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AMNRL to join USARL in Nines tournament



On the eve of American National Rugby League's 17th season, officials are more hopeful than ever of securing RLIF member nation status which will revolutionise the code in the United States.

The AMNRL is the official governing body of Rugby League in the USA and its incoming President, Curtis Cunz, said this year's competition would provide fans the greatest showcase of domestic rugby league seen in America.

Cunz said contrary to erroneous reports of the competition's demise, the AMNRL season would actually feature a quality of player and game rarely witnessed in America.

Cunz was elected President at the recent AMNRL AGM in New York. He was the World Cup tour manager of the very successful USA Tomahawks and president of last year's AMNRL premiers the Connecticut Wildcats.

In ever further great news, AMNRL clubs will participate in the Nines competition alongside clubs from the USARL on May 17.

This is the first step in uniting the competitions into one league, which is a direction the AMNRL is seeking to head down.

And Cunz said he hoped the leagues could agree to play more cross-over games and depoliticise the code in America.

"I can't wait to put the politics aside and see all of the boys I used to go to battle against back in the day and then crack a few beers open afterwards," he said.

"The AGM re-enforced the democratic and transparent governance of the AMNRL and the shared vision of the member clubs.

"This is going to be a great season of rugby league in the AMNRL featuring immense talent.

"Our games will be exceptionally competitive and fans will leave wanting more."

The AMNRL's competition committee is finalising the details of the elite Eastern Conference competition under the guidance of Secretary Steve Thompson.

A draw will be announced soon but Thompson confirmed games would be played in the emerging Mid West Conference, the West Coast and Hawaii as part of the AMNRL's commitment to grow the game across the USA but in a controlled and sustainable manner.

The AMNRL is confident of delivering several powerful conferences throughout America to mirror the Eastern Conference.

There has been much publicity regarding how the AMNRL would take advantage of the USA Tomahawks' "shock the world" campaign at RLWC2013, where the unheralded group of part-time footballers, featuring just five professionals in their ranks, made the quarter finals.

Cunz said the AMNRL is now working with the RLIF, the world governing body, to secure member nation status.

This will open government funding opportunities to implement youth development programs, strengthen the domestic competition and boost the league's community engagement programs.

Engaging grass roots support and becoming intrinsic to school sport curriculums is

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RESULTS

Rugby League World Cup

Sat 23 Nov	New Zealand 20-18 England
Sun 17 Nov	Samoa 4-22 Fiji
Sat 16 Nov	England 34-6 France
Fri 15 Nov	New Zealand 40-4 Scotland
Mon 11 Nov	France 6-22 Samoa
Sun 10 Nov	Wales 24-28 Cook Islands
Sat 09 Nov	England 34-12 Fiji
Fri 08 Nov	New Zealand 56-10 Papua New Guinea
Thu 07 Nov	Scotland 22-8 USA
Tue 05 Nov	Tonga 22-16 Cook Islands

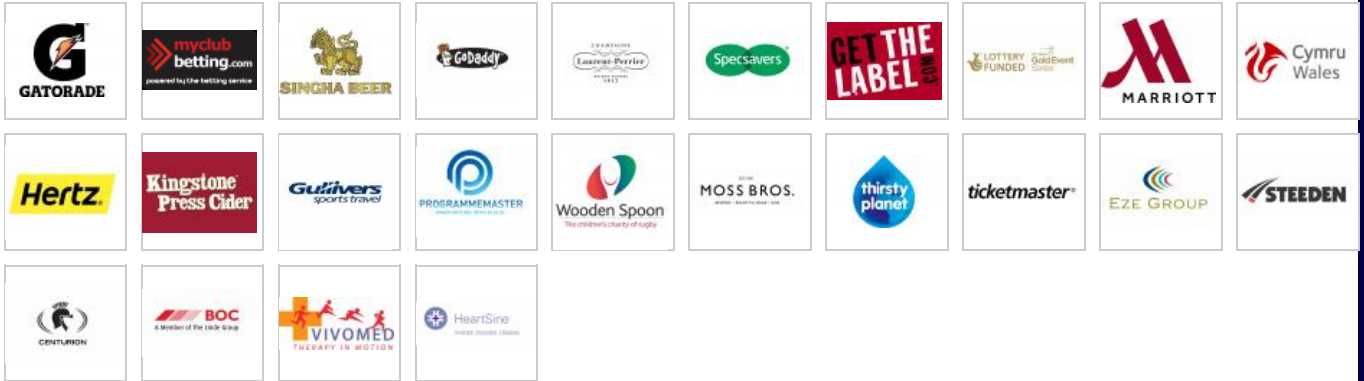
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crucial to the growth of rugby league in America.

"We are working hard on several other key initiatives that will be announced as soon as they are finalised that have the AMNRL clubs excited about the future of American rugby league," Cunz said.

"Stay tuned."

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