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RUGBY ONTARIO ANNOUNCES DETAILS SURROUNDING 2014 ONTARIO SUMMER GAMES

Top young male and female rugby sevens players from Ontario's four branch unions will be showcased at August's Ontario Summer Games, hosted by Windsor, Ont.

(TORONTO, ON) – With the 2014 Ontario Summer Games less than 100 days away, Rugby Ontario is pleased to provide details surrounding the Windsor-hosted Games, as well as its rugby event.

Held from Aug. 7-10, the 2014 Ontario Summer Games will feature rugby sevens as its rugby sport format. The Games used to feature 15-a-side and 10-a-side rugby formats for its rugby event, however after the 2009 decision to include rugby sevens into the 2016 Olympic Games, the Games changed their format to rugby sevens in order to better align the sport.

The administrative arm of the rugby event is driven by Sport Alliance Ontario, with Rugby Ontario providing technical guidance, and Southwest Rugby and Windsor Rogues helping to roll the event out.

With the Ontario Summer Games serving as Ontario's premier domestic junior sevens competition, each of the four branch unions – Eastern Ontario Rugby Union, Niagara Rugby Union, Southwest Rugby, and Toronto Rugby – will be entering two Under-17 women's sides and two Under-17 men's sides into the competition.

"The 2014 Ontario Summer Games will give elite rugby players from regions across the province the chance to test their skills against top tier competition," said Andrew Backer, Executive Director of Rugby Ontario. "It's a great opportunity for many young athletes to compete at the highest level within Ontario, in a sport that will soon be featured on the world stage at the 2015 Pan Am Games and the 2016 Olympic Games."

The rugby event will be played over the two-day span of Aug. 8-9 at Windsor's AKO Park and W. F. Herman Secondary School, with the former also serving the home park of the local Windsor Rogues Rugby Football Club.

The Games, along with the 15-a-side Rugby Canada National Championship Festival being held in Calgary from Aug. 5-10, will ensure August is a busy month for the best youth rugby players in Ontario.

Rugby Ontario is happy to support and promote its four branch unions as they take the lead on building their rugby programs for the 2014 Ontario Summer Games. Many of the branch



unions have already begun hosting trials as they prepare for the Games, and if there are any interested athletes wanting to represent their region at the Games, Rugby Ontario urges them to reach out to their respective branch union. Contact information is listed below.

Rugby Ontario expects the 2014 Ontario Summer Games to showcase the fantastic talent Ontario's young male and female rugby players possess.

The schedule for the 2014 Ontario Summer Games rugby event will be released in the coming months.

Branch Union Contact Information:

Eastern Ontario Rugby Union: Steve MacNeil – president@eorugby.com

Niagara Rugby Union: Caitlin McCarthy – caitlinalicemccarthy@gmail.com

Southwest Rugby: Dean Meloche – deanmeloche@hotmail.com

Toronto Rugby: Jon Grant – grantjn@gmail.com

About Ontario Summer Games:

The Ontario Games Program includes five multi-sport Games that provide athletes of all ages, from all regions of Ontario the chance to compete against their fellow provincial athletes. The Ontario Games Program gives participants, communities, volunteers and everyone a chance to celebrate sport in Ontario.

The Games Program started in 1970 in Etobicoke with the Ontario Winter Games, which was followed by the introduction of the Ontario Summer Games in 1973 in Oshawa. The Ontario ParaSport Summer Games began in 1975 in Cambridge, with the Winter Games included in the Games Program in 2006 in Huntsville. The 55+ Games Summer Games started in 1986 in Kitchener and the inclusion of the Winter Games was not until 2000 in Collingwood.

The 2014 Ontario Summer Games is set to feature 20 sports.

For more information, visit <http://osgwindsor.com/>

About Rugby Ontario:

Rugby Ontario is the provincial sports governing body responsible for the organization of rugby in Ontario. Our mission is to promote, govern, and develop rugby at all levels in a safe, affordable and enjoyable environment within the province of Ontario.

For more information, visit <http://www.rugbyontario.com/>



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