

WORLD DEAF RUGBY EXECUTIVE UPDATE NO. 1

January 2020

This is the first of a series of ***WDR Executive Updates*** we intend to regularly send to you to keep you informed about what is happening, what we are working on and what we need from you.

NEW WDR EXECUTIVE

As this is the first ***Update***, we need to introduce ourselves:

WDR Chair - Michael Oosthuyzen (*oosthuyzenm@gmail.com*)

WDR Vice-Chair - Tim Stones (*timestones1@hotmail.com*)

WDR Secretary - Johanna Plante (*johannaplante@gmail.com*)

All of us have been very involved in our national Deaf communities and Deaf Sports for many years, and are very enthusiastic about working with all *WDR Members* to grow and strengthen Deaf rugby. We also understand the financial and other challenges Deaf teams face in being able to participate in international Deaf rugby events.

Michael and **Tim** are both Deaf men who have been involved in Deaf rugby for many years.

Michael has played Deaf rugby for much of his life and has also been involved in Deaf rugby coaching, mentoring, development and promotion. He is currently *President* of the *South Africa Deaf Rugby Union (SADRU)* and has been actively working on further developing Deaf rugby both within South Africa and across other African countries.

Tim co-founded the *South Africa Deaf Rugby Union*, is the immediate past-*President* of *SADRU* and has actively promoted *SADRU* for many years.

Johanna is a hearing woman, but has had a long history of volunteer involvement in the Deaf community, Deaf Sports and Deaf rugby in Australia, including as *Chair & Project Manager* of the multi-sport *2016 Australian Deaf Games*, *Event Manager* responsible for organising the *World Deaf Rugby 7s Australia 2018 Tournament* and, more recently, working with the *Fiji Deaf Rugby Union* on the *Oceania Rugby Deaf Sevens* tournament.

As the new *WDR Executive Team* we will be regularly communicating and consulting with all *WDR Members* so that we can jointly work together on developing and growing Deaf rugby - *nationally and internationally*.

We very much look forward to your help, input and feedback over the coming months and years.

WHAT WE ARE STARTING TO WORK ON

We have been looking through the information provided to us by the previous *WDR Executive* to work out what are the most important things for us to focus on first. We have decided that the first things we need to work on are:

- **WDR Website:** Updating various information on the Website and making the Website easier for people to use from mobile phones and tablets
- **WDR Hearing Loss Policy:** Providing a formal *WDR Hearing Loss Policy* document that fully explains the *WDR Hearing Loss Policy* that was voted on by the *WDR Members* last year. This will be sent to all *WDR Members* in the next few days and subsequently put on the *WDR Website*
- **Schedule of proposed Sevens & Fifteens Tournaments:** Getting information from the countries that have bid to host *WDR Sevens/Fifteens Tournaments* and putting together a timetable of future *WDR Sevens/Fifteens Tournaments* as well as other national and regional Tournaments. This will then be sent to all *WDR Members* and put on the *WDR Website*
- **World Rugby:** Making contact with World Rugby, introducing the new *WDR Executive* and starting discussions on working together
- **Deaflympics Rugby Sevens:** Starting discussions with *WDR Members* on the possibility of working with ICDS to plan for the future inclusion of Rugby Sevens in future *Deaflympics*
- **WDR Member Information:** Updating the information we have about national Deaf rugby organisations/committees that are *WDR Members* (see below and accompanying *Questionnaire*).
- **WDR Constitution:** Updating the *WDR Constitution* to include the new *WDR Hearing Loss Policy* and other editorial changes that might be needed. The updated *DRAFT Constitution* will be sent to all *WDR Members* so that they can comment/make suggestions before it is finalised

We are also happy to receive suggestions from *WDR Members* about other matters you would like us to work on and information you would like us to put on the *WDR Website*.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

We would like to get some information from each of you about how Deaf rugby is structured and organised in your country. So, it would be very useful if you could send us information about the following so that we can make sure our records are up to date:

- The **official name** of your national Deaf rugby organisation/committee

- The **postal address** of your national Deaf rugby organisation/committee
- The names of the **President/Chair, Vice-President/Vice-Chair, Secretary & Treasurer** of your national Deaf rugby organisation/committee
- The names and email addresses of your national Deaf rugby organisation/committee **WDR delegates**
- Whether your national Deaf rugby organisation/committee is **formally registered** as an *Incorporated Association* or *Company* in your country
- Whether your national Deaf rugby organisation/committee is **recognised by or affiliated with your country's hearing Rugby Union**
- If your national Deaf rugby organisation/committee is **not recognised by your country's hearing Rugby Union**, whether you have applied for recognition or affiliation, what the result was of your application or whether you are planning to apply for recognition/affiliation
- Whether your national Deaf rugby organisation/committee is **recognised by or affiliated with other Deaf sports organisations in your country**
- Whether your national Deaf rugby organisation/committee has a **Constitution** and you are able to provide a copy to *WDR*
- What **Level of Hearing Loss** players need to qualify/be eligible to play Deaf rugby in your country

The above questions are listed in the accompanying "***National Deaf Rugby Organisation/Committee WDR Questionnaire***". Please type in your answers and email the ***Questionnaire*** back to the *WDR Secretary* - johannaplante@gmail.com together with a copy of your ***Constitution***.

We very much look forward to receiving the above important information from each of you.

Thank you.

Michael Oosthuizen
WDR Chair

Tim Stones
WDR Vice-Chair

Johanna Plante
WDR Secretary