



27 August 2026

Nashua Green Ellys Rugby Festival Overview

Event Overview

The **inaugural GHS Rugby Festival** is a landmark occasion in South African school sport, marking the **first-ever 15-a-side U18 rugby festival for girls at high school level**. Inspired by the Lady Springboks' trailblazing performance at the 2025 Rugby World Cup, the festival aims to:

- Showcase female rugby talent.
- Position Pietermaritzburg and the KZN Midlands as hosts of an annual celebration of resilience and grit.
- Break barriers and create pathways for young women in rugby.

Initial Plan:

- A **four-day tournament (1–4 October 2026)** with over 15 schools and clubs.
- Fixtures at the **University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)**, with a rest day including a coaching clinic.

Change in Date and Format

To accommodate more teams and reduce costs, the festival has been streamlined into a **one-day event taking place on Saturday 26 September at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Pieter Booyesen Sports Park**. This adjustment ensures broader participation while still making history as one of the first full 15-player all-girls rugby festivals in South Africa.

- Each team will play two matches during the day.
- A panel of qualified selectors will oversee the formation of a 15-side All Stars team.

New Name

The festival will be branded as the **Nashua Green Elly Rugby Festival**.

- The "Green Elly" is a cherished emblem of GHS's 106-year legacy, symbolising resilience and pride.
- It also reflects strong ties to the Msunduzi and Umgungundlovu region.
- A new logo is currently being designed to capture this heritage.

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Partnership with Nashua

We are proud to welcome Nashua as Title Sponsor, whose support underscores a shared vision: empowering young women through sport and building resilient communities.

- Sponsorship benefits include naming rights, branding across media, banners, exposure on SuperSport Schools, and promotional opportunities.
- Branded tee shirts and prizes for All Stars team. Aim is to give every player a branded tee-shirt and a festival goodie bag, with Nashua's support.
- Sponsorship funds will also assist teams requiring transport subsidies.

Quote from proposal:

"Through this partnership, Nashua's sponsorship will not only elevate sport at GHS but also stand as a visible legacy of commitment to education, empowerment, and community development."

Sponsorship

Securing sponsorship and in-person support from players and celebrities, championed through the KZN Rugby Union, is vital to enriching the inaugural PMB Girls' High School All-Girls Rugby Festival. Sponsorship will allow us to keep costs to an absolute minimum, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent participation, while also covering essential event expenses. Beyond logistics, it enables us to elevate the overall experience for our athletes, from quality memorabilia such as goodie bags and teeshirts as well as catering and refreshments for all participants, and expand our media spend to amplify the festival's reach and visibility. The presence of celebrated players and public figures would add prestige, inspiration, and credibility, motivating young participants and drawing greater community and media attention. Together, this support will transform the festival into more than just a tournament, it will be a landmark celebration of opportunity, empowerment, and the future of women's rugby in South Africa.

Other Sponsors approached include:

- **University of KwaZulu-Natal**
 - Venue sponsors
- **Truda Foods**
 - Confirmed items for goodie bag, activation stand and logo on tee-shirt.
- **Bluff Meats**
 - Approached to supply lunch catering



- **MAKRO**
 - No response to emails
- **SPAR** national and provincial
 - National office contact referred us to provincial office who turned us down.
- **Liberty Standard Bank**
 - Showed initial interest but didn't materialise

Confirmed Venue

The festival will be hosted at the University of KwaZulu-Natal Pieter Booysen Sports Park, featuring:

- Two rugby fields and an adjacent clubhouse.
- Full changeroom and ablution facilities.
- Ample parking, including bus access.

Teams Participating

Currently, 10 teams are confirmed, with up to 2 additional entries possible. This equates to 230–250 players, plus officials and supporters.

Confirmed Teams:

- Emeris (Grosvenor Girls' High School)
- Newcastle High School
- Estcourt High School
- Durban Invitational
- Queensburgh Girls' High School
- Ogwini Club
- Edendale Tech
- Mandlamthethwa School of Excellence
- Kokstad
- Pietermaritzburg Girls' High School

Possible Additions:

- Mowat
- Alexandra High School



Media, Coverage & PR

- GHS will leverage its strong digital platforms to amplify the festival, sharing match highlights and stories of rising talent. A plan has been developed and will roll out immediately.
- SuperSport Schools has been approached to livestream matches from both fields.
- Nashua will spearhead a PR campaign to promote the event and raise awareness.

Vendors and Catering

- GHS will partner with preferred vendors for catering.
- A post-festival dinner for invited guests will be hosted at a venue to be confirmed.

The GHS Rugby Festival is more than a sporting event, it is an initiative to build the future of women's rugby in South Africa. With Nashua's sponsorship secured, strong school participation, and a deliberate focus on inclusivity, the festival is positioned to become the premier annual girls' rugby event in the country.

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