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CONTACTS:

Jennifer Castleberry
Cal Expo
916-263-3066
jlcastleberry@calexpo.com

Dominic DeFalco
PRO Rugby
212-786-7522
dominic@prorugby.org

Bonney Field at Cal Expo Selected as First Venue for National PRO Rugby League

(Sacramento, CA) Representatives from PRO Rugby, Spectra and Cal Expo announced today that a partnership has been developed to bring the professional sport of rugby to Sacramento, CA. PRO Rugby launched the newest professional sports team at its new home, Bonney Field on the grounds of Cal Expo. The venue agreement is for a minimum of two years.

A contest will be launched soon to develop the new team name. The club expects to begin play in April 2016 with tickets going on sale in January 2016.

“We are excited to launch PRO Rugby in Sacramento and five other cities around the United States,” said PRO Rugby CEO, Douglas Schoninger. “Sacramento’s support of USA and international rugby games during the California State Fair proved that there is strong demand for professional competition in the Sacramento region. We look forward to connecting fans with this new team and the league.”

PRO Rugby is sanctioned by USA Rugby and World Rugby in an effort to showcase the talents and skills of American players. Participation and interest in the sport has made rugby the fastest-growing team sport in North America.

“Bonney Field was created to serve as a community gathering spot for sports and entertainment activities in the Sacramento region,” said Nick Nicora, Vice President of Development for Spectra, owners of Bonney Field. “We welcome PRO Rugby to this community which has shown great support for its professional sports teams.”

Spectra operates the food and beverage in the following facilities in Northern California, and manages the ticketing at UC Berkeley:

- Cal Expo/Bonney Field – Sacramento, CA
- Raley Field – West Sacramento, CA
- Banner Island Ballpark – Stockton, CA
- O.co Coliseum – Oakland, CA
- Alameda County Fairgrounds – Pleasanton, CA

“As a showcase for our remarkable State, Cal Expo plays an increasing role in helping to build a vibrant community and a more robust region. The launch of PRO Rugby in Sacramento is a logical progression that builds on the success of the international rugby matches that have already occurred at Cal Expo,” said Rick Pickering, Cal Expo CEO. “As home to the oldest professional sport in Sacramento, horse racing, and the newest professional sport, soccer, Cal Expo is honored to provide a platform for the historic launch of professional rugby. Celebrating achievement through competition is core to our mission as the State Fair.”

Bonney Field has drawn large crowds in the past for Sacramento Republic FC soccer games and exhibition international rugby games. The stadium’s capacity is approximately 11,000.

The inaugural PRO Rugby season will include 10 games from April to July. Additional venues will be announced later this week for the other PRO Rugby league teams.

About PRO Rugby

The Professional Rugby Organization (PRO Rugby) is the official league for professional rugby union in North America, sanctioned by USA Rugby and World Rugby. Embracing the highest standards of play and character on and off the field, Pro Rugby champions the fastest-growing sport in North America and its all-inclusive nature as we attempt to “Raise Our Game.” www.prorugby.org

About Spectra

Spectra by Comcast Spectacor is the expert in hosting and entertainment, partnering with over 300 clients at 400 global properties to create memorable experiences for millions of visitors every year. Spectra’s expertise is embodied within three divisions: Venue Management (formerly Global Spectrum), Food Services & Hospitality (formerly Ovations Food Services), and Ticketing & Fan Engagement (formerly Paciolan). Learn more at SpectraExperiences.com. Comcast Spectacor is part of Comcast Corporation, a Fortune 50 media and technology company that operates Comcast Cable and NBCUniversal. Headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, in addition to Spectra, Comcast Spectacor

owns and operates the National Hockey League's Philadelphia Flyers, the Wells Fargo Center venue and Bonney Field at Cal Expo in Sacramento, California. Visit us at ComcastSpectacor.com, PhiladelphiaFlyers.com, and WellsFargoCenterPhilly.com for more information.

About Cal Expo

Cal Expo is home to the California State Fair and plays host to hundreds of other signature events each year. The Cal Expo property is also home to Bonney Field, a premier sports and entertainment venue with seating of 11,000. Featuring 400 acres of open space along the American River Parkway and 350 beautifully landscaped acres, Cal Expo was dedicated as a place to celebrate California's achievements, industries, agriculture, diversity of its people, traditions and trends that shape the Golden State's future. The 2016 California State Fair will take place July 8 - 24, 2015

About USA Rugby

Established in 1975, USA Rugby is the governing body for the sport of rugby in America and a Full Sport Member of the United States Olympic Committee. Currently headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, USA Rugby is charged with developing the game on all levels and has more than 100,000 active members, with more than 35,000 playing collegiate rugby and 35,000 playing senior club rugby. USA Rugby oversees four national teams, multiple collegiate and high school All-American sides, and an emerging Olympic development pathway for elite athletes. It also hosts more than 30 national playoff and championship events each year as a service to its members. In October 2009, the International Olympic Committee announced Rugby Sevens (the seven-a-side version of the game) will appear in the 2016 Olympic Games to be held in Rio de Janeiro. Visit www.usarugby.org for more information.

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