



The structure and format of the Rugby Europe International Championships

Executive Summary

Rugby Europe Congress
London, July 2015

INTRODUCTION

- From FIRA to FIRA-AER and to Rugby Europe - Rugby Europe has changed
- New era! New challenges!
- In 2014, we commissioned first ever competitions review
- Objective: streamlined, simple, meaningful format
- Review process now reached final stages:
 - For approval by Congress today
 - For implementation starting from 2016

BASIC PRINCIPLE

“Rugby Europe must provide its member Unions with competitions which are commensurate with their Development and Performance objectives and capabilities.”

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Any team can reach top level in one RWC/Olympic cycle
- Consistency across competitions - Men & Women, 15s & 7s, Adult & Age Grade
- All RE competitions must have an annual winner with promotion/relegation
- Easy to promote and market
- Maximise financial & broadcasting potential
- Match best-practice elsewhere
- Meaningful, simple & consistent structure & naming

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Time for Unions' movement to the next level reduced by half
 - Fewer levels
 - Annual promotion & relegation
- Rugby Europe offers all member Unions access to all its Competitions
- Men & Women; 15s & 7s - Senior, U20 & U18
- All competitions have an Annual Champion
- Headline title for whole structure: **Rugby Europe International Championships**
- Consistent naming for competitions across the structure
- Comprehensive Communications programme to increase the visibility & value of RE properties

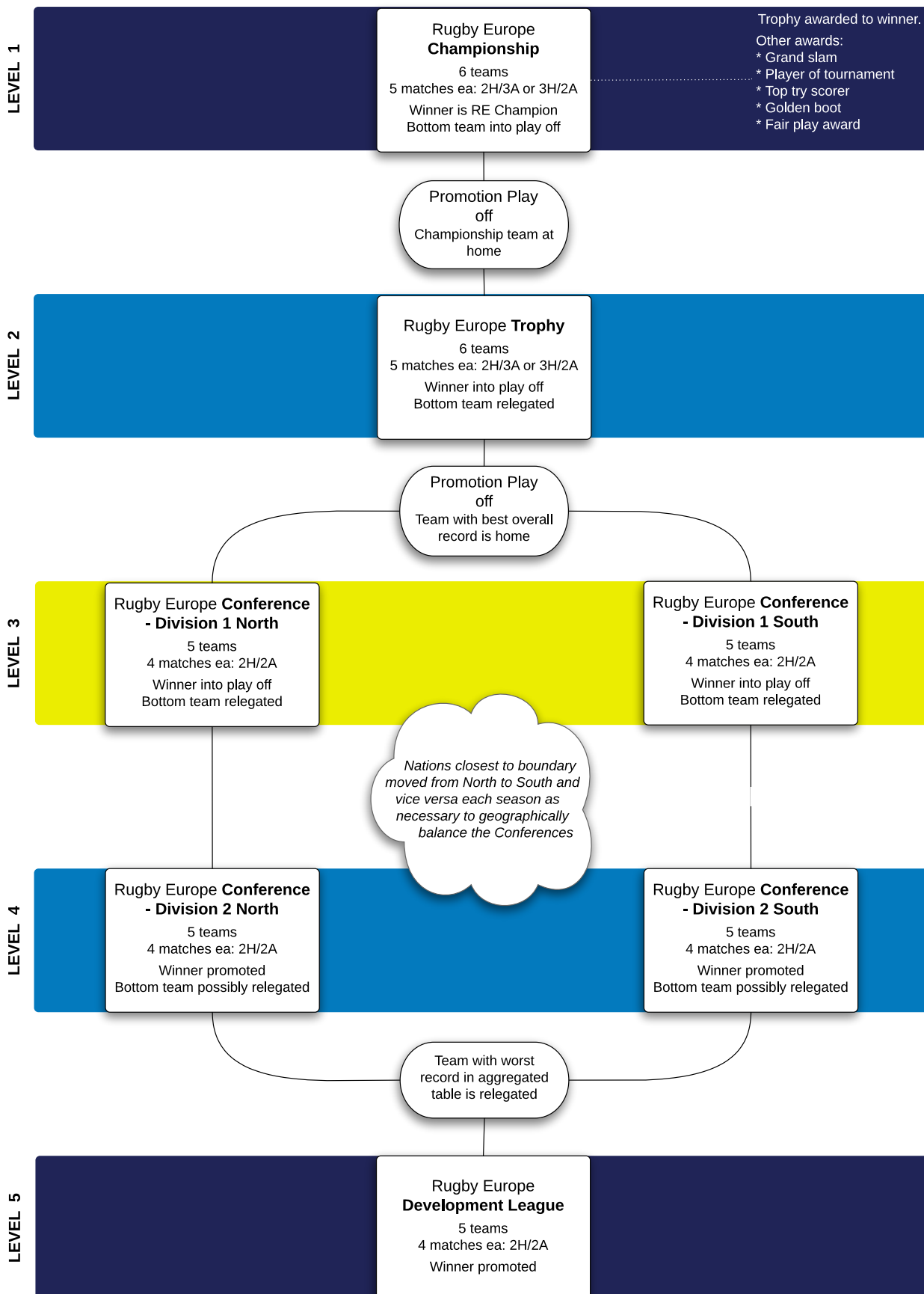
SEE OVERLEAF FOR DETAILED STRUCTURE OF EACH COMPETITION



Rugby Europe International Championships

Adult Male - XV-a-side

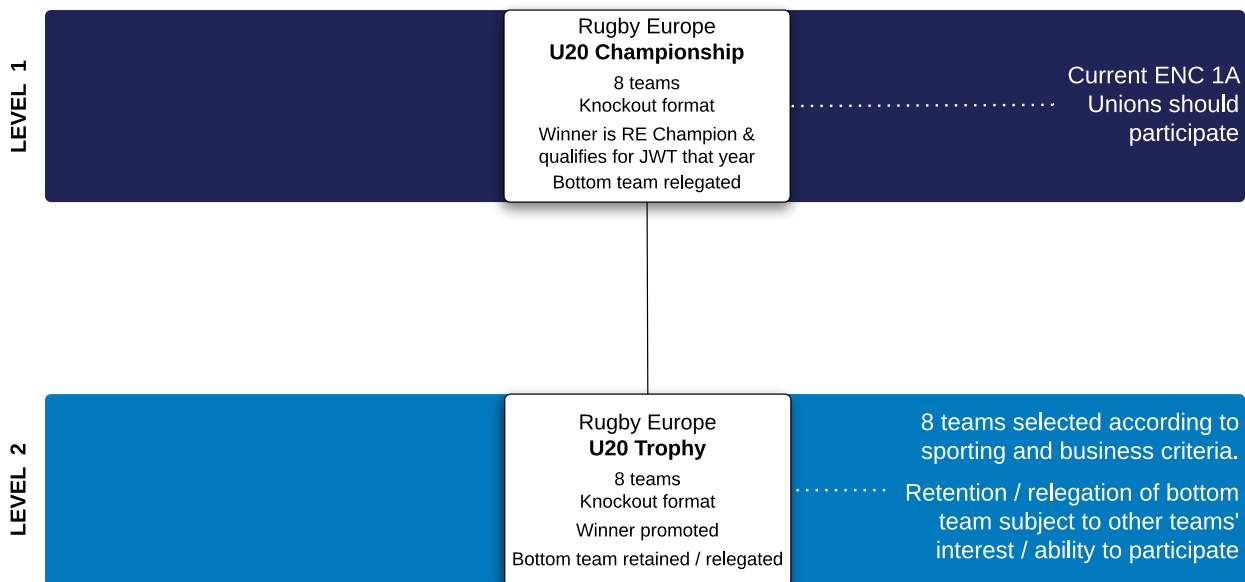
(Played over 1 year - league format)





Rugby Europe International Championships Under 20 - XV-a-side

(Tournaments in March / April each year)

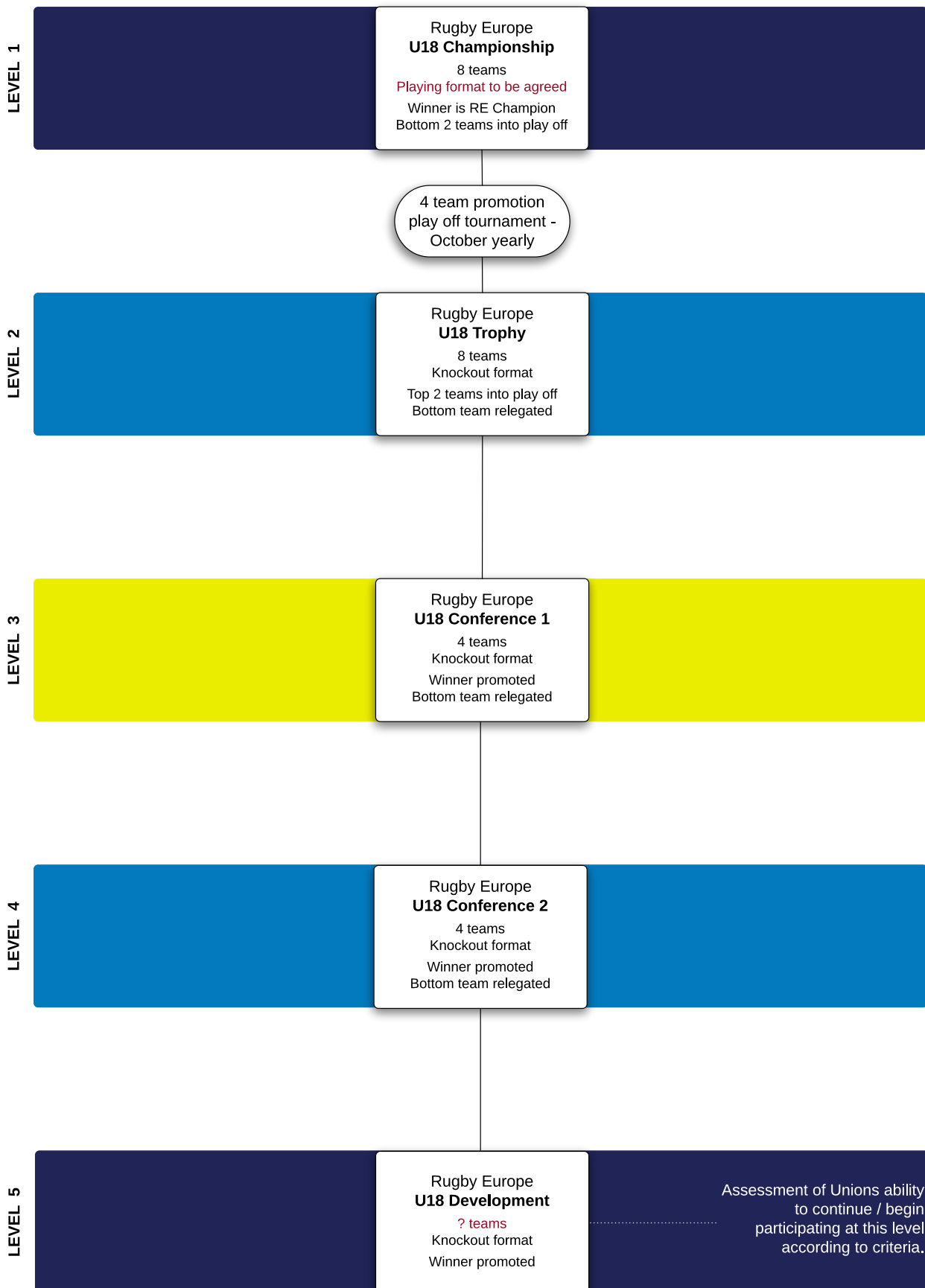


NOTE:
This recommended format is subject to World Rugby agreeing to move the date of the Junior World Trophy to later in the year. Otherwise, this will stay as an U19 tournament played in the Autumn.



Rugby Europe International Championships Under 18 - XV-a-side

(Tournaments in April each year)





Rugby Europe International Championships Adult Female - XV-a-side

LEVEL 1

Rugby Europe
Women's Championship
4 - 8 teams
League Format

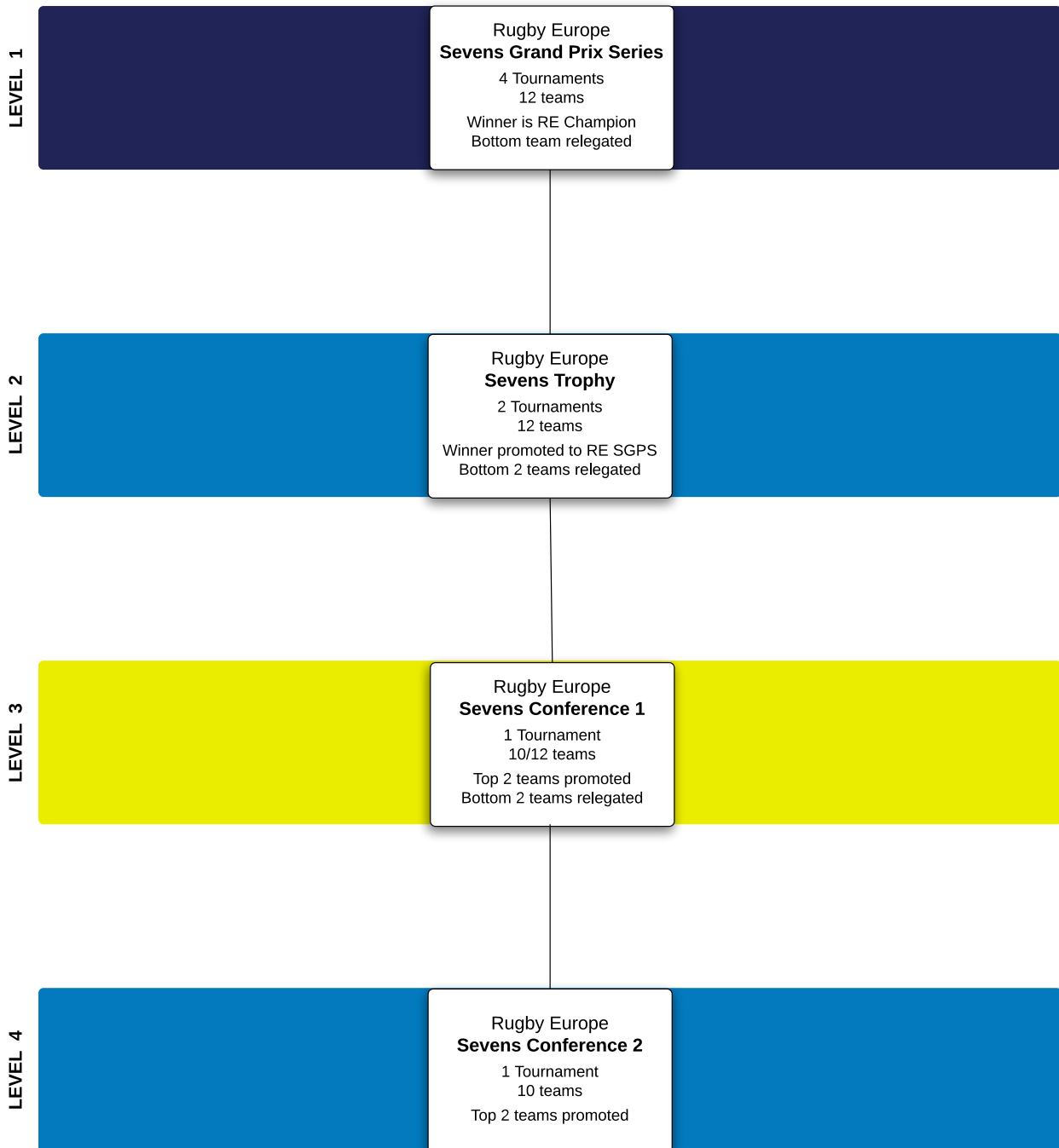
NOTE:

*There are no current RE Women's
Age Grade tournaments.*

*We are currently surveying interest in
either an U18 or U20 women's
tournament to include the
6-Nations.*

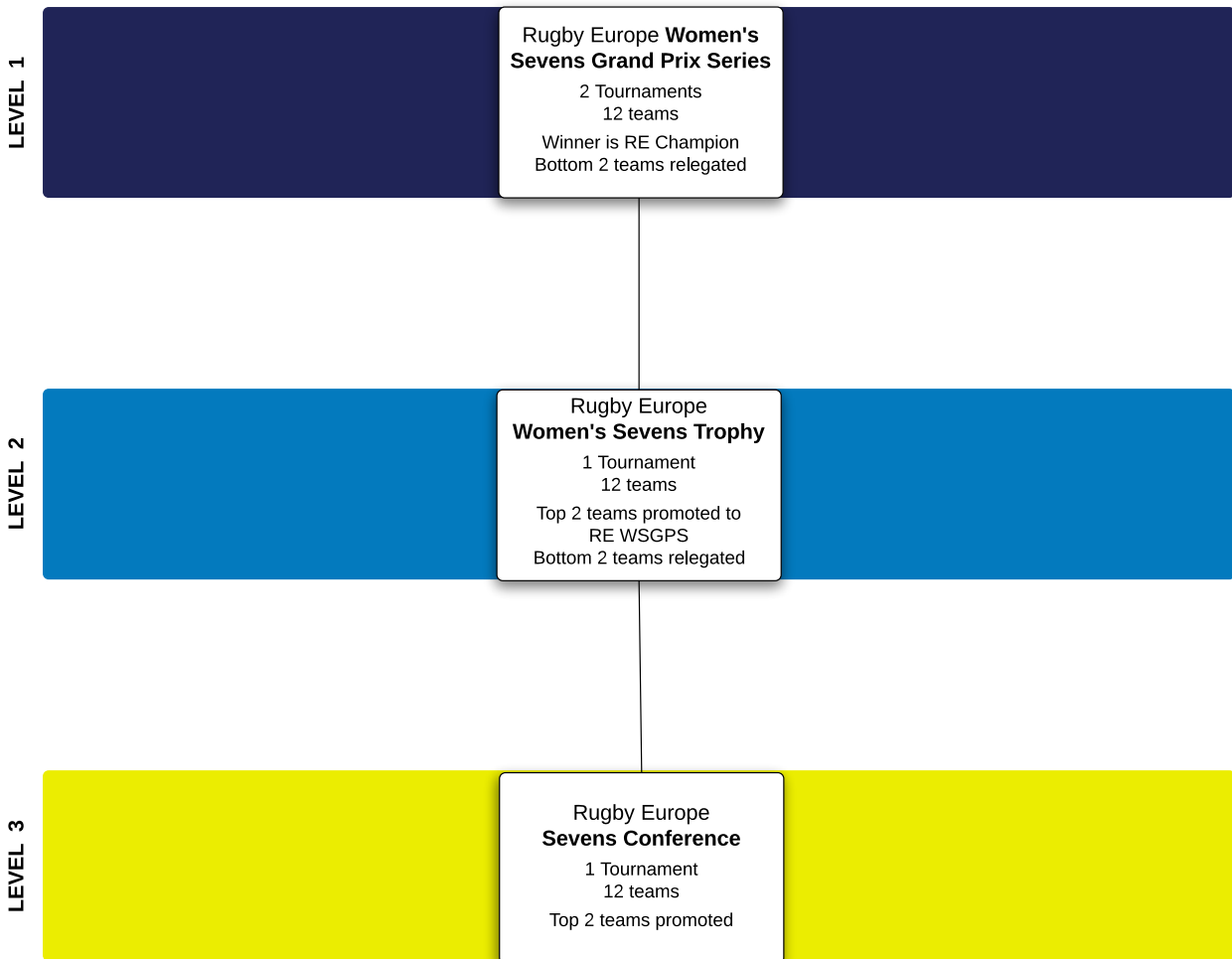


Rugby Europe International Championships Adult Male 7s





Rugby Europe International Championships Adult Female 7s



NOTE:
We will explore the opportunities for an additional GPS tournament, and an additional Trophy tournament.



Rugby Europe International Championships U18 Male - 7s

LEVEL 1

Rugby Europe
**U18 Sevens
Championship**
1 Tournament
8 - 12 teams

NOTE:
*Expressions of
interest to be sought
to establish U18
Sevens Trophy*

Rugby Europe International Championships U18 Female - 7s

LEVEL 1

Rugby Europe
**U18 Women's Sevens
Championship**
1 Tournament
12 - 16 teams



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CONCLUSION

- The proposals will result in RE competitions structure that is simpler, transparent and aligned to best international practice
- Modern, dynamic and aspirational - and easy to understand; ultimately a proof of good governance
- It has definite commercial potential which needs to be assessed, developed and harvested
- It has at its heart the interests of Rugby Europe Member Unions and will help the expansion of rugby on the Continent.
- If adopted it will ensure Rugby Europe continues to be relevant and important to its Member Unions
- The new structure has been developed with guidance from, and endorsement of World Rugby
- The proposals were endorsed during the Technical Director's and General Secretary's Conference in Prague on 21st April 2015
- The proposals have been fully accepted by the Rugby Europe Executive Committee at its meeting on 23rd June 2015

NOTE: Full details of these proposals along with their rationale is to be found in the full report of the Competitions Review Working Group, which members are strongly advised to read carefully.