

Mpumalanga Premier's Cup

Information Pack



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Presented By :

Departments of Culture, Sport and Recreation & Education





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Premier's Message

The iconic Nelson Mandela inspired many generations with his well thought analysis about the role of sports in a society. His view that 'sports has the power to change the world, and it has the power to inspire, the power to unite in a way that little else does', captivated many communities to perceive it that way and dream big.



This is a profound wisdom that we in Mpumalanga are leveraging on, as we introduce the Premier's Cup. It is the first of its kind in the Province, and will serve as a significant building block for the future of talented young players, whose sports talents goes unnoticed.

The Premier's Cup is a flagship provincial programme which features school sport, community clubs and professional football clubs. The codes for school sport and community sport are football and netball.

The Premier's Cup is a commitment we are making to give talented young sports enthusiasts an opportunity elevate regional sports, foster development and improve the well-being of our communities. We are determined to achieve the following objectives, namely:

- To promote nation building and social cohesion through sport
- Strengthen existing linkages with sport ambassadors to expand the skills of coaches
- Boost the local economy through sport tourism,
- Showcase talent and foster a holistic development at grassroots level.

The cup resonates well with recent developments in our province. Three of our soccer teams have been promoted to the Premier Soccer League (PSL), namely: Castric Stars, the Bees and Kruger United Football Clubs. It is a proud moment for us as we celebrate these achievements. These teams give impetus to our aspiration of playing in the country's top leagues. TS Galaxy is currently the only team plying its trade at the Betaway League, and as a long term vision, we want the number to increase.

There is more to the Premier's cup than just the young talented players taking to the field of play. We view the cup as a mortar brick towards the realisation of this vision, in a province endowed with sport talents. It is our strongest conviction that these games will be a feeder to the future national teams, i.e Bafana Bafana, Banyana Banyana, Spar Proteas, etc.

MR MP NDLOVU (MPL)
PREMIER OF MPUMALANGA

Message from **The Host Municipality: City of Mbombela**



The City of Mbombela welcomes all sports fanatics to the 2026 version of the Mpumalanga Premier's Cup sports spectacle. We are elated to be hosts to all the players, scouts, coaches and passionate fans from across the regions of Mpumalanga. We believe that these games will entrench unity and cohesion, taking our young ones away from the streets and all social ills. The city further appreciate the foresight and guidance of the honourable premier for making this tournament bigger and better, incorporating school sports, out of school sports and of course the four (4) professional football teams of our province i.e. TS Galaxy, Kruger United, Casric Stars and The Bees.

To all the players, we say: play with heart, showcase your talent, and let's make this a tournament to remember. We call upon all sports supporters from across the city and region of Ehlanzeni to come in their numbers and feast on the fun-filled programme led by the premier during these games. The city commits to do its part in ensuring the safety of the supporters, making their stay here a memorable one.

The Grand Finale will be staged at KaNyamazane Stadium where the four (4) professional teams will battle it out for that ultimate coveted prize, the premier's Cup. A massive welcome to the City of Mbombela, the Ultimate Destination. Game on!

Cllr. S.E. Makushe-Mazibuko
Executive Mayor: City of Mbombela

Message of Support



DCSR

Ladies and gentlemen allow me to pay gratitude to the Provincial Government of Mpumalanga led by the Premier Mr Mandla Ndlovu for affording the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation to host the 2026 Mpumalanga Premier's Cup. It is motivating and exciting for the Province to once again host the Mpumalanga Premier's Cup which has grown in size and stature. We are also fortunate to have worked in partnership with the Department of Education as a partner in the Premier's Cup, in coordinating the school sports edition of the Premier's Cup. As a result, this year's edition, has grown to include netball as a new sporting code in the tournament.

The Premier's Cup, now boasts with three elements which are the schools sports, community sports as well as the Main Mpumalanga Premier's Cup knock-out competition. This year's Premier's Cup will see the Province's four professional football clubs; TS Galaxy, Kruger United, Casric Stars and The Bees competing for the prestigious Mpumalanga Premier's Cup Trophy. The 2026 edition of the Mpumalanga Premier's Cup couldn't have come at a better time for all involved. It comes at the time when we have an abundance of talent itching to express itself in the field of play. The province has, for the first time in the history of the Premier Soccer League, two teams from Mpumalanga competing in the highest football league in the land. It is befitting that these two team be represented in the Mpumalanga Premier's Cup. The Mpumalanga Premier's Cup is a testament of our commitment to sport development, talent identification and social cohesion. This year's edition, after a hiatus, promises to set the tone for a more inclusive, bigger and better Mpumalanga Premier's Cup, with an electrifying top four knock-out. We are deeply grateful to all our partners, SAFA Mpumalanga, Mpumalanga Netball Association, Mpumalanga Sport Confederation, municipalities, sponsors, and dedicated officials for their commitment to making this event a resounding success. Special appreciation goes to the school learners, coaches, players, and families who form the heart of this initiative.

Through this inter-departmental partnership between the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation and the Department of Education, we are creating meaningful pathways for young athletes in sport. We believe that every match will celebrate emerging talent, foster healthy competition, and strengthen community bonds. The inclusion of community clubs and professional teams further elevates the tournament, providing inspiration to our youth while showcasing Mpumalanga as a premier destination for sport tourism. The concept of Mpumalanga Premier's Cup is going to contribute immensely to the social cohesion agenda, sport development, talent identification and sport tourism. We are glad that the Mpumalanga Premier's Cup is hosted in the Mandela Month because the biography of the late President Nelson Mandela confirms that he was also an athlete of note. It is befitting to conclude by tapping from Madiba's wisdom **open quote** "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire: It has the power to unite people, sport speaks to youth in a language they understand" **close quote**.

In conclusion, we are grateful for the cooperation we have received from the Office of the Premier, The Department of Education, the City of Mbombela and the Mpumalanga Sports Federation in making the Premier's Cup a success. May this tournament present an opportunity and a stepping stone for our young sports people to express themselves and excel in the field of play.

MS. LEAH MABUZA (MPL)
MEC FOR CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION

Message of Support



Department of Education

I take this opportunity to extend our profound appreciation for the visionary leadership and foresight of the Honourable Premier, who continues to lead from the front in bringing to fruition the Inaugural Premier's Cup. This well-conceptualised initiative aligns strongly with our ongoing commitment to identify, nurture, and showcase the rich and diverse talent that exists within our province.

We are filled with great excitement as our learners take centre stage to showcase their talents and sportsmanship, particularly against the backdrop of the global sporting spirit inspired by events such as the FIFA World Cup. Indeed, Mpumalanga is renowned for its abundance of talent. This was recently affirmed during the National ABC Motsepe South African School Choral Eisteddfod, where our schools proved that they are more than capable of competing on national platforms. The Premier's Cup therefore adds significant impetus to our ongoing efforts to create meaningful opportunities for learners to shine in sport, unite in the spirit of sportsmanship and celebrate their dedication and hard work. As the excitement builds in anticipation of this event, it is important to highlight the critical role of curriculum enrichment activities in shaping the lives of our young people.

Activities such as sport contribute immensely to the holistic development of learners physically, mentally and socially. Participation in sport fosters discipline, teamwork, resilience, and leadership, while also promoting physical health and emotional well-being. These experiences build confidence and self-esteem, enabling learners to unlock their full potential and aspire to greater heights.

The Department remains firmly committed to supporting curriculum enrichment activities and ensuring that all learners have access to the necessary resources to participate meaningfully. We recognize that access to proper equipment, facilities and training is essential in cultivating a vibrant and inclusive sporting culture. We will therefore continue to invest in programmes that empower every learner to benefit from these enriching opportunities. We remain indebted to the Honourable Premier, Mr Mandla Ndlovu, for initiating the Premier's Cup and for his unwavering vision of elevating school sport in our province. His commitment opens pathways for learners to pursue careers in sport, while strengthening social cohesion within our communities.

As former President Nelson Mandela once said, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does." This profound truth underpins the essence of the Premier's Cup. We encourage all learners to participate wholeheartedly not only to showcase their abilities but also to embrace the camaraderie, friendships, and life lessons that come with being part of school sport. To parents, your support is invaluable. By encouraging our children and attending events, you instill pride, motivation and a sense of belonging that fuels their confidence. We also wish to extend sincere appreciation to our dedicated teachers and coaches who selflessly invest their time and energy in nurturing a love for sport among our learners. Your contribution is deeply valued. Together, with the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, let us make the Premier's Cup a resounding success.

In conclusion, I wish all participants the very best. May this tournament be a memorable and successful experience for all in the Place of the Rising Sun and Beyond .

MS. LINDI MASINA (MPL)
MEC FOR EDUCATION

Message of Support



Netball Mpumalanga

On behalf of Mpumalanga Netball, we want to express our gratitude to our Premier for this huge opportunity.

Mpumalanga Netball recognise that The Premier's Cup will be one of the province's premier sporting events and presents a valuable opportunity for Mpumalanga to showcase its sporting talent while advancing the development of netball in our province, districts, clubs and communities in the province. Participation in this event extends far beyond competition. It strengthens the entire sporting ecosystem by creating meaningful opportunities for athletes, coaches, referees, officials, administrators, and volunteers to develop their skills, gain valuable experience, and contribute to the long-term growth of the sport.

We acknowledge the Premier's Cup will contribute towards netball in the following:

- Developing athletes from grassroots and community level through to high-performance and elite competition.
- Providing exposure to quality competition that enhances athlete performance and prepares teams for national and international opportunities.
- Strengthening the capacity and development of coaches, referees, technical officials, and administrators.
- Promoting youth development, social cohesion, discipline, leadership, and healthy lifestyles through sport.
- Supporting transformation, equal access, and inclusive participation in netball across all districts of Mpumalanga.
- Identifying and nurturing talented athletes who have the potential to represent Mpumalanga and South Africa at higher levels.
- Showcasing the Province of Mpumalanga as a leader in sport development and sporting excellence.

Investment by the Premier's Cup is an investment in the people of Mpumalanga. The knowledge, experience, and skills gained through participation will have a lasting impact on the continued growth of netball and will strengthen the province's high-performance pathway for years to come.

Though the Premier's Cup 2026, it will enable our athletes, coaches, referees, officials, and support personnel to proudly represent Mpumalanga while inspiring the next generation of sportsmen and sportswomen throughout the province.

"It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else can. Sport can awaken hope where there was previously only despair." These are powerful words spoken by former President Nelson Mandela who believed that sport could transcend race, politics and unite a province and a country.

MS. CE VAN WETTEN
PRESIDENT: NETBALL MPUMALANGA

Message of Support



SAFA Mpumalanga

On behalf of SAFA Mpumalanga, its Regions, and the countless players whose lives continue to be transformed through your support, we extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and tireless commitment to the development and well-being of sport in Mpumalanga.

Your ability to lead with integrity, compassion, and courage has inspired hope and driven meaningful change across our communities. Through your wisdom, fairness, and steadfast commitment to creating opportunities for young people, you have strengthened the sporting landscape and left an enduring legacy within the sports fraternity of our province. We are truly privileged to have a leader who listens, acts decisively, and leads with both purpose and humility.

The Mpumalanga Premier's Cup marks the beginning of a new chapter for sport in our province, particularly for the football fraternity. It is a platform that will nurture talent, promote unity, and create pathways for aspiring athletes to realise their dreams. May your leadership continue to uplift, inspire, and empower future generations. We wish you continued strength, wisdom, and good health as you guide Mpumalanga towards an even brighter sporting future.

With sincere respect and appreciation.

Mpumalanga Sport Confederation

On behalf of the Mpumalanga Sport Confederation, it is my great privilege to welcome you all to the pre-tournament stage of the prestigious Mpumalanga Premier's Cup.

The matches before us represent the very foundation of our province's sports development pathway. This booklet is more than just a guide to the fixtures, it is a celebration of the journey, the dedication, and the exceptional talent emerging from every district, from Ehlanzeni to Gert Sibande and Nkangala. To the athletes taking to the field: you have invested countless hours of hard work and preparation to earn your place here. As you cross the white lines, play with passion, compete with integrity, and remember that you carry the hopes, resilience, and pride of the people of Mpumalanga. Uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship by respecting your opponents, honouring the officials, and allowing your talent to speak for itself.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Office of the Premier and the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation for their unwavering partnership and commitment to transforming lives through sport. Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to the local organising committees, administrators, coaches, volunteers, and technical officials whose tireless efforts behind the scenes continue to make this tournament a resounding success. To our passionate supporters: your enthusiasm in the stands inspires these athletes to reach even greater heights. Let us come together to celebrate our young talent, foster unity, and enjoy the beautiful game in the true spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie.

We wish every team the very best for the tournament. Enjoy the matches, and may the best teams advance.

Professional Teams



TS Galaxy

We are a professional football club that has proudly represented our beautiful Province of Mpumalanga at the highest level of South African football, the Betway Premiership, in the last 6 years. We intend to continue doing so with more sternness for the 2026/2027 NSL season. The 2026/2027 season will be our seventh consecutive season at the highest level of the game of football in the country. Although we could not complete the 2025/2026 season amongst the top eight clubs, we pride ourselves in that we have managed to produce and gave professional debuts to young talents from Ngodini, KaBhokweni and Nhlazatshe which speaks volumes for our Province.



Kruger United

Kruger United Football Club is a proudly South African professional football club based in Mpumalanga. Established in 2023, the club has rapidly grown into one of the country's inspiring football success stories, earning promotion through determination, strong leadership, and a commitment to excellence. The club is built on the values of professionalism, discipline, community development, and ambition. Kruger United strives to create opportunities for talented players while promoting attractive, competitive football that reflects the passion of its supporters and the rich football culture of the province. Beyond success on the field, the club is committed to making a meaningful social impact through youth development, community engagement, and partnerships that contribute to sustainable growth. Kruger United believes football has the power to inspire, unite communities, and create pathways for future generations. With a dedicated management team, experienced technical staff, and an ambitious vision, Kruger United continues to invest in building a sustainable football institution capable of competing at the highest level of South African football. As the club continues its journey, it remains focused on representing Mpumalanga with pride, developing local talent, and establishing itself as a respected force in the national game. Kruger United is driven by a simple philosophy: to compete with excellence, serve its community with integrity, and build a lasting legacy for generations to come.



The Bees

Founded in 2014 in the heart of Naas, Kamaqhekeza, Mpumalanga, The Bees FC was built on one simple idea: give local talent a home and give the community a team to be proud of. Starting in SAB League football, the club grew from dusty community fields to a professional setup known for discipline, hard work, and a never-say-die attitude. The yellow and black jersey quickly became a symbol of unity in Naas, with supporters calling the team "Nyoshi Yaluma". For 10 years The Bees grafted through the ABC Motsepe League, focusing on youth development and community impact. That foundation paid off in 2025 when The Bees were crowned Vodacom Mpumalanga ABC Motsepe League Champions. The title run was built on a solid dedication of our chairman Mr J Magunga and his strong management. Naas Stadium was our home ground that became a fortress. Winning the provincial crown put Naas on the national football map and qualified the club for the national playoffs. In 2025 The Bees made history again. After a tense national playoff campaign, the club secured promotion to the Motsepe Foundation Championship the NFD for the first time ever. It was more than promotion. It was proof that a rural club with big ambition could compete at the second tier of South African football. The achievement sparked massive celebrations in Nkomazi and drew recognition, fans, and media attention to the team.



Casric Stars FC

Casric Stars FC is an ambitious South African football club committed to sporting excellence, youth development, community impact, and sustainable commercial growth. Since its establishment in 2012, the club has risen from the amateur ranks to become a respected competitor with its sights firmly set on automatic promotion to the Betway Premiership. Founded as FC Palmeros in 2012, the club was rebranded to Casric FC in 2018 before adopting its current name, Casric Stars FC, in 2022. Throughout its journey, the club has consistently grown both on and off the field, developing talented players while establishing a respected football brand. Casric Stars FC's achievements include winning the 2018 SAFA ABC Motsepe League North West title, reaching the Round of 16 of the Nedbank Cup, securing a third-place finish in the 2022/23 league season, producing more than 10 players who have progressed to the Premier Soccer League, and reaching the semi-finals of the 2025/26 Nedbank Cup.

Fixtures: Community Sport



NETBALL

 **KANYAMAZANE NETBALL COURTS**
 **19 JULY 2026**

COURT 1 **FEMALES**

Round 1 | 08:30

Semi-Final

Position 1 & 4

KABOKWENI

VS

ROCKSTARS

Round 2 | 09:30

Semi-Final

Position 2 & 3

THEMBISILE HANI

VS

KINROSS

BREAK

Round 4 | 10:45

3rd & 4th Place

Loser Pos 1-4

LOSER POS 1 & 4

VS

LOSER POS 2 & 3

FINAL

Round 5 | 11:45

Final

1st & 2nd Place

WINNER POS 1 & 4

VS

WINNER POS 2 & 3

Fixtures: Community Sport



NETBALL

 **KANYAMAZANE NETBALL COURTS**
 **19 JULY 2026**

>> COURT 2 << MALES

Round 1 | 08:30

Semi-Final

Position 1 & 4

KBN LIGHTNING

V/S

MHLUZI YOUNG FIGHTERS

Round 2 | 09:30

Semi-Final

Position 2 & 3

KBN THUNDER

V/S

ROCKSTARS

BREAK

Round 4 | 10:45

3rd & 4th Place

Loser Pos 1-4

LOSER POS 1 & 4

V/S

LOSER POS 2 & 3

FINAL

Round 5 | 11:45

Final

1st & 2nd Place

WINNER POS 1 & 4

V/S

WINNER POS 2 & 3

Fixtures: Community Sport



FOOTBALL

 **KABOKWENI STADIUM**
 **18 JULY 2026**

➤ MALES ➤

Round 1 | 10:00

Semi-Final

Position 1 & 4

CALLIES FC

VS

MP UNITED FC

Round 2 | 12:00

Semi-Final

Position 2 & 3

JUVENTUS FC

VS

DOORKOP FC

FINAL

15:00

Final

1st & 2nd Place

WINNER POS 1 & 4

VS

WINNER POS 2 & 3

Fixtures: Community Sport



FOOTBALL

 **KABOKWENI STADIUM**
 **18 JULY 2026**

» FEMALES «

Round 1 | 10:00

Semi-Final

Position 1 & 4

DELMAS ROYAL FC



INTER MILAN FC

Round 2 | 12:00

Semi-Final

Position 2 & 3

EASTHIGH ACADEMY FC



EMALAHLENI RAINBOW FC

FINAL

15:00

Final

1st & 2nd Place

WINNER POS 1 & 4



WINNER POS 2 & 3

Fixtures: School Sport



FOOTBALL

 **LOWVELD HIGH SCHOOL**
 **18 JULY 2026**

Game No:1

| 11:00 - 12:00 |

Girls

THABACHWEU BORDING

VS

ST'MARKS

Game No:2

| 12:00 - 13:10 |

Boys

BONGINHLANHLA SEC

VS

CABANGANI COMBINE

Game No:3

| 13:10 - 14:10 |

Girls

CHIEF JERRY SEC

VS

DOKGABO SEC

Game No:4

| 14:10 - 15:20 |

Boys

SKAPANDODA MASHABIYA

VS

THUFANE SEC

Fixtures: School Sport



NETBALL

 **LOWVELD HIGH SCHOOL**
 **18 JULY 2026**



COURT
BOYS & GIRLS



Game No:1

11:00 - 12:00

Girls

IDLANGEMABALA

V/S

ALEX BENJAMIN

Game No:3

13:10 - 14:10

Girls

MADZUMA SEC

V/S

QEDELA SEC

Game No:4

14:10 - 15:20

Girls

MASHISHING SEC

V/S

SENZANGAKHONA SEC

Fixtures: School Sport



FOOTBALL & NETBALL

 **LOWVELD HIGH SCHOOL**
 **19 JULY 2026**

» FINALS «

FOOTBALL

Football | 08:00 - 09:00 | Girls

WINNER GAME 1

V/S

WINNER GAME 3

Football | 11:00 - 12:00 | Boys

WINNER GAME 2

V/S

WINNER GAME 4

NETBALL

Netball Ubuntu | 08:00 - 09:00 | Girls

WINNER GAME 1

V/S

WINNER GAME 3

Netball Botho | 09:00 - 10:00 | Boys

WINNER GAME 2

V/S

WINNER GAME 4

Fixtures: Professional Teams



FOOTBALL

 KANYAMAZANE STADIUM
 19 JULY 2026

SEMI-FINALS

Game No:1

09:00

Semi-final 1



VS



Game No:2

11:00

Semi-Final 2



VS



FINALS

Game No:3

15:00

Final

WINNER GAME 1

VS

WINNER GAME 2

Prizes & Awards



School Sport:

Position 1

Trophy, Gold Medal and 4 football/netball balls per winner

Position 2

Silver Medals and 4 football/netball balls

Individual awards (Miniature trophies)

Netball

Best shooter

Best middle player

Best defender

Football

Best player

Best goal keeper

Top goal scorer

Position 1

14 seater Kombi per team

Position 2

R200 000,00 per team

Venues



Kanyamazane Stadium



Kabokweni Stadium



Lowveld High School



Kanyamazane Netball Courts



Thank you, *dankie, siyabonga, siyathokoza* and *hakhensa* for making the 2026 Mpumalanga Premier's Cup a resounding success. Your passion, support and commitment made this tournament unforgettable.

#PremiersCupMp

