UAE Rugby

Magazine

2026

2ND VERSION





APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2026

News • Updates • Results • Highlights

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UAE RUGBY FEDERATION

12TH JUNE 2026

UAERF HOSTS ANTI-DOPING AWARENESS COURSE FOR THE NATIONAL TEAMS





In collaboration with the UAE National Anti-Doping Agency, the UAE Rugby Federation (UAERF) recently hosted a specialized anti-doping awareness course for its national teams at The Sevens Stadium.

Led by Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim Ali, Chief Doping Control Officer, the session educated men's, women's, and youth players on the latest international regulations, testing procedures, and the vital importance of verifying medications and nutritional supplements to avoid accidental violations. National coaches Philadelphia Olando and Youssef Shaker were also in attendance.

> THE FEDERATION'S COMMITMENT TO WORLD RUGBY'S CORE VALUES OF RESPECT, DISCIPLINE, AND INTEGRITY, ENSURING ALL ATHLETES ARE FULLY EQUIPPED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO MAKE SAFE DECISIONS AND CHAMPION CLEAN SPORT ON THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL STAGE.
>
> — MOHAMED SULTAN AL ZAABI, SECRETARY-GENERAL
> UAE RUGBY FEDERATION

2ND JULY 2026



UAERF'S 'RUGBY RISE ROAD' REACHES TANZANIA

The UAE Rugby Federation's 'Road to Rugby Rise' (RRR) initiative recently expanded to Tanzania, led by UAE Women's National Team Coach, Philadelphia. The visit focused on nurturing local talent, training coaches, and providing essential equipment to drive sustainable rugby growth. This milestone is part of a broader RRR campaign across Asia and Africa.

> 'RRR REFLECTS OUR COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING EMERGING NATIONS BY INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL AND BUILDING TECHNICAL CAPACITY, SOLIDIFYING THE UAE AS A VITAL PARTNER IN GLOBAL RUGBY DEVELOPMENT.'
>
> FAWZIA FARIDOON
> UAERF BOARD MEMBER AND RRR COMMITTEE CHAIR,

UAE RUGBY FEDERATION

3RD JULY 2026

ASIA RUGBY ASSEMBLY UNVEILS WEST ASIA ASSOCIATION



Chaired by Qais Al Dhalai, the Asia Rugby General Assembly announced landmark decisions to accelerate the sport's continental growth.

Birth of the West Asia Association

A major outcome was the official establishment of the West Asia Rugby Association. Comprising 11 nations, it is now the largest regional rugby grouping in Asia. This new entity aims to boost local competition and reduce travel costs, with its first regional tournament expected before the end of the year.

GCC Roster Completed

With the official formation of the Kuwait Rugby Committee, all six GCC nations are now represented. Kuwait's upcoming Asia Rugby membership will raise the total to 37 countries, paving the way for official Gulf tournaments.

Innovative Competitions

The inaugural Asian Rugby Sevens Club Championship has been rescheduled to late October to secure elite club participation. Meanwhile, Oman is finalizing an agreement to host the Asia Rugby Sevens Trophy (Tier 2) for a second consecutive year.

Excellence in Governance

A first-of-its-kind performance survey yielded a strong 8/10 approval rating from 34 national unions. This score reflects high confidence in the leadership and strategic frameworks, cementing the continent's growing global stature.

13TH JULY 2026

UAERF JOINS "DUBAI MALLATHON" TO PROMOTE ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

The UAE Rugby Federation recently participated in the second edition of the "Dubai Mallathon," a pioneering community sports initiative directed by H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai.

Running until September 15, the global-first initiative provides a safe, air-conditioned environment for walking and running across six major shopping centers, including Dubai Mall and Mall of the Emirates.



UAE RUGBY FEDERATION

13TH JULY 2026

UAE MEN'S RUGBY DRAWN IN GROUP C FOR 2026 ASIAN GAMES

23RD JULY 2026



The UAE Men's National Rugby Sevens team has been drawn into Group C alongside Sri Lanka, Singapore, and the Philippines for the 20th Asian Games, taking place in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, in late 2026.

In the rest of the men's draw, Group A features Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, and Uzbekistan, while Group B includes Japan, Thailand, Korea, and Kazakhstan. The eight-team women's competition places Japan, Thailand, Kazakhstan, and Singapore in Group A, with China, Hong Kong, India, and Malaysia in Group B.

H.E. Qais Al Dhalai, President of Asia Rugby, highlighted the sport's rapid continental growth, noting the impressive 20-team lineup. Celebrating a strong 28-year partnership with the Olympic Council of Asia, he emphasized that while official rankings ensured a fair draw, the ultimate outcome will be decided by the teams' performances on the pitch.





UAE RUGBY FEDERATION

26TH JULY 2026

AL DHALAI DISCUSSES ASIAN RUGBY'S FUTURE IN CHINA



Asia Rugby President Qais Al Dhalai recently visited Beijing to discuss the sport's regional growth with top officials, including Tong Lixin, Deputy Minister of Sport.

Key meetings with the Chinese Rugby Football Association focused on finalizing preparations for the first leg of the Emirates Asia Rugby Sevens Series, set to feature 24 elite teams in China this August.

Expanding its role as a regional hub, China will also host Asia's second elite match officials camp next month and the Asia Rugby U18 Sevens Championship in October. Praising the nation's organizational capabilities.

> 'CHINA REPRESENTS A VITAL ADDITION TO THE PROGRESSION OF RUGBY IN ASIA, ALIGNING PERFECTLY WITH OUR STRATEGIC VISION.'
>
> — H.E. QAIS ALDHALAI, PRESIDENT
> ASIA RUGBY

30TH JULY 2026

UAERF PARTNERS WITH EMIRATI BRAND MAUL AS OFFICIAL GEAR SUPPLIER





The UAE Rugby Federation (UAERF) has announced a strategic partnership with MAUL, a prominent Emirati sports manufacturer, designating the brand as the exclusive supplier of rugby balls, travel, and training bags for all of its high-performance and development programs.

Formalized in Dubai by UAERF Board Member Saud Al Nuaimi and MAUL owner Dr. Abdulrahman Kazim, the collaboration underscores the Federation's commitment to empowering local businesses and equipping athletes with top-tier gear.

> "WE ARE PLEASED TO SUPPORT LOCAL EMIRATI BUSINESSES, AND SEEING MAUL AS OUR OFFICIAL PARTNER FULFILLS OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES,"
>
> — SAUD ALNUAIMI, BOARD MEMBER
> UAE RUGBY FEDERATION

UAE RUGBY FEDERATION

25TH AUGUST 2026

UAE RUGBY FEDERATION PARTNERS WITH HAMILTON SPORTS SCIENCE



The UAE Rugby Federation and Hamilton Sports Science have signed a two-year sponsorship and performance partnership aimed at enhancing the physical readiness, physiological monitoring, and overall performance of the UAE national rugby teams.

Under the partnership, Hamilton Sports Science will provide tailored strength and conditioning programmes through a smart application, regular performance assessments, and quarterly monitoring of body composition and hydration levels. The partnership will also include workshops covering nutrition, recovery, and injury prevention, alongside individual nutritional assessments and competition-week nutrition protocols.

> "PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AND HIGH-PERFORMANCE READINESS ARE KEY PILLARS OF THE FUTURE OF UAE RUGBY. THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH SPECIALISED ORGANISATIONS, WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OUR ATHLETES WITH THE BEST RESOURCES TO REACH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF PREPARATION AND PERFORMANCE."
>
> — SAUD ALNUAIMI, BOARD MEMBER
> UAE RUGBY FEDERATION

30TH AUGUST 2026

UAE RUGBY TEAMS COMPLETE ROUND 1 IN SUZHOU





The UAE Men's Rugby Sevens team finished 6th, while the Women's team placed 7th in Round 1 of the Asia Rugby Emirates Sevens Series 2026, held in Suzhou, China.

The Men's team finished second in their pool, securing impressive wins over Singapore (31–12) and India (35–14). After a closely contested quarter-final against Korea, the team defeated Malaysia before finishing 6th following a narrow loss to Thailand.
The Women's team recorded wins over Iran (20–0) and Uzbekistan (22–5), finishing 7th overall after the placement matches.

> "ALTHOUGH SIXTH AND SEVENTH WERE NOT THE POSITIONS WE CAME FOR, WE TAKE AWAY MANY POSITIVES AND VALUABLE TECHNICAL LESSONS THAT WE WILL WORK TO BUILD ON. THE SECOND ROUND IN COLOMBO PRESENTS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE OUR STANDINGS, AND OUR GOAL IS TO FINISH THE ASIA RUGBY SERIES ON A STRONGER NOTE."
>
> MOHAMMED SULTAN AL ZAABI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UAE RUGBY FEDERATION AND HEAD OF DELEGATION,

UAE RUGBY FEDERATION

14TH SEPTEMBER 2026

UAE RUGBY PLAYERS TAKE PART IN “HER VOICE ON AND OFF THE FIELD” WORKSHOP

Female athletes from the UAE Rugby Federation participated in the “Her Voice On and Off the Field” workshop, organised by the UAE Olympic Committee’s Gender Equality Committee.

Led by Dr Noura Sultan Al Marzouqi, the sessions focused on developing communication, public-speaking and media engagement skills, while empowering women to strengthen their voice and influential role across the sports sector.

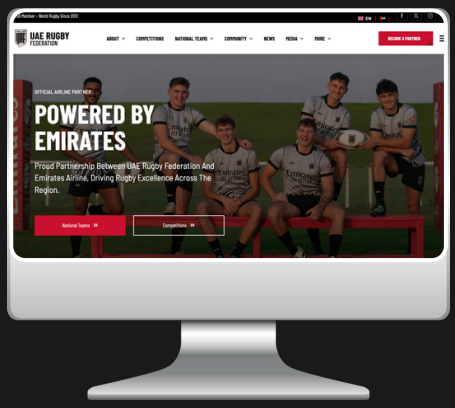
The initiative highlighted the importance of supporting female athletes and sports professionals to confidently represent themselves, their teams and their organisations both on and off the field. 🇦🇪🏉






12TH SEPTEMBER 2026

UAERF LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE AND ONLINE SHOP



The UAE Rugby Federation has officially launched its brand-new website, featuring a completely redesigned look and a more modern, user-friendly experience for players, fans and the rugby community.

Alongside the new website, the IPU Webshop is now available, giving fans the opportunity to purchase official UAE National Team kits, training and supporter wear, and rugby merchandise online.



UAE U18 MEN CROWNED ASIAN CHAMPIONS

The UAE U18 Men's Sevens team were crowned Asian Champions in Qingdao, China, after defeating Hong Kong 26–0 in the final to secure the title for the third time.
The UAE completed an unbeaten campaign, defeating Kazakhstan, Chinese Taipei, Uzbekistan and China in the pool stage, followed by a 17–5 semi-final victory over Malaysia before their dominant final win, While UAE U18 Women's team finished 5th overall after three consecutive wins in 2021, 2022 and 2023.



The latest title adds to previous Asian Championship victories in 2023 and 2024.

> "OUR PLAYERS SHOWED TRUE CHAMPIONS' CHARACTER, WINNING EVERY MATCH AND DISPLAYING STRONG PERFORMANCES AND FIGHTING SPIRIT. WE ARE PROUD OF THIS GENERATION AND BELIEVE THESE PLAYERS WILL BECOME AN IMPORTANT FOUNDATION FOR THE SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM IN THE FUTURE."
>
> MOHAMMED SULTAN AL ZAABI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UAE RUGBY FEDERATION AND HEAD OF DELEGATION,

ELLE PRESTON: A RISING STAR



At just 16, Elle Preston is already making an impact beyond the U18 level. The talented Prop has represented the UAE U18 Women's team while also earning opportunities with the UAE Senior Women's National Team in the Asia Rugby Sevens Series 2026.
Known for her strength, resilience and determination, Elle's progression reflects the UAE Rugby Federation's pathway for developing young talent and preparing the next generation for senior international rugby