



---

1 Hinemoa St, Harbour Quays  
PO Box 2172, Wellington  
Telephone +64 4 499 4995  
Facsimile +64 4 499 4224  
[www.allblacks.com](http://www.allblacks.com)

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
11 February 2011

## **Action-packed ITM Cup 2011 draw released** **Southland first to challenge for Ranfurly Shield**

A new competition format, 14 teams, 13 rounds over eight weeks, the Ranfurly Shield once again on the line, promotion and relegation *and* 72 matches of footy – this year's ITM Cup is set for an intense, action-packed season.

The official draw for the 2011 ITM Cup has been released today by the New Zealand Rugby Union and promises plenty of rugby action from Tuesday to Sunday once it gets under way on Thursday 14 July.

Key features of the season draw are:

- Southland gets the first Ranfurly Shield challenge in Round 3
- Manawatu's bucketheads will celebrate their province's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a home derby match against Hawke's Bay in the first round
- Bay of Plenty marks their centenary in Round 9, when they host neighbouring rivals Hawke's Bay
- Round 7 will be Otago's last round robin match at Carisbrook and it will be a battle of Southern strength when they host Southland on Saturday 6 August.
- Otago plays two rounds at their new ground Forsyth Barr Stadium
- All matches broadcast live on SKY TV.

The season kicks off with Round 1 on Thursday 14 July when Otago host North Harbour. The first mid-week match will be between North Harbour and Tasman at North Harbour Stadium on Tuesday 19 July.

General Manager of Professional Rugby Neil Sorensen said this year's domestic competition promises lots of action between old and new provincial rivals.

"There's a lot of rugby to fit in the eight weeks of this competition. As well as all the great provincial pride and rivalry that comes with the ITM Cup, the Finals will be played a week out from the start of the Rugby World Cup," he said.



Semifinals will not be played this year because of the Rugby World Cup tournament, with the competition returning to normal schedules in 2012. Promotion and relegation are also a feature of the new format with the winner of the ITM Championship Final winning promotion into the ITM Premiership next season while the team that finishes last in the ITM Premiership is relegated to the Championship.

“We’re delighted SKY TV will have crews around the country to bring us all 70 matches plus the Championship and Premiership Finals by live broadcast so we won’t miss out on anything,” Sorensen said.

The teams playing in the ITM Premiership and competing for the ITM Cup, and wanting to avoid 2012 relegation are:

- Canterbury
- Waikato
- Auckland
- Wellington
- Taranaki
- Bay of Plenty
- Southland

The teams playing in the ITM Championship and playing for promotion into the 2012 Premiership are:

- Hawke’s Bay
- Counties Manukau
- Northland
- North Harbour
- Tasman
- Manawatu
- Otago

The ITM Championship and ITM Premiership Finals will be played on the weekend of Saturday 3 September.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Attached: 2011 ITM Cup Draw**

**For further information contact:**

**Juli Clausen**

NZRU Media Manager

P: 04 474 72 76

M: 0275 70 70 45

E: [juli.clausen@nzrugby.co.nz](mailto:juli.clausen@nzrugby.co.nz)

## 2011 ITM Cup Draw

As at 10 February 2011

*All details are subject to change.  
Home team is listed first.  
(RS) Ranfurly Shield match*

DATE	KICK OFF	MATCH	VENUE	CITY
<b>ROUND 1. Thursday 14 July – Sunday 17 July</b>				
Thursday	7.35pm	Otago v North Harbour	Carisbrook Stadium	Dunedin
Friday	7.35pm	Southland v Waikato	Rugby Park Stadium	Invercargill
Saturday	2.35pm	Manawatu v Hawke's Bay	FMG Stadium	Palmerston North
Saturday	5.35pm	Northland v Tasman	Toll Stadium	Whangarei
Saturday	7.35pm	Taranaki v Wellington	Yarrow Stadium	New Plymouth
Sunday	2.35pm	Auckland v Canterbury	Eden Park	Auckland
Sunday	4.35pm	Counties Manukau v Bay of Plenty	Bayer Growers Stadium	Pukekohe
<b>ROUND 2. Tuesday 19 July – Wednesday 20 July</b>				
Tuesday	6.05pm	North Harbour v Tasman	North Harbour Stadium	Albany
Tuesday	8.05pm	Hawke's Bay v Southland	McLean Park	Napier
Wednesday	5.35pm	Counties Manukau v Manawatu	Bayer Growers Stadium	Pukekohe
Wednesday	7.35pm	Auckland v Otago	Eden Park	Auckland
<b>ROUND 3. Thursday 21 July – Sunday 24 July</b>				
Thursday	7.35pm	Waikato v Taranaki	Waikato Stadium	Hamilton
Friday	7.35pm	Canterbury v Southland (RS)	AMI Stadium	Christchurch
Saturday	2.35pm	Manawatu v Northland	FMG Stadium	Palmerston North
Saturday	5.35pm	Bay of Plenty v North Harbour	Baypark Stadium	Mount Maunganui
Saturday	7.35pm	Wellington v Auckland	Westpac Stadium	Wellington
Sunday	2.35pm	Hawke's Bay v Otago	McLean Park	Napier
Sunday	4.35pm	Tasman v Counties Manukau	Lansdowne Park	Blenheim
<b>ROUND 4. Tuesday 26 July - Wednesday 27 July</b>				
Tuesday	7.35pm	Bay of Plenty v Waikato	TBA	
Wednesday	6.05pm	Wellington v Canterbury	Westpac Stadium	Wellington
Wednesday	8.05pm	Northland v Taranaki	Toll Stadium	Whangarei

<b>ROUND 5. Thursday 28 July – Sunday 31 July</b>				
Thursday	7.35pm	North Harbour v Hawke's Bay	North Harbour Stadium	Albany
Friday	6.05pm	Southland v Counties Manukau	Rugby Park Stadium	Invercargill
Friday	8.05pm	Waikato v Tasman	Waikato Stadium	Hamilton
Saturday	2.35pm	Canterbury v Manawatu (RS)	AMI Stadium	Christchurch
Saturday	4.35pm	Northland v Otago	Toll Stadium	Whangarei
Sunday	2.35pm	Taranaki v Auckland	Yarrow Stadium	New Plymouth
Sunday	4.35pm	Bay of Plenty v Wellington	Baypark Stadium	Mount Maunganui
<b>ROUND 6. Tuesday 2 August – Wednesday 3 August</b>				
Tuesday	6.05pm	Hawke's Bay v Tasman	McLean Park	Napier
Tuesday	8.05pm	Manawatu v North Harbour	FMG Stadium	Palmerston North
Wednesday	5.35pm	Otago v Counties Manukau	Carisbrook Stadium	Dunedin
Wednesday	7.35pm	Auckland v Southland	Eden Park	Auckland
<b>ROUND 7. Thursday 4 August – Sunday 7 August</b>				
Thursday	7.35pm	Northland v Bay of Plenty	Toll Stadium	Whangarei
Friday	6.05pm	Tasman v Canterbury	Lansdowne Park	Blenheim
Friday	8.05pm	Hawke's Bay v Wellington	McLean Park	Napier
Saturday	2.35pm	Otago v Southland	Carisbrook Stadium	Dunedin
Saturday	4.35pm	Manawatu v Taranaki	FMG Stadium	Palmerston North
Sunday	2.35pm	Counties Manukau v Waikato	Bayer Growers Stadium	Pukekohe
Sunday	4.35pm	North Harbour v Auckland	North Harbour Stadium	Albany
<b>ROUND 8. Tuesday 9 August – Wednesday 10 August</b>				
Tuesday	7.35pm	Taranaki v Bay of Plenty	Yarrow Stadium	New Plymouth
Wednesday	6.05pm	Canterbury v Waikato (RS)	AMI Stadium	Christchurch
Wednesday	8.05pm	Wellington v Northland	Westpac Stadium	Wellington
<b>ROUND 9. Thursday 11 August – Sunday 14 August</b>				
Thursday	7.35pm	Auckland v Counties Manukau	Eden Park	Auckland
Friday	7.35pm	Taranaki v Tasman	Yarrow Stadium	New Plymouth
Saturday	2.35pm	Southland v North Harbour	Rugby Park Stadium	Invercargill
Saturday	5.35pm	Bay of Plenty v Hawke's Bay	Rotorua International Stadium	Rotorua
Saturday	7.35pm	Wellington v Manawatu	Westpac Stadium	Wellington
Sunday	2.35pm	Waikato v Otago	Waikato Stadium	Hamilton
Sunday	4.35pm	Canterbury v Northland (RS)	AMI Stadium	Christchurch
<b>ROUND 10. Tuesday 16 August - Wednesday 17 August</b>				
Tuesday	7.35pm	Tasman v Auckland	Trafalgar Park	Nelson
Wednesday	6.05pm	Counties Manukau v North Harbour	Bayer Growers Stadium	Pukekohe
Wednesday	8.05pm	Otago v Manawatu	Forsyth Barr Stadium	Dunedin

**ROUND 11. Thursday 18 August – Sunday 21 August**

Thursday	7.35pm	Wellington v Southland	Westpac Stadium	Wellington
Friday	7.35pm	Canterbury v Taranaki (RS)	AMI Stadium	Christchurch
Saturday	2.35pm	Auckland v Bay of Plenty	Eden Park	Auckland
Saturday	5.35pm	North Harbour v Northland	North Harbour Stadium	Albany
Saturday	7.35pm	Manawatu v Waikato	FMG Stadium	Palmerston North
Sunday	2.35pm	Tasman v Otago	Trafalgar Park	Nelson
Sunday	4.35pm	Hawke's Bay v Counties Manukau	McLean Park	Napier

**ROUND 12. Tuesday 23 August – Wednesday 24 August**

Tuesday	6.05pm	Bay of Plenty v Canterbury	TBA	
Tuesday	8.05pm	Waikato v Wellington	Waikato Stadium	Hamilton
Wednesday	6.05pm	Northland v Hawke's Bay	Toll Stadium	Whangarei
Wednesday	8.05pm	Southland v Taranaki	Rugby Park Stadium	Invercargill

**ROUND 13. Thursday 25 August – Sunday 28 August**

Thursday	7.35pm	Tasman v Manawatu	Trafalgar Park	Nelson
Friday	7.35pm	North Harbour v Wellington	North Harbour Stadium	Albany
Saturday	2.35pm	Waikato v Auckland	Waikato Stadium	Hamilton
Saturday	4.35pm	Counties Manukau v Northland	Bayer Growers Stadium	Pukekohe
Saturday	6.35pm	Otago v Canterbury	Forsyth Barr Stadium	Dunedin
Sunday	2.35pm	Southland v Bay of Plenty	Rugby Park Stadium	Invercargill
Sunday	4.35pm	Taranaki v Hawke's Bay	Yarrow Stadium	New Plymouth

**FINALS: Weekend of Saturday 3 September**