

## **Attending boys-only schools: Is it an incidental or a strategic contributing factor to South African cricket development and success?**

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### **Abstract**

This study investigated the extent to which South African cricketers who attended boys-only or co-educational (co-ed) schools have represented the country's national men's team (known as the Proteas) in any of the three formats of the sport recognised by the International Cricket Council (ICC). The study raises an important question: do boys-only schools strategically feed better players to the South African national squad or is it a mere coincidence? To address this issue, the South African national cricket players since 1991 were sourced either via Wikipedia, Cricinfo, South African Cricket Magazine or Annual books alongside the high schools they had attended. The players (n = 461: ODI or One-Day Internationals, World Cups = 119, ODIs = 133, Tests = 101, T20s or Twenty-twenty= 82, South African School Captains = 26) were categorised based on whether they had attended either a: (1) co-ed private school (n = 16), (2) co-ed public school (n = 172), (3) boys-only private school (n = 72), or (4) boys-only public school (n = 201). Findings showed that attending boys-only schools (n = 273; 59.2%) was a key contributing factor to playing men's cricket at the highest level ( $\chi^2 = 193.44$ , df = 3; p = 0.001) in South Africa. However, there were no significant differences in school attendance among players in the three different cricket match formats ( $\chi^2 = 2.87$ ; df = 4, p = 0.5). Boys-only schools was found to be key (aside from race, class, socio-economic and cultural factors), and not necessarily whether they are private or public/co-ed schools. Individual player variations as well as other factors such as the number of pupils enrolled in schools, availability of cricket facilities and coaching standards also need to be considered. The paper discusses the implications of the findings and concludes that attending boys-only schools is a strategic contributing factor to South African cricket development and success.

**Keywords:** School cricket, boys-only schools, ODIs, Tests, T20, South Africa.

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### **Introduction**

South Africa has had a turbulent past in sports participation with a political system that denied social and economic opportunities and political rights to South Africa's black majority (Booth, 2003). Today, this segregation is still prevalent in some sporting segments within South Africa (Padayachee *et al.*, 2014). From a cricket

perspective, one could argue that progress has been made and that a vast majority of South African national men's cricketers have been selected based on merit (and not quotas) in recent years (Merrett *et al.*, 2011). To maintain a strong national team, the necessary building blocks have to be laid at school level in order to meet the required performance standards when school boy cricket players develop and transcend to provincial and national levels (Stretch, 2003; Noorbhai *et al.*, 2012; Noorbhai & Noakes, 2015).

The context and background of school sports also needs to be taken into account. During colonialism in South Africa, exercise and sport were essential ingredients in shaping young boys in well-known British schools (South African schools based on the British model/tradition) into disciplined or fit Christians that were destined to lead the world in an age of empire and expansion (Odendaal, 2011). This kind of approach manifested in many South African schools in the 1800s, particularly boys-only schools and what is also described as elite (private) schools.

Cricket development in Southern Africa closely followed the path of British imperial expansion. The imperial development of cricket in the region had led to the formation of its own administration in line with the statues of power in London (Allen, 2009). South Africa was a difficult country to administer at the time, and the expert cricket officials in South Africa were successful in stimulating the different centres into a sense of shared identity through the sport (Allen, 2009).

Sport plays a significant role in the lives of the majority of South African boys (especially those who attend well-resourced South African schools) (Bowley, 2013). Sport is not simply a past time, something recreational and fun, but a place where dominant masculinities are formed and relations of domination and subordination are born (Swain, 2002; Bhana, 2008). In essence, boys-only private schools place sport as a major sphere of schooling in South Africa (Bowley, 2013). As many boys in South African schools take sport seriously, there is a link between dominant masculinity, heterosexuality and sporty South African boys in schools (Bowley, 2013).

In South Africa, schools are categorised into five groups (quintiles) based on the relative wealth of their surrounding communities. Schools in the poorest communities are classified as Quintile 1 and those serving the wealthiest communities are categorised as Quintile 5 (Spaull, 2013). Boys-only and private schools would be regarded as Quintiles 4 and 5, whereas co-educational (co-ed) public schools range from Quintiles 1 – 3. About 40% of the country's poorest schools (those in Quintiles 1 and 2) are designated as no-fee schools. In 2011, the classification was expanded to include Quintile 3 schools. No-fees schools were allocated more money by government than Quintiles 4 and 5 schools to make up for the fees that they would have charged (Spaull, 2013). Although it seems to be more of a financial categorisation, it has also been a way to designate schools

under various locations, cultures or traditions (Spaull, 2013). Sandiford and Stoddart (1987) investigated elite (middle-to-upper class or private) schools and cricket in Barbados through colonial continuity. Some of their insights suggested that the single most important social condition underlying the cricket eminence was the elaboration of what might be called the 'elite school' system in Barbados from the 1870s onwards. This was a system based quite consciously on the public and grammar school ideology of Victorian Britain. Perhaps the most remarkable and distinctive trait concerning the elite school influence over Barbadian cricket, is that the game of cricket still followed the playing and moral codes established by the elites (Gemmell, 2007).

While the game was taken up almost religiously by the island's lower classes through leagues groups such as the Barbados Cricket League, the codes and standards to which they aspired were those established and maintained by the culturally dominant cricketing products of the elite schools. This was particularly important among the emergent black leaders who became steadily Anglicised that they not only copied British political ideals but also mimicked Victorian attitudes (Mangan, 1983), so successfully, that Barbados became known throughout the Caribbean, as 'Little England'.

The above depiction in the West Indies had a similar trajectory on the African continent (Desai & Vahed, 2010). These influences flourished almost instantly into the many private and boys-only schools in South Africa. Sports played an important role in these schools with traditions and cultures that had existed for more than a century in Britain. Their approach (mainly from Victorian Britain) is a probable reason why these schools had a high standard of sports, particularly school cricket (Mangan, 1983).

Therefore, it was necessary to investigate one of the feeder systems of South African cricket, i.e. school level cricket, in terms of whether male cricketers have a better opportunity to play for South Africa in all match formats (Tests, ODIs and T20 games), if they attended a private and/or boys-only school. In order to analyse this trend, this study investigated whether former or current South African cricketers who attended boys-only schools represented the South African national men's team in any of the three match formats (Tests, ODIs and T20s). The findings may have profound implications for cricket development as it will inform the strategies that could be implemented by Cricket South Africa to identify and nurture talented players.

## **Methodology**

### *Research design*

In analytical research studies, one has to use the facts and information that are already available, and analyse these to make a critical evaluation of the material at

hand (Kothari, 2004). Furthermore, cross-sectional studies are used to determine prevalence and are relatively quick but do not permit conclusions based on causality of relationships between variables (Mann, 2003). As such, a descriptive survey design involving analytical methods was applied to determine the extent to which attending boys-only schools contributes to young cricketers representing the South African men's national cricket team.

### *Participants*

All participants (n = 461) analysed in this study have played (since 1991) or are currently playing for the South African men's national team in either of the three match formats (Tests, ODIs and T20s). The year 1991 was chosen as it resonates from a historical perspective, the period when South Africa was readmitted to international sport (Odendaal, 2011). Cricketers who represented South Africa in Test matches (since 1992), ODIs (since 1991), and T20s (since 2005) were included in the study. The Cricket World Cups squads (between 1992 and 2019) and South African School cricket captains (between 1994 and 2019) were also included.

To obtain necessary data for this study, the South African men's national team cricket players since 1991 were sourced either from Wikipedia, Cricinfo, the South African Cricket Magazine or the South African Cricket Annual books (2017 & 2018), alongside the high schools that they attended. Based on the high schools attended, the players were categorised according to whether they attended either a: 1) co-ed private school; 2) co-ed public school; 3) boys-only private school; or 4) boys-only public school. If a player attended more than one school, the last school that he attended was included in the analysis.

### *Quantitative data analysis*

A Chi-square goodness of fit test was performed to determine if there were any significant differences in attending the respective categories of schools. Specifically, the test was conducted to determine whether being chosen to play at various formats of cricket was dependent on attending a particular type of school. Statistical analysis could not be performed for the private co-ed school group due to the small number of players (under five) in the observed group. All analyses were performed using SPSS version 25 (IBM) at a significance level of  $p < 0.05$ .

### *Ethical considerations*

Due to the players' data being available in a public domain, and at a number of credible cricket internet sites, no ethical approval from either an institution or cricket board was deemed necessary. This is consistent with ethical guidelines published in the literature regarding online research (Kitchin, 2003; Sugiura *et al.*, 2017). In addition, an inter-rater technique was utilised to reduce bias and perspective error when categorising players into the various schooling groups.

## Results

### *One-Day International World Cup Competitions*

Out of the 119 players who represented South Africa at World Cup competitions between 1992 and 2019, 78 players attended a boys-only school, which makes up 65% of the entire group ( $\chi^2 = 18.54$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ) (Table 1). Interestingly, the 1999 team only had two players who attended co-ed public schools and this team was regarded as one of the strongest South African World Cup cricket teams. The only International Cricket Council (ICC) tournament that South Africa won was the 1998 Champions Trophy (in which selection was purely based on merit). Similarly, the 1998 team had only one player who had attended a co-ed public school. This raises an interesting point: Do boys-only schools feed better players (as a strategic intent) to represent South Africa at ICC tournaments or is it a mere coincidence?

**Table 1:** List of players who represented South Africa in ODI World Cups between 1992 – 2019

| <b>1992<br/>(Australia/New Zealand)</b> | <b>High School Attended</b> | <b>Category</b> | <b>1996 (Sri Lanka/Pakistan)</b>    | <b>High School Attended</b> | <b>Category</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Kepler Wessels                          | Grey College                | 4               | Hansie Cronje                       | Grey College                | 4               |
| Tertius Bosch                           | Vereeniging HS              | 2               | Paul Adams                          | Plumstead                   | 2               |
| Hansie Cronje                           | Grey College                | 4               | Daryl Cullinan                      | Queen's College             | 4               |
| Allan Donald                            | Hoër Tegniese               | 2               | Fanie de Villiers                   | Heidelberg Volk             | 2               |
| Omar Henry                              | Luckhoff SS                 | 2               | Allan Donald                        | Hoër Tegniese               | 2               |
| Andrew Hudson                           | Kearsney College            | 3               | Andrew Hudson                       | Kearsney Col                | 3               |
| Peter Kirsten                           | SACS                        | 4               | Jacques Kallis                      | Wynberg Boys                | 4               |
| Adrian Kuiper                           | Bishops                     | 3               | Gary Kirsten                        | Rondebosch Boys             | 4               |
| Pat Symcox                              | Kimberley Boys              | 4               | Craig Matthews                      | Pinelands HS                | 2               |
| Brian McMillan                          | Carleton Jones HS           | 2               | Brian McMillan                      | Carleton Jones HS           | 2               |
| Meyrick Pringle                         | Kingswood/Dale              | 4               | Steve Palframan                     | Dale College                | 4               |
| Jonty Rhodes                            | Maritzburg Col              | 4               | Shaun Pollock                       | Northwood                   | 3               |
| Dave Richardson                         | St Patricks Marist          | 1               | Jonty Rhodes                        | Maritzburg Col              | 4               |
| Mark Rushmere                           | Woodridge                   | 3               | Pat Symcox                          | Kimberley Boys              | 4               |
| Richard Snell                           | Durban HS                   | 4               |                                     |                             |                 |
| <b>1999 (United Kingdom)</b>            | <b>High School Attended</b> | <b>Category</b> | <b>2003 (South Africa/Zimbabwe)</b> | <b>High School Attended</b> | <b>Category</b> |
| Gary Kirsten                            | Rondebosch Boys             | 4               | Shaun Pollock                       | Northwood                   | 3               |
| Herschelle Gibbs                        | Bishops                     | 3               | Nicky Boje                          | Grey College                | 4               |
| Jacques Kallis                          | Wynberg                     | 4               | Mark Boucher (wk)                   | Selborne                    | 4               |
| Daryll Cullinan                         | Queen's College             | 4               | Boeta Dippenaar                     | Grey College                | 4               |
| Hansie Cronje                           | Grey College                | 4               | Allan Donald                        | Hoër Tegniese               | 2               |
| Dale Benkenstein                        | Michaelhouse                | 3               | Herschelle Gibbs                    | Bishops                     | 3               |
| Shaun Pollock                           | Northwood                   | 3               | Andrew Hall                         | Alberton                    | 2               |
| Jonty Rhodes                            | Maritzburg Col              | 4               | Jacques Kallis                      | Wynberg Boys                | 4               |
| Mark Boucher                            | Selborne                    | 4               | Gary Kirsten                        | Rondebosch Boys             | 4               |
| Allan Donald                            | Hoër Tegniese               | 2               | Lance Klusener                      | Durban High                 | 4               |
| Derek Crookes                           | Hilton College              | 3               | Charl Langeveldt                    | Luckhoff Sec                | 2               |
| Alan Dawson                             | SACS                        | 4               | Makhaya Ntini                       | Dale College                | 4               |
| Lance Klusener                          | Durban High                 | 4               | Robin Peterson                      | Alexander Road              | 2               |
| Steve Elworthy                          | Sandown HS                  | 2               | Jonty Rhodes                        | Maritzburg Col              | 4               |
| Nicky Boje                              | Grey College                | 4               | Graeme Smith                        | King Edward                 | 4               |

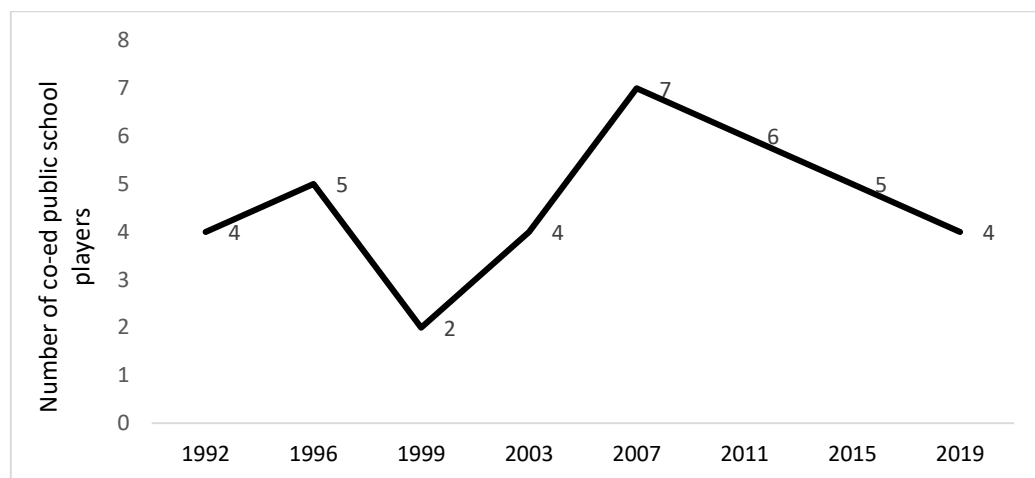
| 2007 (West Indies)           | High School Attended | Category | 2011 (India/Bangladesh) | High School Attended | Category |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Graeme Smith                 | King Edward          | 4        | Graeme Smith            | King Edward          | 4        |
| Loots Bosman                 | Tshireleco HS        | 2        | AB de Villiers          | Affies               | 4        |
| Mark Boucher                 | Selborne             | 4        | Hashim Amla             | Durban High          | 4        |
| AB de Villiers               | Affies               | 4        | Johan Botha             | Grey High            | 4        |
| Herschelle Gibbs             | Bishops              | 3        | JP Duminy               | Plumstead            | 2        |
| Andrew Hall                  | Alberton             | 2        | Francois du Plessis     | Affies               | 4        |
| Jacques Kallis               | Wynberg Boys         | 4        | Colin Ingram            | Woodridge Col        | 3        |
| Justin Kemp                  | Queens College       | 4        | Jacques Kallis          | Wynberg Boys         | 4        |
| Charl Langeveldt             | Luckhoff Sec         | 2        | Morné Morkel            | Vereeniging          | 2        |
| André Nel                    | EG Jansen            | 2        | Wayne Parnell           | Grey High            | 4        |
| Makhaya Ntini                | Dale College         | 4        | Robin Peterson          | Alexander Road       | 2        |
| Robin Peterson               | Alexander Road       | 2        | Dale Steyn              | Merensky High        | 2        |
| Shaun Pollock                | Northwood            | 3        | Imran Tahir             | Govt Pakistan        | 2        |
| Ashwell Prince               | St Thomas Sec        | 2        | Lonwabo Tsotsobe        | Westering HS         | 2        |
| Roger Telemachus             | Cloeteville          | 2        | Morné van Wyk           | Grey College         | 2        |
|                              |                      |          |                         |                      | 4        |
| 2015 (Australia/New Zealand) | High School Attended | Category | 2019 (England/Wales)    | High School Attended | Category |
| AB de Villiers               | Affies               | 4        | Francois du Plessis     | Affies               | 4        |
| Hashim Amla                  | Durban High          | 4        | Aiden Markram           | Pretoria Boys        | 4        |
| Kyle Abbott                  | Kearsney Col         | 3        | A. Phehlukwayo          | High School          | 3        |
| Farhaan Behardien            | Westerford           | 2        | Chris Morris            | Glenwood HS          | 4        |
| Quinton de Kock              | King Edward          | 4        | Beuran Hendricks        | Pretoria Boys HS     | 2        |
| JP Duminy                    | Plumstead HS         | 2        | David Miller            | Good Hope HS         | 4        |
| Francois du Plessis          | Affies               | 4        | Dwaine Pretorius        | Maritzburg Col       | 2        |
| David Miller                 | Maritzburg Col       | 4        | Hashim Amla             | Hoërskool Bersig     | 4        |
| Morné Morkel                 | Vereeniging HS       | 2        | Imran Tahir             | Durban High          | 2        |
| Wayne Parnell                | Grey High            | 4        | JP Duminy               | Govt Pakistan        | 2        |
| Aaron Phangiso               | CBC Pretoria         | 1        | Kagiso Rabada           | Plumstead HS         | 2        |
| Vernon Philander             | Ravensmead SS        | 2        | Lungi Ngidi             | St Stithians         | 3        |
| Rilee Rossouw                | Grey College         | 4        | Quinton de Kock         | Hilton Col           | 3        |
| Dale Steyn                   | Merkensky HS         | 2        | Rassie van der Dussen   | King Edward          | 4        |
| Imran Tahir                  | Govt Pakistan        | 2        | Tabraiz Shamsi          | Affies               | 4        |
|                              |                      |          |                         | Parktown Boys        | 4        |

*Col = College; Govt = Government; HS = High School; Sec = Secondary; SS = Secondary School; Volk = Volksskool; SACS = South African College Schools, 1) co-ed private school; 2) co-ed public school; 3) boys-only private school; or 4) boys-only public school. Adapted from: Wikipedia*

The consensus in recent years may not have changed, where boys-only schools are still considered as ideal settings for future South African men's professional cricketers.

Figure 1 shows that there is a low number of players who attended co-ed public schools and represented South Africa in ODI World Cup competition. Out of the 14 or 15-man squads, the following number of players attended public schools and competed in years indicated in parentheses, respectively: four (1992), five (1996), two (1999), four (2003), six (2011), five (2015) and four (2019). Interestingly, the 2007 World Cup tournament had the highest number of players ( $n = 7$ ) who had attended co-ed public schools, and a subsequent decrease of one player for each

World Cup, thereafter, was observed. Boys-only schools (ranging from 8 to 13 players out of the 14 or 15-man squads) appear to be the most common choice where South African cricket players in ODI World Cups attended high school.



**Figure 1:** Number of co-ed public school players that represented South Africa in World Cups.

*Tests, ODI and T20 Match Formats*

About 61.4% ( $\chi^2 = 15.98$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ) of players who played Test cricket for South Africa between 1992 – 2019 had attended boys-only schools (Table 2). Similarly, there were 59% ( $\chi^2 = 14.03$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ) of players who attended boys-only schools that played ODI cricket for South Africa between 1992 – 2019 (Table 3).

**Table 2:** List of players who played Test cricket for South African between 1992 – July 2019 (*from recent to least recent*)

| Player            | High School               | Category |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Wiaan Mulder      | St Stithians              | 3        |
| Zubayr Hamza      | Rondebosch boys           | 4        |
| Lungi Ngidi       | Hilton College            | 3        |
| Andile Phelukwayo | Glenwood High School      | 3        |
| Aiden Markram     | Pretoria Boys High School | 4        |
| Heino Kuhn        | Affies                    | 4        |
| Theunis de Bruyn  | Menlopark High            | 2        |
| Duanne Olivier    | HS Centurion              | 2        |
| Tabraiz Shamsi    | Parktown Boys High School | 4        |
| Keshav Maharaj    | Northwood High School     | 3        |
| Stephen Cook      | King Edward               | 4        |
| Hardus Viljoen    | HS Waterkloof             | 2        |
| Chris Morris      | Pretoria Boys High        | 4        |
| Kagiso Rabada     | St Stithians              | 3        |
| Dane Vilas        | King Edward               | 4        |
| Simon Harmer      | Pretoria Boys High        | 4        |
| Temba Bavuma      | St David’s Marist Inanda  | 3        |
| Stiaan Van Zyl    | Boland Landbou            | 4        |
| Dane Piedt        | SACS                      | 4        |
| Quinton de Kock   | King Edward               | 4        |
| Kyle Abbott       | Kearsney College          | 3        |

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|----------------------|---|---|
| Dean Elgar           | St Dominic's College                        | 1 |
| Francois du Plessis  | Affies                                      | 4 |
| Rory Kleinveldt      | Plumstead High School                       | 2 |
| Marchant de Lange    | Ben Vorster High School                     | 2 |
| Vernon Philander     | Ravensmead Secondary School                 | 2 |
| Imran Tahir          | Govt Pakistan Angels HS                     | 2 |
| Lonwabo Tsotsobe     | Westering High School                       | 2 |
| Alviro Petersen      | Gelvendale High School & Otto du Plessis    | 2 |
| Wayne Parnell        | Grey High School                            | 4 |
| Ryan McLaren         | Grey College                                | 4 |
| Friedel de Wet       | Gresnag High School                         | 2 |
| Albie Morkel         | Hoërskool Vereeniging                       | 2 |
| Imraan Kahn          | Durban High School (DHS)                    | 4 |
| Jean-Paul Duminy     | Plumstead High School                       | 2 |
| Paul Harris          | Fish Hoek High School                       | 2 |
| Morné Morkel         | Hoërskool Vereeniging                       | 2 |
| Johan Botha          | Grey High School                            | 4 |
| Charl Langeveldt     | Luckhoff Secondary School                   | 2 |
| Dale Steyn           | Merensky High School                        | 2 |
| AB de Villiers       | Affies                                      | 4 |
| Hashim Amla          | Durban High School (DHS)                    | 4 |
| Thami Tsolekile      | Pinelands High School                       | 2 |
| Zander de Bruyn      | Hoërskool Helpmekeer and Hoërskool Randburg | 2 |
| Monde Zondeki        | Dale College                                | 4 |
| Robin Peterson       | Alexander Road High School                  | 2 |
| Charl Willoughby     | Wynberg Boys High School                    | 4 |
| Jacques Rudolph      | Affies                                      | 4 |
| Alan Dawson          | South African College Schools (SACS)        | 4 |
| Martin van Jaarsveld | Warmbaths High School                       | 2 |
| Graeme Smith         | King Edward VII School (KES)                | 4 |
| Dewald Pretorius     | Hoërskool Dr Viljoen                        | 2 |
| Andrew Hall          | Hoërskool Alberton                          | 2 |
| Ashwell Prince       | St Thomas Secondary School                  | 2 |
| Justin Ontong        | Paarl Gimnasium                             | 4 |
| Andre Nel            | EG Jansen                                   | 2 |
| Claude Henderson     | Worcester Boys High School                  | 4 |
| Justin Kemp          | Queen's College                             | 4 |
| Mfuneko Ngam         | Douglas Mbopha                              | 2 |
| Neil McKenzie        | King Edward VII School (KES)                | 4 |
| Nicky Boje           | Grey College                                | 4 |
| Pieter Strydom       | Grey High School                            | 4 |
| Mornantau Hayward    | HTS Daniel Pienaar                          | 2 |
| Boeta Dippenaar      | Grey College                                | 4 |
| David Terbrugge      | St Sithians College                         | 3 |
| Steve Elworthy       | Sandown High School                         | 2 |
| Gerhardus Liebenberg | Hoërskool Diamantveld                       | 2 |
| Makhaya Ntini        | Dale College                                | 4 |
| HD Ackerman          | Rondebosch Boys High School                 | 4 |
| Mark Boucher         | Selborne College                            | 4 |
| Adam Bacher          | King Edward VII School (KES)                | 4 |
| Lance Klusener       | Durban High School (DHS)                    | 4 |
| Herschelle Gibbs     | Bishops                                     | 3 |
| Paul Adams           | Plumstead High School                       | 2 |
| Jacques Kallis       | Wynberg Boys High School                    | 4 |
| Shaun Pollock        | Northwood High School                       | 1 |
| Rudi Steyn           | Hoërskool Diamantveld                       | 2 |
| Steven Jack          | Glenwood High School                        | 3 |
| John Commins         | Rondebosch Boys High School                 | 4 |

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|                   |                                      |   |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Gary Kirsten      | Rondebosch Boys High School          | 4 |
| Fanie de Villiers | Heidelberg Volksskool                | 2 |
| Patrick Symcox    | Kimberley Boys High                  | 4 |
| Clive Eksteen     | Northcliff High School               | 2 |
| Daryll Cullinan   | Queen's College                      | 4 |
| Craig Matthews    | Pinelands High School                | 2 |
| Brett Schultz     | Alexander Road High School           | 2 |
| Jonty Rhodes      | Maritzburg College                   | 4 |
| Brian McMillan    | Carleton Jones HS                    | 2 |
| Omar Henry        | Luckhoff Secondary School            | 2 |
| Jimmy Cook        | Hyde Park High School                | 2 |
| Kepler Wessels    | Grey College                         | 4 |
| Richard Snell     | Durban High School (DHS)             | 4 |
| Mark Rushmere     | Woodridge College                    | 3 |
| Dave Richardson   | St Patrick's Marist College          | 1 |
| Meyrick Pringle   | Dale College                         | 4 |
| Adrian Kuiper     | Bishops                              | 3 |
| Peter Kirsten     | South African College Schools (SACS) | 4 |
| Andrew Hudson     | Kearsney College                     | 3 |
| Allan Donald      | Hoër Tegniese                        | 2 |
| Hansie Cronje     | Grey College                         | 4 |
| Tertius Bosch     | Vereeniging High School              | 2 |

1) co-ed private school; 2) co-ed public school; 3) boys-only private school; or 4) boys-only public school.  
Adapted from: Wikipedia.

**Table 3:** List of players who played ODI cricket for South African between 1992 – July 2019 (from least to most recent)

| Player            | High School                          | Category |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Jimmy Cook        | Hyde Park High School                | 2        |
| Allan Donald      | Hoër Tegniese                        | 2        |
| Andrew Hudson     | Kearsney College                     | 3        |
| Peter Kirsten     | South African College Schools (SACS) | 4        |
| Adrian Kuiper     | Bishops                              | 3        |
| Brian McMillan    | Carleton Jones HS                    | 2        |
| Clive Rice        | St John's College                    | 3        |
| Dave Richardson   | St Patrick's Marist College          | 1        |
| Tim Shaw          | Maritzburg College                   | 4        |
| Richard Snell     | Durban High School (DHS)             | 4        |
| Kepler Wessels    | Grey College                         | 4        |
| Clive Eksteen     | Northcliff High School               | 2        |
| Craig Matthews    | Pinelands High School                | 2        |
| Mandy Yachad      | Highlands North Boys High School     | 4        |
| Hansie Cronje     | Grey College                         | 4        |
| Meyrick Pringle   | Dale College                         | 4        |
| Jonty Rhodes      | Maritzburg College                   | 4        |
| Tertius Bosch     | Vereeniging High School              | 2        |
| Omar Henry        | Luckhoff Secondary School            | 2        |
| Mark Rushmere     | Woodridge College                    | 3        |
| Corrie van Zyl    | Grey College                         | 4        |
| Dave Callaghan    | Grey College                         | 4        |
| Fanie de Villiers | Heidelberg Volksskool                | 2        |
| Brett Schultz     | Alexander Road High School           | 2        |
| Daryll Cullinan   | Queen's College                      | 4        |
| Errol Stewart     | Westville Boys High School           | 4        |
| Pat Symcox        | Kimberley Boys High                  | 4        |
| Gary Kirsten      | Rondebosch Boys High School          | 4        |
| Dave Rundle       | St Stithians College                 | 3        |
| Eric Simons       | Settlers High Schools                | 2        |

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|                      |  |   |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Derek Crookes        | Hilton College                           | 3 |
| Michael Rindel       | Durban High School                       | 4 |
| Steven Jack          | Glenwood High School                     | 3 |
| Nicky Boje           | Grey College                             | 4 |
| Gerhardus Liebenberg | Hoërskool Diamantveld                    | 2 |
| Rudi Steyn           | Hoërskool Diamantveld                    | 2 |
| Paul Adams           | Plumstead High School                    | 2 |
| Jacques Kallis       | Wynberg Boys High School                 | 4 |
| Shaun Pollock        | Northwood High School                    | 1 |
| Lance Klusener       | Durban High School (DHS)                 | 4 |
| Steve Palframan      | Dale College                             | 4 |
| Herschelle Gibbs     | Bishops                                  | 3 |
| Rudi Bryson          | Spring Boys High School                  | 2 |
| Adam Bacher          | King Edward VII School (KES)             | 4 |
| Louis Koen           | Paarl Gimnasium                          | 2 |
| Mark Boucher         | Selborne College                         | 4 |
| Makhaya Ntini        | Dale College                             | 4 |
| Steve Elworthy       | Sandown High School                      | 2 |
| Roger Telemachus     | Cloeteville High                         | 2 |
| Mornantau Hayward    | HTS Daniel Pienaar                       | 2 |
| Dale Benkenstein     | Michaelhouse                             | 3 |
| Alan Dawson          | South African College Schools (SACS)     | 4 |
| Henry Williams       | Windermere High School                   | 2 |
| Andrew Hall          | Hoërskool Alberton                       | 2 |
| Victor Mpitsang      | Grey College                             | 4 |
| Boeta Dippenaar      | Grey College                             | 4 |
| Pieter Strydom       | Grey High School                         | 4 |
| David Terbrugge      | St Stithians College                     | 3 |
| Neil McKenzie        | King Edward VII School (KES)             | 4 |
| Charl Willoughby     | Wynberg Boys High School                 | 4 |
| Nic Pothas           | King Edward VII School (KES)             | 4 |
| Shafiek Abrahams     | Bethelsdorp High School                  | 2 |
| Justin Kemp          | Queen's College                          | 4 |
| Justin Ontong        | Paarl Gimnasium                          | 4 |
| André Nel            | EG Jansen                                | 2 |
| Claude Henderson     | Worcester Boys High School               | 4 |
| Charl Langeveldt     | Luckhoff Secondary School                | 2 |
| Graeme Smith         | King Edward VII School (KES)             | 4 |
| Jon Kent             | Durban High School                       | 4 |
| Robin Peterson       | Alexander Road High School               | 2 |
| Martin van Jaarsveld | Warmbaths High School                    | 2 |
| Ashwell Prince       | St Thomas Secondary School               | 2 |
| Monde Zondeki        | Dale College                             | 4 |
| Jacques Rudolph      | Affies                                   | 4 |
| Morné van Wyk        | Grey College (Bloem)                     | 4 |
| Albie Morkel         | Hoërskool Vereeniging                    | 2 |
| JP Duminy            | Plumstead High School                    | 2 |
| AB de Villiers       | Affies                                   | 4 |
| Andrew Puttick       | Rondebosch Boys High School              | 4 |
| Johan Botha          | Grey High School                         | 4 |
| Garnett Kruger       | Gelvendale High School                   | 2 |
| Dale Steyn           | Merensky High School                     | 2 |
| Johan van der Wath   | Ermelo High                              | 2 |
| Loots Bosman         | Tshireleco High School                   | 2 |
| Alviro Petersen      | Gelvendale High School & Otto du Plessis | 2 |
| Vernon Philander     | Ravensmead Secondary School              | 2 |
| Thandi Tshabalala    | Thotagauta Secondary School              | 2 |
| Gulam Bodi           | Lenasia Secondary                        | 2 |
| Morné Morkel         | Hoërskool Vereeniging                    | 2 |

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|                       |                            |   |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Hashim Amla           | Durban High School (DHS)   | 4 |
| Paul Harris           | Fish Hoek High School      | 2 |
| Johann Louw           | Hoërskool Fraserburg       | 2 |
| Vaughn van Jaarsveld  | King Edward                | 4 |
| Wayne Parnell         | Grey High School           | 4 |
| Lonwabo Tsotsobe      | Westering High School      | 2 |
| Roelof van der Merwe  | Hoërskool Waterkloof       | 2 |
| Ryan McLaren          | Grey College               | 4 |
| David Miller          | Maritzburg College         | 4 |
| Colin Ingram          | Woodridge College          | 3 |
| Rusty Theron          | Grey High School (PE)      | 4 |
| Francois du Plessis   | Affies                     | 4 |
| Imran Tahir           | Govt Pakistan Angels HS    | 2 |
| Marchant de Lange     | Ben Vorster High School    | 2 |
| Dean Elgar            | St Dominic's College       | 1 |
| Quinton de Kock       | King Edward                | 4 |
| Rory Kleinveldt       | Plumstead High School      | 2 |
| Farhaan Behardien     | Westerford High School     | 2 |
| Aaron Phangiso        | CBC Pretoria               | 1 |
| Kyle Abbott           | Kearsney College           | 3 |
| Chris Morris          | Pretoria Boys High         | 4 |
| Henry Davids          | Stellenbosch High School   | 2 |
| Rilee Rossouw         | Grey College               | 4 |
| Mthokozisi Shezi      | Glenwood High School       | 3 |
| Kagiso Rabada         | St Stithians               | 3 |
| David Wiese           | Witbank High               | 2 |
| Tabraiz Shamsi        | Parktown Boys High School  | 4 |
| Temba Bavuma          | St David's Marist Inanda   | 3 |
| Andile Phehlukwayo    | Glenwood High School       | 3 |
| Dwaine Pretorius      | Hoërskool Bergsig          | 2 |
| Keshav Maharaj        | Northwood High School      | 3 |
| Dane Paterson         | Brackenfell High           | 2 |
| Aiden Markram         | Pretoria Boys High School  | 4 |
| Wiaan Mulder          | St Stithians               | 3 |
| Khaya Zondo           | Westville Boys High School | 4 |
| Heinrich Klaasen      | Hoërskool Menlopark        | 2 |
| Lungi Ngidi           | Hilton College             | 3 |
| Reeza Hendricks       | Northern Cape High         | 2 |
| Junior Dala           | Spring Boys High School    | 4 |
| Christiaan Jonker     | Bergsig High School        | 2 |
| Duanne Olivier        | HS Centurion               | 2 |
| Rassie van der Dussen | Affies                     | 4 |
| Beuran Hendricks      | Good Hope High School      | 2 |
| Anrich Nortje         | Brandwag High              | 2 |

1) co-ed private school; 2) co-ed public school; 3) boys-only private school; or 4) boys-only public school.  
Adapted from: Wikipedia.

In addition, there was a significant difference between players (53.7%) who attended boys-only schools that played T20 cricket for South Africa between 2005 – 2019 and those (46.3%) who attended co-ed public schools ( $\chi^2 = 19.90$ ;  $df = 2$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ) (Table 4).

**Table 4:** List of players who played T20 cricket for South Africa between 2005 – July 2019 (from recent to oldest given the time frame of the study)

| Player             | High School               | Category |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Sinethemba Qeshile | Hudson Park High School   | 2        |
| Aiden Markram      | Pretoria Boys High School | 4        |

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|                       |                              |   |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Lutho Sipamla         | Grey High School (PE)        | 4 |
| Janneman Malan        | Hoërskool Waterkloof         | 2 |
| Rassie van der Dussen | Affies                       | 4 |
| Gihahn Cloete         | Northern Cape High School    | 2 |
| Christiaan Jonker     | Bergsig High School          | 2 |
| Heinrich Klaasen      | Hoërskool Menlopark          | 2 |
| Junior Dala           | Spring Boys High School      | 4 |
| Robbie Frylinck       | Westville Boys High School   | 4 |
| Tabraiz Shamsi        | Parktown Boys High School    | 4 |
| Dwaine Pretorius      | Hoërskool Bergsig            | 2 |
| Dane Paterson         | Brackenfell High             | 2 |
| Jon-Jon Smuts         | Graeme College               | 4 |
| Andile Phehlukwayo    | Glenwood High School         | 3 |
| Lungi Ngidi           | Hilton College               | 3 |
| Mangaliso Mosehle     | Dr Johan Jurgens High        | 2 |
| Theunis de Bruyn      | Menlopark High               | 2 |
| Eddie Leie            | Potchefstroom Boys' High     | 4 |
| Rilee Rossouw         | Grey College (Bloem)         | 4 |
| Kagiso Rabada         | St Stithian's College        | 3 |
| Reeza Hendricks       | Northern Cape High           | 2 |
| Beuran Hendricks      | Good Hope High School        | 2 |
| David Wiese           | Witbank High                 | 2 |
| Imran Tahir           | Govt Pakistan Angels HS      | 2 |
| Kyle Abbott           | Kearsney College             | 3 |
| Aaron Phangiso        | CBC Pretoria                 | 1 |
| Chris Morris          | Pretoria Boys' High School   | 4 |
| Quinton de Kock       | King Edward VII School       | 4 |
| Henry Davids          | Stellenbosch High School     | 2 |
| Francois du Plessis   | Affies                       | 4 |
| Dane Vilas            | King Edward VII School       | 4 |
| Farhaan Behardien     | Westerford High School       | 2 |
| Marchant de Lange     | Ben Vorster                  | 2 |
| Richard Levi          | Wynberg Boys' High School    | 4 |
| Rusty Theron          | Grey High School (PE)        | 4 |
| Colin Ingram          | Woodridge College            | 3 |
| David Miller          | Maritzburg College           | 4 |
| Alviro Petersen       | Gelvendale High School       | 2 |
| Heino Kuhn            | Affies                       | 4 |
| Ryan McLaren          | Grey College (Bloem)         | 4 |
| Roelof van der Merwe  | Hoërskool Waterkloof         | 2 |
| Yusuf Abdulla         | Dundee High School           | 2 |
| Wayne Parnell         | Grey High School (PE)        | 4 |
| Hashim Amla           | Durban High School (DHS)     | 4 |
| Vaughan van Jaarsveld | King Edward VII School (KES) | 4 |
| Lonwabo Tsotsobe      | Westering High School        | 2 |
| Johann Louw           | Hoërskool Fraserburg         | 2 |
| Rory Kleinveldt       | Plumstead High School        | 2 |
| Justin Ontong         | Paarl Gimnasium              | 4 |
| Gulam Bodi            | Lenasia Secondary            | 2 |
| Dale Steyn            | Merensky High                | 2 |
| JP Duminy             | Plumstead High School        | 2 |
| Vernon Philander      | Ravensmead Secondary         | 2 |
| Morné Morkel          | Hoërskool Vereeniging        | 2 |
| Morné van Wyk         | Grey College (Bloem)         | 4 |
| Alfonso Thomas        | Ravensmead Secondary         | 2 |
| Tyron Henderson       | Durban High School (DHS)     | 4 |
| Johan van der Wath    | Ermelo High                  | 2 |
| Roger Telemachus      | Cloetesville High            | 2 |
| Robin Peterson        | Alexander Road High School   | 2 |

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|                  |                              |   |
|------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Neil McKenzie    | King Edward VII School (KES) | 4 |
| AB de Villiers   | Affies                       | 4 |
| Loots Bosman     | Tshireleco High School       | 2 |
| Monde Zondeki    | Dale College                 | 4 |
| Jacques Rudolph  | Affies                       | 4 |
| Garnett Kruger   | Gelvandale High School       | 2 |
| Andrew Hall      | Hoërskool Alberton           | 2 |
| Boeta Dippenaar  | Grey College (Bloem)         | 4 |
| Johan Botha      | Grey High School (PE)        | 4 |
| Graeme Smith     | King Edward VII School       | 4 |
| Ashwell Prince   | St Thomas Secondary School   | 2 |
| Shaun Pollock    | Northwood High School        | 3 |
| Makhaya Ntini    | Dale College                 | 4 |
| André Nel        | EG Jansen                    | 2 |
| Albie Morkel     | Hoërskool Vereeniging        | 2 |
| Charl Langeveldt | Luckhoff Secondary           | 2 |
| Justin Kemp      | Queen's College              | 4 |
| Jacques Kallis   | Wynberg Boys' High           | 4 |
| Herschelle Gibbs | Bishops                      | 3 |
| Mark Boucher     | Selborne College             | 4 |
| Nicky Boje       | Grey College (Bloemfontein)  | 4 |

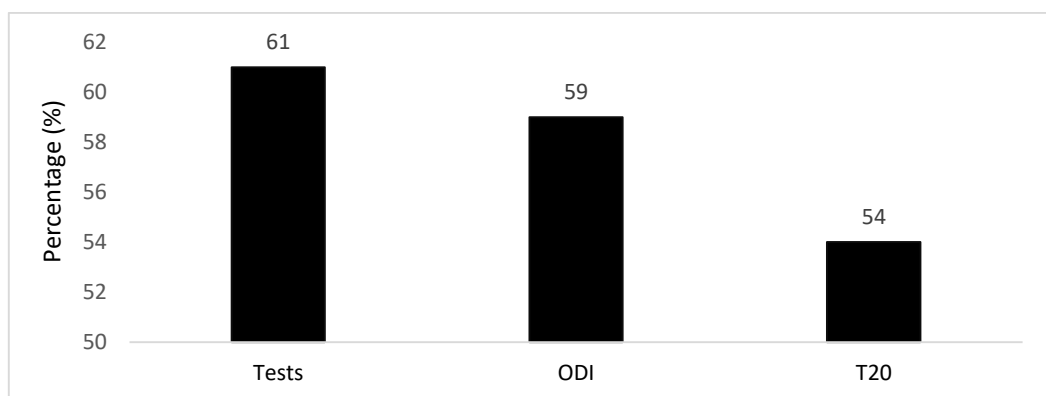
1) co-ed private school; 2) co-ed public school; 3) boys-only private school; or 4) boys-only public school.

Adapted from: *South African Cricket Magazine*.

A three-way cross-comparison of players attending schools between the three match formats (Tests, ODIs and T20s) is shown in Figure 2. There were no significant differences in school attendance among players in the three different cricket match formats ( $\chi^2 = 2.87$ ;  $df = 4$ ,  $p = 0.5$ ).

### South African Cricket Schools

Between 1994 and 2019, 24 out of 26 schools cricket captains (92.3%,  $\chi^2 = 7.55$ ;  $df = 3$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ) attended boys-only schools (Table 5). This suggests that co-ed public schools alone have not been the optimal or preferred feeder system to produce as many South African schools cricket captains.



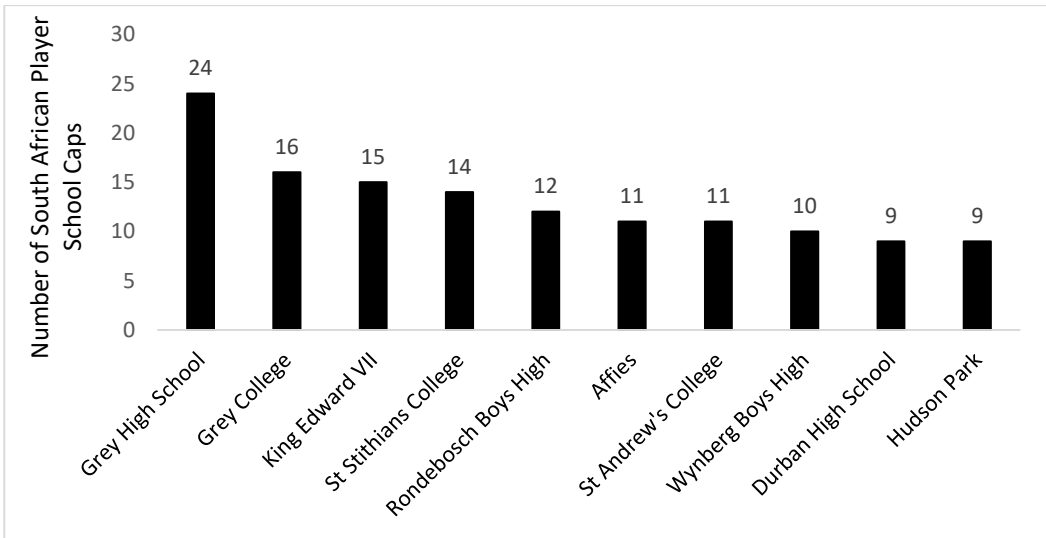
**Figure 2:** Percentage of players that attended boys-only schools and represented South Africa in Tests, ODIs and T20s.

**Table 5:** South African Schools Captains since 1994 (from recent to least recent)

| Year | Player              | High School               | Category |
|------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 2019 | Bryce Parsons       | King Edward VII           | 4        |
| 2018 | Gerald Coetzee      | St Andrew’s School        | 3        |
| 2017 | Wandile Makwetu     | St Stithians College      | 3        |
| 2016 | Wiaan Mulder        | St Stithians College      | 3        |
| 2015 | Tony de Zorzi       | King Edward VII           | 4        |
| 2014 | Matthew Christensen | Rondebosch Boys’ High     | 4        |
| 2013 | Yaseen Valli        | King Edward VII           | 3        |
| 2012 | Diego Rosier        | Northern Cape High School | 2        |
| 2011 | Prenelan Subrayen   | Glenwood High School      | 3        |
| 2010 | Keagan Rafferty     | St Andrew’s School        | 3        |
| 2009 | Josh Richards       | St Alban’s College        | 3        |
| 2008 | Dale Deeb           | Trinity House             | 1        |
| 2007 | Wayne Parnell       | Grey High School          | 4        |
| 2006 | Jonathan Vandiar    | Durban High School        | 4        |
| 2005 | Dean Elgar          | St Dominic’s College      | 1        |
| 2004 | Francois le Clus    | Affies                    | 4        |
| 2003 | Divan van Wyk       | Grey College              | 4        |
| 2002 | Riël de Kock        | Grey College              | 4        |
| 2001 | Imraan Khan         | Durban High School        | 4        |
| 2000 | Johan Botha         | Grey High School          | 4        |
| 1999 | Jacques Rudolph     | Affies                    | 4        |
| 1998 | Thami Tsolekile     | Pinelands High School     | 2        |
| 1997 | Brett Tucker        | St John’s College         | 3        |
| 1996 | Philip Hearle       | St Stithian’s College     | 3        |
| 1995 | Douglas Gain        | Hilton College            | 3        |
| 1994 | Neil McKenzie       | King Edward VII           | 4        |

1) co-ed private school; 2) co-ed public school; 3) boys-only private school; or 4) boys-only public school. List of player names adapted from: Garrun, T. (2018). *South African Cricket Magazine*.

The top 10 feeder cricket schools for South African Schools Caps until 2018 is shown in Figure 3, with Grey High School topping the list.



**Figure 3:** The top 10 feeder cricket schools for South African Schools Caps (since 1994) Adapted from: Garrun, T. (2018). *South African Cricket Magazine*.

Table 6 outlines the specific number of players in each category that have played for South Africa in Tests, ODIs, ODI World Cups, T20s as well as South African Schools cricket. This study has allocated categories to 461 players (including duplicate players who also played for South Africa in more than one match format). Boys-only schools is the most common and is significant (273 players;  $\chi^2 = 193.44$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ) when compared to the other categories.

**Table 6:** Total number of players in each category that have played for South Africa in Tests, ODIs, ODI World Cups, T20s as well as South African Schools cricket captains.

| <u>Category / Format</u> | <u>Tests</u> | <u>ODIs</u> | <u>ODI World Cups</u> | <u>T20s</u> | <u>Schools</u> | <u>Total for category</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1 (co-ed private)        | 4            | 5           | 3                     | 2           | 2              | <b>16</b>                 |
| 2 (co-ed public)         | 39           | 55          | 38                    | 38          | 2              | <b>172</b>                |
| 3 (boys-only private)    | 14           | 22          | 18                    | 8           | 10             | <b>72</b>                 |
| 4 (boys-only public)     | 44           | 51          | 60                    | 34          | 12             | <b>201</b>                |
| <b>Total for format</b>  | <b>101</b>   | <b>133</b>  | <b>119</b>            | <b>82</b>   | <b>26</b>      | <b>461</b>                |

## **Discussion**

This study has shown that attending boys-only schools is a key contributing factor to playing men’s cricket at the highest level in South Africa, whereby more than 59% of players across all formats and groups attended such schools. The study also showed that 59% of players who attended a boys-only school had played ODI cricket for South Africa between 1992 and 2019. This is consistent with another finding in terms of Test caps, where Young (2016) reported that elite (boys-only and private) schools tend to dominate selection for Test matches, whereas 35 co-ed public schools had accounted for only 42 South African caps overall. Since 2016, the number of cricket players from co-ed public schools representing South Africa in Tests has slightly increased.

Another trend observed in this study is that boys-only schools tend to produce more batsmen, whereas co-ed schools seemingly produced more bowlers. Players such as Kagiso Rabada (St Stithians) and Lungi Ngidi (Hilton College), both from boys-only schools, have been an exception, and it seems that a new trend of bowlers (not just batsmen), may emanate from boys-only schools going forward due to this recent development. It must be noted that it is the “boys-only” nature of these schools that is key, and not necessarily whether they are private or public/co-ed schools. In addition, there are also other factors which are important to consider. The elite development model of sports in South Africa is a complex one. Promising Black African cricketers are placed in predominantly white cricket schools (whether public or private) and get access to the finest training (Booth, 2012). Based on the analysis in this study, it should be noted that the country’s cricketers come from fewer than fifty schools, while thousands of schools in the country lack basic infrastructure such as toilets and potable running water, let alone standard facilities for sport. Schools are crucial in producing cricketers for

the country, and for this reason, one has to also consider race, class, government neo-liberal policies and the accountability for neglecting Black schools through its policies and the elitist model of cricket development (Booth, 2012). Almost all of the Black African cricketers that play(ed) for South Africa came through the boys-only and/or private cricket schooling system (Young, 2016). There is also the issue of what happens to Black African cricketers when they enter the cricket system but fall out prematurely because of the pervasive “white” (former colonial) cricket culture, socio-economic challenges or lack of family support (due to poverty), which prevents them from fulfilling their potential, and inhibits their pathway to the national cricket team.

Additionally, some cricketers may become disenchanted from playing cricket because of racial quotas and may emigrate to other countries. South African cricketers continue to originate mainly from cricket schools and middle class families with exceptional facilities and high coaching standards, and unless the race and class imbalances are addressed, minimal change would occur (Desai & Vahed, 2010), thereby undermining the country’s transformation agenda (NSRP, 2013). As such, the likelihood of playing cricket for South Africa is influenced by race as much as it is by just the type of school that one attends. Poorer schools may attract more Black African scholars, which may conversely mean that they would have keen interest in other accessible sports such as soccer.

It is also worth mentioning that some of the predominant Afrikaans speaking public schools such as Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool (Affies), Hoërskools Alberton, Vereeniging, Bersig, Helpmekaar, Randburg, Dr Viljoen, Diamantveld, Waterkloof, Centurion, Menlopark and Fraserburg, have produced a number of players that went on to represent South Africa in all formats. This may be attributed to the quality of sport structures in these schools, standard of facilities, level of cricket (and sports) coaching and an enduring sporting culture (Odendaal, 2011). A public school such as Die Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool in Pretoria (Affies), for example, has also produced many national cricketers. The school not only has exceptional sporting facilities, but with Afrikaans as one of the languages or medium of instructions in the classroom, some Black African learners still attend and may find it challenging to cope with both academic and sporting endeavours at the school in large numbers (van der Walt & Steyn, 2016). During the apartheid era, white public schools such as Westville High and Durban High had outstanding facilities which were on par with those in private schools. The key aspect to consider is the number of South African cricketers that were produced through the old white (public or private) schools (Merrett *et al.*, 2011).

Furthermore, some schools charge exorbitant fees which further keeps out potential Black African players. Consequently, the impact of both race and class cannot be ignored. For example, a private school such as St Stithians (located in the Gauteng province), is built on many acres of land, and has several cricket



fields, including some that are floodlit for night cricket and training, and a new cricket pavilion that comes at a substantial cost. The opportunities that attending such a school present are incomparable to those presented at public schools in African townships where minimal cricket development programmes are available.

### **Practical Implications for Cricket Coaching and Sports Administration**

Despite there being a more equitable representation of race, language and culture in the current South African Test team to a far greater degree than in the past (Young, 2018), this study has focused its attention on the high schools that players had attended, and neither analysis was made nor aspersions cast regarding race, quotas, creed or class (Gemmell, 2007) in the research. However, the findings of this study has provided insights into the dynamics of the most represented schools by present and former South African men's cricket players as well as South African Schools cricket players and captains. These insights can be useful to relevant cricket bodies (provincially and nationally) in South Africa to evoke interventions to achieve a potentially equal playing field for cricket development at the school level. Socio-economic differences and inequality indices will always pose a challenge for many adolescent cricketers (and athletes from other sports). It must also be stated that if boys-only schools enrol more pupils (in excess of 800) compared to other schools who may not have as many male pupils, it is likely that more professional cricket players would emanate from boys-only schools. Such examples in South Africa are King Edward VII, Grey College, Grey High and St. Stithians (to name a few). Based on the above information, where male national cricketers from co-ed public schools have increased in recent years, it is hopeful that there would be a proliferation in the number of players from various backgrounds (including women), through the cricket development system.

### **Limitations**

The study presents a few limitations in that it is descriptively and conceptually based on existing publicly available data. Aside from retrieving information from the South African Cricket Annuals, it was also not possible (at the time of the study) to obtain some specific information from Cricket South Africa. In addition, to provide a potential cause and effect scenario would require objective measurements such as assessing the levels of cricket coaching at each school and analysing the dynamics within each school to determine the schools' successful indicators (or lack thereof) as feeders to professional cricket squads at the highest level in South Africa. Moreover, the study has also included a broader category of public schools which could have either inferred: 1) a co-ed school, 2) less traditionally wealthy Caucasian suburbs, that have now opened their doors to all South Africans, 3) well-resourced traditional formerly Caucasian schools in the suburbs, or 4) schools in marginalised communities. It is also noted that some public schools are differently resourced in terms of the adequacy and quality of

sport facilities. As such, a broader categorisation was chosen to avoid potential complications in the analysis. This study is an attempt to introduce important questions regarding schools cricket that need to be addressed in future studies.

## Conclusions

This study has shown that attendance at boys-only schools is a key contributing factor to playing men's cricket at the highest level in South Africa, whereby more than 59% of players across all formats and groups from this study attended boys-only schools. It has further shown, that attending boys-only schools is only at times incidental, but is largely a strategic contributing factor to South African cricket development and success. In addition, not one player in this study who attended a school in a township or rural area played cricket for South Africa (unless their talent was scouted and they later attended a private or boys-only high school). There are instances where some players had also attended a co-ed school and played for South Africa. Specifically, it is the "boys-only" nature of these schools that is key (aside from race, socio-economic and cultural factors) and a strategic contributing factor, and not necessarily whether they are private or public/co-ed schools. Individual player variations as well as other factors such as the number of pupils in the school and coaching standards also have to be considered. However, after many years, boys-only schools remain the preferred and optimal feeder system to cricket being played at the highest level in South Africa. The findings from this study may not be generalisable to other countries due to the varied dynamics and unique contextual determinants in each cricketing country. Further research needs to be conducted in other countries (as well as in other South African sports) to investigate differences (if any) in players' schooling backgrounds and its role in national sports development.

## Acknowledgements

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