

RUGBY NEWS



EDITO

The African rugby is constantly evolving. The first 7s women's rugby tournament was held successfully in Ghana in June, opening bright prospects for the future of the sport among women. Recent months have seen the fulfillment of many courses on re-feeding in several countries of the continent showing the strong desire to improve this extremely important element of the game. Namibia and Tunisia will meet twice in November. The winner will participate to the Rugby World Cup 2011. The CAR would like to thank the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for its decision to recommend the entry of rugby 7 for the 2016 Olympic Games. The final decision will be taken on the 9th of October in Copenhagen raising hopes for all African Rugby Unions.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN Abdelaziz Bougja

With this first issue of our newsletter "Rugby News", together we are starting a written history of African rugby. Shared information from each and every Union will bring together the countries of our vast African continent. Understanding each other will bring us more strongly together. It is also the opportunity to compare our work and efforts and unit us going forward. This forum is made available to you to expose and raise even higher your Union and your country, your work and your actions. Then thank you to all of those who will spend some time feeding with topics this media that belongs to you.

Good luck.

RESULTS

>>>>> Contestants and complete rankings by competition in page 5-6

<p>TANGIER SEVENS, TANGIER-MOROCCO (08-09/05)</p> <p>FINAL RANKING 1. FRANCE 2. TUNISIA 3. KENYA AND RSA VIPERS</p> <p>SEMI-FINALS FRANCE 14 – 7 KENYA TUNISIA 26 – 21 RSA VIPERS</p> <p>FINAL FRANCE 19 – 12 TUNISIA</p>	<p>GHANA SEVENS, ACCRA-GHANA (05-06/06)</p> <p>FINAL RANKING 1. TUNISIA 2. NIGERIA 3. GHANA</p> <p>MATCH FOR THIRD PLACE GHANA 5 – 0 MOROCCO</p> <p>FINAL TUNISIA 43 – 5 NIGERIA</p>	<p>TUSKER SAFARI SEVENS, NIAIROBI-KENYA (19-21/06)</p> <p>FINAL RANKING 1. KENYA 2. EMERGING BOK 3. SAMURAI ET SAMOA</p> <p>SEMI-FINALS KENYA 24 -0 SAMOURAI EMERGING BOK 29 - 22 SAMOA</p> <p>FINAL KENYA 40 – 19 EMERGING BOK</p>	<p>CAR TROPHY NORTH, SAFI – MAROC (08-11/07)</p> <p>FINAL RANKING 1. MOROCCO 2. KENYA 3. SÉNÉGAL 4. CAMEROUN</p> <p>MATCH FOR THIRD PLACE SÉNÉGAL 11 – 3 CAMEROUN</p> <p>FINAL MOROCCO 29 – 11 KENYA</p>
<p>CAR DEVELOPMENT TROPHY NORTH, TSÉVIÉ – TOGO (11-18/07)</p> <p>FINAL RANKING 1. NIGER 2. GHANA 3. BURKINA FASO</p> <p>MATCH FOR THIRD PLACE BURKINA FASO 17 – 5 TOGO</p> <p>FINAL NIGER 5 – 3 GHANA</p>	<p>CAR TROPHY SOUTH, GABORONE – BOTSWANA (20-25/07)</p> <p>FINAL RANKING 1. ZIMBABWE 2. MADAGASCAR 3. MAURITIUS</p> <p>LAST DAY GAMES BOTSWANA 3-23 ZIMBABWE MAURITIUS 25-8 ZAMBIA MADAGASCAR 36-27 RÉUNION</p>	<p>U19 TOURNAMENT, NAIROBI – KENYA (04-10/08)</p> <p>FINAL RANKING 1. ZIMBABWE 2. NAMIBIA 3. TUNISIA</p> <p>MATCH FOR THIRD PLACE KENYA 11 - 28 TUNISIA</p> <p>FINAL ZIMBABWE 39 - 7 NAMIBIA</p>	<p>2011 RUGBY WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS</p> <p>FIRST LEG 13/06 : UGANDA 17 – 41 TUNISIA 14/06 : IVORY COAST 13 – 13 NAMIBIA</p> <p>SECOND LEG 27/06 : TUNISIA 38 – 13 UGANDA 27/06 : NAMIBIA 54 – 14 IVORY COAST</p>

NEWS

● BENIN

First national championship launch

On May the 9th, the first kick-off of the Benin national rugby championship was given. The Executive Board of the Benin rugby union (FEBERUGBY) had endorsed that decision back in September 2008.

Already, a results contest via SMS and relayed by newspapers is up and running with rugby magazines as prizes. The key aim of this initiative is, using up to date communication means, to inform registered players and rugby followers and promote rugby to a wider population while creating a buzz around the competition.

● GHANA

Tunisian victory for the first Women's Rugby Sevens tournament



Credit photo : Prince Dornu-Leiku

The Women's Rugby Sevens tournament, organized by CAR, which took place on 05 and 06 June in Accra - Ghana, was a real rugby event for Africa. Indeed, seven nations (Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt) met for the first time, in a women's rugby competition. Moreover, for most teams (except Tunisia), it was also the first time they participated in an international tournament. Finally, it was the first time an Egyptian national rugby team participated in a competition on an African field. Many first times but a great success for this tournament organized skillfully by Ms Gifty Annan Myers, President of the Ghana Federation of Rugby (GRFU).

In terms of results, Tunisia won the tournament 43-5 in the final beating Nigeria. Ghana finished third.

Next year, the competition will welcome three new teams (Senegal, Ivory Coast and Cameroon) and the rumour has it that the

tournament could be held in Senegal. Stay tuned ...

● BURUNDI

Rugby initiation among youth

Driven by the Burundi Rugby Union (BRU), a campaign to bring rugby to schools and children in disadvantaged areas was recently conducted. On May the 23rd, a rugby school was launched in Bujumbura's French school. This introduction to rugby has enabled young people from 7 to 15 years old to discover and get involved with this sport rich in universal values.

● KENYA

Referee course and invited media

The media have been invited for an IRB Referee Course that was held on June 17 and 18 at the Rugby Football Union of East Africa Ground. Sammy Kariuki, the Kenya Rugby Football Union's Referee Development Officer said this was an initiative to partner with the media in this crucial area of the sport.

"This is an exciting time for Kenya rugby and we hope that the media will get a good grasp of the game", Sammy Kariuki said. Media houses have been encouraged to send in as many sports as possible.

● SENEGAL

Rugby refereeing

Beginning of May, the Senegalese rugby union (FSR) organized a training and validation of referees session for 17 trainees in Senegal. This event has helped in identifying precisely the evolution trend of referees active since last season and ended with reviews for accessing two levels: "FSR Referee Trainee" and "FSR Level 1 Regional Referee". The refereeing level has changed spectacularly in Senegal and the FSR goal is to have referees at international level able to be called upon to conduct official CAR organized games. At this stage, the international renowned referee, Joël Dumé, came from France

to bring his expertise during this event.



Credit photo : François Ruppin, agence Kamikazz

● COTE D'IVOIRE

Peace and Sport

In 2008, following the first Peace and Sport International Forum, the national government has presented its Development and Promotion of Sport for Peace Education Program.

In April 2009, Peace and Sport met with several national sports federations including the Ivory Coast Rugby Union to consider concrete measures for facilitating the restructuring of the sport in Côte d'Ivoire and explore opportunities for job creation and involvement of social youth.

The main themes developed for this occasion are to enhance the integration of rugby, to promote social cohesion through the values that represent the sport and to encourage education of the youth by playing rugby.

The program developed for a period of 10 years through multiple large-scale activities such as refitting of rugby grounds, Rugby Union registering campaigns aimed at youth, civic education courses, training for educators from disadvantaged areas. The expected results are in addition to reopening of rugby clubs, the development of rugby sevens with the youth, the development of Women's Rugby and more generally, to make the rugby ground a place of encounters, exchanges and respect between young people.

The Peace and Sport program will enable Ivory Coast and also other countries involved with the program to develop rugby and sport in general, on solid foundations and key values that young rugby players will promote heartily.



GIVEN TALK TO...

Mark Egan : Head of the IRB Development and Performance Department.

The potential for growing the game in Africa is immense

Africa is the second largest and second most populated continent after Asia, accounting for close to 1 billion people across 61 territories. With 15% of the World's population the potential for expanding the participation numbers for Rugby is massive. Currently there are about 700,000 players registered in IRB member Unions in Africa which is twice as many as in Asia and about half of the total playing numbers in Europe. Obviously South Africa accounts for the majority of playing numbers however, there has been excellent growth in playing numbers across many countries. CAR now has 34 member countries which is a wonderful achievement for the Regional body. The membership covers a massive geographical area which presents many challenges to both CAR and the IRB in terms of programme management and investment strategies. However, the passion and commitment for the game from those in leadership positions in the Region has led to unprecedented growth in the number of countries playing Rugby.

Investment in people is the key to sustainable growth

Whilst every Union wants and needs more funding, we tend to forget that people are the key to growing participation numbers. A key issue for any sport that wishes to implement sustainable growth strategies in a particular country or Region is the education of coaches and match officials. Over the past 2 years there has been a significant investment by the IRB in the roll-out of our Training and Education programmes in Africa. Two Regional Training Coordinators are now in place supported by 40 Referee Educators and 112 coach Educators. The new structures have generated an additional 830 coach accreditations and 700 match official accreditations across a number of levels throughout the Region. These are the people who will make the difference on the ground in their respective countries teaching children and young adults how to play the game and nurturing its growth over the long term. Without this focused investment in the people who deliver the game at the local level it will be difficult to increase participation numbers in a meaningful way in the long term.

Age Grade development must be a key focus for Unions

It was a great privilege for me to attend the IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy in Kenya this April. The tournament was an outstanding success and organised to a very high standard by the Kenya RFU. The tournament left a wonderful legacy for Rugby in the country which will bear fruit for many years to come. Kenya, Zimbabwe and Tunisia in particular have shown that they can compete with the best in Sevens and their achievements have been well documented.

Investment priorities must be agreed and regularly reviewed

IRB has increased its investment in Africa significantly over the past 5 years. By the end of this year we will have invested US\$ 4.2 million in Africa across all our Development, High Performance and Tournament programmes. We all have a responsibility to ensure that these funds are invested wisely and that the outcomes we are achieving are monitored appropriately and reviewed regularly. Our experience shows that Unions who follow clearly defined strategic goals and objectives will achieve the best outcomes and see real growth in player numbers. Sometimes there is a danger that too much emphasis is placed on the national team and its participation in international competitions. Of course international competition is important however, it must be relative to where the Union sits in its development cycle and not prove detrimental to domestic development programmes.

You are the keepers of your own destiny

The challenge for Unions in Africa over the medium term is to manage the scarce resources that are currently available and keep the focus on growing the participation base in their territories. If the IOC determines in October that Rugby will be readmitted to the Olympic programme, what are the chances of an African team winning the Rugby Sevens gold medal at the 2016 Olympics? I would say that it is a real possibility and not simply something to dream about. I look forward to working with you all to achieve that goal and thank you for your continued support and commitment to the game that we all cherish so much. .

COMPETITIONS

CAR TROPHY

◆ NORD

CAR Trophy North, Safi – Morocco (08-11/07)

The northern CAR Trophy took place from 08 to 11 July 2009 in Safi - Morocco. Four teams met during two days of high quality games: Morocco, Cameroon, Kenya and Senegal.

The level of play was of very high standard and the competition has shown a young - average age 23 - very strong Moroccan team and ever impressive Kenyans in the running of the ball. After a first game of high intensity and heavy contest against Cameroon, Morocco won 12 – 0 and logically qualified for the final. Kenya won the other confrontation against Senegal 22 to 7, showing a very good fast moving rugby for the last ½ hour game and qualifying for the final.



Credit photo : MBC

In the final, from the start, Morocco's stone hard pack did not allow Kenyans to play their spectacular fast moving rugby. However, after being led 29-0, Kenyans did try to get back in the game, but never really manage to worry the Moroccan squad. Unbeaten in tournament, Morocco won the game 29-11 and lifted high with pride the CAR Trophy.

For the third place game, Senegal defeated Cameroon, hardly recovered from his semi-final match, 11 to 3.

◆ SUD

CAR Trophy South, Gaborone – Botswana (20-25/07)

Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Mauritius and Reunion participated in this tournament hosted in Gaborone, Botswana from 19 to 25 July 2009. All the

matches were played at the fields of the University of Botswana.



Credit photo : MBC

Botswana Rugby Union needs to be commended for organising this successful tournament and went out of their way to make it comfortable for all the participating teams. Their organisation was indeed of a high standard and showed us again that Africa can compete at this level with any other continent. The rugby that was played over this period was of a good standard as the quality of the referees also contributed to it.

Mauritius, the latest country to get full IRB Membership gave good account of themselves by winning two of their 3 matches in the process also beating Zambia. Zimbabwe and Botswana met in the final game of the tournament with Zimbabwe eventually running out as winners and the only unbeaten team at the tournament.

Cliffie Booysen

CAR DEVELOPMENT TROPHY

◆ NORD

CAR Development Trophy North, Tsévié – Togo (11-18/07)

For the first time since 2003, the CAR Development Trophy tournament was planned with 8 teams. Sport wise, it is a very satisfying formula but rather difficult to organize. Unfortunately, due to last minute internal problems the Federation of Chad did not turn-up and it was 7 national teams (supplemented by Togo B) that met in Tsévié, town situated at 35 kilometers from Lomé to compete from 10 to 18 July 2009. Divided into two pools of 4 teams,

teams first played to obtain a 1 to 4 rating, which brought the final stages and the subsequent winner of the tournament. This mixing phase has shown us two things: first, that the general level improves from one year to the next and secondly, that the teams are very close to each other and often the final games' results were held in a very low delta.



Credit photo : Janick Barthès

At the end of the first phase, we found in the final, Niger, the last year tournament winner, which has confirmed its leading position in the region, and Ghana, which, for the first time, reached this level in the competition. Ghana was assisted in its preparation by the Technical Director of the Cameroonian Rugby Union (FECARUGBY), Alfred Bisso via the «young federations help» program jointly conducted by the IRB and CAR.

Once again, the game was extremely tight and the Niger experience prevailed on the Ghana's youth and freshness.

A nice 2009 edition for this CAR Development Trophy and already, everyone is returned to his country with the idea of upsetting the Niger in 2010 and attempting to take his place.

Jean-Luc Barthès

FULL RESULTS : CONTESTING TEAMS AND RANKINGS BY COMPETITION

TANGIER SEVENS (08-09/05)

PARTICIPATING TEAMS :

Pool A : RSA Vipers, Comité du Languedoc (France), COC Casablanca, Morocco

Pool B : Kenya, Algeria, A.R. Tangier, SOOS (France)

Pool C : Tunisia, Comité Alsace-Lorraine (France), Morocco School I, University of Morocco

Pool D : France, Uganda, Ivory Coast, Morocco School II

FINAL STANDINGS

CUP :

1. FRANCE
2. TUNISIA
3. KENYA AND RSA VIPERS

PLATE :

1. LANGUEDOC
2. SOOS
3. COMITÉ ALSACE-LORRAINE AND IVORY COAST

BOWL :

9. UGANDA
10. MOROCCO
11. ALGERIA AND UNIVERSITY OF MOROCCO

SHIELD :

13. COC CASABLANCA
14. MOROCCO SCHOOL II
15. MOROCCO SCHOOL I AND A.R. TANGIER

GHANA SEVENS , ACCRA - GHANA (05-06/06)

PARTICIPATING TEAMS:

Pool A : Burkina Faso, Ghana, Tunisia,

Pool B : Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Togo

FINAL STANDINGS

CUP :

1. TUNISIA
2. NIGERIA
3. GHANA
4. MOROCCO

PLATE :

5. BURKINA FASO
6. TOGO
7. EGYPT

CAR TROPHY NORTH, SAFI – MOROCCO (08-11/07)

PARTICIPATING TEAMS :

Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal

FINAL STANDINGS

1. MOROCCO
2. KENYA
3. SENEGAL
4. CAMEROON

CAR DEVELOPMENT TROPHY NORTH, TSÉVIÉ – TOGO (11-18/07)

PARTICIPATING TEAMS :

Pool A : Benin, Mali, Niger, Togo

Pool B : Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo B

FINAL STANDINGS

1. NIGER
2. GHANA
3. BURKINA FASO
4. TOGO
5. NIGERIA
6. MALI
7. BENIN
8. TOGO B

CAR TROPHY SOUTH, GABORONE – BOTSWANA (20-25/07)

PARTICIPATING TEAMS :

Botswana, Mauritius, Madagascar, Réunion, Zambia, Zimbabwe

FINAL STANDINGS

1. ZIMBABWE
2. MADAGASCAR
3. MAURITIUS
4. BOTSWANA
5. RÉUNION
6. ZAMBIA

U19 TOURNAMENT (04-10/08)

PARTICIPATING TEAMS :

Kenya, Kenya Clubs' Select, Morocco, Namibia, Uganda, Tunisia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

FINAL STANDINGS

1. ZIMBABWE
2. NAMIBIA
3. TUNISIA
4. KENYA
5. UGANDA
6. MOROCCO
7. ZAMBIA
8. KENYA CLUBS' SELECT

TUSKER SAFARI SEVENS (19-21/06)

PARTICIPATING TEAMS :

Pool A : Japan, Kenya, Tanzania, Western Raiders (RSA)

Pool B : Chairman's select (Kenya), France, Samoa, Uganda

Pool C : Emerging Bok (RSA), Morocco, Samurāi (England), Shujja (Kenya)

Pool D : Bristol (England), Grenoble (France), Zambia, Zimbabwe

FINAL STANDINGS

CUP :

1. KENYA
2. EMERGING BOK
3. SAMURĀI AND SAMOA

PLATE :

5. WESTERN RAIDERS
6. CHAIRMAN'S SELECT
7. GRENOBLE AND ZIMBABWE

BOWL :

9. BRISTOL
10. FRANCE
11. SUHJJA AND UGANDA

SHIELD :

13. JAPAN
14. ZAMBIA
15. MAROC AND TANZANIA

SHORT NEWS

TOGO

Since May 15, the rugby union of Togo (FTR) is affiliated to the Olympic Committee of Togo (CNOT).

BURUNDI

100 rugby balls were donated in schools across the country by the RSA embassy in Burundi during an official ceremony in order to promote rugby for youth.

TUNISIA

Tunisia wins over Romania (U23) at El Menzah Stadium in Tunis 15 – 7 during a test match end of May.

CAR/IRB

At the initiative Bruce Cook, IRB Development Director and Abdelaziz Bougja, 1000 balloons were handed to all African Rugby Unions since the month of May .

MAURITIUS

Mauritius Rugby Union (MRU) accession to full IRB membership since may 2009

APPLICATION FOR RUGBY TO OLYMPIC GAMES

Bernard Lapasset, IRB Chairman and Abdelaziz Bougja presented the formal application of rugby for the accession of the sport at the Olympics at a conference organized by the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa that took place on 06 and 07 July this year in Abuja, Nigeria, in the presence of Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

MADAGASCAR

Many courses on new rules of the game and on educators "after rugby" professional life have been run in July.

EGYPT

The preparation of the international season with the Cairo tournament intended in next October : Egypt will host Libya and Algeria. It is the opportunity for these 3 teams to first meet.

FIXTURES

2011 Rugby World Cup qualifier (Final)

FIRST LEG

14/11 : TUNISIA – NAMIBIA

SECOND LEG

28/11 : NAMIBIA – TUNISIA