



- **EVENT: IOC Session Presentation**
- **EVENT DATE: Friday 9th October 2009**
- **SCRIPT VERSION: Final**

1. Speaker: Bernard Lapasset
2. Film: Dubai 2009 Sevens
3. Speaker: Mike Miller
4. Speaker: Cheryl Soon
5. Speaker: Humphrey Kayange
6. Speaker: Mike Miller
7. Speaker: Anastassiya Khamova
8. Speaker: Gus Pichot
9. Film: Rugby is Reaching Out
10. Speaker: Bernard Lapasset

1. SPEAKER – Bernard LAPASSET

Mr President, Mr. Honorary Life President, distinguished Members of the IOC, dear friends...

Thank you for this opportunity to present Rugby's case to rejoin the Olympic Programme.

I am Bernard Lapasset, President of the International Rugby Board.

Please allow me to introduce our team

- **Mike Miller**, Secretary General of the IRB...
- **Cheryl Soon**, captain of the Rugby Sevens Women's World Champions... Australia...
- **Humphrey Kayange**, captain of the Kenya Rugby Sevens team...
- **Anastassiya Khamova**, from Kazakhstan, an international player and referee...
- **Agustin Pichot**, former captain of Argentina, today representing world rugby's top players.

And also,

- **Jonah Lomu**, a Rugby legend and gold medallist in Rugby Sevens at the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

It was many years ago that Rugby last had the honour of being played at the Olympic Games.

Indeed, as you know, it was Pierre de Coubertin himself who watched over our debut in 1900 in Paris.

He believed in Rugby's spirit of fair play.

More than a century later, Rugby still promotes that philosophy...

With referees respected... and opponents on the pitch embraced as friends at the end of the game.

Rugby is about successful partnerships and teamwork.

And if Rugby Sevens does receive the honour of joining the Olympic Programme, we will work closely with you and every

member of the Olympic Family... to ensure that it is a success,
both for the Movement **and** Rugby.

We are proud of our tradition... And also proud of being a
modern sport, in which tradition goes hand-in-hand with
innovation.

This tradition and innovation can be seen in Rugby Sevens.

It is exciting and fast.

It is played by our fittest and quickest athletes.

And played in full stadiums, packed with enthusiastic, young
fans... mixing happily.

As we saw with the great success of the Rugby Sevens World Cup,
held in March this year in Dubai...

2. FILM – Dubai 2009

3. SPEAKER – Mike MILLER

Dear Members of the IOC...

As you've just seen, Rugby Sevens is a fast and exciting game... which we believe would be a wonderful addition to the Olympic Programme.

We are delighted that the Executive Board is proposing Rugby's inclusion and we hope you will support the proposal...

It has been a long journey and we would like to thank the Programme Commission for their guidance and insight.

In the last decade, we have seen Rugby Sevens grow as never before, with more TV viewers, more sponsors and more fans than ever.

This year's IRB Sevens World Series, played in eight countries around the world, has set new records.

And in March, in Dubai, we hosted the fifth Rugby World Cup Sevens tournament.

Two members of your Programme Commission were there to see:

- Men's and women's teams from 31 nations...
- Playing in front of 78,000 fans, broadcast to 141 countries...
- And with a global TV reach of 760 million.

Now, I would like to introduce you to a player who probably enjoyed Dubai more than any of us.

Cheryl Soon, captain of the gold medal winning Australian team...

Cheryl...

4. SPEAKER – Cheryl SOON

Thank you, Mike.

For me, Dubai was all about making history.

Not just because I was captain of the team that won the women's title.

But because we won the **FIRST EVER** women's Rugby Sevens world title.

Our success demonstrated the growing popularity and reach of women's rugby.

But you know.... every Sevens tournament has its own special atmosphere.

Each one brings new memories – especially if you win.

And Dubai was even more special as our tournament was played at the same time as the men's.

It was great all being there together and getting cheered off the pitch by the Australian men's team when we won the final.

This was the highlight of my career – so far.

I've seen what this medal means to younger players and children.

Their eyes light up.

But if this was an Olympic medal it would have even more meaning for kids.

In places like Singapore, for example, where my dad comes from and where Rugby is growing in popularity.

All my teammates and colleagues on the Sevens circuit play at the highest level of **OUR** sport.

We want to play alongside the world's top athletes competing at the highest level of **THEIR** sport.

It would be a privilege to do so.

And one I hope that I might even get to achieve, in 20/16.

Thank you.

Now, I'd like to hand over to Humphrey Kayange, another player who enjoyed great success in Dubai... Humphrey...

5. SPEAKER – Humphrey KAYANGE

Thank you, Cheryl.

And congratulations once again on your gold medal.

Dubai was a fantastic experience for everyone.

For the officials, the players and the fans.

Sevens supporters are truly amazing. They are passionate... joyous... and love sport.

I know that once an Olympic Sevens tournament has finished, the Rugby fans would stay and enjoy all that the world's greatest sporting celebration has to offer.

Dubai was especially exciting for me, my team-mates, my country and Rugby fans across Africa.

I captained Kenya to our best-ever Rugby World Cup Sevens finish.

We beat Fiji – the reigning World Champions.

And made it to the semi-finals of the competition for the first time in our history.

It wasn't a one-off either.

In March, we beat the leading team in the world, New Zealand, in the Hong Kong Sevens.

We have achieved a lot but I haven't got a medal like Cheryl's... Well not yet.

But I hope that day will come soon. And I dream that it will be at the Olympic Games in Rio in 2016.

Rugby World Cup Sevens in Dubai showed that the developing Rugby nations can compete with the biggest in the world.

Countries like Portugal, Samoa, Thailand, Uruguay and Zimbabwe proved they are capable of beating the best.

Playing at an Olympic Games would offer these countries a real chance of medals.

A further opportunity to be part of the global sporting family.

A chance to realise their Olympic dream... that would be something truly special.

Thank you...

6. SPEAKER – Mike MILLER

We believe that Rugby Sevens has much to offer the IOC.

A modern, youthful and skilful sport that can be added easily, efficiently and cost-effectively to the Olympic Programme.

A sport that is already a successful part of other multi-sport events...including the Asian, Commonwealth and World Games.

A sport that will feature in the Pan American Games and the All-Africa Games, both in 2011.

The Sevens format is made for television, made for sponsors and, most importantly, loved by fans and players alike.

The proposed 2016 tournament would see 12 men's and 12 women's teams... a total of 144 athletes in each event.

We don't need a purpose-built new venue.

We can easily use an existing stadium.

To stage a competition that can be completed in two or three days.

Currently, Rugby World Cup Sevens is the four-yearly pinnacle of the Rugby Sevens calendar.

If you decide to include Rugby Sevens today, we would replace Rugby World Cup Sevens with the new Olympic tournament, making the Olympic Games the true pinnacle of Rugby Sevens... just as the Paralympic Games is for our colleagues in wheelchair Rugby.

I was privileged to attend the Paralympic Games in Beijing.

And I was lucky enough to be among the full houses that watched a magnificent Wheelchair Rugby tournament – and an epic final, won by the USA.

Like the IOC and the IPC, we in Rugby are committed to inspiring a new generation to play and watch sport.

Worldwide, Rugby currently has three million registered players in 116 countries.

We are determined to see that grow – and so we are investing more than 300 million US dollars in development programmes over the next four years.

That investment would also benefit the wider Movement if Rugby Sevens were to be included in the Olympic Programme.

We would work with National Olympic Committees and our own member federations throughout the whole of an Olympiad... investing in training programmes, facilities and competitions to help them prepare for Rugby Sevens at the Olympic Games.

Just as we are doing in Mexico and India to ensure that the Rugby Sevens events at the Pan American and Commonwealth Games are a huge success – and that a lasting legacy is in place for the continued growth of Rugby in those countries.

In fact, as Anastassiya Khamova will explain, Rugby is already played in all five continents and in some unexpected places. Anastassiya will speak in Russian...

7. SPEAKER – Anastassiya KHAMOVA

Thank you, Mike...

I am from Kazakhstan and I have now been captain of my country for four years.

I'm also an international referee, and I was honoured and proud to be an official at Rugby World Cup Sevens in Dubai.

Today I am representing the many thousands of girls and women who play, officiate and watch our game.

Women's Rugby is a strong sport and in excellent health with more players than ever and more countries playing.

In 2007, I joined other top administrators and senior players at a global conference organised by the IRB to discuss developing the women's game.

The IRB's plan...agreed at that conference...aims to promote our game, push its development and introduce new tournaments.

This plan is now being put into action by the IRB's Women's Rugby Development Team.

Sevens' addition to the Olympic Programme would provide a wonderful boost to the women's game all around the world.

12 teams made up of the best women players would appear on the greatest global sporting platform, bringing a new dimension to the Olympic experience.

I started in Rugby late – when I was 20 – so now I am determined to do whatever I can in the game so that others can start sooner.

I speak on behalf of all of us and from my heart when I say that Rugby is like a family – and we all want to help that family grow.

Our roles may vary over the years as we help that growth...

Players to coaches, referees and administrators... We all have a continuous commitment to Rugby as the game grows and evolves.

Now, I would like to introduce Agustin Pichot, one of South America's greatest rugby players, someone who has done so much to grow Rugby on that continent... he will speak in Spanish...

8. SPEAKER – Gus PICHOT

Thank you, Anastasiya.

Mr President, members of the IOC...

My name is Agustin Pichot and I captained Argentina to bronze medals in the 2007 Rugby World Cup and the 2001 Rugby World Cup Sevens in Argentina.

Both were wonderful moments, but I have special memories of 2001 when Argentina became the first country in the Americas to host a major Rugby event.

Since then so much has happened in South, Central and North America.

For example, the growing success of the women's Sevens team from Brazil... the growth of Rugby in Mexico... the continued development of the game in the USA and Canada... and, from 2011, the entry of Rugby Sevens into the Pan American Games.

All signs of the development of our sport across the Americas.

This is exciting, but there is still a missing link.

The only way it could be better is if this was part of the unique, four-yearly global celebration of sport that is the Olympic Games.

So allowing top players, from all over the world to participate in the world's greatest sporting event.

I will continue in English.

I've spoken to many of the world's leading Rugby players, both men and women...including legends like Jonah Lomu.

Each and every one of them agrees that competing in the Olympic Games would be an amazing experience.

The world's best players would all come and be proud to call themselves 'Olympians'.

The players totally support our campaign to bring Rugby Sevens into the Olympic Games.

The IRB listens to the voice of the players – the athletes.

Our top players are represented by their own organisation – the International Rugby Players’ Association – and players now sit on many IRB commissions and Working Parties.

A lot has changed in the last four years and this makes Rugby Sevens even more ready to be part of the Olympic Programme.

We want to play our part in strengthening and growing the Movement.

Rugby is reaching out.

9. FILM – Rugby is Reaching Out #2

10. SPEAKER – Bernard LAPASSET

I would like to close our presentation in French.

Mr. President, dear members.

Rugby has a long tradition in the Olympic Games and today we have expressed our ambitions for the future.

The IRB is already a proud and active member of the Olympic Movement.

We are also proud of the fact that our anti-doping programme has received high praise from WADA.

Our bid to become part of the Olympic Sports Programme is fundamental to my Presidency of the IRB.

I have been fortunate enough to have attended four Olympic and Paralympic Games, both summer and winter.

I understand the spirit of competition, discipline, friendship and respect at the heart of the Games and why this resonates with Rugby's players and supporters.

Rugby shares the values of the Movement and we have a passion to bring Sevens into the Games experience.

We offer:

- Exciting games, with new nations breaking through
- Thousands of travelling fans filling the venues
- Young and passionate supporters enjoying the Olympic festival
- Millions of new TV viewers, all over the world
- And growing commercial success, which can be of real benefit to the IOC and the whole of the Olympic Movement.

Rugby Sevens would bring all of this and more to the Olympic Games.

The IRB understands the challenges that confront all of us in sport today:

- Attracting young players and spectators
- Developing and supporting athletes
- Ensuring respect for others and the Environment
- And fulfilling the real potential of sport.

That is why all of us at the IRB are determined to work as committed partners of the International Olympic Committee to support your vision for the future.

And to develop Sevens in a way that will help the Movement grow stronger.

Rugby is ready, ready to join the Olympic Sports Programme in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Thank you.



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It would be a privilege to do so.

And one I hope that I might even get to achieve, in 20/16.

Thank you.

Now, I'd like to hand over to Humphrey Kayange, another player who enjoyed great success in Dubai... Humphrey...

5. SPEAKER – Humphrey KAYANGE

Thank you, Cheryl.

And congratulations once again on your gold medal.

Dubai was a fantastic experience for everyone.

For the officials, the players and the fans.

Sevens supporters are truly amazing. They are passionate... joyous... and love sport.

I know that once an Olympic Sevens tournament has finished, the Rugby fans would stay and enjoy all that the world's greatest sporting celebration has to offer.

Dubai was especially exciting for me, my team-mates, my country and Rugby fans across Africa.

I captained Kenya to our best-ever Rugby World Cup Sevens finish.

We beat Fiji – the reigning World Champions.

And made it to the semi-finals of the competition for the first time in our history.

It wasn't a one-off either.

In March, we beat the leading team in the world, New Zealand, in the Hong Kong Sevens.

We have achieved a lot but I haven't got a medal like Cheryl's... Well not yet.

But I hope that day will come soon. And I dream that it will be at the Olympic Games in Rio in 2016.

Rugby World Cup Sevens in Dubai showed that the developing Rugby nations can compete with the biggest in the world.

Countries like Portugal, Samoa, Thailand, Uruguay and Zimbabwe proved they are capable of beating the best.

Playing at an Olympic Games would offer these countries a real chance of medals.

A further opportunity to be part of the global sporting family.

A chance to realise their Olympic dream... that would be something truly special.

Thank you...

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We believe that Rugby Sevens has much to offer the IOC.

A modern, youthful and skilful sport that can be added easily, efficiently and cost-effectively to the Olympic Programme.

A sport that is already a successful part of other multi-sport events...including the Asian, Commonwealth and World Games.

A sport that will feature in the Pan American Games and the All-Africa Games, both in 2011.

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The proposed 2016 tournament would see 12 men's and 12 women's teams... a total of 144 athletes in each event.

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I was privileged to attend the Paralympic Games in Beijing.

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Worldwide, Rugby currently has three million registered players in 116 countries.

We are determined to see that grow – and so we are investing more than 300 million US dollars in development programmes over the next four years.

That investment would also benefit the wider Movement if Rugby Sevens were to be included in the Olympic Programme.

We would work with National Olympic Committees and our own member federations throughout the whole of an Olympiad... investing in training programmes, facilities and competitions to help them prepare for Rugby Sevens at the Olympic Games.

Just as we are doing in Mexico and India to ensure that the Rugby Sevens events at the Pan American and Commonwealth Games are a huge success – and that a lasting legacy is in place for the continued growth of Rugby in those countries.

In fact, as Anastassiya Khamova will explain, Rugby is already played in all five continents and in some unexpected places. Anastassiya will speak in Russian...

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I am from Kazakhstan and I have now been captain of my country for four years.

I'm also an international referee, and I was honoured and proud to be an official at Rugby World Cup Sevens in Dubai.

Today I am representing the many thousands of girls and women who play, officiate and watch our game.

Women's Rugby is a strong sport and in excellent health with more players than ever and more countries playing.

In 2007, I joined other top administrators and senior players at a global conference organised by the IRB to discuss developing the women's game.

The IRB's plan...agreed at that conference...aims to promote our game, push its development and introduce new tournaments.

This plan is now being put into action by the IRB's Women's Rugby Development Team.

Sevens' addition to the Olympic Programme would provide a wonderful boost to the women's game all around the world.

12 teams made up of the best women players would appear on the greatest global sporting platform, bringing a new dimension to the Olympic experience.

I started in Rugby late – when I was 20 – so now I am determined to do whatever I can in the game so that others can start sooner.

I speak on behalf of all of us and from my heart when I say that Rugby is like a family – and we all want to help that family grow.

Our roles may vary over the years as we help that growth...

Players to coaches, referees and administrators... We all have a continuous commitment to Rugby as the game grows and evolves.

Now, I would like to introduce Agustin Pichot, one of South America's greatest rugby players, someone who has done so much to grow Rugby on that continent... he will speak in Spanish...

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Thank you, Anastasiya.

Mr President, members of the IOC...

My name is Agustin Pichot and I captained Argentina to bronze medals in the 2007 Rugby World Cup and the 2001 Rugby World Cup Sevens in Argentina.

Both were wonderful moments, but I have special memories of 2001 when Argentina became the first country in the Americas to host a major Rugby event.

Since then so much has happened in South, Central and North America.

For example, the growing success of the women's Sevens team from Brazil... the growth of Rugby in Mexico... the continued development of the game in the USA and Canada... and, from 2011, the entry of Rugby Sevens into the Pan American Games.

All signs of the development of our sport across the Americas.

This is exciting, but there is still a missing link.

The only way it could be better is if this was part of the unique, four-yearly global celebration of sport that is the Olympic Games.

So allowing top players, from all over the world to participate in the world's greatest sporting event.

I will continue in English.

I've spoken to many of the world's leading Rugby players, both men and women...including legends like Jonah Lomu.

Each and every one of them agrees that competing in the Olympic Games would be an amazing experience.

The world's best players would all come and be proud to call themselves 'Olympians'.

The players totally support our campaign to bring Rugby Sevens into the Olympic Games.

The IRB listens to the voice of the players – the athletes.

Our top players are represented by their own organisation – the International Rugby Players’ Association – and players now sit on many IRB commissions and Working Parties.

A lot has changed in the last four years and this makes Rugby Sevens even more ready to be part of the Olympic Programme.

We want to play our part in strengthening and growing the Movement.

Rugby is reaching out.

9. FILM – Rugby is Reaching Out #2

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I would like to close our presentation in French.

Mr. President, dear members.

Rugby has a long tradition in the Olympic Games and today we have expressed our ambitions for the future.

The IRB is already a proud and active member of the Olympic Movement.

We are also proud of the fact that our anti-doping programme has received high praise from WADA.

Our bid to become part of the Olympic Sports Programme is fundamental to my Presidency of the IRB.

I have been fortunate enough to have attended four Olympic and Paralympic Games, both summer and winter.

I understand the spirit of competition, discipline, friendship and respect at the heart of the Games and why this resonates with Rugby's players and supporters.

Rugby shares the values of the Movement and we have a passion to bring Sevens into the Games experience.

We offer:

- Exciting games, with new nations breaking through
- Thousands of travelling fans filling the venues
- Young and passionate supporters enjoying the Olympic festival
- Millions of new TV viewers, all over the world
- And growing commercial success, which can be of real benefit to the IOC and the whole of the Olympic Movement.

Rugby Sevens would bring all of this and more to the Olympic Games.

The IRB understands the challenges that confront all of us in sport today:

- Attracting young players and spectators
- Developing and supporting athletes
- Ensuring respect for others and the Environment
- And fulfilling the real potential of sport.

That is why all of us at the IRB are determined to work as committed partners of the International Olympic Committee to support your vision for the future.

And to develop Sevens in a way that will help the Movement grow stronger.

Rugby is ready, ready to join the Olympic Sports Programme in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Thank you.



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- **EVENT DATE: Friday 9th October 2009**
- **SCRIPT VERSION: Final**

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2. Film: Dubai 2009 Sevens
3. Speaker: Mike Miller
4. Speaker: Cheryl Soon
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1. SPEAKER – Bernard LAPASSET

Mr President, Mr. Honorary Life President, distinguished Members of the IOC, dear friends...

Thank you for this opportunity to present Rugby's case to rejoin the Olympic Programme.

I am Bernard Lapasset, President of the International Rugby Board.

Please allow me to introduce our team

- **Mike Miller**, Secretary General of the IRB...
- **Cheryl Soon**, captain of the Rugby Sevens Women's World Champions... Australia...
- **Humphrey Kayange**, captain of the Kenya Rugby Sevens team...
- **Anastassiya Khamova**, from Kazakhstan, an international player and referee...
- **Agustin Pichot**, former captain of Argentina, today representing world rugby's top players.

And also,

- **Jonah Lomu**, a Rugby legend and gold medallist in Rugby Sevens at the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

It was many years ago that Rugby last had the honour of being played at the Olympic Games.

Indeed, as you know, it was Pierre de Coubertin himself who watched over our debut in 1900 in Paris.

He believed in Rugby's spirit of fair play.

More than a century later, Rugby still promotes that philosophy...

With referees respected... and opponents on the pitch embraced as friends at the end of the game.

Rugby is about successful partnerships and teamwork.

And if Rugby Sevens does receive the honour of joining the Olympic Programme, we will work closely with you and every

member of the Olympic Family... to ensure that it is a success,
both for the Movement **and** Rugby.

We are proud of our tradition... And also proud of being a
modern sport, in which tradition goes hand-in-hand with
innovation.

This tradition and innovation can be seen in Rugby Sevens.

It is exciting and fast.

It is played by our fittest and quickest athletes.

And played in full stadiums, packed with enthusiastic, young
fans... mixing happily.

As we saw with the great success of the Rugby Sevens World Cup,
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Dear Members of the IOC...

As you've just seen, Rugby Sevens is a fast and exciting game... which we believe would be a wonderful addition to the Olympic Programme.

We are delighted that the Executive Board is proposing Rugby's inclusion and we hope you will support the proposal...

It has been a long journey and we would like to thank the Programme Commission for their guidance and insight.

In the last decade, we have seen Rugby Sevens grow as never before, with more TV viewers, more sponsors and more fans than ever.

This year's IRB Sevens World Series, played in eight countries around the world, has set new records.

And in March, in Dubai, we hosted the fifth Rugby World Cup Sevens tournament.

Two members of your Programme Commission were there to see:

- Men's and women's teams from 31 nations...
- Playing in front of 78,000 fans, broadcast to 141 countries...
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Now, I would like to introduce you to a player who probably enjoyed Dubai more than any of us.

Cheryl Soon, captain of the gold medal winning Australian team...

Cheryl...

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Thank you, Mike.

For me, Dubai was all about making history.

Not just because I was captain of the team that won the women's title.

But because we won the **FIRST EVER** women's Rugby Sevens world title.

Our success demonstrated the growing popularity and reach of women's rugby.

But you know.... every Sevens tournament has its own special atmosphere.

Each one brings new memories – especially if you win.

And Dubai was even more special as our tournament was played at the same time as the men's.

It was great all being there together and getting cheered off the pitch by the Australian men's team when we won the final.

This was the highlight of my career – so far.

I've seen what this medal means to younger players and children.

Their eyes light up.

But if this was an Olympic medal it would have even more meaning for kids.

In places like Singapore, for example, where my dad comes from and where Rugby is growing in popularity.

All my teammates and colleagues on the Sevens circuit play at the highest level of **OUR** sport.

We want to play alongside the world's top athletes competing at the highest level of **THEIR** sport.

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That investment would also benefit the wider Movement if Rugby Sevens were to be included in the Olympic Programme.

We would work with National Olympic Committees and our own member federations throughout the whole of an Olympiad... investing in training programmes, facilities and competitions to help them prepare for Rugby Sevens at the Olympic Games.

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Both were wonderful moments, but I have special memories of 2001 when Argentina became the first country in the Americas to host a major Rugby event.

Since then so much has happened in South, Central and North America.

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Women's Rugby is a strong sport and in excellent health with more players than ever and more countries playing.

In 2007, I joined other top administrators and senior players at a global conference organised by the IRB to discuss developing the women's game.

The IRB's plan...agreed at that conference...aims to promote our game, push its development and introduce new tournaments.

This plan is now being put into action by the IRB's Women's Rugby Development Team.

Sevens' addition to the Olympic Programme would provide a wonderful boost to the women's game all around the world.

12 teams made up of the best women players would appear on the greatest global sporting platform, bringing a new dimension to the Olympic experience.

I started in Rugby late – when I was 20 – so now I am determined to do whatever I can in the game so that others can start sooner.

I speak on behalf of all of us and from my heart when I say that Rugby is like a family – and we all want to help that family grow.

Our roles may vary over the years as we help that growth...

Players to coaches, referees and administrators... We all have a continuous commitment to Rugby as the game grows and evolves.

Now, I would like to introduce Agustin Pichot, one of South America's greatest rugby players, someone who has done so much to grow Rugby on that continent... he will speak in Spanish...

8. SPEAKER – Gus PICHOT

Thank you, Anastasiya.

Mr President, members of the IOC...

My name is Agustin Pichot and I captained Argentina to bronze medals in the 2007 Rugby World Cup and the 2001 Rugby World Cup Sevens in Argentina.

Both were wonderful moments, but I have special memories of 2001 when Argentina became the first country in the Americas to host a major Rugby event.

Since then so much has happened in South, Central and North America.

For example, the growing success of the women's Sevens team from Brazil... the growth of Rugby in Mexico... the continued development of the game in the USA and Canada... and, from 2011, the entry of Rugby Sevens into the Pan American Games.

All signs of the development of our sport across the Americas.

This is exciting, but there is still a missing link.

The only way it could be better is if this was part of the unique, four-yearly global celebration of sport that is the Olympic Games.

So allowing top players, from all over the world to participate in the world's greatest sporting event.

I will continue in English.

I've spoken to many of the world's leading Rugby players, both men and women...including legends like Jonah Lomu.

Each and every one of them agrees that competing in the Olympic Games would be an amazing experience.

The world's best players would all come and be proud to call themselves 'Olympians'.

The players totally support our campaign to bring Rugby Sevens into the Olympic Games.

The IRB listens to the voice of the players – the athletes.

Our top players are represented by their own organisation – the International Rugby Players’ Association – and players now sit on many IRB commissions and Working Parties.

A lot has changed in the last four years and this makes Rugby Sevens even more ready to be part of the Olympic Programme.

We want to play our part in strengthening and growing the Movement.

Rugby is reaching out.

9. FILM – Rugby is Reaching Out #2

10. SPEAKER – Bernard LAPASSET

I would like to close our presentation in French.

Mr. President, dear members.

Rugby has a long tradition in the Olympic Games and today we have expressed our ambitions for the future.

The IRB is already a proud and active member of the Olympic Movement.

We are also proud of the fact that our anti-doping programme has received high praise from WADA.

Our bid to become part of the Olympic Sports Programme is fundamental to my Presidency of the IRB.

I have been fortunate enough to have attended four Olympic and Paralympic Games, both summer and winter.

I understand the spirit of competition, discipline, friendship and respect at the heart of the Games and why this resonates with Rugby's players and supporters.

Rugby shares the values of the Movement and we have a passion to bring Sevens into the Games experience.

We offer:

- Exciting games, with new nations breaking through
- Thousands of travelling fans filling the venues
- Young and passionate supporters enjoying the Olympic festival
- Millions of new TV viewers, all over the world
- And growing commercial success, which can be of real benefit to the IOC and the whole of the Olympic Movement.

Rugby Sevens would bring all of this and more to the Olympic Games.

The IRB understands the challenges that confront all of us in sport today:

- Attracting young players and spectators
- Developing and supporting athletes
- Ensuring respect for others and the Environment
- And fulfilling the real potential of sport.

That is why all of us at the IRB are determined to work as committed partners of the International Olympic Committee to support your vision for the future.

And to develop Sevens in a way that will help the Movement grow stronger.

Rugby is ready, ready to join the Olympic Sports Programme in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Thank you.