

# SRI LANKA RUGBY

## Tournament Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 05 March 2026

**Time:** 5.00 PM onwards

**Venue:** Sri Lanka Rugby Office

**Chair:**

Mr. Pavithra Fernando – President, Sri Lanka Rugby

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## 1. Attendance

### Physical Attendance

- Mr. Rohan Gunarathne – Tournament Director
- Ms. Sujani – Sri Lions
- Mr. Azeez – Navy SC
- Ms. Thilini – Tournament Committee Member
- Mr. Dinka – Tournament Committee Member
- Mr. Dabare – Havelock SC
- Mr. Rohan – CR & FC
- Mr. Sadun – CH & FC
- Mr. CJ – Army SC
- Mr. Chinthaka – Police SC

### Zoom Attendance

- Mr. Kapila – Kandy SC
  - Mr. Chathu – Air Force SC
  - Dr. Kelum – Sri Lions
  - Mr. Shanka – Tournament Committee Member
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## 2. Welcome Address

The meeting was called to order by **President Mr. Pavithra Fernando**, who welcomed all members present and thanked them for their participation.

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### 3. Sri Lanka Rugby 7's Series 2026

The President briefed the committee on the upcoming **SLR Club 7's Series**, confirming the following dates and venues:

**Leg 1**

21–22 March 2026

Nittawela Grounds – Kandy

**Leg 2**

28–29 March 2026

Racecourse Grounds – Colombo

It was noted that **Uzbekistan and India will not be participating**, while **UDDS Tigers have confirmed participation**, resulting in **10 teams in total (9 local clubs and 1 foreign team)**.

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### 4. Women's Tournament Format

The Women's competition will consist of:

- **3 Club Teams**
- **8 Provincial Teams**

These teams will compete alongside the men's event structure **in two separate divisions**, as the standard of the provincial teams is currently **below that of the Tri-Forces club teams**.

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### 5. Overall Championship Structure

The President clarified the format for determining the champion:

- The tournament will be conducted **across two legs**.
- The **aggregate results of both legs** will determine the **overall champion**.

If **UDDS Tigers (foreign team)** win the tournament overall, the **highest ranked local club** will be declared the **Local Champion**.

The **Local Champion** will qualify to represent Sri Lanka in the **Asia Rugby Emirates Club Sevens Tournament**, expected to be held in **Sri Lanka in July 2026**, subject to sponsorship confirmation.

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## 6. Tournament Facilities

Tournament Director **Mr. Rohan Gunarathne** briefed the committee on operational arrangements, including:

- Ground facilities
  - Ice bath recovery areas
  - Drinking water supply
  - Player refreshments
  - Breakfast and lunch arrangements for teams
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## 7. National Sevens Squad Selection

The President confirmed that:

- **Only players participating in the SLR 7's Series will initially be eligible for selection to the National Sevens High Performance Pool**, expected to be assembled on **1 April 2026**.

However:

- **Heritage players who are unavailable for this tournament**, and
- **Local players currently injured**,

may be considered for selection at a later trial once available.

This selection pool is being prepared for **upcoming international competitions, including the Asian Games pathway**.

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## 8. Concern Raised – Injured Players

Mr. Sadun (CH & FC) raised a concern regarding **injured local players being considered for national selection despite not participating in the tournament.**

He proposed that **only players who participate in the Sevens tournament should be selected to the national programme.**

The President noted that **injuries are common in rugby**, and players unavailable during March may still be considered **once they recover**, as Sri Lanka Rugby's objective is to **select the strongest possible national squad.**

Mr. Sadun was requested to **submit his proposal in writing** so that it may be **considered by the Executive Committee.**

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## 9. Participation of Kandy SC

Mr. Kapila and Mr. Mahesh (Kandy SC) indicated that while **participation in the first leg in Kandy is likely**, there are **serious concerns regarding participation in the Colombo leg.** Mr. Mahesh confirmed that **Nittawela Grounds will be provided free of charge for the first leg.**

The President clarified that **participation in the SLR Sevens Series requires teams to compete in both legs of the tournament**, as the competition is structured as a **two-leg aggregate championship.** Accordingly, **teams that do not participate in both legs will not be eligible to participate in the tournament.**

The President further emphasized that **Sri Lanka Rugby's immediate strategic priority is to build a competitive national squad capable of winning a medal at the upcoming Asian Games**, and therefore **full participation by clubs is essential to ensure a strong national selection pool.**

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## 10. Foreign Player Participation

Dr. Kelum (Sri Lions) inquired about the inclusion of **foreign players.**

The President clarified that the **primary objective of the tournament is national player development and selection for the Asian Games in October**, and therefore the decision was taken to **provide maximum opportunities for local players.**

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## 11. Player Registration

The following deadlines were confirmed:

**Final Player Registration Deadline:**

15 March 2026

**Final Squad Submission (15 players):**

At the **Managers' Meeting**

The Tournament Director confirmed that **players may switch clubs until the registration deadline, as club registrations for the 15s season had already been completed.**

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## 12. Managers' Meeting

The **Managers' Meeting** will be held as follows:

**Date:** 20 March 2026

**Venue:** Kandy

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## 13. High Performance Programme Investment

The President informed the committee that **Sri Lanka Rugby is investing in strengthening the National Sevens High Performance Programme**, including:

- International coaching support
- Estimated coaching investment of approximately **USD 5,000**, plus additional support costs such as **supplements and conditioning programmes**

The President noted that **achieving international success, particularly an Asian Games medal, would attract greater sponsorship opportunities, benefiting both Sri Lanka Rugby and the clubs.**

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## 14. Conclusion

The President thanked all participants for their constructive input and reiterated the importance of **club support and full participation in the SLR Sevens Series to strengthen the national programme.**

The meeting concluded thereafter.

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### Prepared by:

Sri Lanka Rugby – Tournament Committee

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### Approved by:

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**Mr. Pavithra Fernando**

President

Sri Lanka Rugby