

# Rugby Europe: united and focused

## Balanced growth of rugby in Europe

### 14. Rugby Europe Competition formats

The main operational and financial focus of Rugby Europe is and will continue to be on 15- and 7- a side rugby. Beach, snow and T1 rugby is to be facilitated, promoted and controlled by Rugby Europe, but as a general rule should be organized and managed by regions or countries.

#### 7s

With the introduction of 7s at the Olympic Games, it has become increasingly divergent from 15- a side, offering new opportunities and challenges. However, the level of investment in this in terms of funding and facilities varies hugely between the RE unions.

In the 6 Nations and some of the REC unions the international players almost always play either 15 or 7 a- side. In the amateur game in all unions, players are the same across both forms of the game, as before, and Sevens is the format enabling clubs to start playing rugby with limited numbers of members.

To make tournaments for Trophy and Conference more challenging and affordable, Rugby Europe should start with regional Sevens tournaments followed by Finals. It should be more attractive and affordable for countries to organize these tournaments. Organization fees should be strongly reduced, and more regional officials and referees used to reduce cost of travelling.

Thanks to the Olympic status of Sevens, doors are opened at Governments and National Olympic Committees to access subsidies to develop and grow Sevens at national level.

#### 15 a-side

The current structure of the 15- a side competition within Rugby Europe is not universally appropriate or desired for all countries. Travel costs are high, and match schedules often not coordinated with the unions in time.

For the **REC countries** it will be a challenging period for unions, clubs and players to combine the opportunities provided by the Nations Cup, World Cup 2027, the Supercup and participation in their national competitions.

Good coordination on scheduling and finance between Rugby Europe, REC countries and World Rugby is key to making this work.

For the **Trophy and Conference** countries it is a challenge to establish and sustain the fine balance between playing competitive matches in European competitions and financial affordability.

Rugby Europe and regional representatives should therefore meet frequently to ensure an appropriate balance can be found.

The **Super Cup** started in 2022. After 3 seasons the opinions of the participants differ. The participation criteria are not clear and create an imbalance between the teams. (Players like to play in the Super Cup to gain more international experience.)

The cost / benefit for Rugby Europe and unions is therefore questionable. Broadcasting is expensive and the number of spectators and online followers is limited. Internally within Rugby Europe, the Super Cup consumes a great deal of staff time and energy - one of our most valuable but scarce resources.