

Canadian Government Policy Regarding Sporting
Contacts Between Canada and South Africa

This statement is intended to clarify Canada's policy regarding sporting contacts between Canadian and South African sportspeople in the following circumstances:

- 1) in Canada
- 2) in South Africa
- 3) in competition in third countries.

It is for the guidance of Canadian sport governing bodies and other Canadian organizations involved in international sport, and supersedes all previous statements of Federal policy on the subject.

The Background

The policy and practice of apartheid (racial separatism) in South Africa has long been considered unacceptable by the international community. Much pressure has been brought to bear on South Africa to change its racial policies and this has led to the virtual isolation of South Africa in many areas of international activity - particularly in the field of sports.

The International Olympic Committee has expelled South Africa from Olympic competition. The United Nations has adopted a Declaration against apartheid in sport. The members of the Commonwealth, at their Heads of Government meeting in 1977, agreed upon the Gleneagles Declaration, which pledged them to discourage by all practical means sporting contacts between their citizens and South Africans. In 1982, the Commonwealth Games Federation adopted a Code of Conduct for its member Associations, which is designed to give specific meaning and force to the general commitment made by Commonwealth countries at Gleneagles.

Sport, in general, is a highly regarded and very important element in the way of life of the white minority population that controls South Africa. The denial of world class competition and the international ostracism in sport is keenly felt there. This has had some effect and has resulted in a relaxation of the enforcement of racial legislation in sports activities.