

2022 WORLD RUGBY SEVENS CHALLENGER SERIES

- This is the Second instalment of the World Rugby Challenger series, the champion teams from both Men and Women will move into the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series for the 2023 season.
- The last Challenger series took place in 2020 with two tournaments, one in Montevideo, Uruguay and one in Viña del Mar, Chile - both for Men.
- The Final tournament in Hong Kong was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- The Women's Stand-alone tournament in Stellenbosch, South Africa was also cancelled due to this.

MEN

- The last champion of the Men's Challenger series was Japan (39 points) with Hong Kong (36 points) finishing 2nd and Germany (35 points) finishing 3rd.
 - Tournament final scores
Viña del Mar, Chile: **Germany** 10 – 0 **Hong Kong**
Montevideo, Uruguay: **Japan** 5 – 0 **Uruguay** (Extra time)
- **Germany** Men played in two World Series tournaments as an invitational team in the 2022 season. They finished 11th in both Malaga and Seville in January 2022.
 - **Germany** last met **Uganda** in a pool match at the 2020 Challenger Series in Viña del Mar, Chile. Germany won 19 – 12.
 - **Germany** last met **Uruguay** in a pool match at the 2020 Challenger Series in Montevideo, Uruguay. Germany won 26 – 10.
- **Germany** and **Hong Kong** men bring the most experience of the teams with 75 world series tournaments experience between them (Germany 33, Hong Kong 42).
- **Hong Kong** last played in a World Rugby Tournament in the 2021 World Series in Canada finishing in 8th place at both events.
 - **Hong Kong** defeated **Zimbabwe** in their most recent meeting in a pool match at the 2019 Hong Kong World Series Qualifying tournament, 14 – 7.
 - **Hong Kong** has beaten **Jamaica** three times in their last three meetings, twice at the 2020 Challenger Series. 14 – 7 in Chile and 31 – 7 in Uruguay.
 - They also met at the 2021 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series in Vancouver, **Hong Kong** winning 62 – 0.
 - **Hong Kong** and **Tonga** have played each other four times on the HSBC World Rugby Seven Series, splitting the wins with 2 each. Their most recent meeting was at the 2019 Hong Kong qualifying tournament, **Hong Kong** winning 19 - 12.

- The home team **Chile** have 6 players with World Series experience, they last played in Canada in the 2021 World Series finishing 10th and 11th at the 2 events. They will look to improve on their last Challenger series result where they finished 4th.
 - **Chile** last met **PNG** in a pool match at the 2016 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series qualifying tournament in Hong Kong. **Chile** won 19 – 7.
 - **Chile** last met **Georgia** in a pool match at the 2018 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series qualifying tournament in Hong Kong. **Chile** won 29 – 5.
 - **Chile** has never met **Korea** in International Rugby Sevens.
- **Uganda** will look to take experience from the recent Commonwealth Games where they finished 8th. Philip Wokorach was the tournaments top scorer in Birmingham with 56 points. Uganda finished in 7th place for the 2020 challenger series.
 - **Uganda** last met **Uruguay** in a bowl play-off at the 2018 Rugby World Cup Sevens in San Francisco, **Uganda** winning 38 – 28.
- **Tonga** also competed recently at the Commonwealth Games finishing 11th. They averaged 12.4 points and 2 tries per game during the competition. At the 2020 Challenger series they finished in 6th place.
 - **Tonga** last met **Jamaica** in a pool match at the 2017 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series qualifying tournament in Hong Kong. **Tonga** won 14 – 5.
 - **Tonga** last met **Zimbabwe** in a pool match at the 2021 Olympic Repechage tournament in Monaco, **Zimbabwe** won 26 – 17.
 - **Tonga** last met **Hong Kong** in a pool match at the 2019 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series qualifying tournament in Hong Kong. **Hong Kong** won 19 – 12.
- **Georgia, Korea, Lithuania and PNG** have all new players on debut at the Challenger series in 2022.
 - **PNG's** last appearance at the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series was in 2018 in Hamilton, New Zealand as an invitational team where they lost the Bowl Semi-Final 42 – 12 to **USA**.
 - **Korea's** last appearance at the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series was in 2020 in Los Angeles, USA as an invitational team where they lost in a 13th place Semi-Final 45 – 5 to **Scotland**.
 - **Georgia's** last appearance at the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series was in 2009 in Edinburgh, Scotland where they lost in a Shield Semi-Final 27 – 0 to **USA**.
 - **Lithuania** has never participated in a World Rugby International tournament.
- **Uruguay** finished in 5th place in 2020 for the challenger series. Their most experienced player Guillermo Lijtenstein has played in 6 World Series tournaments and played in the last challenger series.
 - **Uruguay** last met **Jamaica** in a 9th place final at the 2020 Challenger Series in Viña del Mar, Chile. **Uruguay** won 33 – 0.

2022 WORLD RUGBY SEVENS CHALLENGER SERIES

- **Jamaica** played in the World Series this season on the Spanish legs, they finished in 15th place at both events. They finished 9th at the recent Commonwealth Games. In 2020 they finished 10th in the Challenger series.
- **Zimbabwe, Uganda, Jamaica, Tonga, Korea, Hong Kong, Uruguay, Germany & Chile** have qualified for the upcoming 2022 Rugby World Cup Sevens in September

WOMEN

- **Argentina** last played in the World Series in Las Vegas in 2017 finishing in 12th place. They run out an inexperienced team with only Deborah Fretes Hernandez and Sofia Gonzalez having played in a World Series event.
 - **Argentina** last met **Poland** in a pool match at the 2019 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series qualifying tournament in Hong Kong. **Argentina** won 24 – 19.
 - **Argentina** last met **Belgium** in a pool match at the 2018 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series qualifying tournament in Hong Kong. **Belgium** won 12 – 0.
 - **Argentina** has never met **PNG** in an International Rugby Sevens tournament.
- **Belgium** played in the 2022 World Rugby Sevens Series in Malaga and Seville finishing 10th and 11th at those events. They have 2 players on Debut with the rest having played this season on the World Series.
 - **Belgium** last met **Poland** in a pool match at the 2018 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series qualifying tournament in Hong Kong. **Belgium** won 19 – 0.
 - **Belgium** has never met **PNG** in an International Rugby Sevens tournament.
- **Chile** and **Kazakhstan** have their full squads on Debut this tournament.
 - **Chile** has never played in a HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series tournament.
 - **Kazakhstan** has never played in a HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series tournament.
- **China** have the most experienced squad in the tournament. They last played as a core team on the World Series in 2019, finishing in last place and being relegated. They have 49 World Series tournament appearances combined amongst their team.
 - **China** last met **South Africa** in a Challenge Quarter-Final at the 2018 Rugby World Cup Sevens in San Francisco, **China** winning 29 – 5.
 - **China** has never met **Kenya** in an International Rugby Sevens tournament.
 - **China** has never met **Chile** in an International Rugby Sevens tournament.

2022 WORLD RUGBY SEVENS CHALLENGER SERIES

- **Colombia** have not appeared at a World Rugby event since Atlanta 2016. They have one player returning from that tournament, Camila Lopera. They also competed at the Monaco repechage attempting to qualify for the 2020 Olympics.
 - **Colombia** last met **Japan** in a Bowl Semi-Final at the 2016 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series in Atlanta, USA. **Japan** won 19 – 7.
 - **Colombia** has never met **Mexico** in an International Rugby Sevens tournament.
 - **Colombia** has never met **Kazakhstan** in an International Rugby Sevens tournament.
- **Japan** competed as a core team on the World Series in 2018 before being relegated. They last competed on the World Series in 2020 in Sydney finishing in 9th place. They also competed at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics as the home team, they finished 12th.
 - **Japan** last met **Mexico** in an 11th place play-off at the 2022 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series in Langford, Canada. **Japan** won 45 – 0.
 - **Japan** has never met **Kazakhstan** in an International Rugby Sevens tournament.
- **Kenya** last competed in Clermont-Ferrand, France in the 2016 World Series. They have 4 players returning with World Series experience.
 - **Kenya** last met **South Africa** in a pool match at the 2018 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series qualifying tournament in Hong Kong. **South Africa** won 12 – 7.
 - **Kenya** has never met **Chile** in an International Rugby Sevens tournament.
- **Mexico** played in Langford 2022 as the invitational team on the world series. Zoe Tuyu scored their first and only try in World Rugby Sevens series history at this tournament.
 - **Mexico** has never met **Kazakhstan** in an International Rugby Sevens tournament.
- **PNG** played in Monaco in the Olympic repechage. Before that they last played on the World Series in Sydney 2019. From this team they return 2 players.
 - **PNG** has never met **Poland** in an International Rugby Sevens tournament.
- **Poland** played on both Spanish legs of the 2022 World Series finishing in 8th and 10th at each event. They will look to build on this experience with players that have played at the World Series level with only two players on debut.
- **South Africa** played in the final event of the 2022 World series in Toulouse finishing in 10th place, they had a tight win over Spain 21-19 in the 9th place semi final. They finished in last place at the Commonwealth Games 2022. Mathrin Simmers is their most experienced player with 13 World Series career tournaments.