



## Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Rugby Sevens Competition Format

### OLYMPIC COMPETITION FORMAT

The rugby sevens competition at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games consists of women's and men's events. Each event consists of a pool round and knockout round phases. The 12 competing teams in each event are placed into three pools of four teams each, with a round robin format. Points are awarded to both teams after each pool match according to the following criteria:

- Win = three points.
- Draw = two points.
- Loss = one point.

Following the completion of the pool round the following rules are used to populate the knockout round brackets:

- Teams are ranked in their pool according to their total number of classification points.
- If two teams have equal total match points the winner of the match involving those two teams will be ranked higher.
- If three or four teams have equal total match points the following criteria will determine pool ranking:

- Points margin
- Tries margin
- Points for
- Tries for
- Games seeding

The top two teams in each pool (A1, B1, C1, A2, B2, C2) are placed in pre-determined slots in the knockout round brackets.

The three teams finishing third in their pools will be ranked 7, 8, 9 in a combined ranking list using the following criteria:

- Total match points
- Points margin
- Tries margin
- Points for

- Tries for
- Games Seeding

The three teams finishing fourth in their pools will be ranked 10, 11, 12 in the same combined ranking list using the same criteria.

The quarterfinals brackets are set as follows:

- A1 vs 8
- C2 vs B2
- C1 vs A2
- B1 vs 7

The winners of the quarterfinal matches proceed to the semifinals and the losers to placing matches 5-8.

The teams ranked as 9, 10, 11, 12 play in the placing 9-12 bracket and the matches are set out as follows:

- 9 vs 12
- 10 vs 11

The winners play for placing 9-10 and the losers for placing 11-12.

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE RUGBY WORLD CUP SEVENS AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

More teams take part in the Rugby World Cup Sevens (24 teams for men, 16 teams for women). There is no pool round in the Rugby World Cup Sevens.

## CHANGES SINCE THE RIO 2016 OLYMPIC GAMES

None.

## SPORT RULES AND PROCEDURES

The Olympic Games rugby sevens competition is conducted in accordance with the World Rugby laws of the game incorporating the playing charter and seven-a-side variations 2018.

Team composition

Each team consists of 12 players; seven players on the field of play and five on the bench.

Game description

Rugby sevens is a high-scoring, dynamic team sport where the objective of the game is that two teams should, by carrying, passing, kicking and grounding the ball, score as many points as possible.

Scoring:

A try is worth five points and is awarded when a player touches the ball down on or beyond the opposing team's goal line. After a try is scored, the team also has a chance to register an additional two points with a conversion kick, which is completed by kicking the ball over a bar between two goal posts.

A penalty try is worth seven points and is awarded between the goal posts if foul play by the opposing team prevents a probable try being scored, or scored in a more advantageous position.

If the opposition commits an offence a penalty may be awarded. A team can then choose to drop-kick at the goal which, if successful, is worth three points.

During open play a team may also attempt to drop-kick the ball through the posts for a drop goal which is also worth three points. Play stops at the discretion of the match referee, who is the sole judge of fact and law including time. The referee is assisted by the assistant referees and in-goal judges during a match. The match referee may choose not to stop the play at an infringement if the non-offending team gains an advantage.

A match is played with no more than seven players in each team on the field of play. A team can substitute or replace up to five players. Temporary replacement of a player is permitted for a blood injury or head injury assessment. A player who has been replaced due to injury may not resume play in the same match. A player who has been substituted may not resume play in the same match except in the case of a temporary blood replacement.

Alternatively, a rolling substitution system may be used. In this case a team may substitute the same player more than once as long as no more than five substitutions are made in total.

No replacement or substitution may be made except with the permission of the referee, and only during a stoppage in play.

In line with World Rugby laws and regulations, all matches are officiated by five officials (referee, two assistant referees and two in-goal judges) together with the World Rugby appointed citing commissioner and judicial officers.

Match description:

The duration of all matches is 14 minutes; two halves of seven minutes each, counting down to zero, with a two-minute half-time interval.

Extra time is required only for the knockout round if matches end in a draw. After a break of two minutes, during which the referee organises a toss with the team

managers to decide which team will kick off from which end, the extra time is played in periods of five minutes. The team which scores first in extra time will immediately be declared the winner without further play. If additional periods of extra time are required teams change ends without an interval.

Tiebreak rules

### **Pool round**

A match in the pool round can end in a draw.

If two or more teams are equal on match points then the following criteria will be used in the following order to determine the ranking:

1. The team that won the match between those teams will be ranked higher in the pool.
2. The margin of points scored for and against a team in all pool matches will be considered. The team with the highest positive margin of points will be ranked higher in the pool.
3. The margin of tries scored for and against a team in all pool matches will be considered. The team with the highest positive margin of tries will be ranked higher in the pool.
4. The team that has scored the highest number of points in the pool matches will be ranked higher in the pool.
5. The team that has scored the highest number of tries in the pool matches will be ranked higher in the pool.
6. The team with the better Games team seeding will be ranked higher in the pool.

For clarification, if after the highest ranked team has been determined following the above criteria the tie remains unresolved between three or more teams, the next higher ranked team will be determined by repeating the process starting at the first criterion.

### **Knockout round**

For all matches in the knockout round, if teams are tied at full time then the winner is determined by sudden death extra time until a winner is determined.

Penalties/disqualification rules

Penalties can be awarded for many reasons in rugby sevens. Some of the most common are: high tackle, not rolling away at a tackle or ruck (a player on the ground must not interfere with play), being offside. A severe or cynical offence may result in a yellow card, at which time the player spends two minutes in the sin-bin and the team plays the ensuing period a player down. For very serious offences, the referee can issue a red card, which means the offending player is sent off for the remainder of the match. A player receiving a second yellow card in the same match results in a red card.

## Protests/appeals

The protests and appeals process will be according to World Rugby rules and regulations.

The referee will manage all matches and any incident on the field of play during a match not seen to be properly dealt with by the referee will be reviewed by the citing commissioner; the citing commissioner will decide whether or not to issue a report for further action to be taken and must issue this report within one hour following the completion of the match.

A team may refer an incident to the citing commissioner; the citing commissioner will decide whether the referral will be upheld.

A judicial officer will conduct a hearing as quickly as possible once the citing commissioner's report has been issued and will decide whether to uphold the citing commissioner's report and if so, will issue a sanction in line with World Rugby's disciplinary guidelines.

A team may appeal the decision of the judicial officer but the player will not be permitted to play again in the competition until the appeal is heard.

Any dispute not related to the playing of the match will be dealt with by the World Rugby's appointed technical director in accordance with the tournament dispute resolution guidelines.

For further information, please consult: [www.world.rugby](http://www.world.rugby)