

SMANGALISO NHLEBELA

Bowling All-Rounder (Spin)



Name	Smangaliso Nhlebela
DOB	02-06-1994
Nationality	South African
Player Status	Available Pathway
Playing Role	Bowling All-Rounder (Spin)
Batting Style	RH Middle Order Bat
Bowling Style	SLA Orthodox Spin
Entry Route	International Sportsperson Visa
Coaching Qualifications	CSA Level One

Smangaliso Nhlebela is an accomplished left-arm spinner and dependable lower-order batter currently plying his trade with KwaZulu-Natal Inland in South Africa. With over a decade of domestic experience to his name, he has built a strong reputation as a consistent performer across formats, having taken 182 wickets in 46 first-class, 42 List A, and 18 T20 matches since his debut in 2014/15.

His golden run came between 2016 and 2019, when he was among the leading bowlers in the South African domestic circuit. Across those three seasons, he racked up impressive first-class hauls of 22, 35, and 23 wickets respectively, and played a key role in four title-winning campaigns across red and white-ball competitions. His standout performances earned him multiple accolades, including Player's Player of the Year, Player of the Season, and One Day Player of the Year.

While first-class opportunities have been limited in recent years – with just four matches since 2022/23 – Nhlebela remains a vital T20 contributor for KZN-Inland, continuing to demonstrate his control, experience, and match-winning ability in the shortest format.

Now eyeing a return to the longer format to meet eligibility requirements for UK club cricket in 2026, he's hoping to add one more first-class game to his CV this summer. Should that opportunity not arise, he's equally keen to explore a European stint in Ireland or the Netherlands, where his experience and skillset would make him a valuable overseas signing.

(Note: Nhlebela needs to play 1 more FC match to qualify for the International Sportsperson Visa)

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