

## DUBAI NOTES

- It has been 663 days since the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series last played, with New Zealand winning the Sydney Sevens on the 2nd February 2020.
- The Emirates Dubai 7s have historically been dominated by just two teams, Australia and New Zealand.
  - New Zealand are the defending champions in Dubai, but will absent from a HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series event for the first time.
  - Australia are the only team competing at this event to have won a Cup final in Dubai, with three Cup titles from five finals played.
  - Australia holds the record for most tries in a single Women's Series event in Dubai, scoring 32 in 2014-15.
  - Australia and New Zealand have been the leading or joint leading try-scoring team at all eight previous Women's Sevens Series in Dubai.
- The record for most total tournament tries scored in Dubai is 198 in 2014-15.
- Four teams have competed in a Cup final in Dubai but have never lifted the trophy, with Canada finishing second at each of the past two events, and USA, Russia, and South Africa all winning silver.
- The winner of the opening event of the season has gone on to be crowned Women's Series champions in six of the past eight seasons.
- New Zealand have dominated the past three seasons, winning the past four, and 11 of the 16 Women's Sevens Series events since the beginning of the 2018 Series.
  - Canada, USA and Australia are the only other teams to win in this period, accounting for five of these Cup titles combined.
- Eight of the 10 teams competing in Dubai played at Tokyo 2020, with only Spain and Ireland absent from the recent Olympic Games.
- New Zealand's **Kayla McAlister** and **Michaela Blyde** share the Women's Series record for most tries in a single tournament in Dubai with 10 in 2013-14 and 2016-17 respectively.

### Past champions in Dubai

SERIES	LOCATION	CUP WINNER	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2020	Dubai	New Zealand	Canada (17-14)
2019	Dubai	New Zealand	Canada (26-14)
2018	Dubai	Australia	USA (34-0)
2016-17	Dubai	New Zealand	Australia (17-5)
2015-16	Dubai	Australia	Russia (31-12)
2014-15	Dubai	New Zealand	Australia (19-17)
2013-14	Dubai	Australia	New Zealand (35-27)
2012-13	Dubai	New Zealand	South Africa (41-0)

## KEY TEAM STATS

- Three of **Australia's** eight Cup titles have been won in Dubai, their most successful location on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series. However, they have not reached the Cup final at The Sevens since the 2018 Series.
  - They medalled three times on the 2020 Series, earning silver in Glendale and Cape Town, and bronze in Sydney to finish second overall.
    - They were the only core team to remain undefeated in the pool stages, with 17 wins and one draw. New Zealand also equalled their win total on day one but lost to France in Dubai.
  - Australia finished fifth at Tokyo 2020 after losing their quarter-final match against Fiji, then defeating Pool A opponents USA in the placing decider.
  - Australia are six wins away from becoming only the second team after New Zealand to record 250 Women's Series victories.
  - They are the only team to have played the Cup semi-final in all eight previous Women's Series events in Dubai.
  - Australia conceded just two tries in the pool stages at the last Women's Series event in Dubai, outscoring their opponents 114-10 combined.
  - Australia have won their past 12, and are undefeated in their past 21 pool matches on the Women's Series with 20 wins and one draw since 2019. They have not lost a pool match since 2019 in Kitakyushu against Canada.
  - They traded victories against USA at Tokyo 2020, with the Women's Eagles Sevens winning their pool match 14-12, before Australia won the fifth-place play-off 17-7.
    - Eight of their nine previous meetings on the Women's Series have been decided by a single figure margin, including both games in 2020 by exactly five points.
  - Australia are enjoying an eight-game winning streak against Spain dating back to Langford in 2018.
    - They have restricted Spain to one try or less in 13 of their past 16 matches, and have outscored them 103-12 across their previous three meetings in Dubai.
- **Brazil** returns to Dubai as a core team for the second consecutive season. Their best result on the 2020 Series came in Dubai, finishing 11th.
  - They finished 11th at Tokyo 2020, with their only victory coming against Japan in the play-off decider.
  - They won just one of their 20 games played on the 2020 Series, also against Japan, in Dubai. They will be looking to end their longest losing run on the Women's Series, with 12-straight defeats dating back to Cape Town.

- They have qualified for Rugby World Cup Sevens 2022 after defeating Colombia 36-5 in the final to win the Sudamérica Rugby Sevens in Montevideo.
  - Brazil requires three more tries to reach 50 in Dubai.
  - France and Spain are the only two teams in Pool A they have tasted victory against on the Women's Series. They are still searching for their first wins against Australia and USA.
  - Their solitary Women's Series victory against France came in Dubai in 2013, while both victories against Spain have come more recently, in Dubai in 2014, and Sydney in 2017.
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- **Canada** will look to bounce back from a disappointing performance at Tokyo 2020, finishing ninth overall after finishing third in their pool.
    - Canada were the second-most experienced team at the last Women's Sevens Series event in 2020 in Sydney with a total of 283 events combined. They are now the least experienced team at this tournament with just 51 total events, and the highest number of debutants of any side.
      - They will be without the all-time leading point-scorer **Ghislaine Landry** on the Women's Series for the first time since Kitakyushu in 2018, and just the sixth time in the 43rd event since the inaugural 2012-13 Series. Landry, Canada's second-most capped player in Women's Series history, announced her retirement earlier this month.
    - They have been runner-up at the past two Emirates Dubai 7s events, the only time they have reached the Cup final in consecutive tournaments at the same location.
      - They have never played three Cup finals in total at any single location on the Women's Series, with two in Sydney, Amsterdam and Kitakyushu respectively since 2012.
    - They conceded the joint-largest half-time lead of any team last season. After going into the break with a nine-point buffer against New Zealand in the Cup final in Dubai, they lost 17-14, conceding 12 unanswered points.
      - They lost three matches overall when leading at half-time on the 2020 Series, the joint-most of any team alongside Brazil.
    - Canada won 15 of their 18 pool games on the 2020 Series, with only France and USA defeating them on day one.
    - Their opening match will be their 250th on the Women's Series, becoming only the third team after Australia and New Zealand to reach this milestone.
    - Canada is enjoying a nine-game winning streak against Fiji on the Women's Series, but lost their last meeting 26-14 at Tokyo 2020.
      - Canada have never lost consecutive matches against Fiji across the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, or Women's Sevens Series.

- Canada have won their past four, and eight of their past nine Women's Series matches against Ireland, with seven of these eight victories by double figure margins.
  - Canada have never conceded more than seven points in a match against Ireland in Dubai, outscoring them 72-14 combined across their past three matches at The Sevens.
- **Fiji** finished seventh on the 2020 Series standings, and won bronze at Tokyo 2020, their first women's medal in any sport at the Summer Olympics.
  - Three of their four victories in Tokyo came against opponents who were seeded higher than them coming into the event, defeating Canada in the pool stages, Australia in the quarter-finals, and Great Britain in the bronze medal match.
  - They scored 20 tries in Tokyo, the fourth most of any team, and nearly double their tournament average of 11.2 on the 2020 Series.
  - They averaged the most offloads of any team at Tokyo 2020 with 8.7 per game.
  - Fiji have reached the Cup quarter-finals in four of their past seven visits to Dubai, but have never progressed beyond this stage.
  - Fiji have never won a Cup medal on the Women's Series, losing their only bronze final to Australia at Kitakyushu in 2017.
  - Fiji finished seventh on the 2020 Series, with their best result coming in Sydney winning the fifth-place play-off against England.
  - They have 11 survivors in their squad who won bronze at Tokyo 2020.
  - Fiji ended a seven-game losing streak against Ireland in their last meeting, winning 28-12 in Dubai. They have not won back-to-back matches against Ireland since 2016-17 in Las Vegas and Kitakyushu.
  - Despite defeating Canada by 14-points in their last meeting at Tokyo 2020, Fiji have not won this fixture on the Women's Series since the fifth-place play-off in Dubai in 2016-17, 10 games ago.
  - Fiji and Russia have met 11 times on the Women's Series, but this will be their first match in Dubai.
- Silver medallists at Tokyo 2020, **France** finished fourth on the 2020 Series, medalling once with bronze in Hamilton.
  - This was just the second time they have finished inside the top four on the end of season standings, after ending the 2018 Series in third.
  - They have been Cup semi-finalists in Dubai twice, 2014 and 2015, but have never reached the Cup final at this location.



- The only event they have played more than two Cup semi-finals is Langford, reaching this stage on five occasions.
- They have seven survivors in their squad who won silver at Tokyo 2020.
- They were the only team to deny New Zealand the honour of being the top try-scoring team at every round on the 2020 Series, scoring a tournament-high 26 tries in Cape Town.
- They were the best defensive team at the last Emirates Dubai 7s on the 2020 Series, conceding just six tries, the least of any team.
- France ended a six-game losing streak against USA the last time they met, winning 24-14 in Glendale. They have not won consecutive matches against the Eagles Women's Sevens since the 2018 Series.
- France are currently enjoying long winning streaks against two of their four Pool A opponents, with 12-straight victories against Brazil, and 14 in a row against Spain.
- France recorded their first Women's Series victory against Australia on the 2020 Series, winning 19-14 in the bronze final in Hamilton. This ended a losing run of 24-straight games. Australia, however, went on to win their next two matches in Sydney.
- **Great Britain** make their Sevens Series debut after previously competing at Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Olympics Games as a combined England, Scotland and Wales team.
  - They have finished fourth at both Olympic Games, losing the bronze final 33-10 to Canada at Deodoro Stadium, and 21-12 to Fiji at Tokyo Stadium.
  - Five of their six matches at Tokyo 2020 were decided by single figure margins.
  - They were the best team in front of goal at Tokyo 2020, kicking 82 per cent of their conversion attempts.
  - They won both Fast Four tournaments in Vancouver and Edmonton, winning nine of their 10 matches played across both events combined. A 7-7 draw against Canada in Edmonton denied them a perfect record.
  - England are the only member of this combined team to have played a Women's Series event in Dubai, with their best result coming in 2016-17, finishing fourth after losing the bronze final to Russia.
  - Ireland are the only team in Pool B that Great Britain have never played.
  - They defeated the Russian Olympic Committee 14-12 in their opening pool match in Tokyo, and last played Canada at Rio 2016, winning their pool match 22-0 before losing the bronze final 33-10 at Deodoro Stadium.
  - They will meet Fiji for the first time since their bronze final defeat in Tokyo, and for the third time after also playing them in the quarter-finals at Rio 2016, winning 26-7.

- Great Britain dominated possession in their last meeting, making more passes (41-28) and carries (31-16). However, they could not stop Fiji's limited opportunities on attack making fewer line-breaks (4-2), and offloads (7-5). They also had a lower success-rate in the opposition-22 converting just two of their three visits, compared to all three by Fiji.
- **Ireland** finished 10th on the 2020 Series, winning just four of their 21 games played, with all of these victories coming against Brazil.
  - They will be looking to end an eight-game losing streak in Dubai, with their last victory coming against Kenya in the pool rounds on the 2019 Series.
    - This is their longest losing run at this event. They lost all three pool games in Dubai last year for the first time in six visits.
  - They won just one of their 15 pool matches on the 2020 Series, and are currently on a 12-game losing streak at this stage of a tournament.
    - They have not won a Women's Series pool match since Glendale.
  - They will be looking to start the 2022 Series strongly. Their best result in the opening event of the season is sixth, which came in Glendale on the 2019 Series.
  - They are undefeated in their past five matches against Russia, with four wins and a draw since Paris in 2018. This is their longest unbeaten run in this fixture.
- **Russia** finished sixth on the 2020 Series, with their best result coming in Dubai with a sixth-place finish.
  - Russia's last Cup final appearance on the Women's Series occurred in Dubai in 2015-16, losing 31-12 to Australia.
  - They are the most experienced team at this event with a combined 219 Women's Series tournaments.
  - The Russian Olympic Committee finished eighth at Tokyo 2020, with their only victory coming against Kenya in the pool rounds.
  - Their two-point loss to Pool B opponents Great Britain in Tokyo was their narrowest losing margin at the Olympic Games.
  - Russia won their last Women's Series match against Fiji in Hamilton in 2020, and will be looking to win consecutive matches in this fixture for the first time.
  - After winning their first eight meetings against Ireland, Russia have not tasted victory in this fixture since Sydney in 2018.
    - Their past two, and three of their past five matches against Ireland have been decided by five points or less.

- Russia will play Canada for the first time since Dubai on the 2020 Series. This has become a close contest in recent times, with each of their past five meetings decided by a margin of seven points or less.
  - They will be looking to end a three-match losing streak against Canada, their longest since the 2016-17 Series when they lost five-straight between Sydney and Clermont-Ferrand.
- **Spain** finished ninth on the 2020 Series standings, with their best result coming in Glendale, finishing fifth. This was their best start to a season since 2012-13 when they finished third in Dubai.
  - They have won at least one pool match in three of their past four events in Dubai.
  - They made the joint second-most half-time comebacks of any team on the 2020 Series, bouncing back to win on three occasions they trailed at the break, including in their opening game in Dubai against Ireland.
  - Spain lost both matches against Pool A opponents Australia in Dubai last season by an average margin of 27 points.
  - They are yet to score a point against France in Dubai, losing both previous pool matches 29-0 on the 2019 Series, and 31-0 in 2014-15.
  - This will be first time Spain and USA have met in Dubai from 20 previous matches on the Women's Series.
    - Spain have recorded just two wins against USA across the past three seasons, after winning three-straight on the 2015-16 Series.
  - Spain have won the past three, and seven of the past eight matches against Brazil, but the average winning margin has been just 10 points.
- **USA** finished fifth on the 2020 Series. After medalling in the opening two events at Glendale and Dubai, they failed to progress past the Cup quarter-final in Cape Town, and did not make the Cup knockout rounds in the final two events.
  - USA finished sixth at Tokyo 2020, winning all three pool matches but losing their quarter-final against Great Britain and fifth-place final against Australia.
  - USA finished second at both Women's Fast Four events in Vancouver and Edmonton, losing the final to Great Britain on both occasions.
  - USA have reached the Cup final in the opening event for the past three seasons, winning silver in Dubai in 2017, silver in Glendale in 2018, and claiming their first Cup title on home soil in 2019.
    - They won bronze in Dubai at the last Emirates Rugby 7s, their second Women's Series medal in their past three tournaments at The Sevens.

- USA have won two of the past three Women's Series matches against Australia in Dubai since their 2016-17 Cup final loss, including the bronze final in the last tournament here in 2019.
- Each of their past two Women's Series matches against France in Dubai have been decided by exactly two points.
- USA will play Spain for the first time since the 2019 Cup semi-final in Biarritz, when the Women's Eagles Sevens went on to win their first Series Cup title.
- They have held Brazil to one try or less in eight of their previous 11 meetings on the Women's Series, outscoring them by a combined total of 305-74.



## KEY PLAYER STATS

- Australia have farewelled four of their top seven most capped players of all-time in Emma Tonegato, Shannon Parry, Emilee Cherry, and Ellia Green, while the added departure of Chloe Dalton represents 142 Women's Series events worth of experience.
  - They have just four survivors in their squad from the last Women's Series event in Dubai with Madison Ashby, Faith Nathan, Sariah Paki, and Sharni Williams all returning.
  - They have just three survivors from the last team to win a Cup final in Dubai, with Sharni Williams, Charlotte Caslick, and Dominique du Toit all playing in their victory against USA.
- **Charlotte Caslick** requires three more tries to become just the fourth Australian to scored 100 tries on the Women's Series after Ellia Green (141), Emilee Cherry (131), and Emma Tonegato (125).
- **Sharni Williams** is the most experienced player from any team competing at the Emirates Dubai 7s, in her 36th Women's Series event.
  - She is one of only eight players from the 130 named to play in Dubai with 30 or more tournaments worth of experience.
  - She and Charlotte Caslick represent 55 per cent of their squad's total Women's Series experience.
- Brazil's **Bianca Silva** scored a team-high four tries at the last Women's Series event in Sydney, and was their second leading try-scorer that season with eight.
- Brazil's **Gabriela Lima** is the youngest player in Dubai, aged 18 years and 97 days.
- Canada's **Elissa Alarie** is the oldest player at the Emirates Dubai 7s aged 35. She played in all five events on the 2020 Series, after returning for the first time since 2014-15.
- Great Britain's **Jasmine Joyce** was the leading try-scorer across both Fast Four tournaments this year, with a total of 16 tries in Vancouver and Edmonton.
  - She has scored at least one try in her past nine, and in 13 of her past 14 games for Great Britain dating back to Tokyo 2020.
  - She scored at tournament-high 10 tries at the Fast Four Edmonton. Only six players have been able to achieve this at a single Women's Series event, with the last by Portia Woodman at Glendale on the 2019 Series.
- Fiji's **Reapi Ulunisau** was the leading try-scorer at Tokyo 2020 with eight tries.
  - She has been nominated for the World Rugby Women's Sevens Player of the Year 2021 award in association with HSBC along with team-mate Alowesi Nakoci.
- **Anne-Cécile Ciofani** was France's leading try-scorer at Tokyo 2020 with seven.

- She is currently enjoying a five-game try-scoring streak, and has scored at least one try in eight of her past nine matches across the Summer Olympic Games and World Rugby Sevens Repechage in Monaco.
- She has been nominated for the World Rugby Women's Sevens Player of the Year 2021 award in association with HSBC.
- France's **Chloé Pelle** requires three more tries to become only the fourth French player to score 50 tries on the Women's Series.
- Ireland's **Amee-Leigh Murphy Crowe** requires only two more tries to become the first Irish woman to score 100 Women's Series tries.
- Russia's **Kristina Seredina** was their leading try-scorer at Tokyo 2020 with three.
  - She will become only the second Russian player after Baizat Khamidova, and the 30th woman overall, to play 30 Women's Series tournaments when she takes the field on day one.
- USA's **Alev Kelter** requires seven more tries to become the first Women's Eagles Sevens player to score 100 on the Series.
  - She scored the third-most tries of any player on the 2020 Series with 21, including being the joint-top try-scorer in Cape Town.