



## NEWS RELEASE

### **THE OTTAWA WOLVES RFC URGES ALL PLAYERS, COACHES, REFEREES, SUPPORTERS, CLUBS AND UNIONS AT ALL LEVELS TO DENOUNCE AND CONDEMN HOMOPHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION IN RUGBY**

#### **Call to action to the RFU (Rugby Football Union) to take immediate punitive measures in order to ensure full compliance with both the spirit and the letter of its anti-discriminatory policy**

**November 16, 2014**—Following reports of alleged homophobic abuse directed at international referee Nigel Owens by a group of England supporters during the match against New Zealand at world-renowned Twickenham stadium, the Ottawa Wolves RFC fully support the Rugby Football Union’s decision to undertake a detailed investigation to understand the facts that inform this incident.

Should the investigation reveal that individuals were shown to be homophobic; the Ottawa Wolves RFC expects and urges the RFU (Rugby Football Union) to take immediate punitive measures in order to ensure full compliance with both the spirit and the letter of its anti-discriminatory policy.

“Rugby is an inclusive game”, Jerome Hamoline, President of the Ottawa Wolves RFC. “Rugby is brotherhood founded on a very unique bond of friendship and sportsmanship. Should the allegations be confirmed to be accurate, such conduct has no place either on or off the pitch”.

In a recent international survey for OutOnTheFields.com, 85% of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) sportspeople participating stated that they had experienced homophobia in their sport. The Ottawa Wolves RFC is one of only three gay-inclusive rugby clubs in Canada, with its majority of players identifying as LGBT).

The Ottawa Wolves RFC urges all players, coaches, referees, supporters, clubs and unions at all levels of the game to denounce and condemn homophobia and discrimination in rugby: it has no place in our great game.

The Ottawa Wolves RFC looks forward to the results of the investigation launched by the RFU as well as its ultimate conclusions, corrective/punitive actions and future recommendations.

For more information, please contact:

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