching manuals in line with the SAFFP.
- ▶ Create a syllabus that will maximise talent potential and address players limitations.

Talent Identification Process

- ▶ Create a scouting network with a specific selection criteria according to the playing SAFFP.

High Performance

- ▶ Unique, competitive and successful style of play aligned to the SAFFP.

Increase Number of Coach Instructors and Coaches

- ▶ More coach instructors - more qualified coaches.
- ▶ Increase the number of coaching qualifications.

