



EST 1863

MARITZBURG COLLEGE

*JOIN US FOR THE*

*Jesse Kriel*  
**JK13**  
*U11 and U13*  
**RUGBY FESTIVAL**

*1 - 4 April 2026*



**Honesty | Integrity | Courage | Self-Discipline | Commitment | Respect**



EST 1863

# MARITZBURG COLLEGE

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# MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

It is a great pleasure for Maritzburg College to host the Jesse Kriel Rugby Festival, and to welcome players and coaches from 21 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 Directors Mr W du Plessis and Mr L Smorfitt, Events Manager Ms R Barnard, Granny Macs Catering, the 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 A REDFERN**  
**HEADMASTER**



## PROGRAMME

### Wednesday 1 April 2026

14:00 – 17:00	Check in and registration	Forder Oval
17:00 – 18:30	Dinner for boys	KGB Dining Hall
18:00	Management meeting	Kent Pavilion
18:30	Management Function	Kent Pavilion

### Thursday 2 April 2026 – Match Day 1

06:00 – 08:00	Breakfast	KGB Dining Hall
08:00 – 17:00	Match Day 1 Fixtures	Goldstones, Snow's, Barns'
11:00 – 14:00	Lunch	KGB Dining Hall
17:00 – 18:30	Dinner	KGB Dining Hall
18:00	Management Function	Kent Pavilion

### Friday 3 April 2026 – Match Day 2

06:00 – 08:00	Breakfast	KGB Dining Hall
07:30 – 17:00	Match Day 2 Fixtures	Goldstones, Snow's, Barns', Lamond's
11:00 – 14:00	Lunch	KGB Dining Hall
17:00 – 18:30	Dinner	KGB Dining Hall
18:00	Management Function	Kent Pavilion

### Saturday 4 April 2026 – Match Day 3

06:00 – 08:00	Breakfast	KGB Dining Hall
07:30 – 12:00	Match Day 3 Fixtures	Goldstones, Snow's, Barns', Lamond's
Teams depart after their last fixture		

# PROFILE OF JESSE KRIEL

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

From the hallowed turf of Goldstones 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 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.**



# DAY 1 FIXTURES FOR JKRF 2026

U17

<b>07:40</b>	Paul Pietersburg	vs	Pelham
<b>08:30</b>	NRS	vs	Glenwood
<b>09:20</b>	Kokstad Junior	vs	Northlands
<b>10:10</b>	Kokstad Primary	vs	Paul Pietersburg
<b>11:00</b>	Richardia	vs	Umdlali B
<b>11:50</b>	Richardsbay	vs	Scottsville
<b>12:40</b>	Grantham Park	vs	Umdlali A
<b>13:30</b>	Wierdapark A	vs	DPHS
<b>14:20</b>	Wierdapark B	vs	Merchiston
<b>15:10</b>	U13 Merchiston 2	vs	U13 Wierdapark 2
<b>16:00</b>	U13 Umdlali 2	vs	U13 Nardini

SNOW'S

U13

<b>08:00</b>	Pelham	vs	Grantham Park
<b>09:00</b>	Cambridge	vs	Glenwood
<b>10:00</b>	Kokstad Junior	vs	Glencoe
<b>11:00</b>	Scottsville u13	vs	Richardia u13
<b>12:00</b>	Kokstad Primary	vs	Nardini
<b>13:00</b>	Hudson Park	vs	Wierdapark 1
<b>14:00</b>	Constantriapark	vs	Richardsbay
<b>15:00</b>	NRS	vs	DPHS
<b>16:00</b>	Paul Pietersburg	vs	Merchiston

GOLDSTONES



SCAN THIS QR  
CODE FOR THE  
FULL PROGRAMME  
AND RESULTS

# DAY 2 FIXTURES FOR JKRF 2026

SNOW'S

GOLDSTONES

U17

<b>07:00</b>	Paul Pietersburg	vs	Umhlali A
<b>07:50</b>	Wierdapark A	vs	Glenwood
<b>08:40</b>	Richardia	vs	Scottsville
<b>09:30</b>	Kokstad Junior	vs	DPHS
<b>10:20</b>	Richards Bay	vs	Northlands
<b>11:10</b>	Paul Pietersburg	vs	Merchiston
<b>12:00</b>	NRS		DPHS
<b>12:50</b>	Grantham Park	vs	Umhlali B
<b>13:40</b>	Wierdapark A	vs	Merchiston
<b>14:30</b>	Richards Bay	vs	Glenwood
<b>15:20</b>	NRS	vs	Umhlali A
<b>11:10</b>	Grantham Park	vs	Pelham

U13

<b>07:00</b>	Umhlali 2	vs	Kokstad Junior
<b>07:50</b>	Paul Pietersburg	vs	Richards Bay
<b>08:40</b>	Hudson Park	vs	Merchiston 1
<b>09:30</b>	Constantiapark	vs	Glenwood
<b>10:20</b>	NRS	vs	Wierdapark 1
<b>11:10</b>	Umhlali 2	vs	Glencoe
<b>12:00</b>	Cambridge	vs	Richards Bay
<b>12:50</b>	Constantiapark	vs	DPHS
<b>13:40</b>	Cambridge	vs	Wierdapark 1
<b>14:30</b>	Paul Pietersburg	vs	Glenwood
<b>15:20</b>	NRS	vs	Merchiston 1
<b>16:10</b>	Hudson Park	vs	DPHS



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# DAY 2 FIXTURES FOR JKRF 2026

U13

<b>07:50</b>	Kokstad Primary	vs	Glencoe
<b>08:40</b>	Scottsville	vs	Nardini
<b>09:30</b>	Pelham	vs	Richardia
<b>10:20</b>	Kokstad Primary	vs	Grantham Park
<b>11:10</b>	Kokstad Junior	vs	Richardia
<b>12:00</b>	Pelham	vs	Wierdapark 2
<b>12:50</b>	Scottsville	vs	Grantham Park
<b>13:40</b>	Merchiston 2	vs	Nardini
<b>14:30</b>	Kokstad Junior	vs	Wierdapark 2
<b>15:20</b>	Merchiston 2	vs	Glencoe
<b>16:10</b>	Wierdapark B	vs	Northlands

BARNIS'

U11

<b>07:00</b>	Kokstad Primary	vs	Pelham
<b>08:00</b>	Kokstad Junior	vs	Umhlali B
<b>09:00</b>	Wierdapark B	vs	Scottsville
<b>10:00</b>	<b><u>BREAK</u></b>		
<b>11:00</b>	Richardia	vs	Pelham
<b>12:00</b>	Kokstad Primary	vs	Scottsville

LAMONDS'



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AND RESULTS

# DAY 3 FIXTURES FOR JKRF 2026

U11

07:00	Wierdapark A	vs	Umhlali A
07:50	NRS	vs	Merchiston
08:40	Kokstad Junior	vs	Pelham
09:30	Paul Pietersburg	vs	Northlands
10:20	Richardia	vs	Merchiston
11:10	Richardsbay	vs	DPHS

U13

07:00	Umhlali 2	vs	Scottsville
08:00	NRS	vs	Richardsbay
09:00	Hudson Park	vs	Glenwood
10:00	Paul Pietersburg	vs	Wierdapark 1
11:00	Constantiapark	vs	Merchiston
12:00	DPHS	vs	Cambridge

U13

07:00	Kokstad Junior	vs	Grantham Park
08:00	Merchiston 2	vs	Richardia
09:00	Kokstad Primary	vs	Wierdapark 2
10:00	Pelham	vs	Nardini
11:00	Scottsville	vs	Glencoe

U11, U13

08:00	Wierdapark B	vs	Umhlali B
09:00	Grantham Park	vs	Scottsville
10:00	Kokstad Primary	vs	Glenwood

SNOW'S

GOLDSTONES

BARNS'

LAMOND'S



SCAN THIS QR  
CODE FOR THE  
FULL PROGRAMME  
AND RESULTS

# 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 / Goldstones / 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 “Madevu” 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). Skipped 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!"



# #PROARISETFOCIS

2018 First XV captain and 2022 Springbok prop vs Wales, Ntuthuko Mchunu, gallops across Goldstone's, during a 70m dash towards the Michaelhouse try-line. On 9 July 2022, he came off the bench to represent the Springboks in the 2nd test vs Wales – in doing so, becoming Maritzburg College's 320th international cap.



It's a College try, and the bashers fly high on Basher Ridge!

# #COLLEGEFIRE

A determined Phiwayinko "Rambo" Kubheka led his 1st XV to a commanding 83-10 victory over Clifton in the 1st home winter fixture of 2024.



Current 1st XV coach, Mr K Elder (OC 2013), lunges to score - much to the jubilation of some supporters - in the pulsating clash between the schools' First XV's on Reunion Day 2013. 2011 RWC Final referee, Craig Jounert (OC 1995), is well-placed to award the try. The match was won 40-44 by Glenwood, after a titanic struggle in front of about 8 000 spectators.

## ABOUT MARITZBURG COLLEGE:

### THE HOME OF THEE *#RedBlackWhite*

On 2 March 1863, the first headmaster of the Pietermaritzburg High School (as the school was then called), Mr W Calder, opened the doors of the school to “a group of thirty colonial ruffians”, in a humble carpenter’s shop in Longmarket Street. The said headmaster was later most memorably described as “a punishing ogre who lurked ominously in the Upper Schoolroom”, which certainly did not augur well for the fledgling school! However, since those humble beginnings, the old High School – which was renamed Maritzburg College by ‘The Father of College’, third headmaster Mr RD Clark in 1888 – has weathered storms, wars, rinderpests, depressions and famines, and has grown and blossomed over the last 163 years. Indeed, as a leading KZN school with a long history, it should come as no surprise that College has produced an enviable number of Old Boys who have distinguished themselves in almost every field of human endeavour. Amongst its most illustrious former scholars it can count 11 senators, 6 generals, two admirals, a Commissioner of Police, 11 Officers Commanding of the Natal Carbineers alone, arguably South Africa’s pre-eminent English author, 24 Rhodes Scholars, a Chief Justice, 9 judges and 3 Attorneys-General. But it is the prowess of its numerous sporting teams that perhaps gives the school and Old Collegians the greatest pride.

#### AMONGST THE SCHOOL’S **324 INTERNATIONAL SPORTSMEN AND OFFICIALS AT ALL CODES, THE FOLLOWING 17 OLD COLLEGIANS HAVE REPRESENTED, OR FORMALLY BEEN SELECTED FOR, SOUTH AFRICA AT 15-MAN RUGBY:**

Ernest “Baby” Shum (1912)	Andrew van der Watt (1969-1970)
Walter Clarkson (1921-1924)	Joel Stransky (1993-1996)
Cecil “Bill” Payn (1924)	Jeremy Thomson (1996)
Bertram “Beevee” Vanderplank (1924)	Pieter Dixon (2000)
Philip Nel (1928-1937) (captain)	Andrew “Butch” James (2001-2008)
George van Reenen (1937)	Peter “Bash” Grant (2007)
Keith Oxlee (1960-1965)	Craig Burden (2012)
Ormond Taylor (1962)	Jessie Kriel (2015- )
	Ntuthuko Mchunu (2022- )

#### IN ADDITION, **14 OLD COLLEGIANS HAVE REPRESENTED OTHER COUNTRIES:**

**FOR ENGLAND:** Hubert Freakes (1938-1939), Geoff Appleford (2002), Don Armand (2018)

**FOR THE USA:** Juan Grobler (1997-2001), Chad Erskine (2005-2007), Matthew Hawkins (2010)

**FOR ITALY:** Wim Visser 1999

**FOR GERMANY:** Frank Goedeke (2000-2001), Marcel Coetzee (2016-2019), Andrew Reintges (2023- )

**FOR ZIMBABWE:** Brenton Catterall 1991

**FOR CYPRUS:** Andrew Binikos (2009)

**FOR SPAIN:** Andrew Norton (2019)

**FOR SINGAPORE:** Warren Ansell (2016)

#### A FURTHER **EIGHT OLD COLLEGIANS HAVE EARNED SELECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL TEAMS IN THE POPULAR SEVEN-MAN VERSION OF THE GAME:**

Frank Goedeke (Germany 1999)

Wayne Munn (SA 1999)

Geoff Appleford (England 2001)

Justin Hundley (USA 2007)

Grant Rees (SA 2007)

Matthew Hawkins (USA captain 2008)

Andrew Binikos (Cyprus 2010)

Marcel Coetzee (Germany 2016)



# CONTACT DETAILS



## *Festival Directors:*

**Wian du Plessis**

recruitment@mcollege.co.za

073 244 9243

**Liam Smorfitt**

smorfittl@mcollege.co.za

## *First Aid:*

**Cherize Singh**

singhc@mcollege.co.za

## FIELD CO-ORDINATORS

### *Goldstone's, Snow's & Barns':*

**Ryan Kyle**

kyler@mcollege.co.za

**Jaco Taljaard**

taljaarj@mcollege.co.za

### *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





*Join us for a  
campus tour!*

And see what makes College different



Meet at Coffeebox  
No bookings needed

*Thursday, 2 April  
12h00*

*Friday, 3 April  
09h00 or 12h00*



FIVE YEARS IS JUST THE BEGINNING