



Trinidad and Tobago Rugby Union

TTRU

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January 2, 2024

Mr. George Nicholson
Event Manager
Grenada Rugby World 7s

Dear Mr. Nicholson,

Trinidad and Tobago Rugby were delighted to sign off 2023 with a massive splash at the Grenada Rugby World 7s Tournament. Remembering its origins in Trinidad and Tobago, we are pleased to see the tournament gaining momentum as a catalyst for competition in the Caribbean. The GRW 7s meets a specific demand that is imperative to the impactful development of Caribbean Rugby.

In 2023, international teams from Canada, the United States of America (USA) and the United Kingdom were met by a formidable Caribbean contingent. It was exciting to be present as the home team, Grenada Greenz, officially debuted in international competition as they welcomed 16 Men's and Women's Teams. The Trinidad and Tobago Rugby community was eager to pack a carry-on and support, marking milestones of its own as it did so!

Iere Bellaforma emerged as a new independent touring team providing another level of competition for Trinbagonian athletes. The Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force added the GRW 7s to their regional touring calendar; their self-investment evident as they were dominant in our local 7s series.

The Caribbean Queens, another breakthrough team, showcased the combined talent of Caribbean Women in Rugby. This inaugural team proudly carried the flags of St. Lucia, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago - with local legends Onica George, Nicolette Pantor, Fayola Jack and Kathleen Stephen. Keeping with the collaborative trend, Trinidad and Tobago athletes donned the team jerseys of Find Rugby Now - Leah Kintiba and Blossom Stewart, the newly formed Maroons Rugby 7s Club - Andrew Quash, Jonathan Blackburn and Kelvis Figaro, and the Misfits, who came away with the 2nd place finish - James Phillip, Shakeel Dyte, and Richard Staglon. While the Trinidad & Tobago Rugby Union (TTRU) did not enter a National Team, our athletes benefited from the opportunity to showcase their skills and enhance their portfolios. Their development is, of course, a shared objective with mutual rewards for the Union.

We note with appreciation, the stalwarts of the tournament who have been keeping the wheels turning behind the scenes - balancing the feat of tournament organisation and enjoyment, a talent at which Ruggers are keenly adept! Particularly close to the heart of TT Rugby, the memory of Gavin Clark, a past President and outstanding member of the TTRU, was again honoured through the Charity Golf Tournament which joined a weeklong slew of activities.

Among the familiar bevy of referees who traveled to the tournament in migratory fashion, Kanisha Vincent continued to make the TTRU proud as she took on that job of jobs, adding an Olympian to the list of incredible athletes who have called her Referee. Game time is as important for referees as it is for athletes and we were pleased to see that another Caribbean Referee, Chantel John, from St. Lucia, also made the roster.

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We noted the success of partnerships between Grenada's Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, their Tourism Authority, and growing Rugby Union. The tournament also presented an opportunity for Union Presidents from Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago to continue discussions on regional development.

The TTRU looks forward to continuing to grow its patronage of the GRW 7s and to inviting our key stakeholders to explore similar ventures.

For the Trinidad and Tobago spectators who supported in their numbers, it was a treat to attend an international tournament as a fan seeing so many of our athletes on the pitch! Clubs like Royalians and Caribs came out in full support of their representing athletes. Our gracious hosts highlighted Grenada culture which added to our experience in the Spice Isle! In all capacities, the rugby vibe fostered an international bonding experience and chance to share camaraderie with our neighbours!

Our gratitude is extended to you and your Organizing Committee for your continued contributions to Caribbean Rugby.

Yours sincerely,
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO RUGBY UNION



Maria Thomas
President

c. c. Mr. Brian Stollmeyer, General Manager, Grenada Rugby World 7s

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