



EST 1863

MARITZBURG COLLEGE

Jesse Kriel

JK13

U11 and U13

RUGBY FESTIVAL

2025

17 – 19 April

#DIRECTINGPOTENTIAL



EST 1863

MARITZBURG COLLEGE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome from the Acting Headmaster of Maritzburg College	3
Programme	3
Profile of Jesse Kriel	4
U11 Fixtures on Snow's	5
U13 Fixtures on Goldstone's	6
U13 Fixtures on Barns'	7
Festival Rules	8
Lightning Precautions	9
History of Rugby	10
Contact details	12

MESSAGE FROM THE **ACTING HEADMASTER**

It is a great pleasure for Maritzburg College to host the Jesse Kriel Rugby Festival, and to welcome players and coaches from the 18 schools as well as their supporters to our campus.

We sincerely hope that all who participate or spectate will enjoy all that is great about schoolboy sport - camaraderie, team spirit, passion, commitment, and sportsmanship. These values are at the heart of this festival and are wonderfully embodied by the Old Collegian after whom it is named - Jesse Kriel. His journey from a College boy to international rugby star serves as an inspiration to all young players striving for excellence both on and off the field.



A heartfelt word of thanks goes to the following: Director of Rugby Mr H Marnitz, Master-in-Charge of Rugby Mr S Stopford, Festival Director Mr W du Plessis and Mr L Smorfitt, Events Manager Ms R Barnard, Granny Macs Catering, Mrs S Upfold and the Maritzburg College Marketing team, our Estates team, and all the first aiders and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make this festival a reality.

Of course, a very warm Red-Black-White welcome goes to all the players, coaches, managers, and parents - we trust your time on our campus will be memorable and enjoyable.

May the next few days be filled with good rugby, great spirit, and lasting friendships. We wish you safe travels home.

MR MM MARWICK
ACTING HEADMASTER



PROGRAMME

Thursday 17 April 2025

10:00 – 12:00	Teams check in and registration & team photo
12:00 – 17:00	Match Day 1
17:00 – 18:30	Dinner for boys
17:30	Management meeting
18:00	Management Function

Thirsti Tent
Goldstone's, Barns' and Snow's
Dining Hall
Kent Pavilion
Kent Pavilion

Friday 18 April 2025 – Match Day 2

06:00 – 08:00	Breakfast
07:00 – 12:00	Match Day 2 Fixtures
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch
12:00 – 17:00	Match Day 2 Fixtures
17:00 – 19:00	Dinner
18:00	Management Function

Dining Hall
Goldstone's, Barns' and Snow's
Dining Hall
Goldstone's, Barns' and Snow's
Dining Hall
Kent Pavilion

Saturday 19 April 2025 – Match Day 3

06:00 – 08:00	Breakfast
07:00 – 12:00	Match Day 3 Fixtures

Dining Hall
Goldstone's, Barns' and Snow's

PROFILE OF **JESSE KRIEL**

Jesse Kriel: A College Boy, A Champion, A Rugby Legend

From the hallowed turf of Goldstone's to the world's greatest rugby stages, Jesse Kriel's journey is one of grit, glory, and commitment - a true embodiment of the Maritzburg College spirit.

Jesse Kriel (OC 2008-2012) is a name that needs little introduction in South African rugby. As a proud product of Maritzburg College, Jesse's natural athleticism, fierce determination, and deep rugby intelligence were evident from the moment he first pulled on the Red, Black and White jersey. It was here, within these walls and on these fields, that his foundation was laid - one built on tradition, excellence, and the relentless pursuit of greatness.

After matriculating, Jesse rose rapidly through the rugby ranks. He made his professional debut for the Vodacom Bulls in 2014 and, within a year, earned his Springbok cap - making his test debut against Australia in 2015. His breakout performance came just weeks later, when he scored a spectacular solo try against the All Blacks in Johannesburg, instantly etching his name into Springbok folklore.

Since then, Jesse has been a consistent force in the Springbok backline. A member of both the 2019 and 2023 Rugby World Cup squads, Jesse helped South Africa secure back-to-back World Cup victories - a rare and historic achievement. His versatility as a centre and wing, his physicality, and his strategic understanding of the game have made him a critical asset to every team represented, including stints in Japan's competitive Top League.

Beyond the accolades and achievements, Jesse remains a proud Old Boy of Maritzburg College. He often speaks of the role the school played in shaping his values, character, and discipline - qualities that have carried him to the pinnacle of the sport.

It is only fitting that the school's beloved u11 and u13 rugby festival, formerly the Skonk Nicholson Junior Rugby Festival, now bears the name of Jesse Kriel. In honouring him, we not only celebrate a world-class athlete, but also inspire the next generation of rugby stars - young boys chasing their dreams, just as Jesse once did, right here at College.

**Once a College boy,
always a College boy.**



U11 FIXTURES FOR JKRF 2025:



Day 1
17 April

12:00	Pelham	vs	Grantham Park
12:50	Paul Pietersburg	vs	Kokstad
13:40	Nardini	vs	Richardia
14:30	Merchiston	vs	Nuwe Republiek
15:20	Umhlali	vs	Laddsworth
16:10	DPHS	vs	Wierda Park

Day 2
18 April

07:00	Grantham Park	vs	Nardini
07:50	Merchiston	vs	Paul Pietersburg
08:40	Laddsworth	vs	Kokstad
09:30	DPHS	vs	Richardia
10:20	Umhlali	vs	Wierda Park
11:10	Pelham	vs	Nuwe Republiek
12:00	Grantham Park	vs	Kokstad
12:50	Merchiston	vs	Wierda Park
13:40	Laddsworth	vs	Nardini
14:30	Pelham	vs	Richardia
15:20	DPHS	vs	Paul Pietersburg
16:10	Umhlali	vs	Nuwe Republiek

SNOW'S

Day 3
19 April

07:00	Paul Pietersburg	vs	Wierda Park
07:50	DPHS	vs	Nuwe Republiek
08:40	Merchiston	vs	Richardia
09:30	Laddsworth	vs	Grantham Park
10:20	Pelham	vs	Nardini
11:10	Umhlali	vs	Kokstad

U13 FIXTURES FOR JKRF 2025:



Day 1

17 April

12:00	Richardia	vs	Pelham
13:00	Paul Pietersburg	vs	Wierda Park 2
14:00	Wierda Park	vs	Nuwe Republiek
15:00	DPHS	vs	Hudson Park
16:00	Merchiston	vs	Cambridge

Day 2

18 April

07:00	Hudson Park	vs	Paul Pietersburg
8:00	Cambridge	vs	Richardia
09:00	Nuwe Republiek	vs	Merchiston
10:00	Paul Pietersburg	vs	Kokstad
11:00	Wierda Park	vs	DPHS
12:00	Break		Break
13:00	Wierda Park 2	vs	Richardia
14:00	Wierda Park	vs	Cambridge
15:00	Merchiston	vs	Hudson Park
16:00	Nuwe Republiek	vs	DPHS

Day 3

19 April

07:00	Scottsville	vs	Hudson Park
08:00	Cambridge	vs	Nuwe Republiek
09:00	Pelham	vs	Glencoe
10:00	Merchiston	vs	Grantham Park
11:00	Pelham	vs	DPHS

GOLDSTONES

U13 FIXTURES FOR JKRF 2025:

Day 1
17 April

12:00	Kokstad	vs	Scottsville
13:00	Grantham Park	vs	Merchiston 2
14:00	Umhlali 2	vs	Glencoe
15:00	Scottsville	vs	Nardini



Day 2
18 April

07:00	Kokstad	vs	Nardini
8:00	Merchiston 2	vs	Glencoe
09:00	Wierda Park 2	vs	Pelham
10:00	Grantham Park	vs	Umhlali 2
11:00	Break		Break
12:00	Glencoe	vs	Scottsville
13:00	Merchiston 2	vs	Nardini
14:00	Pelham	vs	Grantham Park
15:00	Paul Pietersburg	vs	Umhlali 2

BARN'S

Day 3
19 April

07:00	Wierda Park 2	vs	Nardini
08:00	Wierda Park	vs	Paul Pietersburg
09:00	Merchiston 2	vs	Richardia
10:00	Kokstad	vs	Umhlali 2

FESTIVAL RULES



General Information:

1. Each team will consist of 23 players.
2. Each team will play four games, as determined by the organisers.
3. Coastal teams will play against Inland teams as far as possible.
4. Boksmart forms should be presented 30min before the start of the match to the match officials.
5. Coaches must remain in technical box for the duration of the game.

Match Duration:

1. U11 matches will have 20 minutes per half (running time).
2. U13 matches will have 25 minutes per half (running time).

Player and Substitution Rules:

1. Eight reserves are allowed, including three front rows (mandatory).
2. Rolling substitutions are allowed, with a maximum of 12 changes per match.
 - If the maximum number of substitutions (12) has been reached and a front-row player is injured, an exception may be made, allowing up to 15 substitutions to ensure safety.
 - If injuries in the first match prevent a team from fielding three front-rows in subsequent matches, "uncontested scrums" will be permitted. This decision must be made by consensus between the referee and the coaches of both teams, emphasising good sportsmanship.

Disciplinary Actions:

1. Yellow cards will result in the player being substituted immediately.
2. Red cards will also result in the player being substituted immediately.
 - The player's conduct will then be addressed through the tournament's internal disciplinary process.

Additional Notes:

1. The organisers request that all participants and staff prioritise safety, sportsmanship, and fairness throughout the tournament.
2. Referees will enforce all rules in accordance with current school rugby regulations and any tournament-specific guidelines.

MARITZBURG COLLEGE

LIGHTNING WARNING/PRECAUTIONS

Maritzburg College has an automated lightning siren which is linked to a satellite system and is self-activated when the lightning in our area is active. There are two types of alerts; the first is a long sounding siren which means take cover immediately, the second is a series of short blasts which means that the lightning has cleared and it is safe to go out. We take the safety of our boys, staff, parents, and community seriously, and ask that the following be adhered to should the siren go off:

What to do when the warning siren sounds

- Immediately proceed to take cover and shelter (not under a tree).
- All sport /outdoor activities must stop immediately.
- SHELTER AREAS:
 - Barns' / Pape's / Goldstone's / Snow's to the High Performance Centre (HPC) / Kent Pavilion
 - Lamond's / Nicholson's / Leach's to the HPC
 - Swimming Pool / Tennis Courts to the BE / Howies Hut / OCC
 - AB Jackson Fields to the Astro stadium / BE / Soccer Office
 - Camps Drift to the Canoe Club
- Remain in the shelter areas until you hear the ALL CLEAR siren.

What must NOT HAPPEN when the siren sounds

- Boys must not continue practicing or playing.
- No duck-diving or any playing on fields whatsoever.
- No walking around.
- Do not stand under a tree.
- Stay away from pools/puddles of water.
- Stay out of open spaces (fields/car parks).

Where are the sirens / warning lights

- On the roof of HPC and on the roof of Nathan House in the Boarding Establishment.

WARNING SIRENS / LIGHTS PROCEDURES

- Lightning warning and evacuate.
- LED Light on tower above the HPC and Nathan House will start flashing.
- If you see the light flashing – it is not safe to be out.
- The ALL CLEAR siren will be a series of short bursts and the lights will be switched off.

During storms/heavy weather – please make a habit of checking the warning light to see if you may have missed a siren. If the light is off – it is safe to be on the fields.

Thank you



THIRSTI™

HISTORY OF RUGBY

Early Years

Founded in 1863, Maritzburg College played its first rugby match in 1870, against Hermannsburg. Playing on the old Market Square in the centre of town under Winchester Rules, College won by two goals to nil, in the first recorded rugby match played in the old Colony of Natal (let alone the whole of Africa – but that's another story altogether).

Rugby quickly became the game of choice at College and, apart from a short period of time in the 1880s and 1890s, when football enjoyed a considerable following, has remained the most popular winter sport at College.



The 1900 College First XV, captained by AS "Madovu" Langley, with its prized silver-ware – the Murray Cup. The dapper figure on the right is the headmaster, Mr RD Clark (MA) (Oxon).

Three Old Collegians appeared in the 1924 Springbok team to take on the touring British Lions: Bertram Vanderplank (front row, second right), Walter Clarkson (middle row, far left) and Bill Payn (middle of the middle row). The much-loved, versatile Payn represented what is today KZN at five sports, and famously ran the 1922 Comrades Marathon in his rugby boots.



A stand-out player in the early years was strapping farm boy, Philip Nel, who was the First XV captain and all-powerful head prefect of the school in 1921. Nel captained the Springbok team on its all-conquering tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1937. It remains the only Springbok team in history to have defeated the All Blacks in New Zealand. Such was the quality of the play of his imperious team that it was given the tongue-in-cheek accolade of being "the greatest team to leave New Zealand's shores". On the ship returning home, Nel formally announced his retirement from Springbok rugby by throwing his trusty old rugger boots into the sea. Like Alexander the Great, he had no more worlds to conquer.



The captain of the 1937 Springboks to New Zealand, Philip Nel (OC 1921) (far right), introduces a local dignitary to his team, during his team's triumphant tour of Australasia. The future rugby boss, Dr Danie Craven, appears second from the left.

Enter the Skonkwaan

Although rugby enjoyed great prestige in the first few decades of the 20th Century, the appointment as First XV coach in 1948 of Mr JM "Skonk" Nicholson was the great catalyst for future success. Skonk's effect was immediate: his 1948 side lost only to old rivals, Durban High School, and in the following year Skonk (himself a former head prefect of "School") produced his first unbeaten team. He retired in 1982, after 35 seasons as the coach of the First XV. During that time, 22 of his teams were unbeaten or lost only one match.



Skonk Nicholson poses with some of the senior members of his unbeaten 1963 Centenary XV, which included a record 10 Natal Schools' players, was unbeaten in a 17-match season, and set many records. The players are (from left to right) Andre Bruyns (future provincial cricketer), Anthony Egner (future Natal flyhalf), Colin Marsh (future MD of Shell SA), Andrew van der Watt (future Springbok winger) and David Anderson (captain).

Last 50 years

Outstanding teams in the last five decades include the 1972 First XV, which supplied 10 Craven Week players and conceded only one try in 19 matches; the 1978 First XV, which won all of its matches; the record-breaking 1985 team, which won all of its 18 matches, including a 44-0 triumph over Bishops and a 10-4 win over a Grey College side brimming with five SA Schools caps; the 1987 side that included SA Schools' captain Brenton Catterall and three other SA Schools' players; and the 1988 First XV, which won all 15 of its fixtures.

Despite the retirement of the much-loved Mr Nicholson in 1982, that decade was a period of almost unbroken triumph for Maritzburg College rugby, and from 1981-1990 losses were suffered only against Glenwood (twice), Hilton and DHS (once each) among KZN schools.

This rugby success continued into the 1990s, with the 1994 team delivering an unbeaten season against all South African teams, losing only to Gisborne BHS in the final of the World Schools' Tournament in Bowral, Australia. Another highlight of the decade was the unbeaten 1995 side, which enjoyed wins over Ermelo, Selborne, Grey High and Paul Roos Gymnasium, and big wins over Glenwood (61-13), Westville (62-6) and Kearsney (43-3). Skippered by Zane Aszalos, the 1995 XV contained two SA Schools' captains – Pieter Dixon (1995) and Richard Kelly (1996).

By 2022, the explosion of professional rugby around the world meant that the number of Old Collegians playing the sport on the international stage had increased dramatically, and Maritzburg College alumni have in the last 30 years won caps for the Springboks (including Joel Stransky, Butch James, Peter Grant, Jesse Kriel and Ntuthuko Mchunu), England, USA, Italy, Germany, Cyprus and Spain.

For decades, the school's redoubtable Chief Induna, Zablon Kwelha, was a loyal supporter of the First XV. He travelled widely by bus with the Maritzburg College boys to watch them play, often taking bets on their success with his contemporaries at DHS and Glenwood. An unofficial adviser to his great friend, Mr Nicholson, he fervently held the view that each College First XV should contain at least one red-headed player – "For extra fire!"



CONTACT DETAILS



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FIELD CO-ORDINATORS

Goldstone's, Snow's & Barns':

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Jaco Taljaard

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Players

All players' meals are in the Keith Guise-Brown Dining Hall

Coaches

All coach and manager meals are in the Victoria Hall

Lost and found will be inside the Kent Pavilion

