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EDITO



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EUROPEAN ZONE - OLYMPIC TIMEZONE

While in the middle of the 6 Nations Tournament and World Cup preparations for the 15's, FIRA-AER continues its in-depth activity in the discipline which will make our Game global: Sevens and its Olympic status. Tournaments will be held in four great cities: Lyon, Moscow, Barcelona and Bucharest with the top Unions: England, France, Wales, Italy, Spain, Georgia, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, the Netherlands and Moldavia. The event will be broadcast. The High Level Committee is finalising the plans for a commercial company which should without delay enter an agreement with a Pan-European television. The Chairmen of the ENC 1A, in a philosophy of mutual assistance specific to FIRA-AER, agreed to centralise the rights, which should benefit all in the future. Sevens will also involve the Women's with the Top 12 European championship, to be played at the same time as the Men's, in July, in Bucharest. All these events will be branded with the new logo, another sign of FIRA-AER's efforts to modernise our institution. If these events are for the short term, the Olympics are the long term objectives.

The next event is the U18 European competition, organised by the Committee of Armagnac Bigorre (France) in close cooperation with their affiliated clubs and a great number of local sponsors, showing all exceptional dynamic qualities which will not go unnoticed when the 6 Nations delegates hold their meeting in the Pyrenees.

FIRA-AER hopes to stage this year a great tournament of Summer Rugby in Anglet with the participation of national teams, increasing its development actions for the growth of the Game.

On this development aspect, let's mention the visit of our President Jean-Claude Baqué to Liechtenstein, the objective of which was the creation of a Union.

We will not end this update without a thought for all the New Zealanders, following this terrible earthquake which caused so many casualties, and added material complications to an already very demanding organisation for the forthcoming world event. Europe would like to express its full solidarity for our friends from the end of the world.

HENRI GATINEAU



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2011-3 7's Grand Prix Series : 7's Rugby is booming



The FIRA-AER is strengthening 7's Rugby at the highest European level.

Inspired by the Seven World Series, which were introduced by the IRB, the FIRA-AER has developed the 7's Grand Prix Series organised in 4 tournaments of two days each.

Since 7's Rugby has been recognised as an Olympic sport and integrated to the 2016 Olympic Games, the FIRA-AER contributes to the development and visibility of 7's Rugby in Europe.

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Schedule for the 2011 Grand Prix Series :

- LYON (France) on 18th and 19th June
- MOSCOW (Russia) on 25th and 26th June
- BARCELONA (Spain) on 9th and 10th July
- BUCHAREST (Romania) on 16th and 17th July

The participating Unions, resulting from the 2010 ranking now count 2 figureheads of the World 7's Rugby : Wales (World Champion) and England (currently leading the IRB World Series).

Thus, the starting ranking for the first tournament in Lyon (France) will be as follows :

- 1 Portugal (European Champion in 2010)
- 2 France
- 3 Russia
- 4 Spain
- 5 Georgia
- 6 England
- 7 Wales
- 8 Romania
- 9 Ukraine
- 10 Italy
- 11 Moldova
- 12 Netherlands

For each tournament, the ranking will be established depending on the last results, in order to boost the qualification pools for each 7's GPS. A point scoring system has been set up. The team scoring the highest number of points through the 4 tournaments will be named European Champion for 2011. Finally, the last two teams of the ranking will be relegated to Group A (second European division). In 2012, Scotland will join the competition just as the 2011 winner of Group A.

Reminder : the FIRA-AER has been organising the Men's European 7's Championship since 2000.

See results, rankings and pictures on the website : www.fira-aer-rugby.com.

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New logo



Since the FIRA-AER is expanding, an evolution of its logo and its visual identity was necessary. As an important vehicle for communication, it had to be uncluttered and clear.

The oval shape, dear to the rugby world, was maintained and is meant to bring dynamism, thanks to its oblique positioning.

The traditional colors for FIRA-AER - royal and cyan blue - remain and have been associated with the steel color, which conveys sobriety and style.

The size and association of the acronyms reflect the evolution of the FIRA-AER whose activities have been extended to the whole of Europe.

The player figure reminds that a sport exists thanks to its players and fans. This pictogram will be used on the different FIRA-AER communication tools and intends to give a dynamic representation

of our competitions, from U17 to Seniors, not to mention 7's Rugby.

This logo comes with a new graphic charter and has been designed by AtoutEvents Communication.

ENC 1A - Georgia wins in Portugal



Georgia is now 5 points ahead to Portugal after the game won in Lisbon. Wins of Spain (Ukraine) and Romania (Russia) at home were expected.

One point in front for the Georgians (13-12) in Lisbon gives 5 points ahead Portugal in the ENC 1A. Portugal got one bonus point after a strong hope to get more.

Romania was stronger than Russia in Bucarest (33-3). In difficult weather conditions face to Russians feverish after one hour played, Russia came to Romania with ambition but get back with 0 point.

Great festival of tries in Madrid, 5 tries for Spain and 2 tries for Ukraine for a score of 35 to 13 for Spain.

Next games on 12 March will see Romania in Georgia for one of the top game of the season. Spain will host Portugal and Ukraine a Russia revanchist.



Seniors ENC

2010-12 - European Nations Cup

Europe

ENC 1A

1 - European Champions

05/02/2011 - MADRID

Spain 24 - 28 Russia

05/02/2011 - TBILISSI (GE)

Georgia 62 - 3 Ukraine

12/02/2011 - SOTCHI (RU)

Russia 19 - 21 Portugal

26/02/2011 - BUCHAREST (RO)

Romania 33 - 3 Russia

05/02/2011 - LISBOA

Portugal 24 - 17 Romania

12/02/2011 - TBILISSI (GE)

Georgia 60 - 0 Spain

26/02/2011 - LISBOA (PT)

Portugal 12 - 13 Georgia

26/02/2011 - MADRID (ES)

Spain 35 - 13 Ukraine

ENC 1B

Season 2010/11

12/02/2011 - BRUXELLES (BE)

Belgium 20 - 5 Moldova

ENC 2B

Season 2010/11

19/02/2011 - ANDORRA LA VELLA (AD)

Andorra 42 - 25 Serbia

