



EST 1863

MARITZBURG COLLEGE



27 - 31 March 2026



#DIRECTINGPOTENTIAL

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



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MARITZBURG COLLEGE

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

It is a great pleasure for Maritzburg College to host the Skonk Nicholson Rugby Festival and to welcome 20 teams and their supporters to our campus.

We sincerely hope that all who participate or spectate will enjoy all that is great in schoolboy sport, viz. the camaraderie, team-spirit, passion, commitment and sportsmanship.

These were all noble ideals fostered in his rugby teams over 35 seasons by the late Mr Nicholson himself – ones of which we today need to be more mindful than ever.



A special word of thanks goes to the following: Director of Rugby Mr H Marnitz, the master-in-charge of rugby Mr S Stopford, the tournament director Mr L Smorfitt, our events manager Ms R Barnard, Granny Macs Catering, the Marketing team, the Estates team, and all the first aiders and other helpers, for all their hard work in making this festival a reality.

Of course, a special welcome to the home of the Red-Black-White goes to all the players, coaches, managers and parents – we hope you have an enjoyable stay on our campus.

I trust that you will all enjoy the few days' rugby, and wish you safe travels back home.

Yours sincerely

MR ALAN REDFERN
HEADMASTER



PROGRAMME

RUGBY

Date	Time	Event
Mar 27, 2026	After 15:00 PM	Arrival of teams
	15:00 - 17:00	Registration and dorm allocation at Forder Oval
	17:00 - 18:30	Dinner for players, chaperones, and bus drivers in the dining hall
	From 18:00	Welcome functions for coaching staff at the Kent Pavilion
Mar 28, 2026	06:30 - 08:00	Breakfast for players, chaperones, and bus drivers in the dining hall
	06:30 - 08:00	Breakfast for coaching staff in the Victoria Hall
	12:00 - 13:30	Lunch for players, chaperones, and bus drivers in the dining hall
	12:00 - 13:30	Lunch for coaching staff in the Victoria Hall
	17:00 - 18:30	Dinner for players, chaperones, and bus drivers in the dining hall
	From 18:00	Function for coaching staff at the Kent Pavilion
Mar 29, 2026	08:00 - 09:00	Breakfast for players, chaperones, and bus drivers in the dining hall
	08:00 - 09:00	Breakfast for coaching staff in the Victoria Hall
	Lunch	Pre-order packed lunch or braai pack
	17:00 - 18:30	Dinner for players, chaperones, coaches, and bus drivers in the dining hall
Mar 30, 2026	06:30 - 08:00	Breakfast for players, chaperones, and bus drivers in the dining hall
	06:30 - 08:00	Breakfast for coaching staff in the Victoria Hall
	12:00 - 13:30	Lunch for players, chaperones, and bus drivers in the dining hall
	12:00 - 13:30	Lunch for coaching staff in the Victoria Hall
	17:00 - 18:30	Dinner for players, chaperones, and bus drivers in the dining hall
	From 18:00	Function for coaching staff at the Kent Pavilion
Mar 31, 2026	05:30 - 07:30	Breakfast for players, chaperones, and bus drivers in the dining hall
Laundry Service	Wash 1:	Dinner drop-off 28th; Breakfast pick-up 30th
	Wash 2:	Dinner drop-off 30th; Breakfast pick-up 1st
Boarding House	Quiet time after 21:00	Lights out after 21:30

PROFILE OF SKONK: THE GREAT 'SKONKWAAN'

James Mervyn Nicholson (the Skonk came later) was born in Underberg, Natal, on 6 February 1917, and grew up on the family farm in that district. In due course, he was sent to the Durban Preparatory High School, from whence he proceeded to Durban High School (DHS). His father was a great friend of the legendary DHS Head Master, Mr AS 'Madevu' Langley, and so young Mervyn was sent to DHS, rather than to Maritzburg College, which was also a family school. It was as a young standard six (grade 8) boarder at DHS that he earned his famous nickname of 'Skonk': the then Head Prefect, M Bennett, recognised young Nicholson's spirited nature, referring to him as 'Skonkwaan', which was the name of a bull on the Bennett farm in Mooi River, meaning 'tent-peg'. This was in due course shortened to 'Skonk', and so it has remained ever since. He enjoyed a remarkably successful stint at DHS, and matriculated in 1935 in a blaze of glory: he was Head Prefect, captain of the First XV, the First XI and the athletics team, captain of the Natal Schools' XV, and Senior Cadet Officer.



Having completed his studies cum laude at the erstwhile Natal University College (NUC) in Pietermaritzburg, Skonk started out his academic teaching career at his alma mater, DHS, immediately before the Second World War broke out. During the war, he served as an instructor (sergeant-major), before being demobilised out of the SA Army in 1944 due to injury. Much to the disappointment of the redoubtable Head Master of DHS, Col 'Betsy' Martin MC (himself an Old Collegian), Skonk was in that year sent by the Natal Education authorities to Maritzburg College, where he for the next two generations taught Geography and coached the First XV (1948-1982). Indeed, in 1944 the youthful Skonk found himself the subject of a heated dispute between Col Martin and the equally pugnacious Headmaster of College, the famous Mr JW 'John-Willie' Hudson, who also wanted to enjoy the services of the talented young master. "Boy!" the redoubtable John-Willie boomed at the youthful schoolmaster, "you are staying at College." And so it was.

Under Skonk's leadership, College came to be one of the rugby powerhouses in SA, producing 14 unbeaten First XV's and countless Natal and SA Schools' players during his 35 seasons at the helm. Over the passage of years, Skonk coached many players who played provincial and international rugby, including at least 10 Natal flyhalves alone! These players include Keith Oxlee, Brian Irvine (captain of the Junior Springboks), Ormie Taylor and Andy van der Watt, and, after his formal retirement, Joel Stransky, Jeremy Thomson, Pieter Dixon and Butch James. Nearby to the Kent Pavilion at College, overlooking the school's main rugby field, Goldstone's, stands the Nicholson Arch, which was erected in 1982, the year of Skonk's retirement. It is a cherished tradition for each First XV player, as he steams onto the pitch, to reach up and touch the apex of the arch, in mute tribute to College's own 'Mr Rugby'.

Skonk garnered many awards and tributes in the course of a long and distinguished career as a teacher and a sports coach, including the Gold Medal of the SA Geographical Society - for his outstanding contribution to geography - and civic honours by the Pietermaritzburg City Council - for "Long and Outstanding Service to Education and Sport".

Skonk Nicholson sadly passed away in 2011 and will always be fondly remembered, by all who knew him.



U14 FIXTURES FOR SNRF 2026:

Day 1
28 March

08:00	Hoërskool Centurion	vs	Zwartkop
09:15	Helpmekaar	vs	St Charles
10:30	Jeppe	vs	Westville
12:00-13:30	LUNCH		
13:30	HTS Middelburg	vs	Maritzburg College
14:45	Kearnsey	vs	Pretoria Boys' High

Day 2
30 March

08:00	Hoërskool Centurion	vs	Jeppe
09:15	Kearnsey	vs	Helpmekaar
10:30	HTS Middelburg	vs	St Charles
12:00-13:30	LUNCH		
13:30	Westville	vs	Pretoria Boys' High
14:45	Maritzburg College	vs	Zwartkop

Day 3
31 March

07:00	HTS Middelburg	vs	Jeppe
08:15	Pretoria Boys' High	vs	St Charles
09:30	Westville	vs	Helpmekaar
10:45	Kearnsey	vs	Zwartkop
NO BREAK			
12:00	Maritzburg College	vs	Hoërskool Centurion

S.N.O.W.'S
S.N.O.W.'S

**SCAN THIS QR
CODE FOR
RESULTS**





U14 RESULTS FOR SNRF 2026:

Day 1

Hoërskool Centurion	vs	Zwartkop		
Helpmekaar	vs	St Charles		
Jeppe	vs	Westville		
LUNCH				
HTS Middelburg	vs	Maritzburg College		
Kearsney	vs	Pretoria Boys' High		

Day 2

Hoërskool Centurion	vs	Jeppe		
Kearsney	vs	Helpmekaar		
HTS Middelburg	vs	St Charles		
LUNCH				
Westville	vs	Pretoria Boys' High		
Maritzburg College	vs	Zwartkop		

Day 3

HTS Middelburg	vs	Jeppe		
Pretoria Boys' High	vs	St Charles		
Westville	vs	Helpmekaar		
Kearsney	vs	Zwartkop		
NO BREAK				
Maritzburg College	vs	Hoërskool Centurion		

S.W.O.N.S.
S.W.O.N.S.

U16 FIXTURES FOR SNRF 2026

Day 1
28 March

08:00	Zwartkop	vs	Westville
09:15	Hoerskool Centurion	vs	Kearsney
10:30	Potchefstroom Gim	vs	Hoerskool Nelspruit
12:00-13:30	LUNCH		
13:30	HTS Middelburg	vs	St Charles
14:45	Maritzburg College	vs	Kempton

Day 2
30 March

08:00	Kempton	vs	St Charles
09:15	Westville	vs	Hoerskool Nelspruit
10:30	HTS Middelburg	vs	Potchefstroom Gim
12:00-13:30	LUNCH		
13:30	Maritzburg College	vs	Hoerskool Centurion
14:45	Kearsney	vs	Zwartkop

Day 3
31 March

07:00	Maritzburg College	vs	Hoerskool Nelspruit
08:15	Potchefstroom Gim	vs	St Charles
09:30	Hoerskool Centurion	vs	Zwartkop
10:45	HTS Middelburg	vs	Kearsney
NO BREAK			
12:00	Kempton	vs	Westville

GOLDSTONE'S
GOLDSTONE'S

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RESULTS



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U16 RESULTS FOR SNRF 2026

Day 1

Zwartkop	vs	Westville		
Hoerskool Centurion	vs	Kearsney		
Potchefstroom Gim	vs	Hoerskool Nelspruit		
LUNCH				
HTS Middelburg	vs	St Charles		
Maritzburg College	vs	Kempton		

Day 2

Kempton	vs	St Charles		
Westville	vs	Hoerskool Nelspruit		
HTS Middelburg	vs	Potchefstroom Gim		
LUNCH				
Maritzburg College	vs	Hoerskool Centurion		
Kearsney	vs	Zwartkop		

Day 3

Maritzburg College	vs	Hoerskool Nelspruit		
Potchefstroom Gim	vs	St Charles		
Hoerskool Centurion	vs	Zwartkop		
HTS Middelburg	vs	Kearsney		
NO BREAK				
Kempton	vs	Westville		

GOLDSTONE'S

GOLDSTONE'S

TOURNAMENT RULES



General Information:

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

Match Duration:

1. U14 matches will have 25 minutes per half (running time).
2. U16 matches will have 30 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 off the field for 5 minutes.
2. Red cards:
 - The player will be off the field for 10 minutes and must then be replaced by a reserve.
 - If all reserves have been used, a previously substituted player may return to the field.
 - 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.

CONTACT DETAILS

Tournament Director:

Liam Smorfitt

smorfittl@mcollege.co.za

0844744838

First Aid:

Cherize Singh

singhc@mcollege.co.za

Field Co-ordinator:

Jaco Taljaard

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 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.

MEAL INFORMATION

Breakfast	07:00-08:00
Lunch	12:00-13:30
Supper	17:00-18:30

Players

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

Prominent Rugby Players from Maritzburg College

Amongst the school's 340 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), Walter Clarkson (1921-1924), Cecil "Bill" Payn (1924), Bertram "Beevee" Vanderplank (1924), Philip Nel (1928-1937) (captain), George van Reenen (1937), Keith Oxlee (1960-1965), Ormond Taylor (1962), Andy van der Watt (1969-1970), Joel Stransky (1993-1996), Jeremy Thomson (1996), Pieter Dixon (2000), Butch James (2001-2008), Peter Grant (2007), Craig Burden (2012), Jessie Kriel (2015-), Ntuthuko Mchunu (2022)

In addition, several Old Collegians have represented other countries, notably:

For England: Hubert Freakes (1938-1939), Geoff Appleford (2002), Don Armand (2018)

For United States: Juan Grobler (1997-2001), Chad Erskine (2005-2007), Matthew Hawkins (2010)

For Italy: Wim Visser (1999-2002)

For Germany: Frank Goedeke (2000-2001), Marcel Coetzee (2016-2019), Andrew Reintges (2023-)

For Zimbabwe: Brenton Catterall (1991)

For Cyprus: Andrew Binikos (2009)

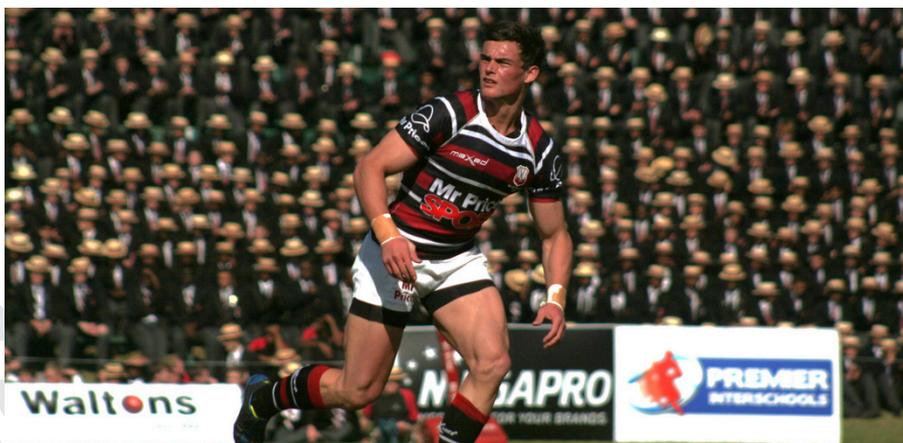
For Spain: Andrew Norton (2019)

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).

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.



Jesse Kriel in action for the College First XV on Goldstone's in 2012