

OLYMPIC GAMES TOKYO 2020: WOMEN'S TEAM NOTES

(As of 22 July)



WORLD
RUGBY

- **Australia** arrive in Tokyo as the reigning Olympic champions following their 24-17 defeat of New Zealand in the gold medal match at Rio 2016.
 - They scored 28 tries at Rio 2016, the most of any side with an average of 4.7 tries per match.
 - They are looking to be the second Australian team to successfully defend their Olympic title in a team sport after the Hockeyroos' success in 1996 and 2000.

Rio 2016 Olympic Games – Gold medallists



Match	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	COLOMBIA	53-0	53	W	Pool
2	FIJI	36-0	36	W	Pool
3	USA	12-12	0	DRAW	Pool
4	SPAIN	24-0	24	W	Medal quarter-final
5	CANADA	17-5	12	W	Medal semi-final
6	NEW ZEALAND	24-17	7	W	Gold medal match

- **Rugby World Cup Sevens** – Tournaments 3; Played 16, Won 13, Lost 3, Drawn 0 (81% win rate)
 - Won the inaugural Rugby World Cup Sevens in Dubai in 2009, defeating New Zealand 15-10 in sudden-death extra-time in the final. They went on to place fifth in Moscow (2013) and third in San Francisco (2018).
- **World Rugby Sevens Series** – Events 42, Cup finals 23, Cup finals won 8 (78% win rate in 250 Series games)
 - The Rio 2016 gold medallists have won the World Series on two occasions, in 2015-16 and 2018. They are one of two teams to win a World Series title alongside their trans-Tasman neighbours New Zealand.
 - Australia finished second in the 2020 Series, winning two silvers and a bronze across the five events played.
 - They have lost their last six Cup finals, including two on the 2020 Series (Glendale and Cape Town), two on the 2019 Series (Sydney and Langford), and two on the 2018 Series (Langford and Paris). Their last title was on home soil in Sydney on the 2018 Series, defeating New Zealand 31-0.

- That title saw Australia create history on two fronts – the first women’s team to win a Cup title on home soil and the first in either men’s or women’s Series history to go through a tournament without conceding a single point.
- **World Series record in Japan** – Events 3; Played 18, Won 12, Lost 6, Drawn 0 (67% win rate)
 - They have medalled in two of their three events in Japan, earning a bronze medal in Kitakyushu on the 2016-17 and 2018 Series.

- **Brazil** have created a new identity for the team ahead of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and are now known as the Brazilian Yaras. The nickname signifies the courage and collective strength of women's rugby in Brazil, and connects the side with the country's roots.
 - They won the World Series Qualifier in 2019, beating Scotland 28-19 in the final in Hong Kong. This success earned Brazil core status for the 2020 Series, something they last achieved by finishing ninth at Rio 2016 when one place was available on the 2016-17 Series for the highest finishing non-core team in the Games.

Rio 2016 Olympic Games – 9th Place



Match	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	GREAT BRITAIN	29-3	-26	L	Pool
2	CANADA	38-0	-38	L	Pool
3	JAPAN	26-10	16	W	Pool
4	COLOMBIA	24-0	24	W	Ninth place semi-final
5	JAPAN	33-5	28	W	Ninth place play-off

- **Rugby World Cup Sevens** – Tournaments 3; Played 14, Won 6, Lost 8, Drawn 0 (43% win rate)
 - Their best finish was at the inaugural Rugby World Cup Sevens in Dubai in 2009. The side finished 10th after losing the Bowl final against China 10-7.
- **World Rugby Sevens Series** – Events 30; Cup finals 0 (19% win rate in 151 Series games)
 - The Yaras competed at all six events on the 2020 Series, finishing 12th out of the 14 teams.
 - Their highest finish in a World Series event is eighth place, which they have achieved on six different occasions; most recently in 2015-16 on home soil in São Paulo.
- **World Series record in Japan** – Events 1; Played 5, Won 2, Lost 3, Drawn 0 (20% win rate)
 - Finished 11th at the 2016-17 Series event in Kitakyushu, defeating the host nation Japan in the 11th place play-off.

- **Canada** won the bronze medal at Rio 2016, defeating Great Britain 33-10 in the bronze medal match. A stark turnaround considering Canada had lost 22-0 to Great Britain in their pool match earlier in the tournament.
 - Canada earned their ticket to Tokyo 2020 by finishing third in the 2019 Series standings (top four team qualified).
 - In April, they competed at the Invitational Sevens in Dubai in preparation for the Olympics. Canada won the first of the two tournaments with five wins from six matches, including the final against USA (31-14).

Rio 2016 Olympic Games – Bronze medallist



Match	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	JAPAN	45-0	45	W	Pool
2	BRAZIL	38-0	38	W	Pool
3	GREAT BRITAIN	22-0	-22	L	Pool
4	FRANCE	15-5	10	W	Medal quarter-final
5	AUSTRALIA	17-5	-12	L	Medal semi-final
6	GREAT BRITAIN	33-10	23	W	Bronze medal match

- **Rugby World Cup Sevens** – Tournaments 3; Played 16, Won 9, Lost 7, Drawn 0 (56% win rate)
 - Won the silver medal at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2013 in Moscow following a 29-12 defeat against New Zealand in the final. They picked up a seventh-place finish in RWC Sevens 2018 in San Francisco.
- **World Rugby Sevens Series** – Events 42; Cup finals 14, Cup finals won 4 (70% win rate in 249 Series games)
 - They have won nine of their last 11 World Series matches, with both losses in Cup finals against New Zealand.
- **World Series record in Japan** – Events 3; Played 17; Won 13, Lost 4, Drawn 0 (77% win rate)
 - They have made the Cup final in two of the three World Series events in Kitakyushu, Japan.
 - They won the most recent event in Kitakyushu, defeating England 7-5 in the 2019 Cup final.

- **China** became Asia's second representative at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 after their emphatic 33-0 victory over Hong Kong in the final of the regional qualifier tournament on home soil in Guangzhou.
 - Their coach for that qualifier was Sean Horan, who guided New Zealand to the first three Series titles and the silver medal at Rio 2016.
 - **Rugby World Cup Sevens** – Tournaments 3; Played 15, Won 6, Lost 6, Drawn 0 (40% win rate)
 - Had their highest finish at the inaugural tournament in 2009, defeating Brazil 10-7 in the Bowl final to finish ninth.
 - **World Rugby Sevens Series** – Events 19; Cup finals 0 (23% win rate in 96 World Series games)
 - They achieved their highest finish in Biarritz on the 2019 Series, winning the seventh place play-off against Russia. It was not enough to save them from relegation from the Series as Fiji had a better point differential across the season.
 - Their last Series appearance was as the invitational team in Hamilton in January 2020, where they beat Spain in the ninth place play-off.
 - **World Series record in Japan** – Events 2; Played 11, Won 2, Lost 9, Drawn 0 (18% win rate)
 - They competed in the Kitakyushu event twice, on the 2018 and 2019 Series. Their best result came as an invitational team on their first visit when they reached the quarter-finals.
 - They only won one match in each tournament, against Ireland in the pool stage in 2018 and against hosts Japan in the ninth place play-off in 2019.

➤ **Fiji** will be looking to improve on their eighth place finish at Rio 2016. The team recorded a notable win over defending Olympic champions Australia in Townsville last month at the Oceania Sevens warm-up tournament featuring the hosts, New Zealand and Fiji.

➤ Captain Rusila Nagasau and men’s captain Jerry Tuwai have been chosen as flagbearers for Fiji at the Opening Ceremony.

Rio 2016 Olympic Games – Eighth place



Match	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	USA	12-7	5	W	Pool
2	AUSTRALIA	36-0	-36	L	Pool
3	COLOMBIA	36-0	36	W	Pool
4	GREAT BRITAIN	26-7	-19	L	Medal quarter-final
5	USA	12-7	-5	L	Fifth place semi-final
6	SPAIN	21-0	-21	L	Seventh place play-off

➤ **Rugby World Cup Sevens** – Tournaments 2; Played 10, Won 5, Lost 4, Drawn 1 (50% win rate)

➤ After failing to qualify for the inaugural Rugby World Cup Sevens in 2009, they made their first appearance in 2013, recording a ninth-place finish following a win over the Netherlands in the Bowl final.

➤ Placed 11th at San Francisco 2018, registering two wins from four matches, against Papua New Guinea and China.

➤ **World Rugby Sevens Series** – Events 36; Cup finals 0 (41% win rate in 190 Series games)

➤ They have reached the Cup quarter-final stage in 17 of their 36 Series events, but have only advanced to the Cup semi-final on two occasions, and are still searching for their maiden Cup final appearance.

➤ Their highest finish in a Series round is fourth, achieved in Guangzhou on the 2013-14 Series and Kitakyushu in 2016-17 after defeats to Canada and Australia respectively in the bronze final.

➤ **World Series record in Japan** – Events 3; Played 17, Won 8, Lost 9, Drawn 0 (47% win rate)

➤ They won two of their five matches at their last World Series event in Japan, finishing ninth in Kitakyushu in 2019 with a win over Spain in the Challenge Trophy final.

- **France** missed out on qualification for Tokyo 2020 via the World Series, finishing fifth on the 2019 Series, and again through the European regional qualifier a few weeks later. It was a case of third time lucky as Les Bleues beat Hong Kong 51-0 in their Qualifier Final at the World Rugby Sevens Repechage in Monaco in June.
 - Coach David Courteix is the only coach in the women's event returning for a second Olympic Games.
 - France enlisted the services of Fiji's gold medal-winning coach Ben Ryan as a consultant for their men's and women's sevens programme.

Rio 2016 Olympic Games – Sixth place



Match	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	SPAIN	24-7	17	W	Pool
2	KENYA	40-7	33	W	Pool
3	NEW ZEALAND	26-7	-19	L	Pool
4	CANADA	15-5	-10	L	Medal quarter-final
5	SPAIN	24-12	12	W	Fifth place semi-final
6	USA	19-5	-14	L	Fifth place play-off

- **Rugby World Cup Sevens** – Tournaments 3; Played 14, Won 7, Lost 6, Drawn 1 (50% win rate)
 - Runners-up at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 in San Francisco following wins over Japan, Canada and Australia. They lost the final 29-0 against defending champions New Zealand.
- **World Rugby Sevens Series** – Events 38; Cup finals 1, Cup finals won 0 (49% win rate in 222 Series games)
 - The side's first and only Cup final appearance was in Kitakyushu in 2018, falling short of their first title with a 24-12 loss against New Zealand.
- **World Series record in Japan** – Events 3; Played 18, Won 9, Lost 9, Drawn 0 (50% win rate)
 - France finished fourth on their last visit to Japan on the 2019 Series, losing the bronze final 36-12 to USA in Kitakyushu.

- Earlier in the tournament they had ended New Zealand's 38-match unbeaten run on the Series (37 wins, one draw) with a 29-7 victory in their pool decider.
- They have won eight of their last 12 games in Japan.

- **Great Britain** only came together for the first time in April, due to COVID and programme restrictions, but they will be hoping to emulate the men in Rio 2016 and make the podium in Tokyo, having narrowly missed out on a medal five years ago in finishing fourth.
 - The team's place at Tokyo 2020 was secured by England – as the nominated team – with victory in the European regional qualifier against hosts Russia in Kazan.
 - The Olympic Games are the only time that Great Britain compete. England are the only core team on the World Rugby Sevens Series, although Wales and Scotland have each played one event as an invitational team.
 - They would also compete as separate nations at Rugby World Sevens or the Commonwealth Games if they qualify.

Rio 2016 Olympic Games – Fourth place



Match	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	BRAZIL	29-3	26	W	Pool
2	JAPAN	40-0	40	W	Pool
3	CANADA	22-0	22	W	Pool
4	FIJI	26-7	19	W	Medal quarter-final
5	NEW ZEALAND	25-7	-18	L	Medal semi-final
6	CANADA	33-10	-23	L	Bronze medal match

- **Japan** have a tough test in front of them, facing USA and defending champions Australia in their opening two matches at Tokyo 2020.
 - The Japanese men's and women's teams have an opportunity to match the Brave Blossoms' heroics at Rugby World Cup 2019 and inspire a nation with an historic result.

Rio 2016 Olympic Games – 10th place



Match	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	CANADA	45-0	-45	L	Pool
2	GREAT BRITAIN	40-0	-40	L	Pool
3	BRAZIL	26-10	-16	L	Pool
4	KENYA	24-0	24	W	Ninth place semi-final
5	BRAZIL	33-5	-28	L	Ninth place play-off

- **Rugby World Cup Sevens** – Tournaments 3; Played 12, Won 2, Lost 10, Drawn 0 (16% win rate)
 - Won three of their four matches at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 in San Francisco, with notable wins over France and Fiji. A vast improvement from their two previous RWC Sevens, having lost all eight matches across the 2009 and 2013 tournaments.
- **World Rugby Sevens Series** – Events 20; Cup finals 0 (22% win rate in 100 Series games)
 - Japan played their 100th World Series match when they last took to the field in Sydney as the invitational team in February 2020. They snapped an eight-match losing streak with a win over Spain.
 - They have won three of their last 23 games on the World Series, against Spain, Fiji and Wales.
- **World Series record in Japan** – Events 3; Played 15, Won 0, Lost 15, Drawn 0 (0% win rate)
 - Japan have lost all 15 matches on home soil in Kitakyushu. Their most recent loss was a 7-0 defeat against China in 2019.

- **Kenya** have a daunting pool after being drawn with New Zealand, the Russian Olympic Committee and Great Britain in Pool A and will lean on their experience gained at Rio 2016.
 - Their only victory at Rio 2016 came in the 11th place play-off against Colombia.
 - The Lionesses qualified for Tokyo as runners-up in the Rugby Africa Women's Sevens to South Africa as the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee did not accept the invitation as that regional qualification pathway did not meet their criteria for team sports.

Rio 2016 Olympic Games – 11th place



Match	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	NEW ZEALAND	52-0	-52	L	Pool
2	FRANCE	40-7	-33	L	Pool
3	SPAIN	19-10	-9	L	Pool
4	JAPAN	24-0	-24	L	Ninth place semi-final
5	COLOMBIA	22-10	12	W	11th place play-off

- **Commonwealth Games** – Tournaments 1; Played 5, Won 2, Lost 3, Drawn 1 (40% win rate)
 - The Lionesses finished sixth at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, with wins over South Africa and Wales.
- **World Rugby Sevens Series** – Events 2, Cup finals 0 (10% win rate in 10 World Series games)
 - Kenya have competed at two World Series events – Clermont-Ferrand in 2016 and Dubai in 2018.
 - They have had one Series win, against Japan in the 11th place play-off at their first event in Clermont-Ferrand.
 - Kenya was set to participate in the World Rugby Sevens Challenger Series in Stellenbosch in 2020 in a bid to secure a core team place in the 2021 Series, but the event was cancelled due to the pandemic.

- **New Zealand** will be hoping to go one better after coming away with silver at Rio 2016. Four of their five wins at Rio 2016 were convincing and secured by a margin of 18 points or more.
 - The reigning World Series, Rugby World Cup Sevens and Commonwealth Games champions competed at the Oceania Sevens in Townsville in June, where they cruised to victory with six consecutive wins, two against each of Australia, Fiji and the Oceania Barbarians.

Rio 2016 Olympic Games – Silver medallist



Match	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	KENYA	52-0	52	W	Pool
2	SPAIN	31-5	26	W	Pool
3	FRANCE	26-7	19	W	Pool
4	USA	5-0	5	W	Medal quarter-final
5	GREAT BRITAIN	25-7	18	W	Medal semi-final
6	AUSTRALIA	24-17	-7	L	Gold medal match

- **Rugby World Cup Sevens** – Tournaments 3; Played 16, Won 15, Lost 1, Drawn 0 (4% win rate)
 - Winners of the last two editions of Rugby World Cup Sevens in 2013 and 2018, having been runners-up in the inaugural tournament in 2009. Their only loss at the tournament was a 15-10 extra-time defeat against Australia in the 2009 final.
 - In the last RWC Sevens in San Francisco, New Zealand outscored their opponents 157 points to 21, conceding points in just one of their four matches (against USA in the semi-final). They defeated France 29-0 in the final.
- **World Rugby Sevens Series** – Events 42, Cup finals 32, Cup finals won 26 (89% win rate in 250 Series games)
 - New Zealand hold an impressive record of 223 wins from 250 games. They have had just five losses in their last 82 matches, against USA (three) and France (two).
 - They have won their last 19 Series matches, dating back to a 19-14 loss to France in the pool stages in Dubai in December.
 - They have scored the most points in Series history (6,823) and are the only side to score over more than 1,000 tries (1,103), 134 tries more than the next best Australia (969).

- New Zealand are one of two sides, along with Australia, to have played the most Series matches with 250.
- New Zealand hold the record for the longest winning runs on the Series, having twice won 37 games in a row from April 2014-May 2015 and then April 2018-April 2019. In the latter run, they went 38 games unbeaten, drawing with Russia in Kitakyushu before France beat them in the next match.
- **World Series record in Japan** – Events 3; Cup finals 2, Cup finals won 1 (83% win rate in Series games in Japan)
 - New Zealand took home a fifth-place finish in their last Series event in Japan in Kitakyushu in 2019.
 - They won their first 13 matches in Japan and collected two titles in 2017 and 2018. However, they have managed just two wins in their last five games (D1, L2).

- The **Russian Olympic Committee** did not qualify for Rio 2016 following a loss to Spain in the final of the World Rugby Sevens Repechage in Dublin.
 - Having missed out on qualification for Tokyo 2020 via the European regional pathway – losing the final to England (Great Britain) – they again found themselves again going down the Repechage route. This time, with two women’s places available, they beat Kazakhstan 38-0 in their Qualifier Final in Monaco last month.
 - **Rugby World Cup Sevens** – Tournaments 3; Played 14, Won 5, Lost 8, Drawn 1 (36% win rate)
 - They have made the Cup quarter-finals in the last two Rugby World Cup Sevens, finishing seventh on home soil at Moscow 2013 and eighth in San Francisco five years later.
 - **World Rugby Sevens Series** – Events 41, Cup finals 2, Cup finals won 0 (44% win rate in 233 Series games)
 - They have played in every World Series event with the exception of one, missing the third tournament in the opening season in Guangzhou (2013). They have accumulated the sixth most games (233) in Series history.
 - They have reached two Cup finals, losing to New Zealand in Langford on the 2014-15 Series and Australia in Dubai on the 2015-16 Series.
 - They finished seventh in their most recent Series event in Sydney in February 2020, defeating USA 19-15 in the seventh place-play-off.
 - **World Series record in Japan** – Events 3; Played 18; Won 9, Lost 8, Drawn 1 (50% win rate)
 - Have won only one of their last six Series matches in Japan (D1, L4).
 - Their highest Series finish in Japan is fifth-place in Kitakyushu, achieved in both 2017 and 2018.

- **USA** recently competed at the Quest for Gold Sevens tournament in Los Angeles, a warm up for the Olympic Games. They went through the tournament weekend unbeaten with a 71-0 win over Jamaica followed by three victories and a draw against Great Britain.
- USA qualified for Tokyo 2020 with a second-place finish in the 2019 Series, avoiding the need to go down the regional qualifier route as they did for Rio 2016.

Rio 2016 Olympic Games – 5th Place



Match	Opponent	Score	Margin	Result	Stage
1	FIJI	12-7	-5	L	Pool
2	COLOMBIA	48-0	48	W	Pool
3	AUSTRALIA	12-12	0	DRAW	Pool
4	NEW ZEALAND	5-0	-5	L	Medal quarter-final
5	FIJI	12-7	5	W	Fifth place semi-final
6	FRANCE	19-5	14	W	Fifth place play-off

- **Rugby World Cup Sevens** – Tournaments 3; Played 11, Won 8, Lost 3, Drawn 0 (73% win rate)
 - They have progressed to the semi-final stage at all three Rugby World Cup Sevens, meeting New Zealand on each occasion. Despite New Zealand’s dominance, the games were close with an average winning margin of six points.
- **World Rugby Sevens Series** – Events 42; Cup finals 7, Cup finals won 2 (57% win rate in 240 Series games)
 - After coming up short in their first five Cup finals, USA have gone on to win their last two: a 26-10 win over New Zealand in Biarritz at the end of the 2019 Series and a 26-7 win against Australia on home soil in Glendale at the start of the 2020 Series.
 - USA are the fourth-most experienced side on the World Series with 240 matches played. They enjoyed their most successful season on the 2019 Series by finishing second and the only team to reach the Cup semi-finals in every round.
 - They got off to an excellent start on the 2020 Series, winning the opening round in Glendale and picking up bronze in Dubai. They fell away after that with two fifth places in Cape Town and Hamilton and an eighth-place finish in Sydney.

- **World Series record in Japan** – Events 3; Played 17; Won 11, Lost 6, Drawn 0 (65% win rate)
 - USA have won nine of their last 10 Series matches in Japan. Their only loss was against Canada in the 2019 Cup semi-final in Kitakyushu.
 - Their bronze medal in 2019 is their highest finish in Japan.