

## **Commission des Compétitions FSR**

### **Season Report 2017**

A brief summary highlighted below:

#### **2016 – 2017**

- NLA: Maximum 20 games (incl. Playoffs & Cup)
- NLB+: Maximum 15 games
- NLB: Maximum 15 games
- NLC+: Maximum 16 games
- NLC Development: Maximum 6 games (possibility to play friendly games)
- NLF Maximum 8 games
- Excellence A: Maximum 15 games
- Excellence B: Maximum 6 games
- NLF Development Tournaments – 4/5 rounds

The development of Swiss rugby and of the championship has stagnated in the 2016-17 season due to instability at several levels of the game. NLA is still not reachable for teams from the B+ League as they lack the depth in their clubs to maintain themselves at the higher level. Both winning teams of the NLB+ and Playoffs are unable to play in the NLA due to the lack of a 2<sup>nd</sup> registered team. The registered 2<sup>nd</sup> teams in the Excellence B league was poor, with teams such as Neuchatel, Basel and Lugano not able to have a solid independent 2<sup>nd</sup> team. (This is an unfortunate situation for those teams which made and continue to make the effort to comply with the regulations of this league.) It is likely that this setup will be open to changes for the 2017-18 season.

Positive feedback came from the women's development league where an increase in players licences and club participation increased! We were able to attract several new clubs without previous women sections to participate in a structured and friendly format which allowed them to play rugby and learn by playing against teams of similar levels. This initiative should continue further.

Positive is also the development of the NLC and NLC+ - The + competition has been very stable and very competitive, a major improvement from last year. The development league is still fighting for stability but this should improve further with the additional potential clubs joining the league at some point.

On a slight negative note, we still are having games being decided off the pitch which for me is not positive for our development and image, too many forfeits were spoken out for licence infringements, missed games, etc. The regulations must be reviewed and the process of automatic checking of the licences needs to be clearly defined and the offences must be correctly adapted to the infringement. A forfeit for a licence infringement should not penalise a team with a forfeit but rather a fine and a warning after the first offence and not the removal of points – this is putting teams in the same category as those who purposely don't play an away game to save money.

I wish all the clubs continued growth and success in 2017 with less bureaucracy!

Kurt Köhl,  
President, Competition Commission