



The ISRF Independent



Sunday July 28 2026

**The biggest
independent
schools rugby
gathering ever**



Competitive games played in the spirit of the ISRF

The 2026 Independent Schools Rugby Festival (ISRF), brought to you by Absa, kicked off in chilly early morning conditions at St David's Marist Inanda on Saturday.

More than 1200 players and 300 coaches were in action with, for the first time, the prep festival and all three college age categories: U14, U15 and U17 taking place at the same venue.

It's an ambitious undertaking - there will be 168 games played in all at the end of it, and the players will have had the opportunity to test themselves against strong opposition while reinforcing the

values of respect, camaraderie and sportsmanship that are the cornerstone of rugby at the Independent Schools Festival.

The air temperature didn't rise by much as the day progressed, but there was plenty of red hot passion from the players, and some stirring performances across all the game groups.

ISRF is, foremost, a festival. The results and scorelines are not the most important thing, it's an end-of-season celebration and early preparation for next year.

Having said that, the teams are here to compete and several of them

were pretty impressive.

Among the U17s, Bishops and Michaelhouse stood out and the teams meeting them in their next two outings will have their work cut out for them.

St Andrew's School was the only school to notch up wins in all three college age groups.

St John's College also had a good opening day – their U17s and U15s beat Kingswood.

The prep schools will be in action again on Sunday and Monday, while the college teams take a rest ahead of full days of action on Monday and Wednesday.

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Day one results

Under 13

Waterkloof House 35 The Ridge 10
 St Peter's 29 St Stithians 17
 St David's 15 Highbury 14
 Woodridge 14 St John's 12
 Bishops 28 St Peter's 17
 WP Prep 14 Waterkloof House 12
 Woodridge 47 St Stithians 7
 Highbury 31 St John's 7
 WP Prep 35 The Ridge 10
 Bishops 19 St David's 19

Under 14

St Andrew's 47 St Benedict's 7
 St Charles 28 St John's 14
 St Stithians 39 Cornwall Hill 12
 St David's 53 Somerset College 0
 St David's White 27 CBC Boksburg 17

Under 15

St Benedict's 73 Lions XV 5
 St Charles 31 Alex Wolves 0
 St John's 42 Kingswood 33
 Michaelhouse 59 Somerset College 0
 St Andrew's 24 St David's 19

Under 17

St Benedict's 17 Cornwall Hill 12
 St Alban's 21 Lions XV 19
 St John's 35 Kingswood 7
 Michaelhouse 43 Eton 10
 Bishops 71 St David's 12
 St Andrew's 28 St Charles 24
 St Stithians 33 Somerset College 5
 St David's II 19 Eton II 10
 St Andrew's Barbarians 31 CBC Boksburg



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Launched, and full steam ahead now

After months of planning, ISRF 2026 finally got going in Joburg's unique winter chill on Saturday morning. It took an army of organisers to get us to the starting point, and there will be a horde of workers and volunteers on hand to keep it running smoothly. We are indebted to them all.



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