



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, 15 October 2024

PNGOC Suspends PNG Rugby Union Membership

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea — The Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee (PNGOC) has officially suspended the membership of the Papua New Guinea Rugby Union (PNGRU) with immediate effect, following a board meeting held in October. This decision comes as a response to significant administration, governance and compliance issues, including the recent suspension of PNGRU by Oceania Rugby.

The suspension has been enacted due to the PNGRU's failure to address concerns highlighted in a show cause notice issued by PNGOC on July 15, 2024, relating to their withdrawal from the Monaco Olympic Qualifiers. The PNGOC did not receive a response by the requested deadline of July 22, 2024. Additionally, Oceania Rugby's decision on September 5, 2024, to suspend PNGRU further underscored the non-compliance concerns.

As a result of this suspension, PNGRU loses its rights and privileges as a member of PNGOC, including voting rights, access to funding, and participation in Team PNG and PNGOC-sanctioned activities and multi-sport events.

To regain membership, PNGRU must resolve the compliance issues with Oceania Rugby and adhere to their directives, achieve reinstatement as a member of both Oceania Rugby and World Rugby, develop and submit an action plan addressing administrative and governance shortcomings and submit to the annual audit of compliance requirements for the years 2023 and 2024.

Emma Waiwai, OL, President of PNGOC, emphasized the importance of good governance and effective administration as vital components for sporting success. "The recurring administrative and governance failures within PNGRU represent a significant deviation from these principles. We urge the federation to take immediate corrective action to restore its reputation and trust with all stakeholders," she stated.

PNGOC remains committed to supporting the development of sports in Papua New Guinea and calls on PNGRU to implement necessary reforms swiftly to secure their reinstatement with their world and regional body for the betterment of the code and its athletes.

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About the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee

The Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee (PNGOC) is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation committed to inspire and unite Papua New Guinea through sporting excellence and success. The PNGOC is a believer of sport as an enabler for sustainable and inclusive development. It is our

responsibility to select, send and fund Team PNG to the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and Pacific Games. This is achieved by working with our member national sports federations and with the support of our sponsors and partners, through fundraising events and with the backing of the Government. To find out more visit our website www.pngolympic.org.pg

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