



In-Touch.



The Zimbabwe Rugby Union Newsletter

Rugby roars into action



Rugby back in action



Meet the Sables Manager



ZRRS referees appointed to



Zambia and



Dubai games.

The long awaited return competitive rugby on the Zimbabwe domestic rugby landscape is finally over with domestic rugby having kicked off in Harare provinces and Bulawayo Province games kicking off on the 23rd of October at

Hartsfield Rugby grounds.

Rugby came to an abrupt end when the Government through the Sports and

MEET THE CHEETAHS HEAD COACH



Graham Kaulback
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MEET THE WOMEN CHEETAHS HEAD COACH



Derek Chiwara

ROUND OF RUGBY ACTION IN PROVINCES



NEXT ISSUE

recreation commission banned all sporting activities in March 2020.

Teams in the Super six were ready to to kickstart what was expected to be an entertaining league season.

Successive lockdowns and partial reopening of sports was to follow with special dispensations offered to the flagship teams such as the Sabes men and women , Cheetahs being allowed to take part in international pre-scheduled games and tournaments albeit under the strictest of Covid-19 prevention protocols.

Recently the SRC reopened all sports under the strict Covid -19 protocols and provinces have been busy getting ready to get back on the field.

Manicaland Province has been proactive and has a vaccination rate among rugby players of 100%. According to Mutare Sports Club manager Casper Bande, Mutare is ready and raring to go. “ All officials have been vaccinated and all the coaches and administrators have completed the World Rugby online Covid protocols courses.

The Manicaland Board Chairperson Josiah Borerwe said his board has been hard at work working on the modalities of resuming their provincial league in the safest possible way.



Josiah Borerwe
Chairman Manicaland
Rugby Board



He said his board will host several warm up games as a dress rehearsal of their league games. He reiterated that they will be no spectators allowed. In preparation for the league resumption he added that his board will "... be distributing rugby kit to its rugby clubs and district boards at a ceremony to be held in the coming days to capacitate the clubs."

He said during the long layoff they as the Manicaland board have worked on revitalizing their structures by setting up local district boards to manage the game at local levels.

Borerwe said they have also been engaged in philanthropic work in their community by handing food parcels and sanitary ware for the players and those in need.

HARARE PROVINCE SET TO HOST SEVENS TOURNAMENT

Harare province rugby board is set to host several tournaments at the Machinery Exchange stadium featuring 19 teams of



Joseph Kawonza
Chairman
Harare Rugby Board

men and women teams. The tournaments held thus far are the sevens tournMent won by Old Georgians after overpowering a determined Pitbulls and current,ynunderway is the Tens tournament

The chairman of the Harare Rugby Board Joseph 'Joe' Kawonza said "...the province is happy to be back on the field of play after a two year absence and we have eleven men's teams and eight women's teams that are participating in the tournaments.

He added that all teams have submitted vaccination cards with all teams and officials having a 100% first jab uptake rate and 97% second jab uptake. All ancillary staff, match officials, coaches, players and management are expected to produce PCR negative test results taken within 48 hours if they are not fully vaccinated.

Games kick off at 0900hrs till 1700hrs.

	Men's Team	Women's teams
1	Harare Sports Club	Harare Sports Club
2	Pitbulls	Pitbulls
3	Old Georgians	Old Georgians
4	Zimbiru	Zimbiru
5	FS Raiders	FS Raiders
6	Police	Police
7	UZ	
8	Northern Chiefs	
9	XP Horns	
10	Old Hararians	
11	Mabvuku	
12	Steelers	

BULAWAYO PROVINCE SET TO HOST UNFORGETTABLE SEVENS TOURNAMENT

Meanwhile in the Southern region teams started doing their preseason workouts and the Director of Rugby for the BMRFB Gilbert Nyamutsamba said they had found a sponsor for the Mid-Mat



league in the form of their perennial sponsors Unforgettable's who will cover costs of the league.

Nine teams have confirmed participation in the Unforgettable's Sevens series and these are Highlanders, Matabeleland Warriors, Bulldogs, Barbarians, Beitbridge Raiders, Old Miltonians, Wasps, Mavula Boys and Gweru Sports Club. Each team will field both a men's and women's team.

Meanwhile the Bulawayo women's provincial 7's team has been training under the watchful eye of former Cheetahs head coach Gilbert Nyamutsamba and Cheetahs the men's player Nelson Madida. The ladies are being prepared for the imminent Cheetahs National selection to be held in Harare.



Gilbert Nyamutsamba
Director of Rugby
BMRFB

The ZRU CEO Sifiso Made said he is happy with the state of preparedness by the provinces and looks forward to the return of rugby in the new normal. He said the provincial chairpersons have thus far been happy with the PPE's that the union has provided for all provinces.

The PPE's are to ensure that all the sanitizing and disinfecting protocols are observed. He added that "on behalf of the provinces they have since applied to the SRC for the green light to host the weekend fixtures and the subsequent tournaments and fixtures.

BMRFB hosts Women's Coaching Course.

As part of measures to return to play after the government lifted the ban on all sports the Bulawayo Metropolitan Rugby Football board recently held a World Rugby Level One coaching course for women involved in rugby.

The course was attended by 32 women coaches from a cross section of the society. Some of the women who attended the course came from Plumtree town, a border town to the south west of the country. The course was conducted by World Rugby educators Ruben Kumpasa and Abigail Kawonza with the BMRFB Director of Rugby Gilbert Nyamutsamba in attendance.



Female WR L1 Coaching Course attendees at Hartsfield Rugby Grounds

The women from Plumtree had their travel and subsistence sponsored by local retail company Unforgettables.

Abigail Kawonza who is the Women's rugby technical advisor was in attendance and urged the women coaches to use their learnt skills to grow and uplift the game among women.

Sables to take part in Quadrangular Test series in Stellenbosch

The Zimbabwe Sables team are set to kick start their preparations for the Rugby Africa Cup 2022 which doubles up as the Rugby World Cup qualifiers in November this year at a tournament organized by World Rugby.

The tournament will be held in South Africa at the Stellenbosch Academy of Sports from the 12th to the 21st of November. The teams to take part are Namibia, Brazil, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

The tournament by World Rugby is aimed at providing suitable high performance competition in November for the highest ranked African sides which will include an Invitational side from Brazil.



Namibia is the highest ranked African country outside of South Africa, ranking at 25, Brazil 26, Zimbabwe (34) and Kenya (35).



The format of play will be semi finals on the 14th and the finals in the 20th of November with the fixtures as follows;

Semi Finals

Namibia vs Kenya

Brazil vs Zimbabwe



Jason Maritz
Sables
Manager

Finals and the 3rd and 4th playoffs will be played on the 20th of November.

Brandon Dawson the Zimbabwe head coach welcomed the high performance games and said they will help the Sables to gauge their strengths against top ranked side ahead of the world rugby qualifiers set for France in July of 2022.

Jason Maritz the Sables manager said they are looking to secure all the international players ahead of the games and is hoping they can get most of their players cleared to travel to South Africa from their different international bases.

The following players have been selected to be part of the Sables squad for the November Quadrangular Series which is to take place in Stellenbosch:

FORWARDS:

Tyron Fagan, Dean Makoni, Royal Mwale, George Saungweme, Tapiwa Tsomondo, Cleopas Kundiona, Sean Beevor, Biselele Tshamala, Godfrey Muzanargwo, Aiden BurneU, Tonderai Chiwambutsa, Charles Gamhiwa,

Lawrence Cleminson, Godwin Manganje, Victor Mapunga.

BACKS:

Hilton Mudariki, Dudlee White - Sharpley, Keith Chiwara, Boyd Rouse, Takudzwa Chieza, Darrel Makwasha, Takudzwa Kumadiro, Riaan O'Neill, Brandon Mudzekenyedzi, Shingirai Katsvere, Mar[n Mangongo, Tapiwa Mafura

Feature

Jason Derek Maritz : Zimbabwe Sables Manager

Born Jason Derek Maritz in Bulawayo, he grew up in the tea and coffee region of Zimbabwe , Chipinge. He attended Mvurachena Primary school where his love for sport cultivated and nurtured. His talents were later honed at Falcon College in Esigodini, South West of Bulawayo.



When asked about how he got involved in sports, he says “ At Mvurachena I was introduced to a lot of sports but my first love was cricket and as I



grew up I saw myself playing for the Zimbabwe Chevrons.

Injury was to deal me a hard blow and I turned my full attention to rugby at Falcon college where I played for the MadDogs (Falcon 1st XV) in 2004-5 with Mr Reg Querl as our head coach.”

In his time at Falcon Jason played for the Matabeleland B team at the National U19 trials

and was selected for the 2004 Craven week team. He oozes with pride when he tells In-Touch magazine that he was part of the Zimbabwe U/19



team that took part in the U/19 World Trophy in Durban in 2005.

After school in 2006 JD moved to Germany to play club rugby for FC Neuenheim. Unfortunately after 3 shoulder operations he called time on his rugby playing career in 2007.



He never lost touch with the game though as he relocated to the Western Cape where he started his own business and continued to support and play friendly rugby games with the locals.

He is married to Bronwinn and they are blessed with three lovely boys. Hezekiah(7), Elijah(5) and Caleb(2).

Asked about how he came to be the Sables manager, Jason recounted how when the current Sables head coach Brandon Dawson was appointed head coach of the Academy team that was to part take in the SuperSport challenge in 2019, he needed someone with knowledge of Cape Town, contacts and a rugby background.

At the time Jason had been running a 10's team in Cape Town for a couple of years and through our mutual rugby friends he got my contacts and like they say the rest is history. We played through the Supersport Challenge and it was at this time that we set a foundation for the



current Sables setup and the Victoria Cup 2019 victory.

With the momentum from the Victoria cup, we were lucky to be invited for the New Zealand tour of duty, where we were attached to the Hurricanes Super Rugby outfit.

What an experience it was. It was a great opportunity for us to learn from the professional rugby coaches, players and managers. We studied their professional rugby ecosystem and we were able to identify what we were doing well and where we lacked.

We took the lessons learnt to heart and we have introduced some of the aspects we learnt into the Sables set up and it's early days yet but development



trajectory for the Sables set up is definitely on the way up.

Speaking on the future, Jason says he wishes that this current Sables team and management make the country proud by qualifying for France Rugby World Cup 2023. He said “I would like to give back to my country and work with the ZRU to develop and grow the Sables brand and rugby in general”. He said he is looking forward to coming back home to stay as he wants to give his children the privilege he had of growing up in our beautiful country...

Clarion call to all



Sables players.

To all the current and new aspiring Rugby players who have aspirations of representing our beautiful country at the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

We have a massive task on our hands and as you can see there are new players not only from within our country but from all the world wanting to represent “The Sables.”



The Sables Core Values

The task is not only to make sure, that we run onto the field at the 2022 Qualifiers in France, with the correct and strongest team available, but it is from now and till the 2022 Qualifiers.

Opportunities, games tours and tournaments will be made available to you by the Sables technical team, it is incumbent on the players to make themselves available for selection.

Within our “Team Values” “sacrifice” is truly a huge part of every rugby player’s contribution to the success of our World Cup Qualifiers and then on to our success at the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

The foundation of our “Sables Team Values” has been laid....every player, member of our coaching staff and management staff must follow our values. Should anyone choose not to live up to our values, they will then, have to step aside and make way for those who choose to build and create a positive, winning and joyful environment where our culture becomes so natural and ingrained into everyone in our “Sables Family”

Let it be known that it does not matter your talent or who you are, should you not fit into our culture there surely is no room for you in our “Sable Team” and “The Sables Family”

“Choose to make the “Green and White Sables Jersey,” respected around the world and once again be in top 16 competing at the Rugby World Cup 2023.

“Good and great Rugby Players, set high internal bench marks. They set their Expectations high and strive to exceed them”

“ The Challenge is always to improve, To always strive to be better, having the fear of failure, even when we are at our best.”

That is what being a “Sables Rugby Player” is all about.

*Sunungura maRasta
Iwe neni tinebasa
Mina larwe silo msebenzi
Our work is cut out.*

BD

Your Sables ; My Sables ;Our Sables

Top Zimbabwe Rugby Referee handles the Zambian Rugby Top of the log clash

Top Zimbabwean Rugby referee Michael ‘Mike’ Zvakavapano was recently appointed to officiate the Zambian Rugby Union top of the log clash between the two top



Michael Zvakavapano
ZRRS Referee

rugby teams in Zambian rugby the nine time champions Red Arrows against the Mufulira Leopards at the Yotam Muleya Arena, showground in Lusaka, Zambia.

The game ended 10-06 in favour of Red arrows who won their eighth consecutive league title after garnering an unassailable 51 points with two game to spare in the season.

Michael has represented Zimbabwe Rugby referees in various international competitions and tournaments that include the World University championships in Namibia, The Kenya Safari sevens, Kwese sevens and in Botswana. He continues to grow in his game and looks forward to being in the rugby Africa panel in years to come.

Precious Pazani appointed to the Dubai Invitational Sevens

Meanwhile top female rugby referee will add to her International tournaments appearances when she runs onto the field in the Dubai Invitational Sevens tournament to be held from the 3rd to the 8th of December in Dubai, UAE.

Precious said she is looking forward to officiating at the international tournament. She said “I am looking forward to the tournament and I’m officiating at our local sevens tournament to keep myself mentally and physically match fit”



Precious Pazani



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