

OLYMPIC GAMES TOKYO 2020: WOMEN'S SQUAD BIOS

(As of 22 July)



AUSTRALIA – POOL C

- Australia have five survivors from their Rio 2016 Olympic team returning to Tokyo 2020. Co-captains Shannon Parry and Sharni Williams, Emma Tonegato, Charlotte Caslick and Evania Pelite all won the gold medal.
 - Caslick, Pelite and Tonegato were all try-scorers in the gold medal match against New Zealand.
 - Sharni Williams scored the first Australian try at an Olympic Games, crossing inside the first minute of the game against Colombia.
 - Emma Tonegato and Charlotte Caslick scored a joint team-high seven tries at Rio 2016.
 - Tonegato scored at least one try in five of their six games played, while Caslick scored Australia's first Olympic hat-trick, crossing three times in their opening pool match against Colombia.
- Dominique du Toit won gold at the Youth Olympic Games 2014 in Nanjing.
- This Australian squad features three of their five all-time leading try-scorers on the World Series – Emma Tonegato (125 tries), Charlotte Caslick (97) and Evania Pelite (64). The two missing are Ellia Green (141) and the retired Emilee Cherry (131).
- Australia have seven survivors from their Commonwealth Games 2018 team who won silver on the Gold Coast in co-captains Shannon Parry and Sharni Williams, Emma Tonegato, Charlotte Caslick, Dominique du Toit, Demi Hayes and Evania Pelite.
- Australia have six survivors from the Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 squad who won bronze in San Francisco in co-captains Shannon Parry and Sharni Williams, Emma Tonegato, Charlotte Caslick, Demi Hayes and Evania Pelite.
- This team features a combined total of 210 World Rugby Seven Series events worth of experience.
- Emma Tonegato was Australia's leading try-scorer at Commonwealth Games 2018 with six tries.
 - She has scored nine tries in her past seven matches against Pool C opponents China, including a hat-trick last time they met in Kitakyushu on the 2019 Series.
- Evania Pelite was Australia's leading try-scorer at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 with six tries.
- Charlotte Caslick was Australia's joint-top try-scorer at the last Series event in Sydney in February 2020 with five tries alongside Ellia Green.
 - In 2020 she played two games for the Sydney Roosters in Australia's domestic women's Rugby League competition before a back injury ruled her out for the remainder of the season.
- Alysia Lefau-Fakaosilea has played four tests for Australia (all in 2019) but is yet to play on the World Series. She is the niece of former Wallaby Will Skelton (18 tests 2014-16) and has played two seasons of Super W for Queensland in the women's domestic competition in Australia.

BRAZIL – POOL B

- There are four survivors from Rio 2016, with Haline Scatrut, Isadora Cerullo, Luiza Campos and captain Raquel Kochhann all returning.
- Haline Scatrut, Luiza Campos and Isadora Cerullo are the only Brazilian players to have scored an Olympic try, with all three scoring in the same match against Japan in their 33-5 victory in the ninth place play-off at Deodoro Stadium.
- Isadora Cerullo got engaged at Rio 2016 after her partner Marjorie proposed to her on the pitch following the women's medal ceremony.
- There are seven survivors from Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018, with Haline Scatrut, Bianca Silva, Rafaela Zanellato, Aline Ribeiro, Isadora Cerullo, Luiza Campos and captain Raquel Kochhann all returning.
- Bianca Silva is Brazil's all-time leading try-scorer on the World Rugby Sevens Series with 26 tries. She was also their leading try-scorer at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 with five, including two doubles.
 - She scored on her World Series debut against France at the 2015-16 Series opener in Dubai, but has been unable to score against them again in five subsequent meetings.
 - She has scored four tries in her past five matches against Canada, including a double at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018, and in their last Series meeting in Sydney in February 2020.
 - She was named one of the Unstoppables in World Rugby's 'Try and Stop Us' campaign in May 2019 – [PROFILE FEATURE >>](#)
- Thalia Costa was Brazil's leading try-scorer on the 2020 Series, with 10 tries from five tournaments played. This was her first full season on the series, having made her debut in Langford in 2019 when Brazil were the invitational team.
 - She is joined in the Tokyo 2020 squad by her twin sister Thalita, who is yet to play for Brazil on the World Series.
- Raquel Kochhann is Brazil's all-time leading point-scorer on the World Series with 220 points. She was the best goal kicker on the 2020 Series (10 or more attempts), missing just one of her 20 shots at goal at a 95% accuracy rate.
 - She and Bianca Silva are the only two players in this squad to have scored more than 20 Series tries.
 - She has played the most Series tournaments for Brazil with 25.

CANADA – POOL B

- The second-most experienced team at Tokyo 2020, with a combined 283 World Series tournaments between them. Three squad members – Bianca Farella, Kayla Moleschi and Ghislaine Landry – all feature among the five most-capped players in World Series history.
- They have six survivors from their bronze medal-winning campaign at Rio 2016 in Brittany Benn, Bianca Farella, Ghislaine Landry, Kayla Moleschi, Charity Williams and Karen Paquin.
 - Bianca Farella was Canada's top try-scorer at Rio 2016 with six tries, including doubles against Japan, and Pool B opponents Brazil.
 - Ghislaine Landry was Canada's top point-scorer at Rio 2016 with 41 points (five tries and eight conversions), and second overall behind New Zealand's Portia Woodman (50 points).
- Charity Williams and Pam Buisa won a silver medal at the Youth Olympic Games 2014 in Nanjing.
- Bianca Farella is Canada's all-time leading try-scorer on the World Series with 153 tries from 38 tournaments played at an average of four tries per tournament. She is second only to New Zealand's Portia Woodman for most tries scored, and has been the leading, or joint-leading try-scorer at four individual events in Series history.
 - She was Canada's leading try-scorer in four of their five events on the 2020 Series (Glendale, Dubai, Cape Town, and Sydney). Her five doubles were the joint-most of any player alongside New Zealand's Stacey Fluhler, USA's Kristi Kirshe and Australia's Emma Tonegato.
 - She was Canada's leading try-scorer at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 with four tries.
 - She has scored seven tries in her past five games against Pool B opponents Fiji.
- Ghislaine Landry is the all-time leading point-scorer in World Series history with 1,356 points.
 - She has been the leading point-scorer at a single event on nine occasions – the most of any player – and the top point-scorer for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 Series, the only player to achieve this in consecutive seasons.
 - She was named Player of the Final at the last Series event to be played in Japan, scoring all seven of Canada's points in their Cup final victory against England in Kitakyushu in April 2019.
- Charity Williams has been not far behind Bianca Farella's try-scoring pace, with the second-most tries for Canada in each of the past two, and three of the past four seasons. She was Canada's leading try-scorer in Hamilton in January 2020, and had scored eight tries in her last 10 games across the Australasian rounds of the Series.

CHINA – POOL C

- China make their Olympics debut, but this squad brings experience from Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 with 11 of their 13 squad members all playing in San Francisco.
- Chen Keyi is their key player, with a team-high three tries at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018, and is their all-time leading point (196) and try-scorer (26) on the World Series.
 - She was their leading point-scorer on the 2020 Series with 15 points from their solitary appearance as the invitation team in Hamilton.
 - Chen scored nine tries in the Asia regional Olympic qualifier, including a brace in the 31-0 final defeat of Hong Kong that booked their ticket to Tokyo 2020.
 - Her only career try against Pool C opponents Australia came in Dubai in 2019, while she has scored three times in nine games against the USA – in Guangzhou in 2014, at RWC Sevens in San Francisco in 2018, and in Biarritz in 2019.
- Yang Feifei and Liu Xiaoqian were China's leading try-scorers at their last World Series tournament in Hamilton with two tries each.
- Yan Meiling, Liu Xiaoqian and Yang Feifei won the bronze medal at the Youth Olympic Games 2014 in Nanjing, China – the first Olympic event to feature rugby sevens on the programme.
- Head coach Euan Mackintosh was appointed to the role in November 2020, and brings with him experience from his time with St Etienne in France, and the Bay of Plenty Sevens programme in New Zealand under former Black Ferns and China coach Sean Horan.

FIJI – POOL B

- They have four survivors from Rio 2016 in their confirmed 12 players in captain Rusila Nagasau, Viniana Riwai, Rejieli Daveua and Ana Maria Roqica, while Lavenia Tinai has been named as a travelling reserve.
- Rejieli Daveua was their leading try-scorer at Rio 2016 with two tries. This was her first appearance for Fiji having not played on the World Series prior to her selection for the Olympic Games. She has since played 15 Series events and at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 in San Francisco, scoring a team-high five tries.
 - She has scored two tries in her past four matches against Pool B opponents France, but is still chasing her first tries against Canada and Brazil.
- Ana Maria Naimasi was Fiji's leading try-scorer on the 2020 Series with 12 tries, finishing the Glendale and Dubai tournaments with a team-high three and five tries respectively, and scoring the joint-most tries for Fiji in Sydney with three.
 - Her 45 tries overall on the World Series are the third-most for Fiji behind Asinate Savu (60) and Tima Ravisa (47).
 - She scored four doubles during the condensed 2020 season – the most by a Fijian player – and the joint second-most by any player.
 - She has scored three tries in her past two matches against Pool B opponents Brazil, including a double in their last meeting in Sydney.
 - She made her Series debut against France in Dubai in 2016 but is still chasing her first try across all competitions against them in nine previous meetings.
 - She has scored three tries in her past four Series matches against Canada, and five tries overall in 10 matches against them since 2016.
- Sesenieli Donu, Laisana Likuceva and Reapi Ulunisau are all yet to play on the World Series.

FRANCE – POOL B

- France have named five survivors from Rio 2016, with Camille Grassineau, Lina Guerin, Fanny Horta, Shannon Izar, and Jade Ulutule all returning for their second Olympic Games.
- France have four of their five most-capped World Series players of all-time in this squad with Fanny Horta, Chloé Pelle, Camille Grassineau, and Shannon Izar bringing with them a combined 120 tournaments worth of experience.
- Camille Grassineau scored the first Olympic sevens try, crossing after only 14 seconds in the opening match against Spain.
 - She is France's all-time leading try-scorer on the Series with 61 tries.
- Séraphine Okemba was the leading try-scorer at the World Rugby Sevens Repechage in Monaco last month with 10 tries, including four tries against Colombia, and doubles against Madagascar and twice against Hong Kong.
 - She has never scored a try against Pool B opponents Fiji in four previous matches against them.
 - She has scored three tries in two previous matches against Brazil, including a double in their last meeting in Cape Town in 2019.
 - She scored a team-high 15 tries for France on the 2020 Series, including their most in Dubai (four) and Cape Town (six).
- Lina Guerin was France's top try-scorer at Rio 2016 with five tries, including a hat-trick in the fifth place semi-final against Spain. She scored two hat-tricks at the World Rugby Sevens Repechage in Monaco, against Colombia in the pool stage and Hong Kong in the Qualifier Final.
 - She was France's leading try-scorer at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 in San Francisco with three tries, including a double against Pool B opponents Canada.
- Shannon Izar is France's all-time leading point-scorer on the Series with 402 points.
- Anne-Cécile Ciofani was the leading try-scorer at the last Series event to be held in Japan, scoring nine tries in Kitakyushu in 2019. Her 21 tries on the 2019 Series set a new French record for most individual tries scored in a single season.
 - She will become the third member of her family to compete at an Olympic Games, following in the footsteps of her father Walter Ciofani who finished seventh in the hammer at the 1984 Games for France and her mother Jeanne Ngo Minyemeck who competed in discus at the 1988 Games for Cameroon.
- Chloé Jacquet is yet to make her debut on the Series but impressed for France at the World Rugby Sevens Repechage, scoring a double against Hong Kong.

GREAT BRITAIN – POOL A

- Great Britain have 10 of their 13 squad members drawn from the England sevens team, along with two from Scotland and one from Wales.
- Hannah Smith and Lisa Thomson have represented Scotland at the Series tournament in Biarritz, and at the World Rugby Sevens Series Qualifiers in Hong Kong in 2019.
- Jasmine Joyce has represented Wales on the World Series in Paris in 2018, at Commonwealth Games 2018 on the Gold Coast, and in the World Rugby Sevens Series Qualifiers in Hong Kong in 2018.
 - She scored a team-high five tries for Wales on the Gold Coast in 2018, and at least one in 11 of her 14 representative matches for Wales at a World Rugby event. She is currently on a four-game try-scoring streak dating back to Paris in 2018, including one against Pool A opponents New Zealand.
- Team GB have three survivors from Rio 2016, with Natasha Hunt, Jasmine Joyce and co-captain Abbie Brown all returning for their second Olympic appearance.
 - Deborah Fleming and co-captain Megan Jones also bring with them experience from the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast where England won bronze, while Holly Aitchison played at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 in San Francisco.
- Deborah Fleming scored the most tries for England at the Commonwealth Games in 2018 with four.
 - She was England's leading try-scorer on the 2020 Series with 11.
 - She has scored four tries in her past four games against Pool A opponents Russia.
- Emma Uren and Holly Aitchison were England's top try-scorers at the last Series event to be held in Japan, each scoring three tries in Kitakyushu in 2019.
- Team GB coach Scott Forrest is a former Scotland Sevens captain who played 28 World Rugby Sevens Series tournaments between 2005-06 and 2009-10, and at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009 and the Commonwealth Games in 2010.

JAPAN – POOL C

- Mifuyu Koide and Mio Yamanaka are the only surviving players in their squad from Rio 2016.
- A surprise omission from the Sakura Sevens squad was their long-time captain and most-experienced player Chiharu Nakamura
- They have named their joint-second all-time leading try-scorers on the World Series in co-captain Raichiel Bativakalolo and Yume Hirano, who both have 14 each.
- Yume Hirano was Japan's leading try-scorer at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 with three tries in San Francisco.
 - She is one of four survivors from that tournament alongside Honoka Tsutsumi, Iroha Nagata and co-captain Raichiel Bativakalolo.
- Co-captain Mayu Shimizu has only two World Series events to her name, Japan's home event in Kitakyushu in 2017 and in Dubai in 2018.
 - She was Japan's joint- leading try-scorer (five) at the World Rugby Sevens Series Qualifier in Hong Kong in 2017, a tournament they won to secure core team status on the 2018 Series.
- Mei Ohtani, Marin Kajiki and Miyu Shirako are yet to play on the World Series for Japan.
- Rinka Matsuda is the daughter of former Brave Blossoms full-back Tsutoma Matsuda, who represented Japan 43 times between 1992-2003, scoring 14 tries, and also played in three Rugby World Cup campaigns (1995, 1999, 2003).
- This will be Hare Makiri's first global tournament as head coach, the New Zealand-born former Japan international having been appointed in December to bolster Japan's target of a medal.

KENYA – POOL A

- There are three players returning for a second Olympic Games in Janet Okello, Sheila Chajira and Philadelphia Olando.
- Okello scored three of Kenya's seven tries at Rio 2016, including a brace in their only victory, 22-10 against Colombia in the 11th place play-off.
- Seven players from their Commonwealth Games 2018 squad have been selected in captain Philadelphia Olando, Grace Adhiambo, Camilla Atieno, Judith Okumu, Sheila Chajira, Janet Okello and Sinaida Omondi.
- Kenya have only played in two World Series tournaments – Clermont-Ferrand in 2016 and Dubai on the 2019 Series – so are the least experienced women's squad in terms of Series tournaments played, with a combined 14 events.
- Vivian Okwach, Leah Wambui and Judith Okumu are all yet to play on the World Series.
- Only three players in their squad have scored a try on the Series, with Janet Okello accounting for seven of their nine tries scored as a squad combined.

NEW ZEALAND – POOL A

- There are seven survivors from the team who won silver at Rio 2016, in Kelly Brazier, Gayle Broughton, Theresa Fitzpatrick, Tyla Nathan-Wong, Ruby Tui, Portia Woodman and captain Sarah Hirini.
- There are 10 players in this squad who won the inaugural gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2018, and nine who won Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018.
- This is the most experienced squad at Tokyo 2020, with a combined 293 Series tournaments between them.
- There are three World Rugby Women's Sevens Player of Year recipients in the squad in Portia Woodman (2015), Michaela Blyde (2017 and 2018) and Ruby Tui (2019). Woodman was also named the World Rugby Women's Sevens Player of the Decade by fans in December 2020.
- Portia Woodman scored the very first Olympic Games hat-trick, crossing three times against Kenya in their opening pool game. She was the top try-scorer at Rio 2016 with 10, including one in the gold medal match defeat to Australia.
 - Her 195 Series tries are the most by any player in history, and her personal tally is more than the squad totals of five individual nations competing at these Olympic Games (Brazil – 88 tries, China – 77 tries, Fiji –191 tries, Japan – 52 tries, Kenya – nine tries).
 - She has not played a World Series event since Glendale in October 2018 due to an Achilles injury.
 - She holds the Series record for most tries in a tournament, with 14 in Atlanta in 2014-15, and the most in a single season with 52.
 - She was the leading try-scorer at Commonwealth Games 2018 with eight tries.
 - She has scored at least one try in 10 of her previous 16 matches against Russia, with a combined 14 tries against them. She has scored seven tries in her past four games against Russia.
 - She has scored a hat-trick in each of her past two games against Kenya, at Rio 2016 and the 2018 Commonwealth Games.
 - She scored a hat-trick against Pool A opponents Team GB at Rio 2016, and has scored 12 per cent of her Series tries against England (23 tries), her second highest percentage against any single nation after USA and France (both 15 per cent).
- Captain, and New Zealand flag bearer, Sarah Hirini is their most experienced player having participated in 38 of the 43 Series tournaments since the inaugural season in 2012-13.
- Tyla Nathan-Wong is the second-highest point-scorer on the Series with 1,016, behind Canada's Ghislaine Landry.
 - She was the top point-scorer in the 2019 Series, with 207 points, becoming only the second New Zealander after Portia Woodman to achieve this honour.
- Stacey Fluhler was the leading try-scorer on the 2020 Series with 31 tries. She was named Player of the Final at both Dubai and Hamilton, while also claiming the Impact Award in Dubai and Sydney. She is another of the Unstoppables in World Rugby's 'Try and Stop Us' campaign launched in May 2019. [**PROFILE FEATURE >>**](#)
 - She was the leading or joint-leading try scorer in three of the five Series events in 2020 (Dubai, Hamilton and Sydney).

- Risi Pouri-Lane captained New Zealand to Youth Olympic Games gold in Buenos Aires in 2018.
- Michaela Blyde is New Zealand's second-highest try-scorer with 136 Series tries. Her mother, Cherie, played for the Black Ferns in 1992.

RUSSIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE – POOL A

- There are eight survivors in this squad from Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018, with Anna Baranchuk, Baizat Khamidova, Marina Kukina, Daria Lushina, Daria Noritsina, Daria Shestakova, Kristina Seredina, and captain Alena Tiron (nee Mikhaltsova) all part of the team who finished eighth in San Francisco.
- The Russian Olympic Committee are the third most experienced team in Tokyo with a combined 249 tournaments of World Series experience.
- Baizat Khamidova is their all-time leading try-scorer on the World Series with 108 tries. She reached the 100-try milestone in Biarritz in 2019, becoming to first Russian player to achieve this, and is one of only eight players in Series history to score 100 or more tries.
- Elena Zdrokova was Russia's leading try-scorer on the 2020 Series with 10 tries. She was also their top try-scorer at the World Rugby Sevens Repechage in Monaco last month, with nine tries, one behind France's Séraphine Okemba.
 - Zdrokova was also the joint-highest try-scorer for the 2016 Repechage when her side fell at the final hurdle, losing 19-12 to Spain.
- Captain Alena Tiron holds the Series record for most tries in a single tournament in Japan, scoring 11 in Kitakyushu in 2018.
- Daria Noritsina top scored for the Russians at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 with three tries in San Francisco. She was the only Russian player to score a hat-trick on the truncated 2020 Series, crossing three times against USA in the seventh place play-off in Sydney.
- Anna Baranchuk made her World Series debut in Japan, playing her first match in Kitakyushu in 2018.

USA – POOL C

- USA have two survivors from Rio 2016 with Lauren Doyle and Alev Kelter returning for their second Olympic Games.
- Alev Kelter was USA's top try-scorer at Rio 2016 with five tries. She had played only 13 Series events prior to her first Olympic Games, but has since then has become the USA's most capped player with 34 tournaments, and their leading point-scorer.
 - Her 802 series points are the fourth most of any player behind Ghislaine Landry, Tyla Nathan-Wong and Portia Woodman.
 - She was the tournament's top point-scorer at the last Series event in Japan, scoring 53 points in Kitakyushu in 2019.
 - She holds the all-time USA record for most World Series tries with 93.
 - She has scored at least one try in each of her past five matches against Australia, with six in total in this streak.
 - Her try against Australia in Cape Town in 2019 sparked a nine game try-scoring run lasting until the fifth place play-off in Hamilton in 2020 against England, the longest streak of her career.
- USA have eight survivors from Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018, with Lauren Doyle, Cheta Emba, Jordan Gray-Matyas, Nicole Heavirland, Ilona Maher, Naya Tapper and co-captains Kris Thomas and Abby Gustaitis all part of their squad who finished fourth in San Francisco.
 - Naya Tapper was USA's leading try-scorer at RWC Sevens with seven tries, the second-most of any player.
 - Tapper also shares the USA's record for most tries in a single Series with Victoria Folayan. Folayan scored 32 tries in 2015, with Tapper matching this effort in 2017.
- Kristi Kirshe has enjoyed a strong start to her Series career with 31 tries in just nine tournaments played. She made her debut in Sydney in 2019, and has scored at least one try in 25 of her 48 games played.
 - Her first Series try came against China in Sydney, going on to score in each of her first three matches against them.
- Ariana Ramsey and Nia Toliver are yet to play on the World Series.