



FRIENDS OF RWANDAN RUGBY NEWSLETTER MAY 2024 – INTRODUCING T1 RUGBY TO RWANDA



In 2024 we applied to World Rugby for a grant to introduce T1 rugby to Rwanda. We find that primary school children always love playing tag rugby but when our RDOs coach contact rugby in secondary schools, there is a drop off – especially with girls. One solution is to continue with tag rugby or to play touch rugby but the new game from World Rugby, T1, looked like a much better solution.

On May 24th 18 volunteers from FoRR travelled to Rwanda for our annual Rugby Foundations tour where we introduce rugby to a district in Rwanda where there is no RDO or rugby taking place.



In Musanze district we spent four mornings working with hundreds of pupils from four local primary schools. Most of the children had never seen a rugby ball before but they quickly learned the game of tag rugby and by the 5th day we had 8 teams ready to play in a tag rugby tournament.

In the afternoons, we ran T1 Rugby sessions led by one of our volunteers, Cliff. Street. T1 is a new game that has been introduced by World Rugby and the funding we received was used to deliver training of trainers’ sessions to our 18 RDOs so they can introduce T1 to their schools, communities and clubs across Rwanda. We worked with 2 secondary schools so the RDOs could practice their newly acquired skills and teach T1. Huge thanks to Cliff for the training and Dave Reynish from Rhino Rugby for providing our RDOs with their T1 coaching shirts.

We started by watching the T1 videos from World Rugby.



Then lots of practical sessions to learn the game.





On our final day in Musanze, after the tag rugby tournament with the younger children, we played Rwanda's first T1 match between two teams from local secondary schools. Our RDOs and volunteers also played a demonstration match which was very competitive.



Local sports association representative presenting the first ever T1 trophy in Rwanda to the winning secondary school and the second trophy to RDO Yvette, captain of the team at Musanze stadium.



Our RDOs have been coaching T1 in their communities for 2 months now. It is proving very popular

Kamanda – Program Manager, “I like T1 because it will help more people of all ages to play rugby and be safe.”

Aisha – RDO Rusizi “ I really love T1, it is easy for me to teach. Students like it – especially girls because it is non contact and they come without fear. Because of T1, I have many girls coming to practice.”

Emmanuel RDO Kirehe, “People like it because every category they can play together. The girls say it is fantastic.”

Joseph – RDO Ruhango, “T1 rugby helps different categories of people. It helps people who have fear for contact game and helps big people to do sport. It is very fun for all.”

Ernestine RDO Gasabo “it helps people that fear the contact game like women and old people.”

Martin – RDO Kayonza “ T1 is very important, everyone enjoyed and no accidents on the pitch.”

A big thank you to World Rugby for funding this project, to Cliff Street our volunteer trainer, to the Rwanda Rugby Federation for their support and of course to our wonderful RDOs who are taking T1 in Rwanda to another level. Watch this space....!

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