

**PARIS 2024** RUGBY SEVENS MEDIA GUIDE



**WORLD  
RUGBY**

# SEVEN REASONS

WHY SEVENS AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES ARE A PERFECT FIT

## SPORTAINMENT

Sevens is fast, frantic and exhilarating ... it's turbo-charged entertainment. Sevens is unpredictable. Anyone can beat anyone on the day, the formbook can be ripped apart in seconds by a bounce of a ball, a burst of speed or a missed tackle. Sevens is fun to watch, a great chance for fans to don team jerseys or outrageous costumes and be part of an atmosphere like no other sporting event.

## GENDER EQUALITY

Rugby sevens fully embraces gender parity with all eight rounds of SVNS 2024 featuring combined men's and women's events and all 12 men's and women's teams receiving equal participation fees. A key element of World Rugby's strategic plan, women's rugby is experiencing unprecedented growth with more than a quarter of the world's playing population now female and continuing to rise around the globe.

## ATHLETICISM

Rugby sevens players will be among the fittest, fastest and strongest athletes at the Olympic Games. Fourteen minutes of non-stop, fast-paced action on a full-size pitch with only seven players per side requires huge aerobic capacity alongside agility, fast footwork, pace and power to unlock defences.

## GLOBAL REACH

Since rugby sevens was added to the Olympic programme in October 2009, participation numbers in World Rugby member unions have grown from 3.7 million to 8.4 million in 2023. Nielsen research shows each edition of the Games attracts an estimated 30 million new fans to the sport, while the historic images of Fiji's men winning their country's first-ever Olympic medal at Rio 2016 were beamed around the world, sparking wild celebrations across the rugby-mad Pacific Island nation.

## VALUES

Sevens is about family and while teams compete fiercely on the pitch they also share the same hotels and eat their meals together with the match officials on the SVNS series, creating a special environment where lifelong friendships are formed. Rugby's core values of integrity, respect, passion, solidarity and discipline align perfectly with those of the Olympic family.

## STAR APPEAL

Rugby sevens' breath-taking blend of high-octane action, fan-participation and world-class athletes attracts celebrity fans from all over the world. Actor Matthew McConaughey, cricket star Sachin Tendulkar and astronaut Buzz Aldrin all attended rugby sevens' inaugural Olympic events at Rio 2016, while the likes of Baywatch star David Hasselhoff and Aquaman actor Jason Momoa have joined the crowds at recent SVNS events.

## FRANCE

Both France's men's and women's teams will enter their home Olympic Games high in confidence following outstanding displays at the SVNS Grand Final in Madrid in June. Global superstar and former World Rugby Men's 15s Player of the Year Antoine Dupont inspired the men's team to become SVNS Champions, overcoming League Winners Argentina in a hotly contested final, while the French women won silver, the same medal they secured at Tokyo 2020. France is a rugby loving nation and following hot on the heels of hosting men's Rugby World Cup 2023, the sevens teams can expect to be boosted by the support of passionate and knowledgeable fans in a packed out Stade de France.

# SEVENS

## A YOUTHFUL SPORT WITH A BIG HISTORY

### 1883

The Olympic sport of rugby sevens is 'born' in the Scottish town of Melrose

### 1924

USA beat hosts France to win gold at the Paris 1924 Games, the last to feature rugby 15s

### 1973

The Scottish Rugby Union celebrated its centenary with an international sevens tournament, the first in history

### 1976

The first Hong Kong Sevens is held

### 1993

The first Rugby World Cup Sevens is staged at Murrayfield. Andrew Harriman inspired England to victory to lift the Melrose Cup

### 1997

Inspired by sevens maestro Waisale Serevi, Fiji won the first of two Rugby World Cup Sevens in Hong Kong

### 1998

New Zealand win the first Commonwealth Games gold medal for sevens in Kuala Lumpur

Rugby sevens also made its debut at the Asian Games in South Korea alongside a 15s competition, the hosts winning gold in both men's competitions

### 1999

The IRB Sevens World Series launches in Dubai. The men's series, today known as SVNS, is played in eight iconic destinations around the world

### 2001

New Zealand win the first of three Rugby World Cup Sevens titles in Argentina

### 2006

Fiji end New Zealand's dominance of the World Series title

### 2009

Rugby sevens is emphatically voted onto the Olympic programme for 2016 and 2020, by 81 votes to eight, at the International Olympic Committee Session in Copenhagen on 9 October

Australia's women win the first Rugby World Cup Sevens in Dubai, while Wales are crowned champions in the men's competition

### 2010

Samoa follow South Africa's example the year before by winning a first men's Series title

### 2011

Rugby sevens made its Pan American Games debut in Guadalajara, Mexico with Canada's men claiming gold

### 2012

History is made in Dubai as the first women's World Rugby Sevens Series kicks off with New Zealand claiming the inaugural Cup title

### 2014

Australia's women and France's men won gold in sevens at the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China

### 2015

Women's sevens joined the Pan American Games programme in Toronto with hosts Canada completing a golden double

### 2016

Australia's women and Fiji's men claim Olympic gold at Rio 2016

### 2018

New Zealand's women and Argentina's men win gold at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires

USA hosts RWC Sevens for the first time with New Zealand's men and women successfully defending their titles in San Francisco

Women's sevens makes its Commonwealth Games debut with New Zealand beating hosts Australia in sudden-death extra-time to win gold

### 2021

New Zealand's women and Fiji's men claim Olympic gold at Tokyo 2020, while Fiji's women create history by winning bronze

### 2022

Australia women complete the treble of World Series, Commonwealth Games and Rugby World Cup Sevens gold, a feat never before achieved in the same calendar year

### 2023

World Rugby reimagines its World Series, launching SVNS where 12 men's and 12 women's teams play alongside each other for seven regular season rounds and a Grand Final

### 2024

France men win a first SVNS title, beating League Winners Argentina in the Grand Final in Madrid.

Australia women win the Grand Final to be crowned SVNS Champions with New Zealand claiming the League Winners mantle.





## RUGBY AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

When rugby sevens made its debut at Rio 2016, it brought an end to a 92-year absence for the sport of rugby from the Olympic programme, having last featured in its 15s format at the 1924 Paris Games when USA claimed the gold medal, beating hosts France 17-3.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founding father of the modern Olympic Games, was a passionate supporter of rugby and the 1924 competition was the fourth time rugby had been included in the programme, having appeared in 1900, 1908 and 1920.

Sadly, following the end of his presidency of the International Olympic Committee in 1925, rugby was dropped from the programme, leaving USA as the unexpected answer to the trivia question of who the reigning Olympic rugby champions were.

It was only in the 1990s that efforts began to reunite rugby with the Olympic Games with a significant step taken when the International

Rugby Board – now World Rugby – was confirmed as a Recognised International Federation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Cardiff in 1994.

In 2001, a recommendation was made by the Olympic Programme Commission to the IOC Session that rugby should be added to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Unfortunately, the recommended modernisations to the programme were not carried through.

Rugby was again shortlisted for consideration for adding to the London 2012 programme, but the IOC elected not to add any new sports, leaving the sport's goal of an Olympic return to remain tantalisingly out of reach.

Bernard Lapasset, upon his election as World Rugby Chairman in October 2007, made rugby's return to the Olympic programme one of his priorities. In 2009, following a concerted campaign by the international federation, its member unions, regional associations and the rugby family, the sport was again

shortlisted for inclusion in the 2016 and 2020 Games.

New Zealand's Jonah Lomu, Australia's Cheryl Soon, Kenya's Humphrey Kayange, Argentina's Agustín Pichot and Kazakhstan's Anastassiya Khamova joined Lapasset in presenting rugby sevens' case for inclusion to IOC members at the 121st IOC Session in Copenhagen.

The vote was overwhelming in favour with 81 votes to eight against, ensuring 9 October, 2009 would forever be a significant date in rugby's history with the top men's and women's players now able to compete for the ultimate prize of an Olympic gold medal.

Rugby sevens was included in the Youth Olympic Games 2014 in Nanjing, China, with Australia's women and France's men winning gold. Two years later, sevens proved a huge success at Rio 2016 with crowds packing into the Deodoro Stadium to see Australia's women beat New Zealand to claim gold before Fiji's men created history by beating Great Britain to win their country's first-ever Olympic medal of any colour.

Rugby's inclusion at Rio 2016 had a profound impact on the sport, attracting an estimated 30 million new fans globally. With Tokyo 2020 taking place without fans due to the COVID pandemic, Paris 2024 is expected to be the coming of age of rugby sevens on the Olympic stage with a vibrant and colourful crowd alongside the incredible skill, speed and passion on show from the best players in the world.

# PARIS 2024 TEAMS

The men's and women's competitions at Paris will each feature 12 teams

## MEN'S



ARGENTINA



AUSTRALIA



FIJI



FRANCE



IRELAND



JAPAN



KENYA



NEW  
ZEALAND



SAMOA



SOUTH  
AFRICA



URUGUAY



USA

## WOMEN'S



AUSTRALIA



BRAZIL



CANADA



CHINA



FIJI



FRANCE



GREAT  
BRITAIN



IRELAND



JAPAN



NEW  
ZEALAND



SOUTH  
AFRICA



USA

# THE ROAD TO PARIS

## - HOW TEAMS QUALIFIED

The 24 teams competing at Paris 2024 qualified via a number of routes, starting with the France men's and women's teams as host nation.

The top four teams, excluding France, in the men's and women's World Rugby Sevens Series 2023 were next to confirm their tickets to Paris. Champions New Zealand, Argentina, Fiji and Australia secured their spots on the men's series, with women's champions New Zealand, Australia and USA joined by first-time qualifiers Ireland.

The qualification process then switched to the World Rugby regional associations with one men's and one women's place available from each regional qualifier.

This regional process saw Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Samoa, Uruguay and USA confirm their places in the men's competition in Paris, with both Samoa and Uruguay the newcomers to the Olympic stage.

Brazil, Canada, Fiji, Great Britain, Japan and South Africa – another nation set to grace an Olympic Games for the first time – emerged as the six regional women's qualifiers.



That left two places to fill – one men's and one women's – through the World Rugby Sevens Repechage, which took place at Stade Louis II in Monaco on 21-23 June. The Repechage featured 12 men's and 12 women's teams, with the second and third highest ranked non-qualified teams in each regional qualifier invited to take part.

With Their Serene Highnesses Prince Albert II and Prince Charlene of Monaco watching on from the stands, the two teams who had cause to celebrate Olympic qualification were China's women and South Africa's men.

China arrived in Monaco as favourites given their impressive form in 2024 that had seen them win the World Rugby Sevens Challenger Series and a return to the SVNS for 2025. They

swept all aside, scoring 217 points and conceding just 19 in six matches, beating Kenya 24-7 in the final to take their unbeaten run to 27 matches and confirm their place at a second consecutive Olympic Games.

The men's tournament was less clear cut with four core teams from SVNS 2024 in Canada, Great Britain, South Africa and Spain involved. All four reached the semi-finals but it was the Blitzboks, bronze medallists at Rio 2016, who ultimately came out on top, edging Great Britain 14-5 in the final thanks to some resolute defence in the second half.



The rugby sevens competitions at Paris 2024 will be played at Stade de France in Saint-Denis from 24-30 July.

The men's action will kick-off ahead of the Opening Ceremony with matches on 24-25 July before the first team medals are handed out on 27 July. The women's competition then follows from 28-30 July.

## THE VENUE

The largest stadium in the country, Stade de France is no stranger to major events, having hosted the FIFA World Cup in 1998 and Rugby World Cups in both 2007 and 2023.

Ten matches during the record-breaking RWC 2023 tournament were played at Stade de France, including the opening match when the hosts beat New Zealand 27-13 and the final when defending champions South Africa edged New Zealand 12-11.

Stade de France will also host the athletics during the Games.















# POOLS

The pools were announced by World Rugby on 23 June, following the confirmation of the final two teams bound for Paris 2024 via the Repechage in Monaco.


The seeding for the competition is based on World Rugby Sevens Series / SVNS points accumulated across the 2023 and 2024 seasons.

For any teams that are not on the men's or women's series, their seeding was determined by World Rugby based on an analysis of performances in series tournaments across the two seasons or other World Rugby sanctioned events such as the World Rugby Sevens Challenger or regional tournaments.

## MEN'S – 24-25, 27 JULY

A POOL A	B POOL B	C POOL C
 NEW ZEALAND*	 ARGENTINA*	 FIJI*
 IRELAND*	 AUSTRALIA*	 FRANCE*
 SOUTH AFRICA*	 SAMOA*	 USA*
 JAPAN	 KENYA	 URUGUAY

## WOMEN'S – 28-30 JULY

A POOL A	B POOL B	C POOL C
 NEW ZEALAND*	 AUSTRALIA*	 FRANCE*
 FIJI*	 IRELAND*	 USA*
 CANADA*	 GREAT BRITAIN*	 JAPAN*
 CHINA	 SOUTH AFRICA*	 BRAZIL*

# PARIS 2024

## QUICKFIRE SEVENS

**1** Jerry Tuwai, the only player with two Olympic gold medals, will be at Paris 2024 hoping to inspire Fiji to a golden treble

**3** Teams that will make their Olympic debut at Paris 2024, Ireland in the women's competition and Samoa and Uruguay in the men's

**4** Coaches set for a third Olympic Games, three with the same teams in Santiago Gómez Cora (Argentina men), David Courteix (France women) and Mike Friday (USA men). Tim Walsh is back with Australia's women after guiding them to gold at Rio 2016 and then coaching the men's team at Tokyo 2020

**4** World Rugby Men's Sevens Players of the Year selected in 12-man squads for Paris 2024: Perry Baker (2017 and 2018), Jerry Tuwai (2019), Marcos Moneta (2021) and Terry Kennedy (2022)

**5** World Rugby Women's Sevens Players of the Year set to light up Paris 2024: Portia Woodman-Wickliffe (2015), Charlotte Caslick (2016 and 2022), Michaela Blyde (2017 and 2018), Anne-Cécile Ciofani (2021) and Tyla King (2023)

**8** New Zealand's golden girls from Tokyo back to defend their Olympic title in Paris

**9** Players at Paris 2024 who were selected for Rugby World Cup 2023 in France (Australia's Mark Nawaqanitawase, Fiji's Iosefo Masi and Selesitino Ravutaumada, France's Antoine Dupont, Samoa's Alamanda Motuga and Uruguay quartet Baltasar Amaya, Felipe Arcos Pérez, Bautista Basso and Ignacio Facciolo)

**16** Different nations represented among the 24 teams competing at Paris 2024

**24** Olympians returning for a third Games in Paris

**144** Players involved in each competition at Paris 2024



# TEAMS PROFILE - MEN'S

Squads correct  
as of 15 July, 2024.

^ Played at  
Rio 2016

\* Played at  
Tokyo 2020



## ARGENTINA

**Rio 2016:** Sixth  
**Tokyo 2020:** Bronze medallists  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 2

**Coach:** Santiago Gómez Cora  
**Captain:** Santiago Álvarez  
**Nickname:** Los Pumas Sevens

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** League Winners  
**SVNS 2024 titles:** 3 (Cape Town, Perth, Vancouver)  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Marcos Moneta (29 tries, 145 points)

**Did you know...?** Veteran Gastón Revol is the only player in world series history to have played more than 100 tournaments, the 37-year-old playing his 106th event in the SVNS Grand Final in Madrid last month.

**Player to watch:** Marcos Moneta  
A gold medallist on home soil at the Youth Olympic Games in 2018, Moneta quickly transitioned to the senior set-up and began to make a name for himself with his pace and skill. The top try-scorer at Tokyo 2020 with six, including an incredible solo try for five-man Argentina in the quarter-final with South Africa, he would be named the World Rugby Men's Sevens Player of the Year for 2021. A key part of Los Pumas Sevens' success in 2024, Argentina will be relieved he has recovered from a broken leg in time to make the Olympic squad.

### SQUAD LIST

Santiago Álvarez ^\*  
Tomás Elizalde  
Agustín Fraga  
Luciano González \*  
Matteo Graziano  
Santiago Mare \*  
Marcos Moneta \*  
Matías Osadczuk \*  
Joaquin Pellandini  
Gastón Revol ^\*  
Germán Schulz ^\*  
Tobías Wade  
Travelling reserves:  
Rodrigo Isgró \*,  
Santiago Vera Feld



## AUSTRALIA

**Rio 2016:** Eighth  
**Tokyo 2020:** Seventh  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 5

**Coach:** John Manenti  
**Captain:** Nick Malouf

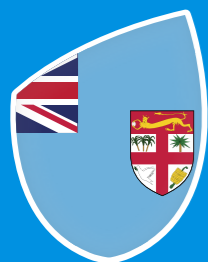
**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Fourth  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Nathan Lawson (25 tries) /  
Dietrich Roache (150 points)

**Did you know...?** Mark Nawaqanitawase played for Australia at Rugby World Cup 2023 in France, scoring a try in the Wallabies' matches against Georgia and Fiji.

**Player to watch:** Corey Toole  
A bolter into the Paris 2024 squad nearly two years after last donning the national sevens jersey at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2022 in South Africa, Toole did enough in camp last month to convince coach John Manenti he could pick up where he left off before his time in Super Rugby Pacific with the ACT Brumbies. With pace to burn, he scored 38 tries in the 2022 series.

### SQUAD LIST

Ben Dowling  
Matthew Gonzalez  
Henry Hutchison ^\*  
Nathan Lawson \*  
Maurice Longbottom \*  
Nick Malouf ^\*  
Mark Nawaqanitawase  
Henry Paterson  
Dietrich Roache \*  
Hayden Sargeant  
Corey Toole  
James Turner  
Travelling reserves:  
Michael Icely,  
Josh Turner



## FIJI

**Rio 2016:** Gold medallists  
**Tokyo 2020:** Gold medallists  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 3

**Coach:** Osea Kolinisau  
**Captain:** Jerry Tuwai

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Sixth  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Ponipate Loganimasi (21 tries) / Terio Tamani (144 points)

**Did you know...?** Jerry Tuwai is bidding to win a third Olympic gold medal having been part of Fiji's history-making side in Rio – alongside new coach Osea Kolinisau – and Tokyo.

**Player to watch:** Selesitino Ravutaumada  
Perhaps the most exciting name in Fiji's squad for Paris 2024 despite having not yet made his international sevens debut. Ravutaumada caught the eye at Rugby World Cup 2023 in France and continued in the same vein in Super Rugby Pacific with the Fijian Drua, earning a nomination for Most Valuable Player in the 2024 season.



### SQUAD LIST

Ponipate Loganimasi  
Iosefo Masi \*  
Jeremaia Matana  
Sevuloni Mocenacagi  
Waisea Nacuqu \*  
Josaia Raisuqe  
Kaminielei Rasaku  
Selestino Ravutaumada  
Joseva Talacolo  
Iowane Teba  
Jerry Tuwai ^\*  
Terio Tamani  
Travelling reserves:  
Joji Nasova,  
Filipe Sauturaga



## IRELAND

**Rio 2016:** Did not qualify  
**Tokyo 2020:** 10th  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 6

**Coach:** James Topping  
**Captain:** Harry McNulty

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** League runners-up  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Terry Kennedy (32 tries, 160 points)

**Did you know...?** A Men's Six Nations winner already this year with Ireland in 15s, Hugo Keenan has been lured back to sevens by the possibility of Olympic gold to complete a unique double.

**Player to watch:** Terry Kennedy  
One half of Ireland's prolific try-scoring double act with Jordan Conroy, the pair's almost telepathic understanding a key factor in Ireland's success over the years. Kennedy certainly knows his way to the try-line and has been the top scorer on the SVNS series twice in the last three years, combining that with the World Rugby Men's Sevens Player of the Year accolade in 2022.



### SQUAD LIST

Niall Comerford  
Jordan Conroy \*  
Hugo Keenan  
Jack Kelly \*  
Terry Kennedy \*  
Hugo Lennox \*  
Harry McNulty \*  
Gavin Mullin \*  
Chay Mullins  
Mark Roche \*  
Andrew Smith  
Zac Ward  
Travelling reserves:  
Sean Cribbin,  
Bryan Mollen \*



## FRANCE

**Rio 2016:** Seventh  
**Tokyo 2020:** Did not qualify  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 4

**Coach:** Jérôme Daret  
**Captain:** Paulin Riva

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** SVNS Champions (winners of Grand Final in Madrid)  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Jordan Sepho (16 tries) / Reyan Rebbadj (112 points)

**Did you know...?** France missed out on qualifying for Tokyo 2020 after losing to Ireland in the World Rugby Sevens Repechage final in Monaco.

**Player to watch:** Antoine Dupont  
The poster boy of French rugby was distraught after failing to lead France to a maiden Rugby World Cup title on home soil last year, but quickly set his sights on winning gold at a home Olympic Games. He made his SVNS debut in Vancouver and a week later in Los Angeles France won a first title for 19 years with a few touches of Dupont magic on show as he took to sevens like a duck to water. An inevitable choice for Rookie of the Year after helping France win the SVNS Grand Final in Madrid, he also starred as Toulouse won the European Champions Cup and Top 14 double.



### SQUAD LIST

Jean-Pascal Barraque  
Antoine Dupont  
Théo Forner  
Aaron Grandidier Nkanang  
Jefferson Lee Joseph  
Stephen Perez-Edo Martin ^  
Varian Pasquet  
Rayan Rebbadj  
Paulin Riva  
Jordan Sepho  
Andy Timo  
Antoine Zeghdar  
Travelling reserves:  
Nelson Epee,  
William Iraguha



## JAPAN

**Rio 2016:** Fourth  
**Tokyo 2020:** 12th  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 12

**Coach:** Simon Amor (GBR)  
**Captain:** Kippei Ishida

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Did not play  
**World Rugby Sevens Challenger 2024:** 8th  
**Challenger 2024 top try / point scorer:** Shotaro Tsuka (65 points, 13 tries)

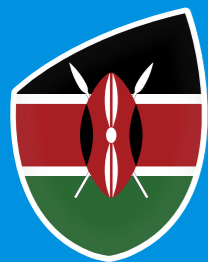
**Did you know...?** Simon Amor coached Great Britain at Rio 2016 with his side edging Japan 21-19, a few hours after the Japanese had stunned world champions New Zealand 14-12 in their opener.

**Player to watch:** Kippei Ishida  
The sole survivor from Japan's Tokyo 2020 squad, Ishida has become a regular in the team in the three years since those Games and will captain his country in Paris. A bronze medallist at the Youth Olympic Games in 2018, he may be among the smallest players in the squad but his fast running and crisp footwork mean he is always a threat to opponents.



### SQUAD LIST

Moeki Fukushi  
Kippei Ishida \*  
Taiga Ishida  
Josua Kerevi  
Yoshiyuki Koga  
Takamasa Maruo  
Junya Matsumoto  
Yoshihiro Noguchi  
Yu Okudaira  
Kippei Taninaka  
Shotaro Tsuka  
Kazuma Ueda  
Travelling reserves:  
Naoki Motomura \*,  
Taichi Yoshizawa



## KENYA

**Rio 2016:** 11th  
**Tokyo 2020:** Ninth  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 11

**Coach:** Kevin Wambua  
**Co-captains:** Vincent Onyala and Tony Omondi  
**Nickname:** Shujaa Sevens

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Did not play  
**World Rugby Sevens Challenger 2024:** Runners-up (Won play-off at SVNS Grand Final in Madrid to qualify for SVNS 2025)  
**Challenger 2024 top try / point scorer:** Patrick Odongo Okong'o (15 tries, 75 points)

**Did you know...?** Kenya's Humphrey Kayange was part of the sport's successful Olympic bid back in 2009 and played at Rio 2016 alongside his brother Collins Injera.

**Player to watch:** Patrick Odongo Okong'o  
The new star – and speed machine – of Kenya sevens who was his nation's top try-scorer on the World Rugby Sevens Challenger series in 2024 and helped secure a return to SVNS 2025 as a core team. Overcame the loss of his mother just before the African qualifier to be named most valuable player as Kenya booked their ticket to Paris 2024.



### SQUAD LIST

Nygel Pettersan Amaitsa  
George Ooro Angeyo  
Samuel Asati  
Herman Humwa \*  
Lamech Ambetsa Kokoyo  
Chrisant Ojwang  
Patrick Odongo Okong'o  
John Okoth  
Anthony Omondi  
Vincent Onyala \*  
Brian Tanga  
Kevin Wekesa  
Travelling reserves:  
Denis Abukuse,  
Festus Shiasi Safari



## NEW ZEALAND

**Rio 2016:** Fifth  
**Tokyo 2020:** Silver medallists  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 1

**Coach:** Tomasi Cama  
**Captain:** Dylan Collier  
**Nickname:** All Blacks Sevens

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Third (regular season)  
**SVNS 2024 titles:** 2 (Hong Kong SAR, Singapore)  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Leroy Carter (13 tries) / Akuila Rokolisoa (122 points)

**Did you know...?** New Zealand lost two matches in the pool stage at Rio 2016 and only scraped into the medal quarter-finals as the second-best third-place team across the pools by one point from USA (19 to 18 points difference).

**Player to watch:** Moses Leo  
One of the younger breed of players in the All Blacks Sevens squad, Leo has weighed in with a number of key tries to the New Zealand cause and is hungry for success after spending more than 18 months on the sidelines with shoulder, ankle and knee injuries before getting his first sevens contract.



### SQUAD LIST

Leroy Carter  
Dylan Collier \*  
Tepaea Cook-Savage  
Scott Curry ^\*  
Fehi Fineanganofa  
Andrew Knewstubb \*  
Moses Leo  
Ngarohi McGarvey-Black \*  
Tone Ng Shiu \*  
Akuila Rokolisoa  
Brady Rush  
Regan Ware ^\*  
Travelling reserves:  
Sione Molia ^\*,  
Joe Webber ^\*



## SAMOA

**Rio 2016:** Did not qualify  
**Tokyo 2020:** Did not qualify  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 8

**Coach:** Muliagatele Brian Lima  
**Captain:** Vaa Apelu Maliko  
**Nickname:** Manu Samoa Sevens

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** 11 (Lost play-off at SVNS Grand Final in Madrid so will not play on SVNS 2025)  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Elisapeta Alofipo (10 tries, 84 points)

**Did you know...?** Coach Brian Lima was the first to play in five Men's Rugby World Cups, helping Manu Samoa reach the quarter-finals in 1991 and 1995 before hanging up the boots after the 2007 tournament in France.

**Player to watch:** Vaa Apelu Maliko  
How Samoa missed their try-scoring machine this season with Apelu Maliko – the 2023 series top try-scorer with 50 – off playing club rugby in France for Stade Olympique Chambrey. He returned to captain the side in Madrid with a first Olympic Games looming, but his presence wasn't enough to prevent Samoa from losing their status as a core team for SVNS 2025.



### SQUAD LIST

Afa Vaovasa  
Vaa Apelu Maliko  
Faafoi Falaniko  
Lalomilo Lalomilo  
Neueli Leitufia  
BJ Lima  
Tom Maiava  
Alamanda Motuga  
Taunuu Niulevaea  
Motu Opetai  
Paul Scanlan  
Steve Solo  
Travelling reserves:  
Malakesi Masefau,  
Paul Eti Slater



## SOUTH AFRICA

**Rio 2016:** Bronze medallists  
**Tokyo 2020:** Fifth  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 7

**Coach:** Philip Snyman  
**Captain:** Selvyn Davids  
**Nickname:** Blitzboks

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Seventh (regular season)  
**SVNS 2024 titles:** 1 (Dubai)  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Quewin Nortje (18 tries, 90 points)

**Did you know...?** South Africa were the final team to qualify for Paris 2024, beating Great Britain 14-5 in the World Rugby Sevens Repechage final in Monaco on 23 June. They had failed to qualify via the 2023 series or the African regional qualifier.

**Player to watch:** Rosko Specman  
A bronze medallist at Rio 2016, Specman stepped away from sevens at the end of 2020 to focus on 15s and try to realise a dream of playing for the Springboks in test rugby, something he achieved against Georgia in 2021. A shot at a second Olympic Games, though, saw 'Specmagic' return to sevens this season and, despite turning 35 in April, he quickly showed he had lost none of his mesmerising footwork that has tormented many a defence over the years.



### SQUAD LIST

Selvyn Davids \*  
Zain Davids \*  
Christie Grobbelaar  
Tristan Leyds  
Quewin Nortje  
Ryan Oosthuizen  
Tiaan Pretorius  
Siviwe Soyizwapi \*  
Rosko Specman ^  
Shilton van Wyk  
Impi Visser \*  
Shaun Williams  
Travelling reserves:  
Ronald Brown \*,  
Kat Letebele



## URUGUAY

**Rio 2016:** Did not qualify  
**Tokyo 2020:** Did not qualify  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 10

**Coach:** Ivo Dugonjic  
**Captain:** Diego Ardao  
**Nickname:** Los Teros Sevens

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Did not play  
**World Rugby Sevens Challenger 2024:** Champions (Won play-off at SVNS Grand Final in Madrid to qualify for SVNS 2025)  
**Challenger 2024 top try / point scorer:** Diego Ardao (11 tries) / Guillermo Lijtenstein (90 points)

**Did you know...?** Uruguay become the 16th men's team to qualify for an Olympic Games, Argentina's qualification through the world series opening the door to them to win the South American regional qualifier.

**Player to watch:** Diego Ardao  
Uruguay's captain and talisman is a qualified doctor with a love of books and travel. One of Los Teros Sevens' most experienced players, Ardao has led his side to a first Olympic Games and a return to core team status on SVNS 2025. He was their top scorer as they won the World Rugby Sevens Challenger 2024 series and will hope to catch the eye in France as his older brother Manuel did during Rugby World Cup 2023.



### SQUAD LIST

Baltasar Amaya  
Felipe Arcos Pérez  
Diego Ardao  
Bautista Basso  
Tomás Etcheverry  
Ignacio Facciolo  
Juan González  
Valentín Grille  
Guillermo Lijtenstein  
James McCubbin  
Juan Manuel Tafernaberry  
Mateo Viñals  
Travelling reserves:  
Koba Brazionis,  
Dante Soto



## USA

**Rio 2016:** Ninth  
**Tokyo 2020:** Sixth  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 9

**Coach:** Mike Friday (GBR)  
**Captain:** Kevon Williams  
**Nickname:** Men's Eagles Sevens

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Ninth  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Perry Baker (30 tries) / Malacchi Esdale (105 points)

**Did you know...?** USA won gold at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris, the last to feature the sport of rugby for 92 years until rugby sevens made its debut at Rio 2016

**Player to watch:** Perry Baker  
Baker may be the elder statesman of squad after turning 38 last month, but he is still one of the most dangerous finishers and only Ireland's Terry Kennedy scored more tries than his 30 on SVNS 2024. The only person to be crowned World Rugby Men's Sevens Player of the Year twice – in 2017 and 2018 – sits second on the all-time list with 291 tries in 71 series tournaments.



### SQUAD LIST

Perry Baker ^\*  
Orrin Bizer  
Aaron Cummings  
Malacchi Esdale  
Naima Fuala'au  
Madison Hughes ^\*  
Lucas Lacamp  
Matai Leuta \*  
Stephen Tomasin \*  
Marcus Tupuola  
Maka Unufe ^  
Kevon Williams \*  
Travelling reserves:  
Adam Channel, Pita Vi



# MATCH SCHEDULE

MEN'S

DAY ONE  
WEDNESDAY,  
24 JULY –  
STADE DE FRANCE

#	POOL	TEAM 1		TEAM 2	KO
1	B	Australia	v	Samoa	15:30
2	B	Argentina	v	Kenya	16:00
3	C	France	v	USA	16:30
4	C	Fiji	v	Uruguay	17:00
5	A	Ireland	v	South Africa	17:30
6	A	New Zealand	v	Japan	18:00
7	B	Australia	v	Kenya	19:00
8	B	Argentina	v	Samoa	19:30
9	C	France	v	Uruguay	20:00
10	C	Fiji	v	USA	20:30
11	A	Ireland	v	Japan	21:00
12	A	New Zealand	v	South Africa	21:30

DAY TWO  
THURSDAY,  
25 JULY –  
STADE DE FRANCE

#	POOL	TEAM 1		TEAM 2	KO
13	B	Samoa	v	Kenya	14:00
14	B	Argentina	v	Australia	14:30
15	C	USA	v	Uruguay	15:00
16	C	Fiji	v	France	15:30
17	A	South Africa	v	Japan	16:00
18	A	New Zealand	v	Ireland	16:30
19	Placing 9-12	9	v	12	20:00
20	Placing 9-12	10	v	11	20:30
21	Quarter-final	A1	v	8	21:00
22	Quarter-final	C2	v	B2	21:30
23	Quarter-final	C1	v	A2	22:00
24	Quarter-final	B1	v	7	22:30

## DAY THREE

SATURDAY,  
27 JULY –  
STADE DE FRANCE

#	POOL	TEAM 1		TEAM 2	KO
25	Placing 5-8	Loser M21	v	Loser M22	14:30
26	Placing 5-8	Loser M23	v	Loser M24	15:00
27	Semi-final	Winner M21	v	Winner M22	15:30
28	Semi-final	Winner M23	v	Winner M24	16:00
29	Placing 11-12	Loser M19	v	Loser M20	16:30
30	Placing 9-10	Winner M19	v	Winner M20	17:00
31	Placing 7-8	Loser M25	v	Loser M26	18:00
32	Placing 5-6	Winner M25	v	Winner M26	18:30
33	Bronze Medal Match	Loser M27	v	Loser M28	19:00
34	Gold Medal Match	Winner M27	v	Winner M28	19:45
OLYMPIC MEDAL CEREMONIES					20:15





# TEAMS PROFILE - WOMEN'S

Squads correct  
as of 15 July, 2024.

^ Played at  
Rio 2016

\* Played at  
Tokyo 2020



## AUSTRALIA

**Rio 2016:** Gold medallists

**Tokyo 2020:** Fifth

**Paris 2024 seeding:** 2

**Coach:** Tim Walsh

**Captain:** Charlotte Caslick

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** SVNS Champions (winners of Grand Final in Madrid)

**SVNS 2024 titles:** 2 (Dubai, Cape Town)

**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Maddison Levi (69 tries, 345 points)

**Did you know...?** Tim Walsh coached Australia to Olympic gold at Rio 2016 and is back with the team after going to Tokyo 2020 with the men's side. Only two of his golden girls will be in action in Paris in Charlotte Caslick and Sharni Smale (nee Williams).

**Player to watch:** Maddison Levi

It's hard to believe that Levi only made her debut on the global stage at Tokyo 2020, such has been her impact on the women's series. The elder of the Levi sisters is a lethal finisher, give her an inch and with her pace and strength she's gone. She has been the top scorer for the last two series, bettering her 57 in 2023 with 69 this season – a record beaten by only one player in men's and women's series history.



### SQUAD LIST

Charlotte Caslick ^\*  
Bridget Clark  
Dominique du Toit \*  
Tia Hinds \*  
Maddison Levi \*  
Teagan Levi  
Isabella Nasser  
Faith Nathan \*  
Sariah Paki \*  
Kaitlin Shave  
Sharni Smale  
(nee Williams) ^\*  
Bienne Terita  
Travelling reserves:  
Kahli Henwood,  
Sidney Taylor



## BRAZIL

**Rio 2016:** Ninth

**Tokyo 2020:** 11th

**Paris 2024 seeding:** 10

**Coach:** William Broderick (GBR)

**Captain:** Luiza Campos

**Nickname:** As Yaras

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** 10th (Won play-off at SVNS Grand Final in Madrid to retain place on SVNS 2025)

**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Thalia Costa (30 tries, 150 points)

**Did you know...?** Brazil's record of being crowned South American women's sevens champions every time they have contested the event – dating back to 2004 with only 2015 missed – ended last year when Argentina beat them 20-12 in the final.

**Player to watch:** Thalia Costa

One of the fastest players on the women's series, the diminutive speedster doesn't need much of a gap to slip through and few can keep up with her in full flight. This will be her second Olympic Games and, no, you're not seeing double on the pitch as her twin sister Thalita also plays for Brazil!



### SQUAD LIST

Luiza Campos ^\*  
Thalia Costa \*  
Thalita da Silva Costa \*  
Mariana Fioravanti \*  
Gisele Gomes dos Santos  
Raquel Kochhann ^\*  
Gabriela Lima  
Milena Silva  
Mariana Nicolau \*  
Bianca Silva \*  
Yasmin Soares  
Marcelle Souza  
Travelling reserves:  
Leila dos Santos Silva,  
Isadora Lopes de Souza



## CANADA

**Rio 2016:** Bronze medallists  
**Tokyo 2020:** Ninth  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 7

**Coach:** Jack Hanratty  
**Captain:** Olivia Apps

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Fifth  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Krissy Scurfield (20 tries) / Chloe Daniels (131 points)

**Did you know...?** This will be Jack Hanratty's last tournament as coach with his assistant Jocelyn Barrieau taking over after Paris 2024. She will join USA's Emilie Bydwell and Spain's Maria Ribera as the only female head coaches among SVNS teams.

**Player to watch:** Carissa Norsten  
Norsten, in the words of her coach Jack Hanratty, "loves a big stage" and she has certainly shown that in her first year of international sevens, claiming Pan American Games silver on her Canada debut and then scoring a crucial golden point try in extra-time in her first SVNS game in Dubai. The 20-year-old's skill set, attacking strength and defensive qualities saw her named SVNS 2024 Rookie of the Year following the Grand Final in Madrid last month.



### SQUAD LIST

Olivia Apps \*  
Fancy Bermudez  
Alysha Corrigan  
Caroline Crossley  
Chloe Daniels  
Asia Hogan-Rochester  
Piper Logan  
Carissa Norsten  
Krissy Scurfield  
Florence Symonds  
Keyara Wardley \*  
Charity Williams ^\*  
Travelling reserves:  
Taylor Perry



## CHINA

**Rio 2016:** Did not qualify  
**Tokyo 2020:** Seventh  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 12

**Coach:** Lu Zhuan  
**Captain:** Yan Meiling

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Did not play  
**World Rugby Sevens Challenger 2024:** Champions (Won play-off at SVNS Grand Final in Madrid to qualify for SVNS 2025)  
**Challenger 2024 top try / point scorer:** Liu Xiaoqian (28 tries, 140 points)

**Did you know...?** Sir Gordon Tietjens, the most decorated coach in sevens history after 22 years in charge of the New Zealand men's team, is a high-performance consultant to China's women's sevens programme.

**Player to watch:** Liu Xiaoqian  
A bronze medallist at the Youth Olympic Games on home soil in 2014, Xiaoqian will come into her second Olympic Games in impressive form, her pace having been a constant threat in 2024 as she scored 28 tries to help China win the World Rugby Sevens Challenger and a further seven as her side secured a return to the SVNS 2025 series and their ticket to Paris 2024.



### SQUAD LIST

Chen Keyi \*  
Dou Xinrong  
Gu Yaoyao \*  
Hu Yu  
Liu Xiaoqian \*  
Ruan Hongting \*  
Su Qi  
Sun Yue  
Wang Wanyu \*  
Yan Meiling \*  
Yang Feifei \*  
Zhou Yan  
Travelling reserves:  
Ma Xiaodan,  
Wang Xiao



## FIJI

**Rio 2016:** Eighth  
**Tokyo 2020:** Bronze medallists  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 6

**Coach:** Saiasi Fuli  
**Captain:** Raijieli Daveua  
**Nickname:** Fijiana

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Sixth  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Adi vani Buleki (22 tries) / Ana Maria Naimasi (129 points)

**Did you know...?** Fijiana beat two of the Rio 2016 medallists (Canada and Australia) in Tokyo and took the other (New Zealand) to sudden death extra-time in the semi-finals. Victory over Great Britain in the bronze medal match created history as their country's first female Olympic medallists.

**Player to watch:** Reapi Ulunisau  
Ulunisau burst onto the sevens scene at Tokyo 2020, ending her first global tournament as the top try-scorer with eight, including a four-try haul against Brazil in the pool stage and what proved to be the winning try in the bronze medal match to secure the first women's Olympic medal for Fiji. An elusive runner and always a threat when she gets the ball, something she has also shown in 15s with a four-try haul on her test debut against Papua New Guinea in 2023.



### SQUAD LIST

Lavena Cavuru \*  
Raijieli Daveua ^\*  
Ilisapeci Delaiwau  
Verenaisi Ditavutu  
Sesenieli Donu \*  
Laisana Likuceva \*  
Kolora Lomani  
Ana Maria Naimasi \*  
Alowesi Nakoci \*  
Maria Rokotuisiga  
Reapi Ulunisau \*  
Adi vani Buleki  
Travelling reserves:  
Rogosau Adimereani



## FRANCE

**Rio 2016:** Sixth  
**Tokyo 2020:** Silver medallists  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 3

**Coach:** David Courteix  
**Captain:** Carla Neisen  
**Nickname:** Les Bleues Sevens

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Third (regular season, runners-up to Australia in Grand Final in Madrid)  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Anne-Cécile Ciofani (33 tries, 165 points)

**Did you know...?** France's David Courteix is returning for a third shot at Olympic gold, having just missed out with silver in Tokyo. He is the only head coach in charge for a third women's campaign, Australia's Tim Walsh having been in charge of the men's team in Tokyo.

**Player to watch:** Anne-Cécile Ciofani  
A heptathlete before finding rugby, to say Ciofani comes from a sporting family is an understatement: both her parents were Olympians in the 1980s and her sisters are hammer throwers. A tall and rangy player, she covers the ground well and knows her way to the try-line.



### SQUAD LIST

Anne-Cécile Ciofani \*  
Lili Dezou  
Caroline Drouin \*  
Camille Grassineau ^\*  
Joanna Grisez  
Chloé Jacquet \*  
Iän Jason  
Carla Neisen \*  
Lou Noel  
Séraphine Okemba \*  
Chloé Pelle \*  
Yolaine Yengo  
Travelling reserves:  
Alycia Christiaens,  
Shannon Izar ^\*



## GREAT BRITAIN

**Rio 2016:** Fourth  
**Tokyo 2020:** Fourth  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 8

**Coach:** Ciaran Beattie  
**Captain:** Emma Uren

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Eighth  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Ellie Boatman (16 tries) / Emma Uren (99 points)

**Did you know...?** Ellie Kildunne was named Women's Six Nations Player of the Championship in April after scoring nine tries and claiming three individual Player of the Match awards from five matches.

**Player to watch:** Jasmine Joyce  
Set to become the first player to represent Team GB in three Olympic Games, Joyce has played at the highest level for Wales in both 15s and sevens. An instinctive player blessed with pace and a real eye for the try-line, she will be hungry to make it a case of third time lucky after finishing fourth in both Rio and Tokyo.

### SQUAD LIST

Ellie Boatman  
Heather Cowell  
Grace Crompton  
Meg Jones \*  
Jasmine Joyce ^\*  
Ellie Kildunne  
Isla Norman-Bell  
Jade Shekells  
Lisa Thomson \*  
Lauren Torley  
Emma Uren \*  
Amy Wilson Hardy ^  
Travelling reserves:  
Abi Burton,  
Kayleigh Powell



## IRELAND

**Rio 2016:** Did not qualify  
**Tokyo 2020:** Did not qualify  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 5

**Coach:** Allan Temple-Jones  
**Captain:** Lucy Rock (nee Mulhall)

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Seventh  
**SVNS 2024 titles:** 1 (Perth)  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Amee Leigh Murphy Crowe (33 tries, 165 points)

**Did you know...?** Ireland's success in the Perth round of SVNS 2024 in January was the first title won by an Irish team on the world series.

**Player to watch:** Amee Leigh Murphy Crowe  
Murphy Crowe has carried the weight of expectation on her shoulders for a long time, her pace providing a regular outlet for Ireland to quickly turn defence into attack. The first northern hemisphere player to finish a series as top try-scorer in 2019, her leadership qualities have seen her captain the side in the absence of Lucy Rock for much of this season.

### SQUAD LIST

Kathy Baker  
Megan Burns  
Vicky Elmes Kinlan  
Alanna Fitzpatrick  
Stacey Flood  
Eve Higgins  
Erin King  
Emily Lane  
Amee Leigh Murphy Crowe  
Ashleigh Orchard (nee Baxter)  
Béibhinn Parsons  
Lucy Rock (nee Mulhall)  
Travelling reserves:  
Claire Boles,  
Amy Larn



## JAPAN

**Rio 2016:** 10th  
**Tokyo 2020:** 12th  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 9

**Coach:** Takashi Suzuki  
**Captain:** Yume Hirano  
**Nickname:** Sakura Sevens

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Ninth (Won play-off at SVNS Grand Final in Madrid to retain place on SVNS 2025)

**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Yume Hirano (11 tries, 59 points)

**Did you know...?** Ano Kuwai, a Rio 2016 Olympian for Japan, will become the first to play and officiate at a Games having been named on the referee panel for the women's competition in Paris.

**Player to watch:** Chiharu Nakamura  
The heartbeat of the Sakura Sevens for the best part of a decade, Nakamura captained Japan at Rio 2016 only to then be surprisingly omitted from the Tokyo 2020 squad in favour of youth. Her inspirational leadership qualities were badly missed as Japan failed to win a match, but now back in the fold she continues to set the example on and off the field and is part of the Women in Rugby Leadership Programme in 2024 and 2025.

### SQUAD LIST

Wakaba Hara \*  
Yume Hirano \*  
Marin Kajiki \*  
Rinka Matsuda  
Sakura Mizutani  
Chiharu Nakamura ^  
Arisa Nishi  
Mei Ohtani \*  
Chiaki Saegusa  
Emii Tanaka  
Honoka Tsutsumi \*  
Hanaka Utsumi  
Travelling reserves:  
Fumiko Otake,  
Yukino Tsujisaki



## NEW ZEALAND

**Rio 2016:** Silver medallists  
**Tokyo 2020:** Gold medallists  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 1

**Coach:** Cory Sweeney  
**Co-captains:** Sarah Hirini / Risi Pouri-Lane  
**Nickname:** Black Ferns Sevens

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** League Winners  
**SVNS 2024 titles:** 4 (Vancouver, Los Angeles, Hong Kong SAR, Singapore)  
**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Michaela Blyde (53 tries, 267 points)

**Did you know...?** Risi Pouri-Lane has already created her own piece of Olympic history, captaining New Zealand to Youth Olympic Games gold in Buenos Aires in 2018 before securing gold with the senior side at Tokyo 2020.

**Player to watch:** Jorja Miller  
One of the most exciting young players on the women's series, Miller's rapid footwork and movement have undone many a defence – an attribute honed through her years of Highland Dancing. Named Rookie of the Year in her debut series in 2023, she signed the longest contract in New Zealand women's rugby history through to 2027 – all before her 20th birthday.

### SQUAD LIST

Michaela Blyde \*  
Jazmin Felix-Hotham  
Sarah Hirini ^\*  
Tyla King (nee Nathan-Wong) ^\*  
Jorja Miller  
Manaia Nuku  
Mahina Paul  
Risi Pouri-Lane \*  
Alena Saili \*  
Theresa Setefano (nee Fitzpatrick) ^\*  
Stacey Waaka \*  
Portia Woodman-Wickliffe ^\*  
Travelling reserves:  
Tyhsa Ikenasio,  
Tenika Willison \*



## SOUTH AFRICA

**Rio 2016:** Did not play  
**Tokyo 2020:** Did not play  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 11

**Coach:** Renfred Dazel  
**Co-captains:** Zintle Mpupha and Mathrin Simmers

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** 11th (Lost play-off at SVNS Grand Final in Madrid so will not play on SVNS 2025)

**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:** Nadine Roos (22 tries, 178 points)

**Did you know...?** South Africa won the Africa regional qualifier for both Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 but were unable to take up the place due to the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) rules at the time.

**Player to watch:** Nadine Roos

She may be diminutive in stature but her deft footwork and eye for a gap mean Roos is not a player to underestimate, especially given her pace as a former athlete and netball player. Nothing fazes the 28-year-old, who was raised by her grandmother after being abandoned by her mother as a baby. South Africa's top scorer on the 2024 series, she is one of first names on the team list in both sevens and 15s.



### SQUAD LIST

Kemisetso Baloyi  
Marlize de Bruin  
Byrhandre Dolf  
Veroeshka Grain  
Libbie Janse van Rensburg  
Liske Lategan  
Ayanda Malinga  
Zintle Mpupha  
Nadine Roos  
Mathrin Simmers  
Sizophila Solontsi  
Maria Tshiremba  
Travelling reserves:  
Shiniqwa Lamprecht,  
Shona-Leah Weston



## USA

**Rio 2016:** Fifth  
**Tokyo 2020:** Sixth  
**Paris 2024 seeding:** 4

**Coach:** Emilie Bydwell  
**Co-captains:** Lauren Doyle and Naya Tapper

**SVNS 2024 ranking:** Fourth

**SVNS 2024 top try / point scorer:**  
Ariana Ramsey (17 tries) / Alev Kelter  
(139 points)

**Did you know...?** USA were involved in the only draw in women's Olympic history, 12-12 with Australia in their Rio 2016 Pool A encounter at the Deodoro Stadium.

**Player to watch:** Ilona Maher

With more than a million followers on TikTok, Maher's impact reaches far beyond the pitch as she uses her platform as an Olympic athlete to share important messages and give people a glimpse of the life of an athlete. A combination of speed and power make her a handful on the pitch where she prefers to run through an opponent rather than go around them. Paris 2024 will see her return to the city where she made her series debut back in 2018.



### SQUAD LIST

Kayla Canett \*  
Lauren Doyle ^\*  
Alev Kelter ^\*  
Kristi Kirshe \*  
Sarah Levy  
Ilona Maher \*  
Alena Olsen  
Ariana Ramsey \*  
Steph Rovetti  
Alex Sedrick  
Sammy Sullivan  
Naya Tapper \*  
Travelling reserves:  
Nicole Heavirland \*,  
Kris Thomas \*



# MATCH SCHEDULE

## WOMEN'S

### DAY ONE

SUNDAY,  
28 JULY –  
STADE DE FRANCE

#	POOL	TEAM 1		TEAM 2	KO
1	B	Ireland	v	Great Britain	15:30
2	B	Australia	v	South Africa	16:00
3	C	USA	v	Japan	16:30
4	C	France	v	Brazil	17:00
5	A	Fiji	v	Canada	17:30
6	A	New Zealand	v	China	18:00
7	B	Ireland	v	South Africa	19:00
8	B	Australia	v	Great Britain	19:30
9	C	USA	v	Brazil	20:00
10	C	France	v	Japan	20:30
11	A	Fiji	v	China	21:00
12	A	New Zealand	v	Canada	21:30

### DAY TWO

MONDAY,  
29 JULY –  
STADE DE FRANCE

#	POOL	TEAM 1		TEAM 2	KO
13	B	Great Britain	v	South Africa	14:00
14	B	Australia	v	Ireland	14:30
15	C	Japan	v	Brazil	15:00
16	C	France	v	USA	15:30
17	A	Canada	v	China	16:00
18	A	New Zealand	v	Fiji	16:30
19	Placing 9-12	9	v	12	20:00
20	Placing 9-12	10	v	11	20:30
21	Quarter-final	A1	v	8	21:00
22	Quarter-final	C2	v	B2	21:30
23	Quarter-final	C1	v	A2	22:00
24	Quarter-final	B1	v	7	22:30

## DAY THREE

TUESDAY,  
30 JULY –  
STADE DE FRANCE

#	POOL	TEAM 1		TEAM 2	KO
25	Placing 5-8	Loser M21	v	Loser M22	14:30
26	Placing 5-8	Loser M23	v	Loser M24	15:00
27	Semi-final	Winner M21	v	Winner M22	15:30
28	Semi-final	Winner M23	v	Winner M24	16:00
29	Placing 11-12	Loser M19	v	Loser M20	16:30
30	Placing 9-10	Winner M19	v	Winner M20	17:00
31	Placing 7-8	Loser M25	v	Loser M26	18:00
32	Placing 5-6	Winner M25	v	Winner M26	18:30
33	Bronze Medal Match	Loser M27	v	Loser M28	19:00
34	Gold Medal Match	Winner M27	v	Winner M28	19:45
OLYMPIC MEDAL CEREMONIES					20:15



# A-Z OF SEVENS STARS

## TO WATCH IN PARIS

A

**Diego Ardao (Uruguay)** A qualified doctor and the heartbeat of Los Teros Sevens, he contributed a team-high 11 tries, 57 carries and nine line-breaks to their World Rugby Sevens Challenger success in 2024.

B

**Perry Baker (USA)** The only two-time winner of the World Rugby Men's Sevens Player of the Year who, despite having turned 38 last month, is one of the most lethal finishers on the series.

C

**Charlotte Caslick (Australia)** One of Australia's two remaining Rio 2016 gold medallists heading to Paris 2024, two-time World Rugby Women's Sevens Player of the Year and captain Caslick is the most experienced women's player in SVNS history with 53 tournaments.

D

**Antoine Dupont (France)** The poster boy of French rugby announcing his desire to win Olympic gold at Paris 2024 created headlines around the world, but Dupont showed it was no gimmick and in only his second event he helped France end a 19-year wait for a tournament win. The SVNS Rookie of the Year is one of the best players of his generation and adds a touch of magic to an already talented France sevens team.

E

**Tomás Elizalde (Argentina)** One of the young guns in Los Pumas Sevens team who have blossomed under the experienced coaching of Santiago Gómez Cora to claim the League Winners crown in 2024.

F

**Fehi Fineanganofa (New Zealand)** A star of schoolboy rugby, he had to be patient for his All Blacks Sevens debut with injury scuppering his first involvement in 2021. Handed his first contract in 2024, the 21-year-old scored eight tries in his first full SVNS series.

G

**Gastón Revol (Argentina)** The only player to feature in more than 100 tournaments on the SVNS series having made his debut back in 2009, he was sent off in the quarter-final against South Africa at Tokyo 2020 but his tears turned to joy when his team-mates went on to claim bronze.

H

**Henry Hutchison (Australia)** Burst onto the scene as a winger but now relishing life in the role of hooker. Returned to action in January after nearly a year out with an ACL injury and is one of two Australian men set for a third Olympic Games.

I

**Kippe Ishida (Japan)** A Youth Olympic Games bronze medallist in 2018, Ishida is the only member of Japan's squad who was involved on home soil in Tokyo three years ago and will lead their bid for a first Olympic victory since 2016.

J

**Jasmine Joyce (Great Britain)** A survivor of bronze medal heartbreak in both Rio and Tokyo, the Welsh flyer becomes the first player to represent Team GB at three Olympic Games. Seven tries at Tokyo 2020 shows that Joyce knows her way to the try-line in both sevens and 15s.

K

**Ellie Kildunne (Great Britain)** and **Hugo Keenan (Ireland)** Six Nations champions already in 2024 – Kildunne with a Grand Slam for England and the Player of the Championship accolade, the lure of an Olympic medal has seen both make the switch from 15s back to sevens.

L

**Maddison Levi (Australia)** Hasn't looked back since making her debut at Tokyo 2020, becoming the fastest Australian woman to 100 tries on the SVNS series and top try-scorer for the last two seasons. Her turn of pace and power makes her unstoppable at times, as her 69 tries in 2024 shows – a figure only one man can beat in the history of the world series.

M

**Amee Leigh Murphy Crowe (Ireland)** A try-scoring machine with the pace to leave others trailing in her wake, Murphy Crowe has scored 30 or more tries in the last four full seasons, becoming the first northern hemisphere player to finish as top scorer in 2019.

N

**Chiharu Nakamura (Japan)** The heartbeat of the Sakura Sevens who returns to the Olympic stage having been surprisingly overlooked for her home Games in Tokyo when the coach opted for youth. Her experience was sorely missed and three years on her influence is evident on and off the pitch.

O

**Séraphine Okemba (France)** A towering presence in the France side and a key figure in their silver medal success at Tokyo 2020, Okemba is blessed with a long stride, pace and the strength to burst through tackles, a combination which makes her one of the most dangerous players in the game.

P

**Risi Pouri-Lane (New Zealand)** The holder of a unique double having captained her country to gold at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires in 2018 and then helped the Black Ferns Sevens win Olympic gold in Tokyo.

Q

**Quewin Nortje (South Africa)** Enjoyed a debut season to remember despite the Blitzboks' struggles and was nominated for the SVNS Rookie of the Year award. Blessed with searing pace, Nortje was South Africa's leading try and point scorer on the 2024 series.

R

**Nadine Roos (South Africa)** Don't be fooled by her diminutive stature as Roos is a lethal finisher, combining deft footwork honed by years of athletics and netball with an eye for a gap to torment defences.

S

**Krissy Scurfield (Canada)** A graduate of the Maple Leaf Academy, Scurfield was Canada's joint-top try-scorer this season with 20 alongside Rio 2016 bronze medallist Charity Williams but also led their defensive effort with a team-high 57 tackles.

T

**Jerry Tuwai (Fiji)** A maestro with quick feet, outrageous offloads and vision, Tuwai is the only player with two Olympic gold medals and arrives in Paris dreaming of a three-peat. Recalled to the team by his Rio 2016 captain Osea Kolinisau following his appointment as coach, Tuwai played in the SVNS Grand Final in Madrid and his experience and influence was clear for all to see.

U

**Reapi Ulunisau (Fiji)** She arrived at Tokyo 2020 as a relative unknown but left with everyone knowing her name after her elusive running saw her claim the mantle as top try-scorer with eight, including four in a pool match against Brazil.

V

**Vaa Apelu Maliko (Samoa)** The top try-scorer on the 2023 series with 50, Apelu Maliko's finishing prowess was badly missed by Samoa this season as they found tries hard to come by. He returned in Madrid, having been playing club rugby in France with Stade Olympique Chambéry, but couldn't prevent Samoa from losing their SVNS status.

W

**Portia Woodman-Wickliffe (New Zealand)** Paris 2024 will be a fitting swansong for Woodman-Wickliffe, one of the greatest players of all time. The only one to win the World Rugby Women's Player of the Year in 15s and sevens, a two-time Rugby World Cup winner in 15s and sevens, an Olympic and Commonwealth Games gold medallist and all-time leading try scorer in series, Olympic and Rugby World Cup history.

X

**Liu Xiaoqian (China)** With 35 tries across both the World Rugby Sevens Challenger and Play-off as China secured a return to the SVNS series in 2025, Liu Xiaoqian has been a key part in a 27-match winning run. A threat from anywhere on the pitch with pace to burn, she will hope to inspire China to better their seventh-place finish in Tokyo.

Y

**Yume Hirano (Japan)** The Sakura Sevens captain returns for her second Olympic Games on the back of a season that saw her directly involved in almost a quarter of Japan's tries on the SVNS 2024 series, scoring 11 and assisting a further 10.

Z

**Antoine Zeghdar (France)** A World Rugby U20 Championship winner with France in 2019, Zeghdar was part of the team that missed out on the Tokyo 2020 Games at the last hurdle with defeat to Ireland in the Repechage final. That heartbreak spurred his return to sevens in 2023 with one aim – to make the Paris 2024 squad and experience the Olympic Games on home soil.

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