



4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Mr. Alin Petrache  
President  
Federația Română de Rugby (FRR)

By Email: [alin.petrache@frr.ro](mailto:alin.petrache@frr.ro)

Dear Mr. Petrache and FRR Board members,

**Re: International Rugby Players – Benefits of Asociația Jucătorilor de Rugby (AJR) to Romanian Rugby**

I write in my capacity as CEO of International Rugby Players, the world representative body for professional rugby players on international issues of importance to players and the game. We work alongside international, national and competition governing bodies, to ensure that player representation is key to decision-making processes in the game, both at international and at national levels (via our member bodies). We currently have twelve member bodies in place, with AJR set to become our thirteenth.

You may or may not be aware that we have increased our level of engagement with World Rugby quite significantly of late – all underpinned by a commonly sought goal across both parties - that being to “bring players to the centre of decision making in the game” as a means of improving key decision making. Furthermore, a recently negotiated agreement between the two parties has allowed, amongst other things, for fourteen player representatives to be nominated by our organisation, dispersed across seven World Rugby committees in total.

Further to this again, you will be conscious Mr. Petrache that we have recently worked together on the World Rugby Governance Review, in which the group unanimously agreed to have player representation at World Rugby Exco level. This is a very clear demonstration that the value of genuine player engagement is recognised across the entire rugby world.

The reason for me writing to you in this context is because I understand from senior members of AJR that the proposal of an established players association in Romania was recently put forth under the banner of AJR. I also understand that whilst you Mr Petrache expressed initial support for AJR some months ago, members of the FRR Board have raised some concerns and questions in your more recent meeting.

In response to this, I would be very happy to respond to any of these concerns/ questions of the FRR Board members and to highlight the advantages that we believe exist for Romanian Rugby in such an engagement. This includes not only committee representation as touched upon earlier, but also formalised documents such as Collective Bargaining Agreements that bring clarity to the employment framework. From my own experience, there is a direct correlation between more established player engagement models and overall rugby success in that country – New Zealand, South Africa and England have been prime examples of this over many years.

I have also copied World Rugby CEO Brett Gosper to this letter, who I have no doubt will be equally as positive in his views on player engagement and the benefits to various governing bodies.



Regards

Omar Hassanein  
Chief Executive Officer  
International Rugby Players

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CC:

AJR representatives: Mihai Vioreanu, Ioan Dumitrascu, Mineah Horatiu, Andrei Radoi, Romeo Gontineac  
International Rugby Players': David Quinlan  
World Rugby: Brett Gosper (CEO)



# INTERNATIONAL RUGBY PLAYERS