



# ESCA WANDERERS GOLF ACADEMY

Developing the Talent of Africa



Operated by The Wanderers Golf Club



# THE ESCA GOLF ACADEMY

Welcome to the Elite Sporting and Culture Academy (ESCA). As a leading international school, ESCA has partnered with the Wanderers Golf Academy to provide an elite structured pathway for student athletes. Our Golf Academy offers athletes the support, structure and guidance to balance their academic and sporting demands. Using the latest coaching philosophies and technologies, we offer student athletes an individualised education partnered with a high performance golf programme, giving our student athletes the best possible opportunity to achieve and excel.



**ERNST ACKERMANN:**  
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

## ESCA'S TALENT DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

ESCA's unique Talent Development System comprises four pillars, each contributing to the holistic development of our student athletes and cultural performers.



### Academic

Students are supported to attain, maintain, and retain a healthy work ethic towards their studies, while balancing their passions and other demands. As with any committed activity, time, patience, and perseverance are essential to achieving in all areas.



### Co-curricular

ESCA collaborates with high performing, committed sports and cultural specific academies and industry specialists to offer our students quality technical and tactical training, and access to world-class facilities, networks and support.



### Athlete Wellness

Physical conditioning, recovery and maintenance, together with mental strength and sustainability, are core ingredients needed for the holistic growth and development of a student athlete. ESCA students will have access to an array of wellness experts and services, building athletes who can navigate the complexities and demands that come with excellence.



### Tertiary

Having the right skills, knowledge and resources is vital to making the best decisions for your education and career after school. ESCA supports its students by developing these skills, and by providing access to a network of opportunities available both locally and abroad.



# ABOUT THE ESCA GOLF ACADEMY



## A PLAYER-CENTRED FOCUS

At the ESCA Golf Academy, our primary focus is to guide golfers in their journey towards improvement, considering their individual goals, needs, and stages of development. The well-being of our players is of utmost importance to us. Central to their development are our dedicated golf coaches, who play a vital role in helping athletes acquire, retain, and apply skills to enhance their performance. Our ultimate vision is to establish an optimal learning environment where golfers of all skill levels can successfully accomplish their desired objectives.

## EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND DEDICATION

Over the years, we have carefully assembled a committed team of exceptional PGA Professionals, each with an average of over 20 years of experience in teaching or competing at the highest levels. Our goal is to provide our students with the absolute best golf academy experience, and we firmly believe that this is accomplished through the expertise of PGA golf coaches.

## SUPERB LOCATION

ESCA Wanderers has forged a unique partnership with the esteemed Wanderers Golf Club to establish a seamlessly integrated golf academy within a flexible schooling system. Located at the heart of Gauteng, the Wanderers Golf Club boasts an exceptional eighteen-hole championship golf course, offering students a captivating environment characterised by beautiful scenery, stimulating golfing challenges, and tranquil dedicated practice facilities, all designed to enhance the optimal learning experience.



# OUR COMMITMENT INCLUDES:



- Managing and guiding individuals through the appropriate physical, technical, and mental stages of development.
- Consistently monitoring the progress of each individual and providing timely feedback.
- Identifying opportunities to enhance confidence, promote enjoyment, and foster personal growth.
- Offering support and structure to ensure that individuals are well-prepared for their future steps in their sporting career.

## DEVELOPMENT BASED ON THREE PILLARS



### TECHNICAL COMPETENCE

Providing our athletes with practical opportunities to apply the training, knowledge and skills they have learned in real-world scenarios, whether it be through structured practice sessions or competitive events. This hands-on experience allows them to refine their abilities, adapt to different situations, and build the confidence necessary to excel.



### SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Acquiring the necessary ability and capacity through sustained and systematic learning, as well as detailed experiences. We believe in a holistic development that encompasses movement mechanics, physical literacy, biomechanics, and athletic development.



### CHAMPION MINDSET

Emphasising the acquisition of the right attitude, behaviours, and approach towards improving performance. We understand that a positive mindset, disciplined behaviours, and a proactive approach are essential components for achieving excellence.







# TRAINING AND TRAVELLING SCHEDULE

## LOCAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING

We recognise that each player has unique goals and a specific development pathway. We take a personalised approach to ensure that every player's tournament and training schedule aligns with their performance goals. Our team works closely with each player to create a customised plan that takes into account their aspirations, abilities, and areas for improvement. By tailoring the schedule to individual needs, we optimise their opportunities for growth and success in their golfing journey.

## INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING

Tournament scheduling and planning are integral components of the developmental pathway for all our players. We understand that many of our athletes aspire to compete internationally or pursue opportunities to play college golf in the USA. Therefore, we prioritize the alignment of each player's tournament and training schedule with their specific performance goals. Our dedicated team works closely with the players to develop a comprehensive plan that takes into consideration their individual aspirations and the necessary steps to achieve them. By strategically coordinating tournament participation and training, we provide our players with the best opportunities to showcase their skills, gain valuable experience, and pursue their desired pathways in the world of golf.



# MEET OUR COACHING TEAM



## NEIL CHEETHAM

DIRECTOR OF COACHING

Neil brings a unique blend of teaching and playing skills to the ESCA Golf Academy. With a background as a former European tour player and a PGA qualified Professional, Neil possesses extensive experience in both playing and teaching golf. He has achieved numerous wins on tour, establishing his credibility and expertise in the field. Many of Neil's students feel a strong connection with him because they recognise that he has walked the same path as them.

One of Neil's distinguishing qualities is his holistic approach to developing golfers. He understands that improving golf performance goes beyond swing mechanics alone. Neil takes into account every aspect of the game, focusing on enhancing overall golf performance. By combining fundamental golf swing philosophies with cutting-edge technologies, he collaborates with students to identify their unique learning style and effectively communicate instructions tailored to their individual needs. Neil's comprehensive approach ensures that students receive well-rounded guidance to optimise their golfing potential.

## FRANCESCA CUTURI

HEAD TEACHING PROFESSIONAL

Francesca has successfully transitioned from being a full-time tour player to becoming a highly dedicated golf coach. Drawing from her extensive experience, she continually pushes boundaries and strives to redefine what constitutes the ultimate golf experience and player development. With a multitude of qualifications, Francesca ensures that she remains well-informed and equipped to meet the diverse needs of the players she serves.

Francesca's passion for the game, coupled with her competitive nature and commitment to continuous learning, drives her to share her expertise with golfers at all levels. She believes in empowering each player with the knowledge, confidence, and resilience required for improvement. Francesca's approach revolves around creating personalised instructional programs that incorporate various resources, tailored to address the specific golf and wellness goals of each individual. By combining her deep understanding of the game with a holistic perspective, Francesca strives to guide her students towards achieving their full potential.





## THIS PROGRAMME IS FOR YOU IF:

- You are an elite athlete with a strong focus on becoming a top-tier golf player.
- You are a golf player in need of a specialised high-performance programme.
- You are an athlete seeking an uncompromised tailor-made academic programme that considers your sporting requirements and commitments.
- You are an athlete looking to maximise exposure both locally and internationally.

## THE VALUES THAT GUIDE US

**E**

**Empathy:**

To share someone else's feelings or experiences by understanding what it would be like to be in that person's situation.

**S**

**Solidarity:**

Unity of an aligned collective that produces or is based on a community of interests, objectives, and standards.

**C**

**Courage:**

The quality shown by someone who takes the challenge or faces something difficult, even though they may be afraid.

**A**

**Accountability:**

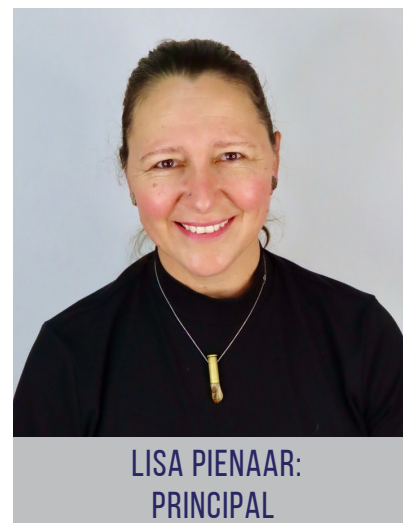
The obligation to account for activities, accepting responsibility for them, and to disclose the results in a transparent way.





# THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

Lisa Pienaar joined Team ESCA in January 2021 as Head of Academics. In her 28 years in education, Lisa's personal philosophy has been to nurture each individual child to reach their full potential. She believes human beings are so much better when they are honest and authentic, and she believes that living ESCA's values of Empathy, Solidarity, Courage and Accountability helps each person who enters this school to become better citizens of South Africa, and the world. Lisa believes that children show up best for learning when they are seen and heard, and as the ESCA Principal, she encourages her teachers to make meaningful connections with each other and with their students.



Education at ESCA continuously assesses and monitors student performance, while ensuring that learning competencies progress so that they are on track to succeed in all areas of their development. Our team of qualified teachers and experts work together to facilitate a constructive environment which supports tenacity, encourages confidence, and a healthy, balanced work ethic. Building futures at ESCA informs our selection of the international curricula and methodologies which comprise our offering:

## Cambridge International

ESCA is an accredited Cambridge International School. The Cambridge international curriculum sets a global standard for education, and is recognised by universities and employers worldwide. Our curriculum is flexible, challenging and inspiring, culturally sensitive yet international in approach. Cambridge students develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. They also gain the essential skills they need for success at university, and in their future careers.

## GED®

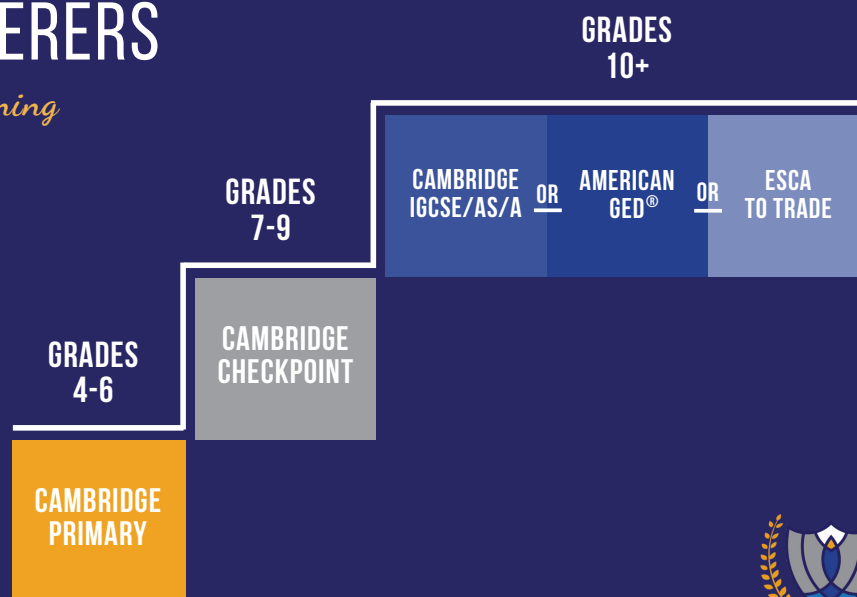
The American GED®, available to students once they complete Grade 9, is widely considered the closest foreign equivalent to the South African National Senior Certificate. It allows students to apply for further education both locally and abroad upon completion. The GED® is tailored to each student's knowledge level and learning pace, with personalised lesson plans which accelerate learning. The GED® curriculum is skill-based, ensuring that students apply the skills that they have learned practically.





# ESCA WANDERERS

*The Ladder of Learning*



## GOOGLE CLASSROOM

The integration and daily use of technology is a necessary skill which students need to master to function at all levels of our constantly developing society. As a proud Google school, Google Workspace handles all virtual components of curriculum delivery at ESCA. The Google Classroom is a live interactive environment which supports and augments the student's campus experience, serving as a record of curriculum progress, and a resource to support learning.

## INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Accountability is one of ESCA's core values. We teach our students to be responsible for their learning within the flexible bounds of the ESCA learning ecosystem. The academic day at ESCA includes independent study sessions that afford students the latitude to focus on necessary schoolwork at school (limiting the amount of time spent on school work after school hours). Achieving requires effort, and students must apply themselves to reap the benefits of that commitment. During these sessions, students can plan, prioritize, and problem-solve their academic workload, content, and homework, while at school with access to their teachers and under the supervision of their mentor.



# ATHLETE WELLNESS

The ESCA Mentorship Programme is designed to allow high-performance students to excel in all areas of their life while learning skills that will benefit them in their future endeavours. ESCA student athletes are paired with a mentor who has competed in sport at the highest level, one who understands what it takes to pursue one's dreams as a competitive athlete. Nicole Gillis heads up ESCA's Mentorship Programme. With a Master's degree in Sport Psychology and Motor Behavior from the University of Tennessee (USA), Nicole has worked in high-performance settings both in the United States and in South Africa. She completed her undergraduate degree (Bachelor of Science – Kinesiology) at the University of Arkansas (USA) whilst also being a student athlete on the University of Arkansas' Swimming and Diving Team. For eight years, she was a member of the South African National Diving Team.



**NICOLE GILLIS:**  
**HEAD OF ATHLETE WELLNESS**

The role of the mentor is to support high-performance students during weekly meetings, to guide them in developing the skills needed to be prepared for the demands and stresses that face at school, and during training or competing. We acknowledge that being a high-performance student comes with certain challenges that our mentors are well equipped to give guidance and direction on. This includes ensuring our students get the necessary support from, and access to, various professionals including biokineticists, chiropractors, nutritionists, and mental performance coaching, where necessary.





# THE FUTURE-FIT PROGRAMME

ESCA has developed a unique programme which teaches our student athletes the practical and theoretical skills required in personal, sport and business spheres. The ESCA Future-Fit programme directs and supports our student athletes in developing essential personal mastery tools.

Producing competent and capable professionals who embody ESCA's values by exercising Empathy, operating in Solidarity, displaying Courage, and taking Accountability, requires a programme that includes:

 Living an active and healthy lifestyle	 Brand and image	 Personal and professional portfolio building
 Athlete career pathway guidance	 Basic personal finance skills	 Time management skills
 Personal planning and goal setting	 Growth mindset and mindfulness	 Study and academic skills



# COME VISIT US TO FIND OUT MORE!

Developing the Talent of Africa

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