

Rugby Europe: united and focused

Balanced growth of rugby in Europe

12. One united Rugby Europe: but different support levels required.

There should be a solid cohesion between countries, Rugby Europe and World Rugby

The current 47 rugby unions affiliated to Rugby Europe are playing at different levels and are in different phases of development and growth.

This requires different levels and types of support and involvement from Rugby Europe, bearing in mind the pressures on funds and staff time.

All 47 countries participate in the education programs from World Rugby / Rugby Europe

- **6 Nations** countries, for the most part, don't participate in all the Rugby Europe competitions and don't need technical or financial support from Rugby Europe. They have direct representation on the council of World Rugby. Some provide educational and technical support to other member countries.
- **REC** countries participate in the various Rugby Europe competitions and receive financial support for travel costs. For some of their high-performance programs, they have direct relationships with World Rugby. Most of them are not directly represented on the World Rugby Council and need Rugby Europe to represent their interests.
- **Trophy** countries usually have a smaller number of players and structure. However, some of them have the ambition and potential to become high performance unions. They therefore rely on a certain level of technical and financial support from Rugby Europe.
- **Conference and Development** countries vary considerably in the number of players and their stages of development. Some have great potential, but others are in danger of disappearing. These unions are the ones that need the most technical, financial, and organizational support from Rugby Europe.

For **Trophy and Conference countries**, the Rugby Europe competitions rely on a precarious balance between arranging suitably challenging matches in accessible locations and the inevitable associated travel costs.

To better support these countries Rugby Europe should.

- Have a regular regional meeting to provide and sustain the right support.
- Lower the pitch/grounds/location conditions for these matches and revise tournament fees and penalties
- Get representatives from these countries onto Committees
- Set up a platform to enable better coordination between RE and unions for the supply and demand of training camps, facilities, technical support, tournaments and education programs.
- This should be available to be used by all 47 unions.