



African Rugby Summit 2019 RUGBY AFRICA

Attention: Full Member Federations of Rugby Africa

Copy: Federations affiliated to Rugby Africa

Subject: Extraordinary General Assembly of Rugby Africa - proposed amendments to Rugby Africa's constitution

Date : 11 January 2019

Introduction :

Africa is a vast continent made up of 53 countries covering more than 30.37 million sq Kms. Among them, 42 Countries play rugby at different levels.

The administrative experience gained by the current Rugby Africa Executive Committee over the past 12 years has been extremely valuable to the growth, strength and success of Rugby Africa over this period.

The credibility of Rugby Africa has improved at an unprecedented rate and is now viewed by World Rugby as being one of the leading, most innovative and successful Regions in the World.

With this in mind, Rugby Africa is proposing the following constitutional amendments to take the association to the next level whilst ensuring stability and continuity.

These amendments will be submitted to a vote at the Extraordinary General Assembly in Marrakech, Hotel Adam Park on the 2nd of March 2019. Unions will have the opportunity to ask any questions at that time, before proceeding to the vote. The details of the ballot will be specified during the meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Rugby Africa Constitution.

The current constitution of Rugby Africa can be consulted via the following link :

<http://www.rugbyafrique.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Approved-Rugby-Afrique-Constitution-at-GM-in-Kasane-3-December-2016.pdf>

A) Increase the number of Executive Members from a maximum of 9 to a maximum of 11 :

Following the launch of the new strategic development plan for women's rugby by World Rugby, Rugby Africa - after a broad consultation of its unions through the Women's Rugby Conference hosted in May 2018 in Botswana - adopted its own plan to promote African women in all aspects of the Game. One of the main objectives is to balance the Board and encourage women's leadership.

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With this in mind, please consider the following amendment of the constitution as proposed in bold characters:

- Article 8.1 :The Association shall elect an Executive Committee (EXCO) comprising at least five (5) and no more than **eleven (11)** EXCO Members consisting of the Officers and no more than **seven (7)** Ordinary Members elected by the General Meeting, **of which at least two (2) shall be women. In the event that no nominations shall have been received for women, EXCO shall have the right to appoint two (2) women to the EXCO.** No Union shall have more than one EXCO Member.

B) Position of Honorary President :

In order to keep benefiting from valuable experience, expertise and network resources acquired by previous Presidents of Rugby Africa, it is proposed to create a position of Honorary President. This will also assist in preserving the memory and traditions of Rugby Africa.

With this in mind, please consider the addition of a new article in the Constitution as proposed in bold characters:

- **Article to be added in Constitution at 8.3 (re number all 8.3 existing articles to 8.4)**
- **Article 8.3 : The Association may elect an Honorary President who shall have been nominated by the EXCO provided that the Honorary President so nominated shall have served two terms as President of Rugby Africa. The Honorary President may be invited to attend executive meetings and general assembly meetings without voting rights. The Honorary President may represent Rugby Africa in any meeting or matters if requested by the President and EXCO, and shall only serve in an advisory capacity.**

C) Representation at World Rugby Council :

Following the above two proposed amendments, Rugby Africa wishes to ensure that the representation of the Association at World Rugby Council is in line with World Rugby's recommendation to include a man and a woman and that the representatives can be chosen among those having the best knowledge of African rugby.

With this in mind, please consider the following amendments of the constitution as proposed in bold characters:

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- **Article 8.4.3:** The Association shall elect a President who may serve for a term of four (4) years and may be nominated as set out in By-Law 8.4.1 to seek election for one (1) further term of four (4) years. The President will also be the representative of the Association on Council notwithstanding that, at his discretion, he may appoint one of the EXCO Members **or the Honorary President** to perform this role. Upon election, the President shall relinquish any office or post held in a Union within six (6) months.
- **Article 8.4.4 :** A woman representative shall also be appointed to the World Rugby Council by the President and the EXCO from within the women EXCO members.

D) The amendments proposed in A, B & C if voted in by the Extraordinary General Assembly will be enforceable immediately during the election happening at the General Assembly Meeting on the 2nd of March 2019 after the Extraordinary General Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

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