

NOTES ON THE RFU COUNCIL MEETING

Held at Twickenham - 4th December 2015

The meeting was chaired by the President, Jason Leonard.

The meeting commenced with a period of reflection in memory of Andrew Burton and Jonah Lomu.

1. Chief Executive's Report

(Ian Ritchie - RFU Chief Executive)

i. Replacement of Head Coach

- a. Ian Ritchie outlined the review process that had taken place following England's disappointing performance in the RWC 2015. He confirmed that the RFU undertakes a review after all tournaments and series of matches.
- b. The Review Panel was appointed to assist Ian Ritchie to determine recommendations to be made to the RFU Board of Directors.
- c. Following the review, which Stuart Lancaster contributed to fully, Ian Ritchie met with Stuart Lancaster and it was mutually agreed that Stuart Lancaster would stand down as Head Coach. This decision was unanimously endorsed by the RFU Board of Directors. Ian Ritchie thanked Stuart Lancaster for all of his work on behalf of England Rugby over his eight years with the Union.
- d. Ian Ritchie informed the meeting that having identified Eddie Jones as the preferred candidate to become the new Head Coach, he flew to South Africa to meet him. As a result of this meeting, and Eddie Jones's enthusiasm to take on the Job, it was decided to appoint him. This was also unanimously endorsed by the RFU Board of Directors.
- e. Following the agreement of terms, Eddie Jones immediately applied for a visa through the British Embassy in Japan, where he was living. The issuing of the visa was delayed due to a Bank Holiday in the Philippines (where UK visas are processed).
- f. Eddie Jones was expected to arrive in the UK later today (Friday 4th December 2015) and take up his duties immediately.

ii. Rugby World Cup 2015

- a. Whilst the England team performance was very disappointing, World Rugby has described RWC 2015 as the biggest and best yet.
- b. All of the matches were played without any major issues.

iii. Premiership Rugby Limited (PRL) Heads of Agreement

- a. Discussions have taken place with PRL, but understandably these were interrupted by the RWC.
- b. The existing agreement expires at the end of the current season.
- c. Ian Ritchie emphasised the need to move forward in partnership with PRL.
- d. Eddie Jones will be involved in the process (as was Stuart Lancaster).
- e. Ian Ritchie confirmed that the principles and financing of the new agreement will be presented to Council for approval.

iv. International Player Development

An England development team (predominantly U23s) will tour South Africa in June 2016.

- v. **Professional Rugby**
- a. Wayne Barnes refereed the Australia v Argentina RWC Semi Final and was appointed Assistant Referee for the Final. Graham Hughes was appointed TMO at the Bronze Final. RFU Match officials were appointed 192 times during RWC 2015, including covering numbers 4, 5 & 6 in all of the knock out games.
 - b. Plans are progressing well for the World Rugby's 2016 Junior World Cup, which will be held in Manchester.
 - c. The season finale of the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series will be held at Twickenham on 21st/22nd May with a completely new and fresh approach.
 - d. The Rugby Europe Grand Prix Sevens Series tournament will return to Exeter in July 2016.
 - e. The RFU Board of Directors and USA Rugby have approved the playing of the London Irish v Saracens in New Jersey, USA in March 2016.
- vi. **Rugby Development**
- a. **Club Development**
 - 30 Clubs have been awarded grants valued at £1.4m towards projects valued at £7.5m. A further 10 projects are in development with planned investment of £660,000 against total project costs of £4.36m. 50 projects have been identified from CB facility plans for 2016/17 investment.
 - Significant RWC assets from stadium and hospitality areas have now been delivered, with the help of the Army, to Clubs around the country.
 - b. **Game Development**
 - Over 2000 people signed up in RWC Fanzones to get engaged in refereeing and coaching. The process of converting as many of these as possible is underway.
 - Following approval by the Community Game Board, the recommendations of the Match Officials Blueprint are being progressed. This will feature heavily in the 2016/17 business planning.
 - c. **Education and Development**
 - Kids First is due to launch in January 2016.
 - In addition to the 400 schools in the All Schools programme, support is now being provided to over 600 Club linked institutions.
 - d. **Rugby Growth**
 - O₂ Touch numbers have now passed the 12,000 mark with activity taking place at 275 centres.
 - The "Return to Rugby" project has now seen over 2,000 people sign up with conversion around the 20% mark.
 - Rugby activation at 13 Fanzones exposed around 85,000 people to the Union's activities.
 - e. **Other**

A significant amount of legacy related work took place during the RWC and is being pulled together into a separate report that will be circulated in due course.
- vii. **Commercial & Marketing**
- a. The Union achieved record levels of reach across all of its social media (Facebook, Instagram & Twitter) during the Rugby World Cup.
 - b. In addition there was nearly twice the normal Six Nations activity on EnglandRugby.com
 - c. The Samsung Try of the Month for grassroots Clubs has been re-launched.
- viii. **International & Public Affairs**
- a. The RFU has submitted a response to the Government's consultation on its new sports strategy.
 - b. Several stakeholder and international engagement events took place during the RWC, including Team Welcome Ceremonies and the Buckingham Palace Reception.
 - c. JR2019 and the Japan Rugby Football Union visited England from 1st to 6th October 2015 to discuss the 2019 legacy programme.
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2. Rugby World Cup 2015 - Operational Review

(Andy Cosslett - ER2015 Chairman & Steve Brown - ER2015 CEO)

- i. Andy Cosslett reminded Council of the key objectives that ER2015 had set for the tournament. These were
 - Spectator Engagement
 - Connecting with Audiences
 - Rugby at Heart
 - Unforgettable Memories
 - More than a tournament

It is generally accepted that these have been achieved for which Andy Cosslett thanked all of the ER2015 staff (who had an average age of 27) and particularly thanked Steve Brown for all that he had achieved since he took over from Debbiejevans.
- ii. Over 98% of tickets were sold across all of the tournament venues, the majority of which were sold by ER2015. The remainder were sold by World Rugby and through official hospitality and travel partners.
- iii. Twice as many tickets were sold as were sold in New Zealand in 2011.
- iv. The average crowd was approximately 51,000. The largest crowd was over 89,000 for the Ireland v Romania game (a RWC record) and the lowest was 10k for the Tonga v Namibia game, which was played at Sandy Park, Exeter, but this was still a sell-out.
- v. ER2015 met all of its objectives, including its financial targets.
- vi. At its height ER2015 employed 500 people and was supported by approximately 6,000 volunteers. The current workforce is 39 and this will decline to 6 by the end of December 2015.
- vii. All that remains is to wind up ER2015 and pass on key experiences to Japan 2019.
- viii. ER2015 had left a physical legacy in the improvements made to the stadiums that were used (and the equipment that was left behind). There is a grassroots legacy in the equipment that has been distributed (free) to grassroots Clubs. Finally there is the legacy of having run a RWC; the experience of which will benefit many aspects of the RFU's operations in the future.

3. East Stand Development

(Sophie Goldschmidt - RFU Commercial Director)

- i. Council received a presentation on the proposed development of the East Stand.
- ii. The East Stand has suffered from under investment over the last twenty years and investment is now needed to provide a world class experience in a world class stadium.
- iii. The development will provide additional hospitality and debenture facilities.
- iv. It is hoped that the development will be completed by Autumn 2018.
- v. The total cost of the development will be approximately £55m.
- vi. The development will necessitate the relocation of the Museum of World Rugby. Discussions are taking place with the trustees of the museum to find the best location.
- vii. Council **APPROVED** the agreed to recommend from the RFU Board of Directors that the development be approved.

4. Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) Strategy

(Steve Grainger - RFU Rugby Development Director)

- i. Council received a presentation on the proposed investment in AGPs for grassroots rugby use.
 - ii. This strategy is at the core of the rugby development activity and will result in the recruitment of new players and the retention of existing players
 - iii. The reason for the strategy is threefold:
 - a. New players have experienced AGPs at their schools, colleges and universities and expect the same standard of facilities at Clubs.
 - b. A number of pitches are overused leading to a deterioration in the playing surface.
 - c. Winters are becoming milder and wetter and this trend is expected to continue in the foreseeable future, which will cause the condition of grass pitches to deteriorate and lead to the cancellation of more games.
 - iv. At present there are nearly 700 AGPs in England of which only 1% are at rugby Clubs.
 - v. The strategy has two strands:
 - a. Rugby Turf - The installing of AGPs at existing Clubs.
 - b. Rugby Share - Working with partners to establish AGPs on land owned by third parties (eg local authorities and schools), but with ring fenced use by local rugby Clubs.
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- vi. The aim of the AGP strategy is for the RFU to invest in the installation of 100 new AGPs over the next four years. This will be a significant capital investment in the Community Game.
- vii. Council **APPROVED** the agreed to recommend from the RFU Board of Directors that the strategy be adopted.

5. Club & CB Ticket Allocation Policy for RFU Cup Finals and County Championship Finals at Twickenham
(Mike Cordell - Chairman of the International Rugby Ticket Sub Committee)

- i. Mike Cordell informed Council that as a result of a higher attendance being anticipated for the end of season game between England and Wales (which replaces the Barbarian game) there is a need to regularise the number of complimentary tickets issued to participating CBs and Clubs for the County Championship Final and the RFU Cup Finals held at Twickenham.
- ii. The IRTSC therefore proposed:
 - a. Playing Squad and Team Management - 30 complimentary tickets
 - b. Playing Squad and Team Management Guests - 60 complimentary tickets
 - c. Club/CB Committee Members and their Partners - 50 complimentary ticketsThis gives a total of 140 complimentary tickets for each Club/CB that reaches a final at Twickenham. These tickets will be a mixture of Council box and stadium seats depending on availability.
- iii. Council **APPROVED** this policy.

6. Nominations Standing Committee Report
(Simon Collier Bristow - Chairman of the Nomination Standing Committee)

- i. Council noted the report of the Standing Committee Report.
- ii. Council **APPROVED** the recommendation that Stuart Potts be the RFU representative on the England Rugby Football Schools Union (ERFSU) as a replacement for Geoff Simpson, who has recently been elected President of the ERFSU.

7. County Champions Regulations 2015/16
(Jeff Blackett - Chairman of the RFU Governance Committee)

- i. The key changes to the County Championship Regulations are:
 - a. The Championship tier structure is amended so that there are 16 teams split into two divisions of 2 pools of 4.
 - b. The Shield tier structure is amended so that there are 10 teams split into one pool of 4 and 2 pools of 3.
 - c. Granting of new delegated powers to the organising committee to decide player eligibility on a case by case basis.
- ii. Council **APPROVED** the changes to the regulations and granted delegated authority to the Governance Committee to finalise the drafting of the regulations.

8. National U20s Regulations 2015/16
(Jeff Blackett - Chairman of the RFU Governance Committee)

- i. A County Representative Review Group was set up by the Community Game Board to review the County Championship structure (which includes the Under 20s competition). The review was completed in August 2015 and its recommendations were presented to, and approved by, the Community Game Board.
- ii. The key changes to the National U20s Regulations are:
 - a. A new promotion/relegation system will apply at the end of the 2015/16 season.
 - b. Removal of the cap on the number of Level 3 and 4 players that can play in the competition. The restriction on Level 1 and 2 players participating still applies.
 - c. The birth eligibility date will be amended from 1st September to 31st August, which is consistent with other competitions.
- iii. Council **APPROVED** the changes to the regulations and granted delegated authority to the Governance Committee to finalise the drafting of the regulations.

9. Gifts & Hospitality Policy (Board & Council)
(Karena Vleck - RFU Legal and Governance Director)

- i. Karena Vleck outlined the new combined Gifts and Hospitality Policy for the RFU Board of Directors and Council.
 - ii. The key points of the new policy are:
 - a. No gifts or hospitality may be accepted if there is any existing or likely future tender/contractual negotiations about which the individual being offered the gifts or
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hospitality may reasonably be regarded as being in a position to influence.

- b. Gifts and hospitality below £100 do not need to be approved or declared.
 - c. All hospitality over £350 must be approved by the Chairman of the Board in the case of Council members and the CEO and by the President in respect of the Chairman and by the senior Non-Executive Director in the case of the Director.
- iii. Council **APPROVED** the new Gifts and Hospitality Policy (Board & Council).

10. **Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy**

(Karena Vleck - RFU Legal and Governance Director)

- i. Karena Vleck informed Council that bribery is a criminal offence under the Bribery Act 2010.
- ii. As the RFU does not currently have an Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy, Council was asked to approve a policy to ensure compliance under UK legislation.
- iii. Council **APPROVED** the new Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy.

11. **Annual Accounts 2015**

(Steve Brown - RFU Chief Financial Officer)

- i. Steve Brown informed the meeting that the 2015 Annual Accounts were signed on 18th September 2015 and published on 30th November 2015.
- ii. Revenues exceeded £200m for the first time thanks to the effect of the high number of Twickenham matches on ticket, broadcasting, hospitality and other match-day revenues, increased non-match day conference & event revenues, renewed long-term sponsorship deals and the recognition of RWC revenues to match costs incurred.
- iii. Rugby investment increased 2% over the previous year to £76.8m, with investment in professional rugby broadly flat with 2013/14 but rugby development investment up by 5% (£1.5m) due to increased spending on game development and growth initiatives.
- iv. The highlights of the year are shown in Appendix 1.

12. **RWC 2015 – Stadium Report**

(Richard Knight - Stadium Director)

- i. Following the RWC, which saw the stadium used for eight matches in six weeks, reviews are currently being carried out into the following areas:
 - a. **Stadium perimeter and use of the West Car Park.** The enhanced security worked well and spectators enjoyed the expanded spectator village.
 - b. **Pre and post-match hospitality.** The more informal hospitality arrangements were appreciated by guests, but the result was that fewer guests were entertained in the Spirit of Rugby than for a normal England game. There are also cost implications. No changes are envisaged for the 2016 Six Nation matches against Ireland and Wales.
 - c. **Transport arrangements.** This review is complicated by the number of agencies/ stakeholders involved.
 - d. **Media facilities.** New media facilities will be required following the development of the East Stand.
 - e. **Use of volunteers.** The Pack worked very well and consideration is being given to utilising volunteers more in the future to enhance the spectator experience.
 - f. **In stadium entertainment.** This was well received by spectators during the RWC.
- ii. Further reports will be made to Council when the individual reviews are concluded.

13. **Financial Report**

(Steve Brown - RFU Chief Financial Officer)

- i. Steve Brown confirmed to Council that the Union is in a position to fund both the East Stand development and the Artificial Pitch strategy from existing bank facilities and that these projects would not affect the Union's ability to fund ongoing capital expenditure and to fund additional projects as and when they arose.
 - ii. **Quarter 1 Results**
 - a. Revenue is below budget due to the disappointing attendance for the France QBE match (RW warm up game) in August 2015.
 - b. Hospitality sales, across both the QBE matches exceeded expectations
 - c. Overhead costs are in line with the budget.
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- d. Rugby investment is in line with the budget.
- e. Gross profit is marginally adverse to budget.
- f. The Union continues to be in a strong financial position.

iii. **October 2015 Results**

- a. The first tranche of the RWC surplus has been included in the October 2015 results.
- b. Overhead costs have increased due to incremental costs associated with the RWC preparations as well as costs associated with ongoing projects.
- c. Rugby development spend is in line with budget.

- iv. The Union continues to be in a strong financial position.

14. Professional Game Board (PGB) Report

(Ian Metcalf - Chairman of the Professional Game Board)

- i. Ian Metcalf updated Council on the work of the PGB.
- ii. Ian Ritchie has updated the PGB on the results of the review following England's disappointing performance in the RWC.
- iii. The PGB supported the playing of the London Irish v Saracens in New Jersey, USA in March 2016.
- iv. Mark McCafferty (CEO of PRL) has updated the PGB on the key issues for the premiership salary cap for 2016/17 and 2017/18, which includes the ability to reward players coming through the Academy system and compensate Clubs for players being absent on international duty. Clubs will be required to make a declaration of compliance at the start of the season and be subject to certification at the end of it.
- v. Rob Andrew, who has been appointed Chairman of the recently formed European Professional Club Rugby (EPCR) Regulations Committee, updated the PGB on matters that will be dealt with by his Committee.
- vi. The PGB noted that the RPA funding agreement with the RFU and PRL has now been signed

15. Community Game Board

(Malcolm Wharton - Chairman of the Community Game Board)

- i. Malcolm Wharton updated Council on the ongoing work of the CGB and its sub-committees, highlighting in particular:
 - a. **Adult Competition Review**
 - o The survey has now closed.
 - o Approximately 5,000 questionnaires have been completed from Clubs, administrators, coaches, referees and players. According to Ipsos-Mori this is a statistically valid sample from which conclusions can be meaningfully drawn.
 - o The CGB will consider the results of the survey and make recommendations for consideration by the game.
 - b. **Artificial Grass Pitch Strategy.** Following Council's approval of the AGP strategy, the CGB will now proceed with its implementation.
 - c. **Sevens Development Strategy.** This has been considered and approved by the CGB and will now be implemented.
 - d. **Developmental Player Pathway (DPP) Review.** The review has been approved by the CGB.
 - e. **Match Officials Blueprint Report.** The CGB is considering the eleven recommendations contained therein.
 - f. **Determining Priority Areas for 2016/17.** The CGB has started work on identifying priorities for the 2016/17 season to be fed into the RFU's business plan and budget process.
 - g. **CB Conference.** Plans are advanced to hold a CB Conference over the weekend of the 9th/10th April at Jury's Inn, Hinkley.
- ii. The Sport England Active People's Survey will be published shortly. This is based on the period to 30th September 2015 and identifies those involved in the sport at least once per week.
- iii. The Community game had a high profile, including high media coverage, during the RWC.

16. Governance Report

(Jeff Blackett - Chairman of the Governance Committee)

i. **Ground Moves at Levels 1-4**

- a. Governance is considering proposals for the introduction of regulations and guidance in relation to Clubs at Levels 1 to 4 moving grounds.
- b. The Community Game Board is being consulted as to whether the regulations should apply to Level 4.

ii. **World Rugby Disciplinary Supervision and intervention**

Governance has reviewed a paper on the question of the extent to which World Rugby should have supervisory and intervention power over Unions in relation to disciplinary incidents. A letter has been sent to World Rugby to propose clarity in the regulations on this point.

iii. **Diversity of Council**

Governance is considering the diversity of Council and how it can be improved. The work is important, but not urgent and it is recognised that there is a need to avoid tokenism.

iv. **Council Review**

Governance, as part of its annual workflow, is reviewing the Rules in relation to the definition of National Representative Bodies.

v. **Club Audit**

The 2015 Club Audit has been completed.

vi. **Referees Blueprint Paper**

The implications of the recommendations, that would require a change to the Union's Rules and Regulations, in the Referees Blueprint Paper is being considered by Governance.

vii. **Financial Integrity**

Work in continuing on the Financial Integrity Project.

viii. **Ineligible Player - Points Deduction**

Governance continues to debate the variance in points deduction for fielding an ineligible player in the professional game and the Community game. Representations were made at Council that this should continue to be considered as it was a source of frustration in the Community game.

17. International Rugby Report

(Bill Beaumont & John Spencer - RFU World Rugby Representatives)

i. **World Rugby (WR)**

- a. The WR Council approved a criteria based proposal for representation on its Council. This will give more Unions a vote on the WR Council (see Appendix 2).
 - b. France, Ireland, Italy and South Africa have all expressed an interest in hosting the 2023 Rugby World Cup.
 - c. A stadium Broadcast Protocol was approved, whereby foul play incidents and injuries will only be shown once (unless the referee requests further viewings).
 - d. Amendments were approved on the insurance of players at English Clubs who are released for international duty. The salary cap will be removed for these players as will the 52-week limit. In addition insurance will now cover critical illness contracted whilst on international duty.
 - e. The WR Council agreed that the trial on the use of player microphones in the Pro12 could continue.
 - f. It was agreed that small working groups would be set up to look at TMO Protocols, the maul and simplifying the Law Book. The RFU will be represented on all three groups.
 - g. A proposal to introduce women's world ranking, based on the men's system, was approved.
 - h. Rolling substitutions have been adopted in the WR Sevens World Series.
 - i. Law Clarifications will in future be issued on Mondays to enable Unions to inform its Clubs and referees ahead of the following weekend's games.
 - j. There is no appetite amongst the Unions to change the 36 month residency period for eligibility for national teams.
 - k. World Rugby has re-examined the suggestion that it should become incorporated. As there are significant tax disadvantages in doing this, the status quo will remain in place.
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- ii. **Rugby Europe**
 - i. New statutes, which are acceptable to the RFU, will be considered at the EXCO meeting on 12th/13th December.
 - ii. Following rejection of a proposal by the Technical Directors concerning the Rugby Europe Under 18s competition, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and France have pulled out of the elite competition.
- iii. **Six Nations**
 - i. The Six Nations have reorganised their committees. The following committees will now meet: Age Grade, Coach Development, Laws & Regulations, Operations, Professional Game and Women's Rugby.
 - ii. The Six Nations Council agreed to extend half time to 15 minutes (from the current 10 minutes).
 - iii. Tissot have renewed their agreement.
 - iv. The Six Nations, in support of FFR, will be writing to Stade de France expressing concern at the quality of the pitch.
 - v. Referee appointments for all tournaments (including U20s and women) will in future be made by the Selection Panel and not on a rota basis.
- iv. **European Professional Club Rugby (EPCR)**

The new statutes have now been approved by the EPCR General Assembly.
- v. **British & Irish Lions**
 - i. Canterbury has been announced as the official kit supplier for the 2017 tour to New Zealand.
 - ii. A full time Communications Manager is currently being recruited,

The next Council meeting is on 26th February 2016.

APPENDIX 1

RFU ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2015 - HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Revenue of £207.9m
 - Total investment in rugby up 2% over previous year
 - Completion of the Twickenham Stadium upgrade project on time and on budget
 - Increased long-term commercial partnerships across the game.
 - England men and women confirm GB 7s place for Olympics
 - Women & Girls Strategy launched following the England win in Paris in Women's Rugby World Cup.
 - All Schools programme, supported by CBRE, has now brought 400 new state secondary schools to rugby
 - O2 Touch programme reaches 10,000 registered players
 - Investment in and preparation for Rugby World Cup 2015
 - Continuing Lead Up & Legacy work
 - UNITY project helping rugby development in 17 European nations.
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WORLD RUGBY COUNCIL

1. MINIMUM STANDARDS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

To be eligible for Council members a Union must:

- Fully comply with World Rugby Membership Criteria
- Be in good standing with World Rugby (and in particular that it has filed and continues to file all appropriate paperwork / reports required by World Rugby and has paid all the fees which are due for its membership or renewal thereof)
- Be a member of its Regional Association recognised by Council
- Be in good standing with its National Olympic Committee (NOC) and / or National Sports Ministry
- Be able to demonstrate that Good Governance practice is in operation including but not limited to in the following areas:
 - Constitution, Bye-Laws and Regulations fully applied
 - Five years of unqualified audited accounts
 - Five years of AGM Minutes provided
 - Transparent links with membership evident
 - That Unions have jurisdiction and control over players and the professional game in their Union territory
 - Comply with any national or regional legislation, in the area of good governance for sporting bodies

2. CRITERIA FOR AWARDING VOTES

VOTES	NO OF REPS	CRITERIA
1 vote	1 rep	To each of the six regional associations
1 vote	1 rep	To countries which have qualified for RWC on two consecutive occasions in the assessment period (8 years)
1 vote	1 rep	To countries which have qualified for RWC on two consecutive occasions in the assessment period (8 years) and who play in major championships (Six Nations, Rugby Championship)
1 vote	No additional rep	<p>To countries which have qualified for RWC on two consecutive occasions in the assessment period (8 years)</p> <p>And contribute to the game by audited average annual turnover of the Union greater than £20m* over the previous four-year period (to reflect investment in the game)</p> <p>Bid to Host (votes at Council) or hosting of major events in the last 8 years or in the next 4 years i.e. RWC, RWC Sevens, Women's RWC, Junior World Championship / Trophy or Sevens World Series</p> <p>Sustainable women's programme with participation in WRWC or qualifiers in past 8 years</p> <p>Men's Sevens programme, women's sevens programme - reflected by, at a minimum, participation in regional competitions and or the Sevens World Series (male and female)</p>

* A suitable economic comparative index will be set at the beginning of the assessment period. It will be agreed by the World Rugby Council.

3. NEW VOTE ALLOCATION TABLE

NO OF VOTES	COUNTRIES/REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
Three	Argentina Australia ENGLAND France Ireland Italy New Zealand Scotland South Africa Wales
Two	Asia Rugby Oceania Rugby Africa Rugby Americas North Rugby Europe Subamerican Rugby
One	Canada Georgia Japan Romania USA
Total	47 VOTES

Fiji, Namibia, Samoa, Tonga do not qualify as they do not meet the minimum standards for membership of the World Rugby Council.

Uruguay has not qualified for two consecutive Rugby World Cups and is thus not eligible.
