

AFP SHOWCASES RUGBY WORLD CUP THROUGH THE EYES OF YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Agence France-Presse (AFP) partners with Canon to train twenty young photographers in capturing different facets of rugby culture across all participating nations of the Rugby World Cup.

Equipped with professional cameras and lens kits provided by Canon, a key partner in the initiative, each of the twenty participants paired up with a seasoned AFP photojournalist ahead of the Rugby World Cup.

Through their photographs, each mentee had the opportunity to showcase to the world the significance of the competition in their respective countries, from Namibia to Fiji, and from South Africa to Scotland...

The initiative leveraged the expertise of AFP photojournalists to teach and inspire a new generation of skilled photographers while forging strong connections between the pairs.

“AFP is pleased to have shared some of the expertise from our global network of photojournalists with the emerging generation of photographers, and to offer a deeper understanding of the multifaceted passion for rugby that spans across continents,” said Eric Baradat, AFP’s Deputy News Director for Photo.

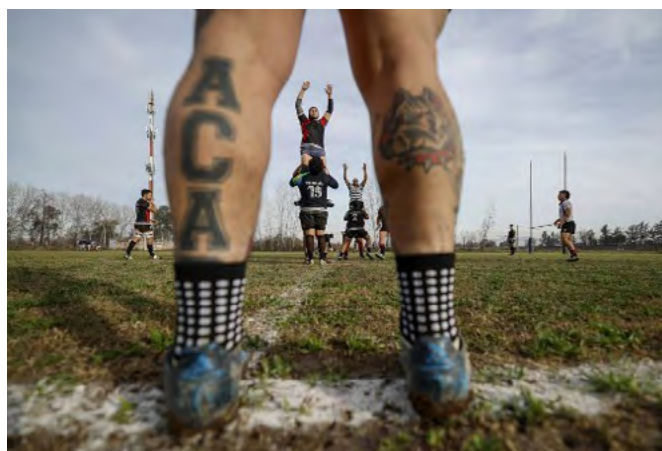
Local AFP photojournalists from the participating countries selected the twenty mentees based on the promising quality of their early work, their motivation to learn, and their natural ability to tell visual stories.

It was also important for both AFP and Canon to promote the work of underrepresented communities in the project and invest in the future of the next generation of sports photographers.

“Canon supports various programmes that actively engage the next generation of photojournalists trying to break into the competitive world of news photography”, said Richard Shepherd, Sector Marketing Senior Manager at Canon Europe.



Valentine Chapuis, one of the trainees of the programme, photographing a match between France and Uruguay at the Pierre-Mauroy Stadium in Lille, during the Rugby World Cup in France. September 14, 2023. © Ignazio Sanchez Mello / AFP



Players of the Rugby Trapiales Club during a training session in La Pintana, Santiago, Chile, on July 01, 2023. Several players on the team have Mapuche ancestry, with the club taking its name from their native language, where ‘iTrapial’ means ‘cougar’. © Ailen Diaz / AFP

“Our partnership with the AFP allowed us to not only equip young people with some of the latest high-end imaging solutions on the market, but to also give them access to an international sporting event that provides them with valuable new experiences and is able to boost their portfolio,” he added.

The photo reports also offer an insight into the core values of rugby across all five continents: integrity, passion, solidarity, discipline, and respect.

The photographs from the project are available on AFP News, a user-friendly platform that brings together all the Agency’s content in one place, around the clock.

[Press photos](#) are available upon request, to be used exclusively for the promotion of this project. Authorised usage includes a maximum of 3 photos, with mandatory credit and caption attribution.



Young players from the ‘Grupo Desportivo Direito’ gather for a training session during the Law Summer Academy in Lisbon, on July 11, 2023. The group was founded in 1952 by a group of university students from Lisbon Law School. © André Dias Nobre / AFP



Silhouettes of the FNB Kudu Rugby Club players are seen as they engage in an attack-and-defend drill during a training session in Narraville, Walvis Bay, Namibia, on May 29, 2023. © Tara Mette / AFP

About Canon

Canon Europe is the EMEA strategic headquarters of Canon Inc., a global provider of imaging technologies and services. Canon Europe has operations in roughly 120 countries, with approximately 12,850 employees and contributes to approximately a quarter of Canon’s global revenues annually. Through its technologies and spirit of innovation, Canon pushes the bounds of what is possible – helping to see our world in ways we never have before.

About AFP

AFP is a leading global news agency providing fast, comprehensive and verified coverage of the events shaping our world and of the issues affecting our daily lives. Drawing from an unparalleled news gathering network across 151 countries, AFP is also a world leader in digital verification. With 2,400 staff representing 100 different nationalities, AFP covers the world in six languages, with a unique quality of multimedia storytelling spanning video, text, photos and graphics.

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