



KNYSNA / RUGBY FESTIVAL / DAY 1

Rugby at Safe Hub

Opening day in pictures

SATURDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2026 | WHITE LOCATION, KNYNSNA



A ball carrier meets the defence during opening-day play at Safe Hub.

The UPPA Knysna Launch Rugby Festival opened at Safe Hub on Saturday, 24 October 2026. Players competed on the field while spectators followed the rugby beside the touchline, across the terraces and on the grass banks.

This issue records the opening day through selected photographs. It also carries UPPA's official statement on the two-day festival, originally issued on 25 October, with its plans for grassroots sport, recreation, indigenous games, culture and heritage.

PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED BY UPPA KNYNSNA



PHOTO ESSAY / 24 OCTOBER 2026

Beside the action

Spectators, match officials and activity beside the field formed part of the opening day at Safe Hub. These photographs were taken on 24 October 2026.



01 Spectators watch and applaud beside the playing area.



02 Players gather in a team huddle on the field.



03 Audio mixing at the venue during the opening day.



04 Match officials beside equipment at the touchline.

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The official festival statement follows on page 3. UPPA thanks the teams, officials, supporters and FIXERS, acknowledges the impact on Ward 4 residents and sets out the work ahead.



MEDIA STATEMENT / OFFICIAL RECORD

UPPA declares Knysna Launch Rugby Festival a resounding success

ORIGINALLY ISSUED 25 OCTOBER 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The United Progressive People Alliance (UPPA) declares the UPPA Knysna Launch Rugby Festival a resounding success. Held on 24 and 25 October 2026 at Safe Hub, White Location, Knysna, the festival brought players, match officials and supporters together for a well-attended weekend of local rugby.

Players competed with commitment while supporters backed their teams across the terraces and grass banks. UPPA thanks every participating team, the match officials and everyone who attended. We extend special appreciation to our FIXERS, whose work helped bring the festival together.

UPPA apologises to the residents of Ward 4 for the inconvenience caused by traffic and noise during the festival. We appreciate residents' patience and recognise our responsibility to consider the impact of events on surrounding households when planning future activities.

The festival provides a foundation for the work ahead. UPPA will pursue a broader rollout of grassroots sport and recreational activities in Knysna, including indigenous games and activities that celebrate culture and heritage. These priorities will shape the next phase of our community work.

Our aim is to create regular opportunities for people to play, develop their skills and participate in the cultural life of their community. Indigenous games and the sharing of local traditions will have a place in this programme, helping to pass knowledge between generations.

Grassroots sport and recreation deserve sustained attention in local development. Accessible, well-maintained spaces matter, and local clubs and residents should be heard as this work develops. Careful organisation and respect for neighbouring households must be part of that approach.

UPPA is proud to have hosted this festival. We will build on its momentum with a sustained commitment to community activity in Knysna.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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