

## PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 6 August 2018

### **Societe Generale sponsors Jonathan Hivernat, captain of the French Wheelchair Rugby Team and the Stade Toulousain Rugby Handisport team**

**Societe Generale has entered a partnership contract that will see it sponsor Jonathan Hivernat's professional sports activities until the end of 2019 and oversee initiatives to help raise awareness around disabled sport.**

Jonathan Hivernat's team came 7<sup>th</sup> in the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games. In 2017, they came 9<sup>th</sup> in the World Wheelchair Rugby Championships and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the European Championship. With his club, Stade Toulousain Rugby Handisport, he has won the French National Wheelchair Rugby Championship seven times.

Jonathan is on the team currently competing in the Wheelchair Rugby World Championship in Sydney between 5 and 10 August 2018.

He joins the seven other professional rugby players sponsored by Societe Generale: Jonny Wilkinson, Thierry Dusautoir, Sylvain Marconnet, Guilhem Guirado, Matt Giteau, Christian Califano and Shannon Izar. Alongside the Bank, these players are engaged in promoting the values of commitment and team spirit that Societe Generale shares with the sport of rugby. We will benefit from their expertise and professional insight during the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

### **Societe Generale, preferred partner in rugby and disabled sport**

For more than 30 years, the Bank has been a partner at all levels of rugby.

In France, it has been a partner of the French Rugby Federation (FFR) and the French teams since 1987, and the French National Rugby League (LNR) since 1998. Societe Generale provides year-round sponsorship for the 13 regional rugby leagues and nearly 500 amateur clubs.

The 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan will be the sixth time it acts as a major partner of this tournament.

It has been a partner of the French Disabled Sports Federation (FFH) since 2003 as well as the French paralympic teams. Societe Generale also sponsors para alpine ski champion Marie Bochet and disabled rower and silver medal paralympic champion Perle Bouge.

### **Biography of Jonathan**

Jonathan was born in Figeac in 1991 and as a child was diagnosed with the hereditary motor disease Charcot-Marie-Tooth. He completed mainstream schooling in Figeac. He loved sports and excelled in disabled table tennis and horse-riding. The disease progressed and he entered a special facility in 2007. It was there, in 2010, that he discovered wheelchair rugby: "I was in Toulouse at a centre for disabled people when a wheelchair rugby team came to give a demonstration," remembers Jonathan. "The players moved around in light wheelchairs with such vibrancy and energy.... That same day, I tried out for the coach and was selected!" Jonathan joined the Stade Toulousain Rugby Handisport club where he met three people that were pivotal to his sports career: Nicolas Costes, coach, Pablo Neumann,

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player and club chairman, and Olivier Cusin, his coach on the French team.

Today, Jonathan is captain of the Stade Toulousain and the French National Wheelchair Rugby teams.

### **Wheelchair rugby**

Wheelchair rugby, also known as quad rugby, is a mixed gender team sport that originated in Canada in 1977. It is played in teams of four on a hardwood court of the same measurements as a regulation basketball court, with a round ball. “We go into Mad Max mode” jokes Jonathan: the wheelchairs are streamlined specifically for the game, with defensive wheelchairs fitted with a bumper to help hold opposing wheelchairs. The wheelchairs of attacking players are designed specifically to help strike. This has been a paralympic sport since the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Today there are more than 260 qualified players in France and 16 affiliated clubs.

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### **Societe Generale**

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A player in the real economy for more than 150 years and benefiting from a solid foundation in Europe and connected to the rest of the world, Societe Generale employs more than 147,000 people in 67 countries and supports 31 million individual customers, corporate clients and institutional investors worldwide on a daily basis, offering a broad range of tailored advisory and financial solutions, supported by three complementary core businesses:

- **Retail banking in France with the Societe Generale, Credit du Nord and Boursorama brands**, offering a comprehensive range of multi-channel financial services at the leading edge of digital innovation;
- **International retail banking, insurance and financial services** to corporates with networks in Africa, Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, and leading specialised businesses;
- **Global Banking & Investor Solutions**, with recognised expertise, top international rankings and integrated solutions.

Societe Generale forms part of the leading sustainable development indices: DJSI (World and Europe), FTSE4Good (Global and Europe), Euronext Vigeo (World, Europe and Eurozone), 4 of the STOXX ESG Leaders indices, MSCI Low Carbon Leaders Index.

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