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SASCOC ANNOUNCES TEAM SA LIST OF ATHLETES FOR DAKAR 2026 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

Johannesburg, South Africa – 1 October 2026 – With 30 days to go until the opening ceremony of the 4th Summer Youth Olympics, the South African Sports Confederation, Olympic and Paralympic Committee (SASCOC) has announced the Team SA squad to compete in Dakar, Senegal from 31st October to 13th November.

The Youth Olympics are back after an eight-year hiatus due to the knock-on effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2018 Games were staged in Buenos Aires, but Dakar becomes the first African city to host any Olympics or Paralympic Games.

Team SA will be represented by 46 athletes across 15 different codes in Dakar, with boys' rugby sevens including 12 players. The other 14 sports and their representation are: archery (2), athletics (10), badminton (1), beach volleyball (2), cycling (2), fencing (1), equestrian (1), gymnastics (6), judo (1), rowing coastal beach (1), skateboarding (1), swimming (4), beach wrestling (1) and triathlon (1).

In making the announcement, the acting president of SASCOC, Ms Lwandile Simelane, noted the significance of the Games. "It's truly a historical moment in sport. The first Youth Olympics in Africa – in fact, the first International Olympic Committee event ever staged on the continent – has to be celebrated. It's huge for Africa and Team SA is committed to playing a full part in the overall success of the event. Our young athletes will go there as proud representatives of their country, and their continent. We wish them, as well as the organisers of the Youth Olympics, every success."

THE TEAM:

Archery (2)

Boys: Benjamin Oosthuizen

Girls: Layla Viljoen

Management: Catharina Whitehead

Athletics (10)

Boys: Enrique Bosch, Matao Le Roux, Darius Botha, Jacobus van der Merwe, John-Pierre Theron

Girls: Janelle Kirkpatrick, Megan Nieman, Milan Blignaut, Shiloh Snijders, Lara Stander

Management: Regoabetswe Malope, Seef le Roux

Badminton (1)

Boys: Misha Bredell

Management: Dillan Schaap

Beach volleyball (2)

Boys: Duncan Davids, Evra King

Management: Koali Possa

Beach wrestling (1)

Girls: Duné van Zyl

Management: Dean van Zyl

Cycling (2)

Boys: Yahyaa Martin

Girls: Madison Bateson

Management: Durwan Benjamin

Fencing (1)

Girls: Nikita Venturas

Management: Alexandra Lancaster

Equestrian (1)

Girls: Bo Reed

Management: Alexander Nell

Gymnastics (6)

Girls: Zia Davids, Haylee van Rensburg, Lila du Plessis

Boys: Frederik Davies-Vaneetvelde, Gethin Davies-Vaneetvelde, Pfumelo Shibambu

Management: Anke Badenhorst, Kevin Basson

Judo (1)

Boys: Adriaan Schutte

Management: Allerdyce Fulton

Rowing (1)

Boys: Callum Dreyer

Management: Avlyn Gallwey

Rugby Sevens (12)

Boys: Werner de Bruin, Dandre Brink, Thubelihle Marule, Corne Ferreira, James Sale, Siphesihle Marule, Darnell Delport, Rosco Williams, Divan Meyer, Jake Dave, Albert Nel, Kingsley Pule

Management: Sandile Ngcobo, Bongani Qumbu

Skateboarding (1)

Boys: Botho Losaba

Management: Sharne Jacobs

Swimming (4)

Boys: Matthew Goller, Eric Kotze

Girls: Chanel Veldsman, Leah Markgraaff

Management: Keenan Riffel

Triathlon (1)

Girls: Taylor Foster

Management: Mfanufikile Radebe

Also adding her well wishes was the CEO of SASCOC, Ms Nozipho Jafta. “These Youth Olympics have been a long time coming. Not only because it’s been an eight-year wait between Games but because it’s so significant for Africa. We have a very good relationship with Senegal, but I want to say that while we will remain firm friends off the field of play, Team SA is going to Dakar with ambitions of competing strongly and winning medals.”

In the three completed Summer Youth Olympics to date, Team SA has won 15 medals, of which six of them have been gold. Team SA has brought home a gold medal at each of the three previous Games; occupying 39th position on the all-time medals table.

The most famous products from the Youth Olympics onto the senior international stage are swimmers Chad le Clos (2010) and Michael Houlie (2014), who both won gold at the respective Games, and went onto international stardom. Both are still competing and earned medals for Team SA at the recent 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

SASCOC previously announced 2012 London Olympics rowing gold medallist Sizwe Ndlovu as Chef de Mission (team leader) at the Dakar Games. His responsibilities will include helping to safeguard athlete welfare, strengthening team cohesion, supporting a high-performance culture and ensuring that South Africa's young athletes are able to represent the country with pride, discipline and distinction.

PREVIOUS GAMES:

2010 Singapore

2014 Nanjing

2018 Buenos Aires

TOTAL MEDALS:

6 Gold

5 Silver

4 Bronze

PREVIOUS GOLD MEDALLISTS

Athletics

2010: Jacques du Plessis

2014: Gezelle Magerman

2018: Luke Davis

Swimming

2010: Chad le Clos

2018: Michael Houlie

Triathlon

2018: Amber Schlebusch

ENDS

About the South African Sports Confederation, Olympic and Paralympic Committee (SASCOC)

SASCOC is South Africa's national multi-coded sporting body responsible for the preparation, presentation and performance of Team South Africa at multi-coded events, including the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Youth Olympic Games, Winter Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, African Games, World Games and AUSC Region 5 Games.

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