**Chris Naudé**

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**President, South African National Climbing Federation (SANCF)**

**Historical Professional Background:**

I Studied Electronic Engineering and Computer Science. I worked in telecoms and sonar research projects for the duration of my formal employment days. From there I spent several years consulting and training project managers for large corporations. During this period I chaired the local chapter of the Project Management Institute

My entrepreneurial side then brought me into running my own businesses in Print and then as an event owner winning many “Best Exhibition in South Africa” awards.

Finally I worked for some years in a database company project managing database and software development.

**Sport Management Summary**

As a dedicated and influential leader in sport climbing governance, I have been at the forefront of developing and shaping climbing in South Africa since 2012. With over a decade of experience in national and regional climbing leadership, I have played a pivotal role in governance, athlete development, competition structure, and international representation. As President of SANCF, I have driven strategic policies, ensured financial transparency, and established high-performance pathways for athletes, thereby ensuring that South Africa remains an engaged participant in global climbing governance.

My leadership in organising major international competitions and securing funding for athlete development has contributed significantly to the growth of the sport at both national and continental levels.

**Leadership & Governance Experience**

**President – South African National Climbing Federation (SANCF)**

*2022 – Present*

* Leading the national climbing federation, overseeing policy development, strategic planning, .
* Advocating for South Africa’s stronger presence in IFSC governance and international competitions.
* Driving financial sustainability and transparent governance, including implementing an independent financial committee.
* Strengthened athlete pathways through the High-Performance Athlete Group, ensuring South African climbers have structured development support.
* Actively working to align SANCF with international best practices in governance, safeguarding, and ethics.

**Vice President – South African National Climbing Federation (SANCF)**

*2018 – 2019*

* Supported the strategic direction and governance framework for climbing in South Africa.
* Instrumental in establishing ranking systems, national selection policies.
* Advocated for government and city funding, securing critical financial support for climbing’s growth.

**Chairman – Local Organising Committee, IFSC Africa Continental Championship**

*2019 – 2020*

* Led the first-ever IFSC Africa Continental Championship, ensuring successful logistics, funding, and athlete participation.
* Navigated the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions while ensuring a world-class competition with international media coverage.
* Oversaw the qualification process that resulted in two African climbers securing spots at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
* Strengthened Africa’s credibility as a host of major international climbing events.

**Team Manager – Munich World Boulder Cup**

*2017*

* Managed South Africa’s national climbing team at the IFSC World Boulder Cup in Munich, overseeing logistics, athlete preparation, and competition strategy.
* Provided on-the-ground support for athletes, ensuring a professional and structured approach to international competition.
* Coordinated athlete schedules, registrations, and compliance with IFSC regulations.
* Strengthened South Africa’s international presence in competitive climbing.

**President – Western Cape Climbing**

*2014-2022*

* Led and grew one of South Africa’s most active provincial climbing bodies, managing athlete development, competition structures, and regional policies.
* Established partnerships with sponsors, local governments, and climbing facilities to drive the growth of the sport.

**President – Cape Town District Climbing**

*[Dates]*

* Focused on grassroots development, competition structures, and athlete support at the district level.
* Helped strengthen relationships with schools, universities, and community-based climbing initiatives.

**Key Achievements & Contributions**

**Governance & Sport Leadership**

* Instrumental in restructuring SANCF’s governance framework, introducing financial transparency and strategic leadership.
* Developed national selection and ranking policies, ensuring fairness and clarity in South African climbing.
* Chaired the Local Organising Committee for the IFSC Africa Continental Championship, successfully hosting Africa’s first major continental climbing event despite COVID-19 challenges.
* Led South Africa’s delegation in key international forums, advocating for stronger regional and global representation.

**Athlete & Competition Development**

* Established the High-Performance Athlete Group, creating an elite athlete pipeline for South African climbers.
* Enabled two African athletes to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, marking a historic milestone for the continent.
* Served as Jury President in key national and international competitions, ensuring fair play and rule compliance.

**Financial & Institutional Strengthening**

* Advocated for and secured government and city funding, bringing critical investment into climbing infrastructure and athlete development.
* Implemented independent financial governance structures within SANCF, ensuring sustainable funding management.

**Media & Advocacy**

* Actively promoted climbing through television, radio, and podcasts, elevating the sport’s profile in South Africa.
* Strengthened climbing’s media presence, ensuring greater public and institutional recognition of the sport.

**International Engagement & IFSC Governance Alignment**

* Actively engaged in IFSC discussions on competition reform, athlete pathways, and governance best practices.
* Working to align SANCF governance with international ethics, safeguarding, and development standards.
* Driving South Africa’s ambition to have greater influence in global climbing decision-making.

**Education & Certifications**

* **Olympic Sport Workshop on Sporting Administration** – SASCOC, 2023
* **Safeguarding Awareness Course** – Completed
* **Currently Enrolled: Designated Safeguarding Officer Course** – The Guardian

**Skills & Competencies**

* Sport Governance & Policy Development
* Athlete High-Performance Management
* Strategic Planning & Financial Oversight
* Event & Competition Management
* Media & Public Relations for Sport
* Stakeholder & Government Engagement
* Athlete Safeguarding and Welfare