



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022





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# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

I am proud to present the 2022 European Rugby League (ERL) Annual Report, my first in the role of Chairperson. Rugby League made huge strides forward in 2022. The staging of the Men's, Women's and Wheelchair World Cups in England was a great success. The finals showcased the very best of Rugby League to the watching world.



The first continental women's championship in the world played in Europe, with Wales, Ireland, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Serbia breaking ground for the women's game was another highlight. Competitive action returned to the Africa with the MEA Championships taking place in Ghana.

And of course the European U19s Championships in Italy was a feast of Rugby League and gave us many positive headlines. We saw a huge increase in the number of bilateral friendly games played; Rugby League is very much alive and kicking again after a couple of years of turmoil during the pandemic.

Last year, the ERL implemented the governance improvements that members approved at the 2021 Annual Council Meeting. These included enlarging the Board Of Directors which in addition to my appointment saw us welcome Tatiana Doncaster and Richard Coleman as Independent and Gurol Yildiz (Turkey) and Ileana Iacopetti (Italy) as Member-Elected Directors.

We also said "farewell" to Graeme Thompson and Mahdi Choudhury as Directors of the organisation, with Mahdi not seeking a renewal of his term owing to other commitments and Graeme coming to the end of a maximum length of service. On behalf of everyone, I would like to once again extend our thanks to both Mahdi, and Graeme, for the years of service they have given to the ERL and the positive differences that both have made to the organisation.

I must also pay tribute to some excellent volunteers who give their time freely to European Rugby League on many fronts; Martin Crick (Coaching Manager), Tom Mather (Match Officials Manager), Phil Smith (Match Officials Tutor), Steve Hogan (Match Officials Tutor), James Vukmirovic (Website Manager), George Stilianos (Social Media Manager) and Phil Caplan (Media Manager) all provide a huge level of expertise to the Federation and to our members and we are always grateful for their involvement.

David Butler, Jovan Vujosevic, Remond Safi, Romeo Monteith and Nigel Hansford our paid staff continually go the extra mile and truly have the development of Rugby League globally at the heart of everything they do.

I would also like to thank the Board for its efforts behind the scenes in providing a supportive, but challenging environment for our staff and ensure that the organisation continues to be a well-governed entity.

My final words of thanks go to our members. The vast majority of the activity detailed in this annual report is as a result of your efforts, your commitment and often your sacrifices to this great game of Rugby League. Your clubs, coaches, match officials and volunteers have once again taken the game forward for another year and we look forward to continuing to work with you to support your efforts to grow.

Dean Andrew

**Chairperson**



# ERL VISION, MISSION & VALUES

## OUR VISION

To Grow Participation and Develop High Quality Rugby League

## OUR MISSION

Deliver Great International Competitions and Enable Sustainable Federations to Grow Rugby League



## EXCELLENCE

We deliver high quality services and events so all users have the best possible experience.

We continually seeking to improve, listen and have outstanding governance practices and behaviours.

## DYNAMISM

We make it as easy as possible for people to engage with the European Rugby League and be proud of their involvement.

We respect language, culture and participant needs.

## INNOVATION

We look for new and better ways to achieve our goals and strive to look at positive solutions to barriers.

## INTEGRITY

We create an environment of trust, respect and honesty between members of European Rugby League.

We protect the positive image of our sport.

## UNITY

We generate a spirit of togetherness with members and partners by showing respect and celebrating our individual and collective successes.

# GENERAL MANAGER

The Rugby League World Cup dominated the agenda for much of 2022, with the men's, women's and wheelchair tournaments taking place in England in the Autumn, with record viewing figures and incredible innovation which saw the three tournaments staged at the same time. Europe's start performers were England and France's Wheelchair team who served up a superb final in front of 5,000 enthralled fans at Manchester Central. It was a pleasure to attend so many matches across the three tournaments and to support our members in their games and get to meet many people in person who normally we are only able to speak to online and also to support at many of the warm-up games which were a lot of fun and gave great insight into the preparations for the tournament.



Before the World Cup, European Rugby League led the way in international Women's Rugby League by staging the first women's continental championship, with Wales, Ireland and Italy competing for the Euro B North title, whilst Greece, Turkey and Serbia battled for the South championship. The games accelerated the appetite for Women's Rugby League and gave all competitors their first taste of playing in a tournament, excellent preparation for the World Cup qualification in the future.

In partnership with the Federazione Italia Rugby League, we staged a superb U19s European Championships which saw seven competing teams give their all over the course of a week. From the heroics of Ukraine leaving a war zone to achieve fourth place to England overcoming adversity to take the title, the tournament showcased all that is good about Rugby League in Europe – demonstrated no better than the unity displayed by all competing teams and officials to support colleagues from England with the tragic loss of their assistant coach Gary McMahon at the tournament.

Further afield the MEA Championships broke new ground on the African continent and put the excellent progress made by our members there into the spotlight for four intriguing games which will hopefully be the start of more games in the region. We were also very pleased to be able to deliver some largescale technical education to members in the region thanks to Kenya's superb hosting of an event for Match Officials and Coaches.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Butler'.

David Butler  
**General Manager**

# EUROPE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

In 2022, there has been a revival of domestic and international activities in Europe in full, a lot of countries delivered successfully domestic competitions for men and women.

Nations such as England and France have successfully delivered professional leagues, while Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Norway, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Germany, Serbia, Montenegro, Greece, and Turkey successfully organized amateur full 13-side competitions. Ukraine managed despite Russian aggression to deliver rugby league 9s competition which shows great dedication from Ukraine..



In second part of 2022 ERL manage to deliver Rugby League U19 European Championship after 4-year break. Competition was very well hosted by Italy (FIRL) and new Italian Board sowed great skills in hosting big sport events. Championship gathered 7 nations. We need to stress arrival of Ukrainian U19 team which came to Italy from very hard war conditions and made great historic result for the Ukraine Rugby League winning 4<sup>th</sup> place. England won Rugby League U19 European Championship in a great and very competitive grand final match against France.

What is encouraging is women's rugby league development which stopped during Covid-19 pandemic, countries like Ireland, Wales, Italy, Serbia, Greece, and Turkey participated for the first time in the ERL official competition for ladies, European Championship B, divided in two groups on regional base. Wales won Norther group and Greece Southern group. Organization of the official competition for ladies showed ERL's readiness to follow global and European trends in the strengthening of women in sport and gender equality.

The European Rugby League family will become richer in 2023 for another two members Slovakia and Northern Macedonia which applied for the membership at end of 2023. ERL staff continue contacts with Georgia, Austria and Croatia who expressed their desire to start developing rugby league and, in the future, if the conditions are met, become part of the European rugby league family.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Jovan Vujosevic'.

Jovan Vujosevic  
**Europe Regional Director**

# MEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The MEA Region has shown further growth despite the pandemic and continues to implement the roadmap to forming an independent confederation.

The MEA Steering Committee appointed its new extended board for the next 12 months with representatives from the two full members, Dr Frans Erasmus (South Africa) and Nayef Abi Said (Lebanon), plus elected Affiliate member representative Adam Sadler (Nigeria) and Observer member representative Ghassan Badawi (Libya). Three independent members have also been added to the extend committee with Sami Garebedian (Chair), Bolu Fagborun, Saad Boujmal. Remond Safi has been appointed as Secretary of the Steering committee. A subcommittee has been established to develop the region's first strategy.



MEA welcomed back South Africa who has realigned to the region from APRL. MEA nations are expressing a growing desire for more input in the future of the game which demonstrates their growing capacity and confidence. The region welcomed its newest member Kenya Rugby League Federation after lengthy process which ensured strong governance around its constitution, its members obtaining local sports law recognition, which will further stabilize the organisation.

South Africa and Libya (in Arabic) completed an online technical L1 coaching education.

Ghana demonstrated the type of innovation that permeates this exciting region by partnering with Salford red devils with plan to have player pathways to Salford and establishing academies to be led by Ghana coaches.

Local championships were completed by Lebanon, Ghana (women, men and youth), whilst Nigeria, Cameroon, Burundi and South Africa seasons conclude in 2022. Looking ahead to the world cup, Lebanon are looking to include a record number of local players which recognises their efforts locally.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

**Remond Safi**  
**MEA Regional Director**



# AMERICAS REGIONAL DIRECTOR

2022 was a year of opportunity for the sport in the Americas as nations began to fully emerge from the devastating effects of Covid lockdowns in 2021.

Men's domestic championships were executed across all the full and affiliate members and there were activities engaging female players across the board. Jamaica's youth program roared back to life with the execution of its High School Championships and implementation of a Club U19 competition. In the USA, there were several domestic women's club matches and in Canada the Men's Championship on the West Coast was flawlessly executed.



The members participated in various international activities including appearances at the RLWC by Canada's Women's team, Jamaica's Men team and the USA's Wheelchair team. The RLWC offered plenty opportunities to showcase regional talent and inspire a next generation of administrators and players to choose rugby league. El Salvador played in its first IRL sanctioned international against Japan, and the USA and Canada men's teams closed activities with a friendly late in the year.

The Americas Steering Committee met throughout the year and continued to provide guidance and planning opportunities to the members, significantly contributing to the implementation of the first officially IRL sanctioned South Americas Championship that was executed at years end in Colombia.

The Governance reform process continued in the USA and hope remains that all stakeholders will eventually come together under one umbrella to continue to grow the game.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Monteith".

Romeo Monteith  
**Americas Regional Director**

# COACHING MANAGER

2022 was again a difficult year for coach education, with various travel and other restrictions due to Covid still in place in many countries, and the disruption of international rugby league since 2020 meaning a lack of resource. Nonetheless there has been some meaningful progress, and particularly in MEA.



The highlight of the year was the Level 1 course in Kenya in April. This was a significant event as it was led by two educators from South Africa, Nico Serfontein and Fanie Bredendam. They not only delivered to 16 candidates from 6 African countries but also mentored two trainee educators in Jafaru Mustapha (Ghana) and Khalil Njoya (Cameroon), both of whom are now fully qualified as Level 1 educators. We therefore now have 4 educators able to deliver in Africa, which makes coach education there much more feasible and cost-effective. The rapid rise of Kenya RL should be acknowledged too, as the facilities and logistics were very well organised, and the learning experience was further enhanced by the course running parallel with the finals of the inaugural Kenya RL championship. In South Africa itself a Level 1 course was delivered in Stellenbosch in July and August with 17 attendees. We now have four well-established countries on the continent in South Africa, Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria. A priority must be to train further educators to work in the rapidly growing number of observer and affiliate nations, whilst a Level 2 course and Level 2 educator training for those Level 1 educators mentioned above is imperative if momentum is to be maintained.

Elsewhere I ran a Level 1 theory course via Zoom for Uganda, with 8 participants. Connectivity, as always, was an issue but the coaches were enthusiastic and keen to learn. Lukasz Lukacz delivered a Level 1 course to ten candidates in Poland, although as yet none have completed the post-course work. Thanks to the work of Mike Brogan we now have two fully accredited Level 1 educators in the USA in John Coombe-Lilly and Janet Kean, both based in Chicago. This is one of the most promising areas for both coach education and the expansion of the game there, but governance of the sport in the USA has hindered their ability to progress. There are now 10 accredited Level 1 coaches in the USARL. Thanks to the work of Slobodan Manak (Serbia) there are now four qualified coaches in Montenegro and five in Turkey, whilst Michalis Chatziioannou has overseen four in Greece. South Africa now has eight fully accredited Level 1 coaches.

Special mention to Artur Martyrosian and his co-workers in Ukraine for continuing to develop the sport in such harrowing circumstances.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Crick'.

Martin Crick  
**Coach Manager**

# MATCH OFFICIALS MANAGER

2022 continued to be a challenge without any available budget to continue the match officials development plan which has been gathering momentum prior to the global pandemic.



There were nonetheless several highlights, which included Phil Smith, one of our most experienced Tutors, delivering the most northerly Match Officials course ever to take place in the world in the Fjords region of Norway to some very enthusiastic participants.

Elsewhere Andrew Pilkington assisted us with delivering to a large cohort of members from across the MEA region in Kenya and also in South America where he delivered to delegates from that region whilst on deployment as referee for the inaugural South Americas Championships.

As in previous years, we utilised the opportunity of the U19s European Championships to create a week long training environment for 8 very promising officials, with 2 representatives each from England, Wales and Ireland and France and Norway also each sending a delegate, led by Phil Smith and Steve Hogan and the feedback received was excellent.

On the performance front, it was excellent to see neutral officials appointed from our pool of match officials to the Women's Euro B competition, ensuring that our leading referees have exposure to international competition, whilst others were appointed to bilateral friendlies which further demonstrated their abilities.

In 2023 we look forward to rejuvenating our development work to continue to improve officiating standards and also to continue to develop self-sufficiency for our members to help themselves to continue to grow and develop match officials within their own federation.

Tom Mather

**Match Officials Manager**

# MEDIA MANAGER

The success of the year was, unquestionably, the delayed World Cup, which yielded a host of stories in qualifying, and with the first time appearances of Jamaica and Greece's men and USA's wheelchair teams.

The sport for men and women beginning to burgeon in Africa also begun a steady stream of news and features, although that and the more fledgling European nations highlighted the need for more people on the ground who have a news value feel and accuracy of match day reporting, to enable information to be received promptly and correctly.



At times, understandably, there was conflict with nations releasing stories on their social media channels initially and solely from their perspective which tended to undermine wider distribution and potential audience catchment. The procedures in place for relevant preview and post match quotes from all parties and, especially, imagery still need tightening up, as does the need for ensuring that surnames are spelled correctly and first names not nicknames used.

The increased volume of activity across the three continents covered has meant that there has been a regular supply of news irrespective of the time of year and that has been helped by the coordination meeting once a week to plan and integrate the flow. A balance has begun to be struck between the need for formal, approved press releases that have the appropriate sanction, and social media's need for instant content, although again more, closer coordination would make that work more effectively.

The World Cup also saw a closer media relationship begin to be developed with IRL so that releases could be better timed and not conflicting, but the understandable time difference has meant some loss of opportunity or duplication.

There is still a need, which will be easier now over Zoom, for a seminar with all nations to discuss media requirements and responsibilities, with someone specifically designated for the task, and to reinforce necessary procedures, with university undergraduates a rich source of volunteers for them. That would also help in updating and maintaining a best contact list in the respective nations to send releases to, as is a need to review and renew our listings which is overdue.

P.S.

Phil Caplan  
**Media Manager**

# GOVERNANCE

## Changes to the Board

Following the implementation of the governance review at the 2021 Annual Council Meeting, which included enlargement of the Board of Directors, an election process took place in January 2022 which saw Gurol Yildiz (Turkey) elected as a Member-Elected Director and in the Spring of 2022 recruitment for Independent Directors was concluded which saw Dean Andrew appointed Chairperson and Tatiana Doncaster, with all three's terms deemed to have commenced from the 2021 Annual Council Meeting. Richard Coleman was appointed as an Independent Director at the 2022 Annual Council Meeting.

## Board meetings

The Board held 6 meetings throughout the year, on 10 February (Zoom), 4 March (Zoom), 24 March (Zoom), 12 May (London), 9 August (Zoom), 15 December (Zoom)

	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during Director's period of office
Dean Andrew	2	3
Paul Nicholson	6	6
Tatiana Doncaster	3	3
Richard Coleman	1	1
Mahdi Choudhury	4	5
Brian Juliff	6	6
Graeme Thompson	5	5
Gurol Yildiz	6	6
Ileana Iacopetti	1	1
Luc Lacoste	4*	6
Alison O'Brien	5**	6

\*A deputy was appointed from FFRXII who attended 1 meeting where Luc Lacoste was unable to attend

\*\*A deputy was appointed from RFL who attended 1 meeting where Alison O'Brien was unable to attend

## SUB-COMMITTEES

The ERL administers three sub-committees, all of which operate independently of the plenary Board and reporting to it at the subsequent Board Meeting.

### Dispute Resolution Committee

The DRC was created following a Board resolution taken at its 19 February 2016 Board Meeting. It is a standing committee of the ERL and is the first instance organ for Members to lodge formal grievance. The Committee is convened by order of the Board upon formal complaint being lodged in writing to the ERL General Manager or the Board and therefore there are no sitting members or fixed terms. The DRC was not required to be convened in 2022.



### Financial, Audit and Risk Committee

The purpose of the FARC, constituted in February 2012, is to advise the Board on financial management, audit and risk management matters. In 2022 FARC was chaired by Brian Juliff, with Mahdi Choudhury as a sitting member, latterly replaced by Tatiana Doncaster. Robert Graham (RFL Finance Director) is a co-opted member with ERL General Manager David Butler and ERL Finance Manager Nigel Hansford in attendance.

Meetings are usually held approximately every six months. In addition, FARC also monitored the risk register in close consultation with the executive team.

	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during Member's period of office
Brian Juliff	1	1
Mahdi Choudhury	1	1
Tatiana Doncaster	1	1
Robert Graham	1	1
David Butler	1	1
Nigel Hansford	1	1

### Remuneration Committee

The purpose of the Remuneration Committee, constituted in September 2011, is to oversee a formal and transparent procedure for developing policy on executive and consultant remuneration. It is chaired by Dean Andrew, with Tatiana Doncaster and Alison O'Brien as its other members. The committee did not meet in 2022.

	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held during Member's period of office
Dean Andrew	0	0
Tatiana Doncaster	0	0
Alison O'Brien	0	0

## COUNCIL

National Federations represented at the 2022 Annual Council Meeting:

**Full Members:** Alison O'Brien, Simon Johnson, Tony Sutton, England (**RFL**), Luc Lacoste, France (**FFRXIII**), Orazio D'Arro, Ileana Iacopetti, Paolo Iollo, Italy (**FIRL**), Nayef Abi Said, Assaad Feghali, Lebanon (**LRLF**), Jon Christie, Russia (**RARLC**), Darren Fisher, Serbia (**SRLF**), Krappie Eloff, South Africa (**SARLSA**), Artur Martyrosian, Ukraine (**UFRL**), Brian Juliff, Wales (**WRL**)

**Affiliate Members:** Joshua Knight, Canada (**CRLA**), Lukas Hergott, Czech Republic (**CZRLA**), Bob Doughton, Germany (**NRLD**), Stuart McLennan, Terry Liberopoulos, Greece (**GRLF**), Jafaru Mustapha, Ghana (**RLFG**), David Axisa, Jean-Pierre Zarb, Malta (**MRL**), Yamina Abdesselem Morocco (**FMRL**), Daan van Rossum, Netherlands (**NRLB**), Ade Adebisi, Nigeria (**NRLA**), Anne Haigh, Tom Haugen, Norway (**RLN**), Victoria Hogg, John Harris, Scotland (**SRL**), Gurol Yildiz, Fatih Mehmet Çetinkaya, Turkey (**TRLA**)

**Observers Members:** Xhino Drangu, Orion Jucja, Albania (**ARL**), Tihomir Simeonov, Vladislav Parizov, Bulgaria (**BRLF**), Jean Du Christ Rusiga, Burundi (**BRL**), Kajibwami Arsène, DR Congo (**CRL**), Katerin María Herrera, El Salvador (**ARLES**), Issouf Ouattara, Ivory Coast (**CIRL**), Quicks Nyakwaka, Charles Cardivillis, Kenya (**KRLF**), Abdul Karim Forjani, Libya (**LRLA**), Rabieh Al Masri, Palestine (**PRLA**), Łukasz Łucka, Poland (**PRXIII**), Rajendra Shah, Sweden (**SwRL**), Daniel Geno, Fortunate Irankunda, Uganda (**UAERL**)

# MEMBER ACTIVITY - EUROPE

SENIOR [community | military | professional | student | wheelchair | women]

	TEAMS 2022	TEAMS 2021	MATCHES 2022	MATCHES 2021
ALBANIA*	2	2	6	3
BULGARIA*	2	1	6	4
CZECH REPUBLIC	12	12	13	11
ENGLAND	100+	100+	100+	100+
FRANCE	100+	100+	100+	100+
GERMANY	4	0	7	0
GREECE	9	9	21	11
IRELAND	9	N/A	29	N/A
ITALY	3	0	9	0
MALTA	N/A	3	N/A	6
MONTENEGRO*	3	1	13	11
NETHERLANDS	5	5	16	0
NORWAY	6	6	15	13
POLAND*	4	2	2	2
RUSSIA	N/A	0	11	2
SCOTLAND	5	5	31	6
SERBIA	8	7	57	58
SPAIN	2	0	7	0
TURKEY	6	0	15	0
UKRAINE	N/A	6	N/A	17
WALES	18	18	100+	100+

\*Observer member

YOUTH [clubs | schools]

	TEAMS 2022	TEAMS 2021	MATCHES 2022	MATCHES 2021
CZECH REPUBLIC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ENGLAND	100+	100+	100+	100+
FRANCE	100+	100+	100+	100+
GERMANY	0	0	0	0
GREECE	0	0	0	0
IRELAND	N/A	N/A	4	N/A
ITALY	N/A	0	4	0
MALTA	0	0	0	0
NETHERLANDS	0	0	0	0
NORWAY	0	0	0	0
RUSSIA	0	0	0	0
SCOTLAND	N/A	0	1	0
SERBIA	4	4	16	12
SPAIN	0	0	0	0
TURKEY	0	0	0	0
UKRAINE	N/A	6	2	15
WALES	13	13	100+	100+

## REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES [\[national | regional | women | wheelchair | student\]](#)

	YOUTH 2022	YOUTH 2021	SENIOR 2022	SENIOR 2021
ALBANIA*	0	0	0	1
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA*	0	0	0	1
BULGARIA*	0	0	2	1
CZECH REPUBLIC	0	1	0	2
ENGLAND	4	2	23	10
FRANCE	3	0	18	4
GERMANY	0	0	1	1
GREECE	0	0	5	0
IRELAND	3	0	12	0
ITALY	3	0	5	0
MALTA	0	0	5	2
MONTENEGRO*	0	0	1	1
NETHERLANDS	0	0	2	3
NORWAY	0	0	1	0
POLAND*	0	0	2	0
RUSSIA	0	0	0	2
SCOTLAND	0	0	11	6
SERBIA	3	0	2	6
SPAIN	0	0	5	0
TURKEY	0	0	3	2
UKRAINE	3	0	2	2
WALES	4	2	20	7

\*Observer member

## REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS [\[coaches | match officials | players\]](#)

	2022	2021	Notes
CZECH REPUBLIC	353	280	-
ENGLAND	92,386	75,238	-
FRANCE	9,593	7,123	-
GERMANY	96	0	-
GREECE	188	190	-
IRELAND	480	420	-
ITALY	193	60	-
MALTA	N/A	696	Did not submit participation numbers
NETHERLANDS	404	0	-
NORWAY	413	396	-
RUSSIA	511	0	-
SCOTLAND	422	369	-
SERBIA	738	703	-
SPAIN	33	0	-
TURKEY	421	511	-
UKRAINE	N/A	N/A	No data, because of Russian aggression and war in Ukraine
WALES	2,416	1,703	-

# MEMBER ACTIVITY - AMERICAS

SENIOR [community | military | professional | student | wheelchair | women]

	TEAMS 2022	TEAMS 2021	MATCHES 2022	MATCHES 2021
CANADA	3	8	7	16
USA	18	8	35	22
JAMAICA	20	0	54	10
EL SALVADOR	-	-	-	-

1. No activity, \*played 2 x 9s format with Men, 4x Women

YOUTH [clubs | schools]

	TEAMS 2022	TEAMS 2021	MATCHES 2022	MATCHES 2021
CANADA	-	-	-	-
JAMAICA	16	0	38	0
USA	-	-	-	-
EL SALVADOR	-	-	-	-

1. No activity, \*played 2 x 9s format with Men, 4x Women

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES [national | regional | women | wheelchair | student]

	YOUTH 2022	YOUTH 2021	SENIOR 2022	SENIOR 2021
CANADA	5	-	-	0
JAMAICA	4	-	7	2
USA	4	-	-	1
EL SALVADOR	-	-	-	-

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS [coaches | match officials | players]

	2022	2021	Notes
CANADA	275	350	-
JAMAICA	927	78	
USA	715	519	
EL SALVADOR	-	0	New member in 2021



# MEMBER ACTIVITY - MEA

SENIOR [community | military | professional | student | wheelchair | women]

	TEAMS 2022	TEAMS 2021	MATCHES 2022	MATCHES 2021
BURUNDI	16	24	16	24
CAMEROON*	16	17	42	33
COTE D'IVOIRE*	5	-	-	-
DR CONGO	8	-	-	-
ETHIOPIA	-	-	-	-
GHANA*	9	7	12	21
KENYA	4	-	12	-
LEBANON	4	4	10	16
LIBYA	-	-	-	-
MOROCCO	7	-	-	-
NIGERIA	12	12	27	64
PALESTINE	6	-	1	-
SIERRA LEONE	-	-	-	-
SOUTH AFRICA	21	-	57	-
UGANDA*	8	-	-	-

\*Uganda & Cote D'Ivoire became member in 2022, Cameroon 2 wheelchair trails, Ghana also played 9s Tournament with Men 5 teams and 3 Women teams

YOUTH [clubs | schools]

	TEAMS 2022	TEAMS 2021	MATCHES 2022	MATCHES 2021
BURUNDI*	3	2	8	-
CAMEROON*	8	8	11	3
COTE D'IVOIRE*	-	-	-	-
DR CONGO	4	-	-	-
ETHIOPIA	-	-	-	-
GHANA*	14	2	4	3
KENYA	-	-	-	-
LEBANON	-	-	-	-
LIBYA	-	-	-	-
MOROCCO	4	-	-	-
NIGERIA"	16	2	8*	1
PALESTINE	2	-	1	-
SIERRA LEONE	-	-	-	-
SOUTH AFRICA	4	-	6	-
UGANDA*	8	-	-	-

\*Cote D'Ivoire & Uganda became member in 2022, Cameroon school tag programs, Nigeria school festivals

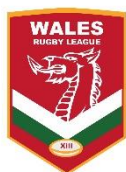
REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES [national | regional | women | wheelchair | student]

	YOUTH 2022	YOUTH 2021	SENIOR 2022	SENIOR 2021
BURUNDI <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-
CAMEROON	-	-	2	-
COTE D'IVOIRE*	-	-	-	-
DR CONGO <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-
ETHIOPIA	-	-	-	-
GHANA	-	-	5	-
KENYA	-	-	2	-
LEBANON	-	-	7	-
LIBYA	-	-	-	-
MOROCCO	-	-	-	-
NIGERIA	-	-	2	-
PALESTINE	-	-	-	-
SIERRA LEONE	-	-	-	-
SOUTH AFRICA	-	-	12	-
UGANDA*	-	-	-	-

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS [coaches | match officials | players]

	2022	2021	Notes
BURUNDI	440	459	-
CAMEROON	356	500	-
DR CONGO	233	-	No AMA Submission
ETHIOPIA	-	-	No player registration or activity recorded in 2022.
GHANA	399	409	-
KENYA	222	120	Became member in 2021
LEBANON	260	157	210 registered in Lebanon no 2 <sup>nd</sup> div competition; 50 in Australia
LIBYA	-	-	No AMA submission
MOROCCO	247	-	No Activity due to Governance dispute
NIGERIA	394	258	Additional 4500 school kid participating in schools program
PALESTINE	71	-	-
SIERRA LEONE	13		New administration established in 2022
SOUTH AFRICA	889	-	Re-joined ERL in 2022
UGANDA	147	-	Became member in 2022.

## Full Members At 31/12/2022



**FULL**  
England  
France  
Ireland  
Italy  
Jamaica  
Lebanon  
Russia  
Serbia  
South Africa  
Ukraine  
Wales

## Affiliate Members At 31/12/2022



**AFFILIATE**  
Canada  
Cameroon  
Czechia  
Germany  
Ghana  
Greece  
Malta  
Morocco  
Netherlands  
Nigeria  
Norway  
Scotland  
Spain  
Turkey  
United States

## ERL Observer Members At 31/12/2022



**OBSERVERS**  
Albania  
Belgium  
Bosnia & Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Burundi  
Denmark  
DR Congo  
El Salvador  
Ethiopia  
Hungary  
Kenya  
Latvia  
Libya  
Montenegro  
Palestine  
Poland  
Sierra Leone  
Sweden

# AFFILIATED COMPETITIONS

## EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP B (WOMEN) SOUTH GROUP



	W	L	D	PF	PA	+/-	Pts
GREECE	2	0	0	36	4	32	4
SERBIA	1	1	0	24	44	-42	2
TURKEY	0	2	0	20	32	-12	0

### RESULTS

25 SEP 2022	TUR 4-8 GRE	Istanbul
02 OCT 2022	GRE 28-0 SRB	Athens
25 NOV 2022	SRB 24-16 TUR	Belgrade



## EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP B (WOMEN) NORTH GROUP



	W	L	D	PF	PA	+/-	Pts
WALES	2	0	0	104	4	32	4
IRELAND	1	1	0	34	50	-16	2
ITALY	0	2	0	6	90	-84	0

### RESULTS

11 JUN 2022	ITA 6-30 IRL	Udine
19 JUN 2022	WAL 60-0 ITA	Crosskeys
08 OCT 2022	IRL 4-44 WAL	Dublin





## U19 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP



DAY ONE	U19 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP						
	W	L	D	PF	PA	+/-	Pts
FRANCE	6	0	0	106	4	32	12
ENGLAND	5	1	0	86	17	69	10
WALES	4	2	0	64	24	40	8
UKRAINE	3	3	0	29	76	-47	6
IRELAND	2	4	0	68	56	12	4
ITALY	1	5	0	32	116	-84	2
SERBIA	0	6	0	10	102	-92	0

SHIELD	U19 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP						
	W	L	D	PF	PA	+/-	Pts
IRELAND	4	0	0	124	6	118	8
SERBIA	1	2	1	28	78	-50	3
ITALY	0	3	1	14	82	-68	1

### RESULTS

03 SEP 2022	ITA 0-22 FRA	Udine
03 SEP 2022	ENG 6-0 IRL	Udine
03 SEP 2022	WAL 10-0 SRB	Udine
03 SEP 2022	ITA 6-14 UKR	Udine
03 SEP 2022	IRL 0-24 FRA	Udine
03 SEP 2022	SRB 0-20 ENG	Udine
03 SEP 2022	WAL 24-0 ITA	Udine
03 SEP 2022	ENG 22-1 UKR	Udine
03 SEP 2022	SRB 0-24 IRL	Udine
03 SEP 2022	UKR 0-22 FRA	Udine
03 SEP 2022	ITA 4-18 ENG	Udine
03 SEP 2022	IRL 6-10 WAL	Udine
03 SEP 2022	SRB 0-2 UKR	Udine
03 SEP 2022	IRL 28-4 ITA	Udine
03 SEP 2022	WAL 0-2 FRA	Udine
03 SEP 2022	ITA 18-10 SRB	Udine
03 SEP 2022	UKR 0-16 WAL	Udine
03 SEP 2022	FRA 8-4 ENG	Udine
03 SEP 2022	UKR 12-10 IRL	Udine
03 SEP 2022	FRA 28-0 SRB	Udine
03 SEP 2022	ENG 16-4 WAL	Udine
06 SEP 2022	FRA 62-7 UKR (Semi Final 1)	Udine
06 SEP 2022	ENG 56-8 WAL (Semi Final 2)	Udine
06 SEP 2022	IRL 30-0 ITA (Shield Round 1)	Udine
06 SEP 2022	ITA 10-10 SRB (Shield Round 1)	Udine
06 SEP 2022	SRB 6-22 IRL (Shield Round 1)	Udine
10 SEP 2022	ITA 0-30 IRL (Shield Round 2)	Udine
10 SEP 2022	SRB 12-4 ITA (Shield Round 2)	Udine
10 SEP 2022	IRL 42-0 SRB (Shield Round 2)	Udine
10 SEP 2022	WAL 32-7 UKR (3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Game)	Udine
10 SEP 2022	FRA 12-14 ENG (Final)	Udine



## WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE CELTIC CUP



	W	L	D	PF	PA	+/-	Pts
WALES	2	0	0	180	28	152	4
IRELAND	1	1	0	60	99	-39	2
SCOTLAND	0	2	0	41	154	-113	0

### RESULTS

07 MAY 2022	IRL 22-64 WAL	Wrexham
07 MAY 2022	WAL 116-6 SCO	Wrexham
07 MAY 2022	IRL 38-35 SCO	Wrexham



## MEA CHAMPIONSHIP



	W	L	D	PF	PA	+/-	Pts
NIGERIA	2	0	0	66	6	60	4
GHANA	2	1	0	22	26	-4	2
CAMEROON	0	2	0	2	52	-52	0
KENYA	2	1	0	22	26	-4	2

### RESULTS

28 SEP 2022	GHA 26-06 KEN	Accra
28 SEP 2022	NIG 36-02 CAM	Accra
01 OCT 2022	CAM 00-16 KEN	Accra
01 OCT 2022	GHA 04-30 NIG	Accra



# INTERNATIONAL FIXTURES

Below is a list of all internationals with at least one ERL Member national team participating (excluding RLWC21) matches.

## SENIOR INTERNATIONALS

DATE	FIXTURE	CATEGORY	VENUE
16 APR	CANADA 42-10 USA	WOMEN	Brit.Columbia
14 MAY	MALTA 66-6 MONTENEGRO	MEN	Hamrun
5 JUN	SOUTH AFRICA 82-0 BRAZIL	MEN	Noosa
12 JUN	WALES 6-32 ENGLND	WOMEN	Crosskeys
18 JUN	IRELAND 52-22 WALES	WHEELCHAIR	Halifax
18 JUN	ENGLAND 36-10 FRANCE	WOMEN	Warrington
18 JUN	ENGLAND 18-4 COMBINED NATIONS ALL STARS	MEN	Warrington
19 JUN	ENGLAND 62-48 FRANCE	WHEELCHAIR	Manchester
19 JUN	FRANCE 34-10 WALES	MEN	Albi
22 JUN	LEBANON 30-14 MALTA	MEN	Sydney
3 SEP	FRANCE 108-4 SPAIN	WHEELCHAIR	Fitou
17 SEP	SPAIN 30-36 NETHERLANDS	MEN	Madrid
25 SEP	TURKEY 38-16 BULGARIA	MEN	Istanbul
1 OCT	FRANCE 6-18 ENGLAND KNIGHTS	MEN	Bordeaux
7 OCT	ENGLAND 50-0 FIJI	MEN	Salford
8 OCT	SCOTLAND 4-28 ENGLAND KNIGHTS	MEN	Edinburgh
8 OCT	IRELAND 52-67 SCOTLAND	WHEELCHAIR	Halifax
8 OCT	FRANCE 12-48 TONGA	MEN	Halifax
8 OCT	WALES 22-38 LEBANON	MEN	Sale
8 OCT	BULGARIA 6-50 MALTA	MEN	Sofia
8 OCT	NETHERLANDS 24-29 GERMANY	MEN	Voorschoton
9 OCT	EL SALVADOR 24-26 JAPAN	MEN	Malabar
23 OCT	PHILIPPINES 0-6 MALTA	WOMEN	Cabramatta
23 OCT	PHILIPPINES 32-22 MALTA	MEN	Cabramatta
25 OCT	CANADA 6-8 IRELAND	WOMEN	Orrel St James
27 OCT	ENGLAND KNIGHTS 14-24 COOK ISLANDS	WOMEN	Leeds
27 OCT	BRAZIL 4-16 FRANCE	WOMEN	Featherstone
29 OCT	WALES 38-86 AUSTRALIA	WHEELCHAIR	Cardiff
31 OCT	AUSTRALIA 129-1 SCOTLAND	WHEELCHAIR	Gillingham
12 NOV	POLAND 22-18 NORWAY	MEN	Ilford
26 NOV	SOUTH AFRICA 38-16 POLAND	MEN	Southport

# FINANCIAL REPORT

1. This report covers the year to 31st December 2022
2. A net profit of £4,774 for the year is reported as compared to a profit of £25,089 for 2021 and a budgeted loss of £52,238
3. The Accounts have been reviewed by Howard Matthews and they have reported that nothing has come to their attention that causes them to believe that the financial statements have not been prepared so as to give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2022
4. Total revenues were £327k as compared to a budget of £226k. The main variance was that we received circa £97k in contributions in respect of the U19 Competition
5. Member fees were reintroduced in 2021 and in 2022 realised £6k and are being collected on time.
6. Income from the RFL has reduced in recent years and was just over £10k in 2022.
7. Expenditure at £322k was higher than planned as a result of the costs associated the U19s competition
8. All the Staff costs lines are reported as lower than Budget and combined the staff costs were £147k and so £15k less than Budget
9. Compliance and delivery costs were £17k and so very close to the Budget spend of £16k.
10. Net assets increased by the surplus in the year from £320k to £324k and are represented by £208k in bank balances; £112k EU Accrued income with debtors and creditors accounting for the difference.
11. The EU balance has been carried forward once again. It is hoped that the matter will be resolved within the current financial year. If we receive more than £112k the extra amount will be taken to profit in the year but conversely if we receive less than this amount then the write down would be taken as a loss in the current year income statement.
12. Cash flow was satisfactory with combined balances of £209k at the year end. At the time of writing bank balances are at £141k. This represents around nine months current operating costs and with the current year funding not yet resolved from IRL measures are being taken to minimise short-term expenditure.

Nigel Hansford FCA

**ERL Finance Manager**

## European Rugby League Federation Ltd. Accounts

Year to 31 December 2022

Prepared by Howard Matthews of Queensgate House, 23 North Park Road, Harrogate, HG1 5PD

### Statement of financial position 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	6	129,508		125,666	
Cash at bank and in hand		208,951		217,236	
		<u>338,459</u>		<u>342,902</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	7	<u>(14,069)</u>		<u>(23,286)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			324,390		319,616
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			324,390		319,616
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>324,390</u>		<u>319,616</u>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>					
Profit and loss account			324,390		319,616
<b>Members funds</b>			<u>324,390</u>		<u>319,616</u>

The directors consider that the Company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and members have not required the Company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A - small entities. The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf.

**Tatiana Doncaster (Director)**

Director

# THE BOARD

At 31/12/2022

## DEAN ANDREW

Dean joined the Royal Air Force from school and achieved the rank of Air Commodore following a career based mainly overseas. His most recent appointment was as Deputy Commander NATO Air Command & USAF Command Vice in Afghanistan, where he acted as deputy commander for over 9,000 personnel from 41 nations. His love of rugby league began in his native city of Hull and was evidenced during his military career when elected president of both the Royal Air Force and UK Armed Forces Rugby League for almost two decades, which also included a leading role in the organisation of the 2013 Armed Forces Rugby League World Cup.

## MEMBER-ELECTED DIRECTOR



## TATIANA DONCASTER

Mahdi Tatiana is a chartered management accountant with extensive experience in transformative change in diverse industries and charities and is recognised as a mentor and successful business partner with global teams and high-level executives.

## INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR



## PAUL NICHOLSON

Paul Nicholson is a sports media specialist who has worked with several governing bodies and federations. He is currently the CEO of Insideworldfootball magazine. He worked with London Broncos in the early days of their set up and coached a development group in the community. Paul is a former international water polo player for Wales.

## INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR





### **RICHARD COLEMAN**

Paul Richard is CEO of a Sports Management Company in the UK and a highly experienced sports marketing and business advisor. He has personally brokered over \$100m of sponsorship in Formula 1, World Cycling, Cricket, Soccer, Snooker and other motor sports in a two-decade career which includes working in a range of industries working with leading global brands and rights holders.

### **INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR**



### **GUROL YILDIZ**

Gurol joined the board in January 2022 following the enlargement of the board, approved at the 2021 AGM. 2020. Born in Turkey, he and his parents emigrated to Australia when he was six months old but he returned to the country aged 27. He has overseen the growth of the Turkey's domestic competition which now sees men's, women's and youth sides playing.

### **MEMBER-ELECTED DIRECTOR**



### **ILEANA IACOPETTI**

Now retired, Ileana's career saw her working in clinical research within a cluster involving nine European nations where she managed the budgets, organising cluster meetings, lead on marketing and organising medical congresses and product launches. In Rugby League, she joined the board of the Italian Rugby League Federation as treasurer as well as supporting FIRL's national teams with hosting and travelling to games and tournaments.

### **MEMBER-ELECTED DIRECTOR**



### **BRIAN JULIFF**

Brian is a member elected director and joined the board in September 2020. Now Chairman of Wales Rugby League, he made 8 appearances for Wales between 1979 and 1985 in a career spanning 270 professional Rugby League appearances for clubs including Wakefield Trinity, Wigan, Castleford and Halifax, with whom he was a Challenge Cup winner in 1987. Professionally Brian is a business and management consultant.

### **MEMBER-ELECTED DIRECTOR**



### **ALISON O'BRIEN**

Currently Director of Insight & Customer at the Rugby Football League, Alison represents the Rugby Football League on the board of ERL, having worked for the governing body in England since 2015. Prior to joining the RFL, Alison worked in insight and strategy roles with major FMCG companies and food retailers in the UK.

### **RFL DIRECTOR**



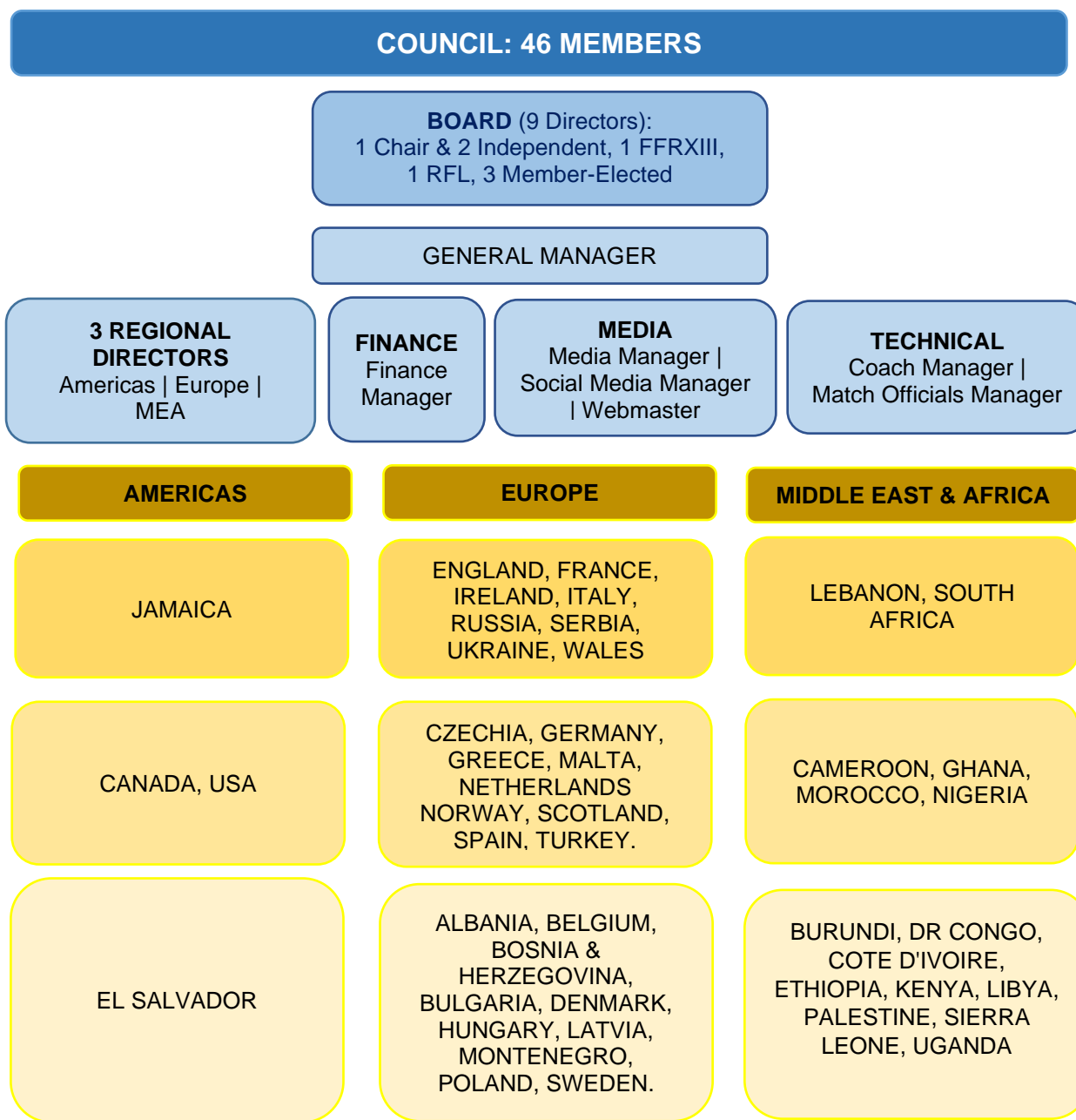
### **LUC LACOSTE**

Elected president of FFRXIII in December 2020 with a landslide vote, Luc simultaneously joined the ERL Board. A native of Bordeaux, but resident in Paris for over 25 years having spent 4 years in London as a student, Luc's business interests previously included being CEO of a major car parts company which was sold in 2008 and since then he has focused on investment works. Luc is an ERL representative on the IRL Board.

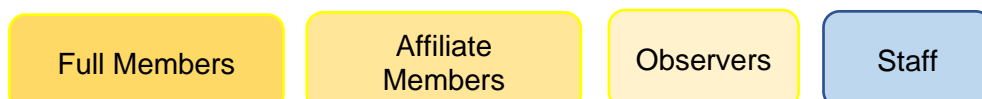
### **FFRXIII DIRECTOR**



# APPENDIX 1: ERL ORGANISATION



## KEY:



# APPENDIX 2: DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

## EUROPE DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEMBER	LEVEL	Sr. LEAGUE [teams] CHAMPIONS	2 <sup>ND</sup> DIVISION* [teams]	Jr. LEAGUE [teams]
<b>ENGLAND</b> <b>2022</b>	FULL	Super League XXVII [12] St. Helens	Championship [14] Leigh	Multiple
<b>FRANCE</b> <b>2021-22</b>	FULL	Elite 1 [10] AS Carcassonne	Elite 2 [10] Baroudeurs de Pia XIII	Multiple
<b>IRELAND</b> <b>2022</b>	FULL	All Ireland Championships [6] Dublin City Exiles	N/A	N/A
<b>ITALY</b> <b>2022</b>	FULL	-	-	-
<b>RUSSIA</b> <b>2022</b>	FULL	Championship [N/A] Vereya	-	-
<b>SERBIA</b> <b>2022</b>	FULL	Championship [4] RLC Red Star Belgrade	2 <sup>nd</sup> Division [4] RLC Dorcol Tigers	U19 [4]
<b>UKRAINE</b> <b>2022</b>	FULL	No due Russian aggression and war	No due Russian aggression and war	No due Russian aggression and war
<b>WALES</b> <b>2022</b>	FULL	Championship [6] Rhondda Outlaws	-	Multiple
<b>CZECH R.</b> <b>2022</b>	AFFILIATE	First Division [5] Vrchlabi	-	-
<b>GERMANY</b> <b>2022</b>	AFFILIATE	Championship [4] Munich Trout	-	-
<b>GREECE</b> <b>2021-2022</b>	AFFILIATE	Championship [N/A] Rhodes Knights	-	-
<b>MALTA</b> <b>2022</b>	AFFILIATE	-	-	-
<b>NETHERLANDS</b> <b>2022</b>	AFFILIATE	Championship [5] Zwolle Wolves	-	-
<b>NORWAY</b> <b>2022</b>	AFFILIATE	Championship [6] Lillestrom Lions	-	-

<b>SCOTLAND</b> <b>2022</b>	AFFILIATE	Championship [5] Forth Valley Vik.	-	-
<b>SPAIN</b> <b>2022</b>	AFFILIATE	-	-	-
<b>TURKEY</b> <b>2022</b>	AFFILIATE	Championship [6] Bilgi Badgers	-	-

## AMERICAS DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEMBER	LEVEL	Sr. LEAGUE [teams] CHAMPIONS	2 <sup>ND</sup> DIVISION* [teams]	Jr. LEAGUE [teams]
<b>CANADA</b> <b>2022</b>	AFFILIATE	Men's Championship [6] West Men Women's Championship [0] West Women	-	-
<b>JAMAICA</b> <b>2022</b>	FULL	National Club Championship [8] Duhaney Park Re Sharks Women's 9s [4] Reds	Div. 2 : [8] Duhaney Park Firestorms	U19s : [8] Portmore RL
<b>EL SALVADOR</b> <b>2022</b>	OBSERVER	-	-	-
<b>USA</b> <b>2022</b>	AFFILIATE	National Championship [6] Jacksonville Women's Championship [0]	-	-

## MEA DOMESTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEMBER	LEVEL	Sr. LEAGUE [teams] CHAMPIONS	2 <sup>ND</sup> DIVISION* [teams]	Jr. LEAGUE [teams]
<b>BURUNDI</b> <b>2022</b>	OBSERVER	Men's Championship [4] - XIII Des Gorilles RL Women's Championship [12] -XIII des Gorilles WRL Karusi	-	-
<b>CAMEROON</b> <b>2022</b>	AFFILIATE	National Championship [8] Bull RL Women's Championship [6]	-	U17 [5] Gorila RL

<b>DR CONGO 2022</b>	OBSERVER	Raiders RL		
		National Championship [0]	-	-
		-		
		Women's Championship [0]		
<b>GHANA 2022</b>	AFFILIATE	-		
		Ghana Rugby League	-	U16 [4]
		Championship [7]		Firm Foundation
		- Ghana Skolars RLFC		
<b>MOROCCO 2022</b>	AFFILIATE	Ghana Women's Championship [2]		
		- Giwa Mc Neil		
		National Championship [0]	-	-
		-		
<b>NIGERIA 2022</b>	AFFILIATE	National Championship [9]	-	- North youth U19s [4]
		- Kano Lions		Kano Lions
		Women's Championship [3]		- North Schools girls
		-Lagos Haven		College Goron Dutse
<b>LEBANON 2022</b>	FULL	-North School boys		Aminu Kano Community College
		Lebanon Rugby League [4]	Colligate Div 1. [0]	-
		Wolves RLFC	Colligate Div 2. [0]	
<b>KENYA 2022</b>	OBSERVER	National Championship [4]	-	-
		- Winam		
		Women's Championship [0]		
		-		
<b>UGANDA 2022</b>	OBERVER	National Championship [0]-	-	-
		Women's Championship [0]		
		-		
<b>SOUTH AFRICA 2022</b>	FULL	National Championship [9]	-	Pretoria Cup [4]
		- Pretoria RLC	-	Centurian Lions RLC
		Jan Prinslo Cup [5]		Youth
		GauyengCowboys		- Harlequins Pretoria RLC
		Women's Championship [3]		
		-Harlequins Pretoria RLC		
		Pink		