



Flashinfo

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Président de la FIRA-AER

et ses collaborateurs

vous présentent pour 2009
leurs Meilleurs Voeux de
Bonheur et de Santé



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We wish you a Happy New Year! Lot of success in 2009

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Happy new year!

The President, Members of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee, and all the staff of the FIRA-AER wish you a happy new year. May the new year bring you happiness and all the best.

Seniors

European Nations Cup / RWC 2011 Qualifiers

Division 3A - RWC 2011 Qualifiers

06/12/2008 - Smederevo

Serbia **32** - **7** Andorra

Team	Matches					Score		
	No	W	D	L	Pts	f.	a.	Diff.
1 Armenia	2	2	0	0	6	76	15	61
2 Lithuania	2	2	0	0	6	59	10	49
3 Serbia	2	1	0	1	4	32	48	-16
4 Andorra	2	0	0	2	2	17	58	-41
5 Switzerland	2	0	0	2	2	15	68	-53

Division 3D

06/12/2008 - Episkopi

Cyprus **24** - **3** Monaco

Team	Matches					Score		
	No	W	D	L	Pts	f.	a.	Diff.
1 Bosnia & H	3	3	0	0	9	114	44	70
2 Cyprus	2	2	0	0	6	61	6	55
3 Azerbaijan	2	0	0	2	2	10	55	-45
4 Monaco	2	0	0	2	2	8	74	-66
5 Slovakia	1	0	0	1	1	32	46	-14

Summary

◆ Close-of-the-season Youth Rugby Festivals in Georgia



On December 6-7 and December 14 2008, Development Committee of the Georgian Rugby Union in co-operation with the Department of Sports and Youth of Georgia organized two conclusive national youth festivals in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia.

On December 6-7 the youth festival was arranged on the central pitch of Lokomotive Stadium (one of the best sports venues in Caucasian region); the festival was played with participation of twenty Under 14 teams (including 8 visiting teams from the various regions of the country). Each team played one 15-a-side match on standard pitch (next year older players of this age group - the youngsters born in 1994 - will continue their rugby careers in the junior leagues of Georgian Championship). Festival participants received diplomas and various prizes.

On December 14 still another youth rugby festival was organized at Shevardeni rugby facility of Tbilisi with participation of over 400 Under 12 players, i.e. 20 teams, including 9 teams from the regions (as many as three teams came from Kutaisi, the second largest city in Georgia). Festival participants received diplomas and various prizes.

Both of the mentioned events were attended by David Namgalauri, Chairman of Department of Sports and Youth of Georgia as well as by top management of the Georgian Rugby Union. Matches were refereed by members of the Georgian 15-a-side and 7-a-side national teams. The youth festival played on December 6-7 was dedicated to the memory of Nodar Kipiani (Georgian ex-rugby player of the first generation, who made an important contribution to dissemination of rugby in the country), and the festival of December 14 was organized in memory of Irakli Chkheidze, the recently deceased CEO of the Georgian Rugby Union.

Close-of-the-season national youth rugby festivals were covered by sports and public newspapers, Channel 1 of Georgian Public Broadcasting TV and Rustavi-2 TV (one of the most popular TV channels in Georgia).

◆ Preparation to the Sevens Rugby World Cup - Tournament in Montpellier



On March 5, 6 and 7 will take place the Sevens Rugby World Cup with for the first time a woman tournament. Six European teams will travel to Dubai. On this occasion the FIRA-AER organises two preparation tournament. The first one took place in Montpellier (France) on December 20 and 21.

With an excellent organization by the local club, four teams were gathered on the Stadium Sabathé in Montpellier: France, Spain, France University and French South Selection.

Objective for the two first named was to prepare themselves for the World Cup which will take place in three and a half months.

Fixtures and results:

Saturday December 20, 2008

France 22 - France University 17

Spain 19 - French South Selection 5

France 24 - French South Selection 7

Spain 21 - France University 12

French South Selection 14 - France University 14

France 12 - Spain 0

Sunday December 21, 2008

Spain 17 - French South Selection 7

France 26 - France University 5

France University 10 - French South Selection 0

France 19 - Spain 7 (Final)

The Tournament Director was Patrick Robin. The referees appointed were three French women: Corinne Legrand, Valérie Pelissier and Sylvie Braud. On Saturday afternoon, officials and teams have been invited to attend the match of the TOP 14 French Championship, Montpellier - Toulon. The next preparation tournament will take place in Malaga (Spain).

◆ **The French Courts dismissed the Catalan Rugby Federation**

In front of the French courts since about two years now, the case opposing the FIRA-AER and the Catalan Rugby Union just sees new development.

Historical background: The Catalan Rugby Federation has attended the first FIRA constituent meeting on January 2, 1934 and the second one on November 24, 1934 in Hanover (Germany); the Spanish Rugby Union contested this attendance. Few years later, the Francoist regime forbade all liberties to act to all regional associations of Spain and so the Catalan Federation disappeared.

But two years ago it has summonsed the FIRA-AER and ask to the courts to state that it was a founder federation of the European Regional Association and consequently it had to get all the rights attributed to unions in membership.

It was a very important court ruling pronounced by the Paris High Court. Acknowledging that on one hand, the Catalan Rugby Federation doesn't respect the FIRA-AER bye-laws*, that on the other hand one of the fundamental principles of the French right allows the free choice of members by the Association, and finally, between 1941 and 1983, it never participated to the FIRA's life and in this period had no legal autonomy, the judges have dismissed all requests of the plaintiff.

**Bye-laws of the FIRA-AER specify that only European National Unions in charge of the organisation and administration of rugby, can be affiliated.*

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