

## **Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009**

### **How the draw worked**

#### **Women**

In total, 83 unions participated in a global qualification process that spanned the course of 2008, and delivered an unprecedented level of international Sevens for the women's games with the regional tournaments proving both popular and hugely competitive.

The qualified teams were split into four pools of four teams in each. England, Australia, Canada and New Zealand were ranked as the top seeds and allocated to band 1. Japan, Netherlands, South Africa, and Brazil completed the top eight seeds and were allocated to band 2.

Band 1 was England, Australia, Canada and New Zealand  
Band 2 was Japan, Netherlands, South Africa and Brazil  
Band 3 was Russia, France, Spain and Italy  
Band 4 was USA, China, Thailand and Uganda

#### **Men**

To ensure that the competition reflects recent playing standards, for the first time in Rugby World Cup Sevens history, performances over the past two IRB Sevens World Series seasons and the opening rounds of the 2008/09 Series were used to seed the top 12 teams for the Pool Allocation Draw with the top six seeds going into Band 1 and teams 7-12 in Band 2.

The remaining 12 qualified teams were seeded 13-24 based upon performances in the last two IRB Sevens World Series, their regional qualifying tournaments and overall playing strength, and randomly drawn into the third and fourth bands to complete the structure.

Band 3 was Portugal, United States, Canada, Tunisia, Zimbabwe and the Arabian Gulf.  
Band 4 was Italy, Japan, Georgia, Hong Kong, Ireland and Uruguay.

The top two bands were already allocated, in order to keep the top seeds apart.  
Band 2 was: 12<sup>th</sup> seeds Tonga, 11<sup>th</sup> seeds France, 10<sup>th</sup> seeds Scotland, Ninth seeds Australia, Eighth seeds Kenya, Seventh seeds Wales  
Band 1 was: Sixth seeds Argentina, Fifth seeds England, Fourth seeds Samoa, Third seeds South Africa, Second seeds Fiji, Top seeds New Zealand