



Knysna

Municipality || Munisipaliteit || uMasipala

inclusive || innovative || inspired

MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor's Rugby Championship kicks off a full 2026 sporting calendar

Executive Mayor of Knysna, Thando Matika, announced a jam-packed sporting calendar for 2026 on 19 February. The highly anticipated Mayoral Rugby Tournament is set to ignite the season on the weekend of 28 February and 1 March.

Eleven of the finest local rugby teams from across greater Knysna will clash in a battle for bragging rights and the prestigious 2026 championship title. Supporters can expect crunching tackles, explosive breaks and hard-fought scrums as community pride takes centre stage.

Matches will be hosted at two venues. The White Location Safe Hub will see the Sedgefield Eagle Stars, Young Sharks, Red Army and Sky Blues test their mettle in what promises to be fast-paced pool action. Meanwhile, the Hornlee Sports Field will serve as the tackle ground for the Jaguars, Green Lovers, All Black and Warriors, followed by Group 3 contenders Young Brothers, Busy Boys and home side Knysna United.

Saturday's games kick off at 08h30 and Sunday's opening match begins at 09h00, and entry is free.

The road to glory will culminate in what is expected to be a thrilling set of semi-finals and a grand finale back at the Safe Hub. With trophies on the line and community pride at stake, the final showdown is tipped to be an absolute crowd-pleaser.

"This tournament is more than just rugby," said Matika. "It is about building local fraternities, strengthening sports development pathways and promoting community inclusivity. We want our young people to see opportunity on the field, to channel their energy into positive competition and to unite our communities through sport."

Matika added that the Mayoral Rugby Championship marks only the first whistle in what will be a dynamic sporting year for Knysna.

"Our 2026 calendar is filled with energy and excitement," he said. "From cycling and netball to boxing, track athletics, marathons and of course soccer, we are creating platforms for talent to shine. These events are designed to uplift our communities, stimulate local pride and encourage healthy lifestyles."

While dates for upcoming codes will be announced in due course, residents can expect a steady run of tournaments and showcases throughout the year.

Great prizes will be up for grabs, and with fierce competition expected across all divisions, spectators are encouraged to come out in numbers to support their teams. Vendors, families and sports lovers alike are set to enjoy a festival atmosphere on the sidelines.

The Mayor's Rugby Championship is not just a fixture on the calendar, but a statement of intent. Knysna is ready to scrum down, kick off and make 2026 a year to remember.

Contact Buziwe Mjamba at 044 302 6386 or bmjamba@knysna.gov.za for more information.

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