



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.

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- The SAFF 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 SAFF 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 SAFF, 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 SAFF 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.



The South African Football Philosophy:

Ubuntu

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.



The South African Football Philosophy:

Tsamaya

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.



The South African Football Philosophy: **Phakathi**

Phakathi is our goal-orientated mindset. It is about focus and end results, emphasising that the purpose of all efforts is to put the ball in the net and secure victory.



The South African Football Philosophy: **Application in Football**

- Drives the importance of finishing—translating possession, skill, and teamwork into goals.
- Stresses discipline in execution, from clinical passing in attack to accurate finishing in front of goal.
- Combines creativity (Tsamaya) with purpose to ensure that flair translates into tangible outcomes.