MEDIA RELEASE
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 **Portable posts from NZ build passion for rugby in USA**

Over 600 players and more than 3,000 fans had a new experience at one of the USA’s largest junior rugby tournaments, thanks to one of a kind portable Junior Rugby Packaposts designed by New Zealand company Packaworld International.

The Rhinos Rugby Stomp was hosted by Rhinos Rugby Club on Sunday 29 January at Great Park in the city of Irvine, California. The tournament featured Under 14 age group teams from nine clubs across California.

Junior rugby is often played without posts, particularly in the US, where many sports fields are set up for other sports.

Rhinos Rugby Program Director Elvis Seveali’i, a former Manu Samoa rugby star, said the free-standing inflatable [Junior Rugby Packaposts](https://www.packaworld.com/packapost.html) brought an extra dimension to the tournament, and had massive potential to help grow grass-roots rugby in the USA.

“These are the perfect size for children. It gives the effect that they’re playing in the real game, and this will be a major factor in attracting new players to the game of rugby.”

Mr Seveali’i said it was important for junior players to build up basic skills, create good habits and establish solid fundamentals.

The lack of posts at junior level meant kicking was not introduced to the game until around the age of 16 or 18, when senior rugby posts could be used. The portable Packaposts could be transported in a small car, did not damage artificial fields and had the potential to enable kicking and make the junior game closer to senior rugby, he said.

“These posts are going to make such a difference. I think it’s a great idea.”

Mr Seveali’i said the turnout at this year’s Rhinos Rugby Stomp had been excellent thanks to a major influx of players over the past year in the growth sport of rugby.

“A lot of the rugby community was there. The kids had a great time and it was fantastic to see so many supporters on what turned out to be a huge day for junior rugby in California.”

This year’s honours in the Under 14 division went to the Belmont Shore Under 14s team from Long Beach, with Irvine Rhinos, Belmont Shore Under 10s and Souths Rhinos from Santa Margarita victorious in the Under 12, Under 10 and Under 8 divisions respectively.

**ENDS**

To arrange an interview with Packaworld CEO Peter Roberts or obtain high-resolution images, contact:

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A gallery of images from the Rhinos Rugby Stomp is available on request.

**Notes for journalists:**

ABOUT JUNIOR RUGBY PACKAPOSTS

These free-standing junior rugby posts can be inflated in seconds, stored in a small bag and transported by car, overcoming the logistical problems that clubs face when setting up and storing rugby posts or playing on artificial turf.

Designed and developed in partnership with New Zealand Rugby for those serious about making the grass-roots game more attractive for kids to play, these posts are an innovative, professional-quality product, catching the attention of rugby unions around the world.

For more information, visit [www.packaworld.com/packapost.html](http://www.packaworld.com/packapost.html).

ABOUT PACKAWORLD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED:

Headquartered in Wellington, New Zealand, Packaworld believes people should be able to play the sports they love where and when they want to, from athletes in the highest sporting arenas to everyday people in local neighborhoods.

Packaworld supplies an innovative range of packable, portable products, supplied worldwide and designed to cater for a variety of events, sports and playing age groups.

For more information about Packaworld products, visit [www.packaworld.com](http://www.packaworld.com).

ABOUT RHINOS RUGBY CLUB

Rhinos Rugby Club is based in California, offering leagues, training centres and academies to children and young adults who are aged 6 to 18 and looking to play rugby at a high level.

For more information, visit [www.rhinosrugbyclub.org/](http://rhinosrugbyclub.org/)