



# MERENSKY

Landbou Akademie

Agricultural Academy

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Parent circular 33/2023

## RUGBY TEAM NUMBERS AND SPONSORS DISPLAYED ON JERSEYS

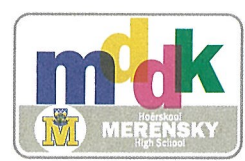
Following inquiries as to why only Merensky Agricultural Academy's first rugby team have numbers and sponsors displayed on their jerseys, we would like to share our motivation:

### UNIFORMITY

- Uniformity is promoted amongst players when all teams, from the U/14B team to the second team, look the same. Everyone is equal and plays for team and school.
- The first team (with numbers and sponsors) therefore stands out as a dream or goal that players can strive towards.

### FINANCIAL BENEFIT

- Since a "general" rugby jersey can be used for more than one season, the financial impact on parents is smaller. A player's jersey remains his jersey, no matter which team he plays for.
- A general jersey can also be handed down to younger siblings, family or friends.
- During a season (or rugby career) a number of players move between positions. In cases like these, jerseys do not need to be exchanged or purchased. The player's original jersey fits well and the player remains comfortable.



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## PRIDE

- This tradition encourages players not to play for the number on the back, but for the coat of arms on the chest.
- Every proud Plasie rugby player can then aspire to one day pull the special first team jersey over his head.

## YEAR END

- If jerseys display numbers, it is sometimes difficult to determine at the end of the season who played the most in a position and is therefore entitled to the specific numbered jersey.
- Great unhappiness has arisen over this in the past.

## PRACTICAL FACTORS

- Players with numbers on their backs are more easily targeted, either for "buying" or bullying. It happens regularly on and off the field.
- Numberless jerseys used can be more easily exchanged or replaced in the event of injuries or other crises.
- Players learn to take care of their jerseys.

A tradition like this is not unique, and is being embraced by more and more schools. Schools such as Afrikaans Hoër Seunskool, Gray High School, Hoër Landbouskool Oakdale, Hoër Landbouskool Boland, Pretoria Boys High, Paarl Gymnasium, Midstream College, Hoërskool Waterkloof and Hoërskool Bergsig, have seen the value of this. A rugby organizer from one of the above schools even mentioned that this tradition is one of the backbone aspects of their rugby.

Although there may be counter-arguments, the overwhelmingly positive side of the matter has won the battle.

Unity makes strength.

  
M. Steyn

Principal