

SYDNEY NOTES

- This will be the first time the HSBC Sydney Sevens has been played at Spotless Stadium after relocating from Allianz Stadium due to its redevelopment.
 - Spotless Stadium becomes the sixth different venue to be used in Australia after Lang Park and Ballymore hosted the event in Brisbane between 2000-03, Adelaide Oval between 2007-11, Robina Stadium between 2011-14 and Allianz Stadium for the past three years.
- Spotless Stadium was opened in 1998 after being constructed as part of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games development at Homebush. It hosted the baseball, horse-riding and the modern pentathlon events during the Games.
 - More recently it has been home to the Greater Western Sydney Giants in the AFL, the Western Sydney Wanderers in soccer's A-League and the Sydney Thunder in cricket's Big Bash League.
- Australia are the defending champions in Sydney and are looking to become the first team since Fiji five years ago to successfully defend their Cup title at home.
 - Only two teams have gone back-to-back in Australia with South Africa winning in Adelaide in 2008-09 and Fiji winning on the Gold Coast in 2011-12.
- The record for most tournament tries scored in Sydney is 268, set in 2016, while the record for an HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series event in Australia is 284 tries set in Adelaide in 2011 and on the Gold Coast in 2014.
- The tournament average so far this season has been 281 tries, with Cape Town top scoring with 293 tries. This is the highest average of tries per tournament since 2003-04, which saw a mean of 290.8 tries across eight events.
 - There have been 843 tries score on the 2019 Series, the highest cumulative total across the opening three events on the Sevens Series since 2003-04 when 847 tries were scored between Dubai and Wellington.
- Fiji have won the most Cup titles in Australia with five (2000, 2007, 2011, 2012, 2014). However they have not won in Sydney since the event was relocated.
 - New Zealand have contested the most Cup finals in Australia with seven previous appearances, including three titles.
 - South Africa have reached the Cup final in the past two events in Sydney and are looking to become just the second team after New Zealand between 2011-12 to play three straight at the same venue in Australia (Adelaide 2011, Gold Coast 2011 and 2012).

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- Fiji hold the record for the most tries at a tournament in Australia, scoring 37 in Brisbane in 2000. They also hold the record in Sydney, scoring 28 tries in 2017.
- Samoa's **Mikaele Pesamino** holds the record for most individual tries in a tournament in Australia, scoring 11 tries in Adelaide in 2010.
 - USA's **Perry Baker** and South Africa's **Seabelo Senatla** share the record for most tries in Sydney with Senatla scoring nine tries in 2017 and Baker equalling this record last year.
- Fiji's **Waisale Serevi** holds the record for the most individual points in a single tournament in Australia, scoring 106 points in Brisbane in 2000.
 - This is still a record for most points by a player in a Sevens Series event.
 - South Africa's **Justin Geduld** holds the record for the most points at an event in Sydney, scoring 56 points in 2018.
- There have now been 21 consecutive tournaments dating back to Wellington in 2017 without a player scoring 10 tries, the longest streak in HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series history.
 - France's **Terry Bouhraoua** was the last player to reach double figures in a tournament, scoring 10 tries in Cape Town in 2016.

Past champions in Australia

SERIES	LOCATION	CUP WINNER	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2018	Sydney	Australia	South Africa (29-0)
2016-17	Sydney	South Africa	England (29-14)
2015-16	Sydney	New Zealand	Australia (27-24)
2014-15	Gold Coast	Fiji	Samoa (31-24)
2013-14	Gold Coast	New Zealand	Australia (40-19)
2012-13	Gold Coast	Fiji	New Zealand (32-14)
2011-12	Gold Coast	Fiji	New Zealand (26-12)
2010-11	Adelaide	New Zealand	South Africa (28-20)
2009-10	Adelaide	Samoa	USA (38-10)
2008-09	Adelaide	South Africa	Kenya (26-7)
2007-08	Adelaide	South Africa	New Zealand (15-7)
2006-07	Adelaide	Fiji	Samoa (21-7)
2005-06	<i>No event held</i>		
2004-05	<i>No event held</i>		
2003-04	<i>No event held</i>		
2002-03	Brisbane	England	Fiji (28-14)
2001-02	Brisbane	Australia	New Zealand (28-0)
2000-01	<i>No event held</i>		
1999-00	Brisbane	Fiji	Australia (24-21)

KEY STATS

- Australia are the defending champions in Sydney and will be looking to successfully defend their Cup title at the same event for the first time in seven previous attempts.
- Fiji have won the past two, and seven of the past 10 Sevens Series tournaments dating back to Hamilton last year.
 - They have won a record five Cup titles in Australia, but are yet to win in Sydney having failed to reach the final in their past three visits.
 - They are looking to win three of the opening four tournaments in a series for the first time.
- The inaugural winners of the HSBC Sydney Sevens in 2016, New Zealand will be chasing their fourth Cup title in Australia after winning in Adelaide in 2011 and the Gold Coast in 2013.
- The tournament average so far this season has been 281 tries, with Cape Town top scoring with 293 tries. This is the highest average of tries per tournament since 2003-04, which saw a mean of 290.8 tries across eight events.
- Japan are only two wins away from 100 Sevens Series victories.
- USA's **Folau Niua** will become the most capped Eagles Sevens player surpassing Zack Test in his 63rd Seven Series event.
 - He made his Sevens Series debut in Australia, playing his first tournament on the Gold Coast in 2011.
- **Alatasi Tupou** will become the second Samoan to play 70 Sevens Series tournaments when he takes the field in Sydney. Only Uale Mai (78) has played more events for the 2009-10 Series champions.
- England's **Dan Norton** will become the third player to play 80 Sevens Series events when he takes the field in Sydney. Only James Rodwell (90) and DJ Forbes (89) have played more tournaments.
- England captain **Tom Mitchell** requires eight more points to become the fifth player to score 1,500 points on the Sevens Series.
- Fiji's **Jerry Tuwai** and New Zealand's **Regan Ware** will set a new Sydney Sevens record for most appearances when they run out for their 19th game.

ARGENTINA TEAM NOTES

- Argentina finished third in Sydney last year, their best result at an Australian Sevens event.
 - It was the first time they had topped their pool in Australia since the Gold Coast Sevens in 2014, and the fourth time overall.
 - They have also won the Plate final on three occasions in Australia, in Brisbane in 2000, on the Gold Coast in 2012 and in Sydney in 2016.
- They are averaging 18.6 tries per tournament in 2019, an increase of just over two tries per event on last season.
 - They have not scored 18 or more tries in Australia since the Gold Coast Sevens in 2014.
- They will look to bounce back from an 11th place finish in Hamilton, their lowest of the Series so far.
 - They surrendered their fourth half-time lead of the season in the Challenge Trophy semi-final against Kenya, the most of any team on the 2019 Series.
- **Franco Sabato** is one try away from reaching 100 Sevens Series tries.
 - He was Argentina's leading try-scorer in Sydney last year with six tries.
 - He has scored the joint-third most tries this season with 13, including 10 in his past 11 games.
- **Mateo Carreras** was Argentina's leading try-scorer in Hamilton with six tries, and made the joint-most line-breaks of any player at the tournament with seven.

Cup titles (2)

SERIES	ROUND	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2008-09	San Diego	England (19-14)
2003-04	Los Angeles	New Zealand (21-12)

AUSTRALIA TEAM NOTES

- Australia ended a six-year Cup title drought in Sydney last year, winning their first HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series event since Tokyo in 2012, and their second Cup title on home soil.
 - They are the only team to have held their opposition scoreless in a Cup final in Australia, defeating New Zealand 28-0 in Brisbane in 2002 and South Africa 29-0 last year.
 - They will be looking to successfully defend their Cup title at the same event for the first time in seven previous attempts.
 - They have reached the Cup final in two of the past three events in Sydney.
- Australia finished fourth in Dubai, and seventh in Cape Town and Hamilton and will be looking to reach their first Cup final since Singapore 2018.
 - They have only topped their pool once in Sydney, winning Pool D last year.
 - Not since the Gold Coast in 2012 have they topped their pool in consecutive events on home soil.
- Australia are averaging 20 tries per event in 2019, the sixth most of any team.
 - They have scored 20 or more tries in each of their past three events in Sydney, including 26 tries last year, their most on home soil since 2002 in Brisbane when they scored 33 tries.
- Australia will play South Africa in a pool match for the first time in two years when they meet on day one in Sydney. The last time they met in a pool fixture was in Wellington in 2017 with the Blitzboks winning 28-0.
 - Their past eight meetings have all been in finals or play-off games.
 - Since Australia's 29-0 Cup final win against South Africa in Sydney last year, the three-time series champions have won the past three meetings in Hamilton, Las Vegas and Vancouver.
 - This will be their first meeting on the 2019 Series.
- Australia will also play Argentina in Pool D, a team they have beaten twice already this season, 38-0 in Dubai and 17-12 in Hamilton.

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- Australia have won four of the past five against Argentina dating back to Sydney last year. Their only loss in the past 12 months came in Paris in the Challenge Trophy semi-final.
- Australia will play Tonga for the first time since 2014 in Wellington, and for the first time in Australia since the Gold Coast Sevens in 2012.
 - They have only lost twice against Tonga, 21-7 in Adelaide in 2008 and 21-12 in Los Angeles in 2004.
- Tim Walsh has named six survivors from the 2018 Cup title winning team in Sydney in his squad. **Lewis Holland**, **Lachie Anderson**, **Maurice Longbottom**, **Ben O'Donnell**, **Jesse Parahi** and **John Porch** all return.
- **Lewis Holland** and **Lachie Anderson** were Australia's leading try-scorers in Hamilton with three tries each.
 - Holland requires one more try to reach 100 Sevens Series tries.
 - He has scored 11 tries in Sydney, the most by an Australian, and the joint-third most behind South Africa's Seabelo Senatla (24) and USA's Perry Baker (14).
 - He and Ben O'Donnell shared the try-scoring honours at the HSBC Sydney Sevens last year, scoring six each.
- **Ben O'Donnell** was named DHL Impact Player in Sydney last year, delivering a performance which saw him make the most carries (27), joint-second most line-breaks (10) and the joint-fifth most tackles (18) in the tournament.
 - He made the most line-breaks (four) and second most carries (17) for Australia in Hamilton last week.

Cup titles (7)

SERIES	ROUND	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2018	Sydney	South Africa (29-0)
2011-12	Tokyo	Samoa (28-26)
2009-10	London	South Africa (19-14)
2001-02	Brisbane	New Zealand (28-0)
2000-01	Kuala Lumpur	New Zealand (19-17)
2000-01	Shanghai	South Africa (19-12)
2000-01	Wellington	Fiji (19-17)

CANADA TEAM NOTES

- Canada will look to improve upon their 13th place finish at each of their past three HSBC Sydney Sevens tournaments.
 - Canada's best finish in Australia came in 2000 at the Brisbane Sevens, finishing joint-seventh. This is the only time they have topped their pool and played a Cup quarter-final in Australia.
- Canada played their first Cup quarter-final since Paris in 2018 in Hamilton last week. They will be looking to reach this stage in back-to-back tournaments for the first time since London and Paris last year.
- Canada meet USA in Pool C for the first time this series and the second consecutive time in Sydney.
 - They will be looking to end a five-game losing streak against their North American neighbours dating back to Sydney last year. Prior to this 40-19 defeat, Canada had won three in a row against the Eagles Sevens.
- **Nathan Hirayama** was the leading point-scorer at the HSBC Sydney Sevens in 2016 with 55 points, including seven tries. This is still the most points he has scored in a tournament.
 - His 20 points against Scotland in 2016 is the joint-most of any player in a Sevens Series match in Sydney, a record he shares with England's Tom Mitchell and USA's Perry Baker.
- **Pat Kay** made the joint-second most carries of any played in Hamilton with 25.
- **Brock Webster** will make his Sevens Series debut in Sydney.
 - He represented Canada A at the World Rugby Americas Pacific Challenge 2018 in Uruguay last year.
 - He spent six weeks in Christchurch in 2018 attending the Crusaders International High Performance Unit, one of just two players from the Canada U18 team selected for this opportunity.

Cup titles (1)

SERIES	ROUND	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2016-17	Singapore	USA (29-16)

ENGLAND TEAM NOTES

- England's one and only HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series Cup title in Australia was won in Brisbane in 2003, defeating Fiji 28-14 in the final at Ballymore.
 - They finished second in Sydney in 2017, their best result in Australia since their 2003 tournament victory in Brisbane.
- England won the Challenge Trophy in Hamilton. After finishing third in their pool, this was the first time they had failed to reach a Cup quarter-final since Hong Kong last year.
 - They will be looking to top their pool in a Sevens Series event for the first time since Singapore last year, five tournaments ago.
 - They have not topped their pool in Australia since 2011 in Adelaide.
 - The last time they failed to qualify for the Cup quarter-finals in back-to-back events was Singapore and Paris in 2016.
- England have scored the fifth most tries this series with 64 after three events.
 - They scored 24 tries in Hamilton, their most in a tournament since Dubai in 2016.
 - They have scored 20 or more tries in all three events this season, their best start to a season since 2013-14 when they scored 22 or more tries in each of their opening four tournaments.
- England face Fiji yet again this series and will look to avenge their 21-19 loss in Cape Town with a Tom Mitchell missed conversion proving the difference.
 - They have won three of the past five games against Fiji since Vancouver in 2017.
- Coach Simon Amor has made two changes to his 12-man squad from Hamilton, recalling **Harry Glover**, who last played in Cape Town, and **Will Edwards**, who has not played since Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 in San Francisco.
 - Edwards scored his first Sevens Series try against their Pool A opponents Fiji in Vancouver in 2017.
- Captain **Tom Mitchell** requires eight more points to become the fifth player to score 1,500 points on the Sevens Series.

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- His 20 points against Papua New Guinea last year is the joint-most of any player in a Sevens Series match in Sydney, a record he shares with Canada's Nathan Hirayama and USA's Perry Baker.
- **Dan Norton** was England's leading try-scorer in Hamilton with six tries. This was the first time he has led England's try-scoring tally at an event this season.
 - His six tries were scored in his last four games in Hamilton, and he is looking to score in five straight matches for the eighth time in his career.
 - He will become the third player to play 80 Sevens Series events when he takes the field in Sydney. Only James Rodwell (90) and DJ Forbes (89) have played more tournaments.
- **Ryan Olowofela** made his Sevens Series debut in Sydney last year.
 - He has played in eight of the 10 events on the Sevens Series since making his debut, missing only Las Vegas and Dubai.

Cup titles (19)

SERIES	ROUND	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2016-17	Vancouver	South Africa (19-7)
2016-17	Cape Town	South Africa (19-17)
2014-15	Tokyo	South Africa (21-14)
2012-13	Wellington	Kenya (24-19)
2011-12	Dubai	France (29-12)
2010-11	Dubai	Samoa (29-21)
2008-09	London	New Zealand (31-26)
2008-09	Wellington	New Zealand (19-17)
2005-06	Hong Kong	Fiji (26-24)
2005-06	Los Angeles	Fiji (38-5)
2005-06	Dubai	Fiji (28-26)
2004-05	Dubai	Fiji (26-21)
2003-04	London	New Zealand (22-19)
2003-04	Hong Kong	Argentina (22-12)
2003-04	George	New Zealand (38-14)
2002-03	London	Fiji (31-24)
2002-03	Hong Kong	New Zealand (22-17)
2002-03	Brisbane	Fiji (28-14)
2001-02	Hong Kong	Fiji (33-20)

FIJI TEAM NOTES

- Fiji have won the past two, and seven of the past 10 Sevens Series tournaments dating back to Hamilton last year.
 - They have won a record five Cup titles in Australia, but are yet to win in Sydney, having failed to reach the final in their past three visits.
 - They are looking to win three of the opening four tournaments in a series for the first time.
 - Only New Zealand in 2004-05 and 2007-08, and South Africa in 2016-17 have achieved this record.
 - They won four consecutive tournaments last year and will be chasing three Cup titles in a row for just the second time in Sevens Series history.
- Fiji have scored the most points (588) and tries (94) of any team on the series so far, leading the scoring in all three events.
 - They have scored 33 tries in each of their past two events, the fifth time in the past eight tournaments they have scored 30 or more tries.
 - They last scored 30 or more tries in three consecutive events in 2005-06.
 - They need six more tries to become the first team this season to score 100 tries. They will reach this total in one less tournament than it took to pass the century mark last season.
- Fiji are currently on a 14-game winning streak dating back to the fifth place semi-final in Dubai. They have won 17 of 18 games played this season, with their only loss coming against the USA in Dubai (24-14).
- **Alasio Naduva** made his Sevens Series debut in Sydney last year and is the leading try-scorer in the 2019 Series with 15 tries.
- **Aminiasi Tuimaba** was the joint-leading try-scorer in Hamilton with eight tries.
 - He has scored six tries in his past four games.
 - He has made the joint-most line-breaks for Fiji this season with 10.
- **Vilimoni Botitu** was named DHL Impact Player in Hamilton, making the most line-breaks (six), tackles (13) and runs (20) for his team.
- **Jerry Tuwai** is the only current Fiji squad member to have played in every Sydney Sevens match since 2016.

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- He and New Zealand's Regan Ware will set a new Sydney Sevens record for most appearances when they run out for their 19th game.
- Tuwai was named HSBC Player of the Final in Hamilton. He finished the match with two tries, three offloads, five carries and one line-break.

Cup titles (38)

SERIES	ROUND	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2019	Hamilton	USA (38-0)
2019	Cape Town	USA (29-15)
2018	London	South Africa (21-17)
2018	Singapore	Australia (28-22)
2018	Hong Kong	Kenya (24-12)
2018	Vancouver	Kenya (31-12)
2018	Hamilton	South Africa (24-17)
2016-17	Hong Kong	South Africa (22-0)
2015-16	Hong Kong	New Zealand (21-7)
2015-16	Las Vegas	Australia (21-15)
2015-16	Dubai	England (28-17)
2014-15	Glasgow	New Zealand (24-17)
2014-15	Hong Kong	New Zealand (33-19)
2014-15	Las Vegas	New Zealand (35-19)
2014-15	Gold Coast	Samoa (31-24)
2013-14	Tokyo	South Africa (33-26)
2013-14	Dubai	South Africa (29-17)
2012-13	Hong Kong	Wales (26-19)
2012-13	Gold Coast	New Zealand (32-14)
2011-12	London	Samoa (38-15)
2011-12	Hong Kong	New Zealand (35-28)
2011-12	Gold Coast	New Zealand (26-12)
2009-10	Wellington	Samoa (19-12)
2008-09	Edinburgh	South Africa (20-19)
2008-09	Hong Kong	South Africa (26-24)
2006-07	Adelaide	Samoa (21-7)
2006-07	San Diego	Samoa (38-24)
2005-06	London	Samoa (54-14)
2005-06	Singapore	England (40-21)
2005-06	Wellington	South Africa (27-22)
2005-06	George	Argentina (21-19)
2002-03	George	New Zealand (24-14)
2001-02	Mar del Plata	South Africa (24-7)
1999-00	Tokyo	New Zealand (27-22)
1999-00	Brisbane	Australia (24-21)
1999-00	Wellington	New Zealand (24-14)
1999-00	Mar del Plata	New Zealand (26-14)
1999-00	Stellenbosch	New Zealand (12-10)

FRANCE TEAM NOTES

- France are looking to score 20 or more tries in a tournament for the first time this season. Not since 2013-14 have they failed to score this many inside the first four events of the season.
 - They scored 21 tries in Sydney last year, their most in a Sevens Series event in Australia.
 - They will be looking to play their first Cup quarter-final in Australia since 2012 on the Gold Coast, and their first on the Sevens Series since Cape Town in 2017.
- France have recorded wins against two of their three Pool B opponents this weekend, winning two of their three matches against Kenya in Dubai (21-17) and Cape Town (19-12), and also defeating Canada in Dubai (28-12).
 - They will play the USA for the first time this season, and will be looking to end a seven game winless streak (five losses and two draws) against the 2019 Series standing joint-leaders.
- France have named only three survivors in their current squad from last year's HSBC Sydney Sevens team.
 - **Manoel Dall'igna**, **Stephen Parez** and **Paulin Riva** all return, with Parez the only player to have played in all three events in Sydney.
 - Eight of the 12-man squad will be playing their first HSBC Sydney Sevens, with **Jonathan Laugel** having played here in 2016-17.
- France have made two changes from the squad who played in Hamilton, welcoming back **Pierre Mignot** who last played in Cape Town, and calling **Marvin O'Connor** into the team after he played three games in Hamilton as an injury replacement.
- **Nisie Huyard** is France's leading try-scorer this series with seven tries.
- **Jonathan Laugel** made the most carries (27) of any player in Hamilton.
- **Remi Siega** was France's leading try-scorer in Hamilton with three tries.
- **Pierre Boudehent** made the second most offloads (10) of any player in Hamilton.

Cup titles (1)

SERIES	ROUND	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2004-05	Paris	Fiji (28-19)

JAPAN TEAM NOTES

- Japan have played two of the past three HSBC Sydney Sevens tournaments.
 - They have played in 12 of the 15 Sevens Series events in Australia, only missing the Gold Coast in 2012 and 2013, and Sydney last year.
- Japan will be looking to end an 11-game losing streak dating back to Dubai.
 - Their only victory this series has come against Kenya (26-19) in the 13th place semi-final in Dubai.
 - They are only two wins away from 100 Sevens Series victories.
- Japan are looking to score 10 or more tries in a tournament for the first time this season. They have averaged 10 tries per tournament across their past two visits Sydney.
- Japan have already played Pool A opponents England and Samoa once this season but will face Fiji for the first time on the Sevens Series since Singapore last year.
 - Japan will be chasing their first Sevens Series win against Fiji and England, but have tasted success against Samoa before, claiming victory in Tokyo in 2014 and 2015, Port Elizabeth in 2014.
 - The closest Japan have come to beating England was in Las Vegas in 2016 when their Pool B match ended in a 19-19 draw.
- **Rikiya Oishi**, **Dai Ozawa** and **Katsuyuki Sakai** are the only Japanese survivors in their current 12-man squad from their last appearance in Sydney in 2017.
- **Katsuyuki Sakai** is Japan's leading try-scorer this series with four tries.
 - He has scored a try in each of his past two games against England.
 - He was Japan's leading try-scorer in Sydney in 2017 with three tries.
- **Yoshihiro Noguchi** has made a team-high four line-breaks this season.
- **Dai Ozawa** needs 10 points to reach 100 Sevens Series points.
- **Kameli Raravou Soejima** returns to Sydney for the first time since 2016.
 - He was one of three Japanese try-scorers that year to score more than one try at the event.

KENYA TEAM NOTES

- Kenya produced their best result this season by finishing 10th in Hamilton.
 - After winning just one of their three pool games on day one, they won their Challenge Trophy quarter-final and semi-final on day two, before finishing runner-up against England.
 - Their three wins in Hamilton were more than in their past two events combined.
- Kenya have come back from a half-time deficit to win in two of their past five games when trailing at the break.
 - They trailed Argentina 7-5 in Hamilton before out-scoring them 19-0 in the second half to win 24-7, while they managed to overturn a seven-point deficit against Wales in Cape Town to win 33-26.
- Kenya have scored 48 tries so far this season, three more than at the same time last season.
 - They are averaging 16 tries per tournament this season and will look to maintain this scoring level in Sydney where they average 11.7 tries.
- None of Kenya's current 12-man squad played in Sydney last year.
 - **Bush Mwale** is the only member of their squad to have played a Sevens Series event in Sydney, having played in 2016 and 2017.
- Captain **Jacob Ojee**, **Cyprian Kuto** and **Bush Mwale** all made their Sevens Series debuts in Australia, with all three playing their first game on the Gold Coast.
 - **Jacob Ojee** made the most tackles of any player (16) scored a team-high five tries in Hamilton.
 - **Cyprian Kuto** made a team-high five offloads in Hamilton.
- **Johnstone Olindi** is Kenya's leading try-scorer this series with nine tries.
 - He brought his kicking game to Hamilton, making the most kicks in play (4) in the tournament.

Cup titles (1)

SERIES	ROUND	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2015-16	Singapore	Fiji (30-7)

NEW ZEALAND TEAM NOTES

- The inaugural winners of the HSBC Sydney Sevens in 2016, New Zealand will be chasing their fourth Cup title in Australia after winning in Adelaide in 2011 and the Gold Coast in 2013.
 - After winning their 57th Cup title in Dubai at the start of the 2019 Series, the All Blacks Sevens have lost their past two Cup semi-finals against the USA.
 - New Zealand have not won more than one Cup final in a single season since 2015-16.
 - The All Blacks Sevens last played a Cup final in Australia in 2016. They have never failed to reach the final in three straight events in Australia.
- New Zealand scored 29 tries in Hamilton, the second most of any team behind Fiji (33 tries). This was the first time they had scored more than 20 tries in an event this season, and was their largest try-haul since Wellington in 2016, 31 tournaments ago.
- New Zealand will meet Spain again this weekend in the pool stages after defeating them 24-0 in Hamilton.
 - They have held Spain scoreless in three of their past four games dating back to 2014 in Wellington.
 - They have restricted Spain to one try or less in nine of their past 10 matches across all competitions. Their 28-17 victory in Dubai last year was the first time Spain had crossed the All Blacks Sevens try-line more than once.
- New Zealand topped their pool in Hamilton and will be looking to repeat this effort in consecutive events in the same season for the first time since London and Paris in 2016-17.
- Coach **Clark Laidlaw** has made two changes to his squad from Hamilton, with **Trael Joass** replacing the injured Scott Curry and **Amanaki Nicole** replacing Dylan Collier.
 - **Trael Joass** made his Sevens Series debut in Sydney in 2017.
 - **Amanaki Nicole** has scored the only All Blacks Sevens hat-trick this series, crossing three times against Australia in Cape Town.
- Co-captain **Sione Molia** needs two tries to reach 50 Sevens Series tries.

- **Regan Ware** is New Zealand's leading try-scorer at the HSBC Sydney Sevens with nine tries in 18 games.
 - He and Fiji's Jerry Tuwai will set a new Sydney Sevens record for most appearances when they run out for their 19th game.
 - He was New Zealand's top try-scorer in Hamilton with five tries.
- **Andrew Knewstubb** is New Zealand's leading scorer this season with nine tries and 119 points.
 - He made his Sevens Series debut in Sydney in 2017.
- **Sam Dickson** and **Joe Ravouvou** were All Blacks Sevens' leading try-scorers in Sydney last year with four tries each.

Cup titles (57)

SERIES	ROUND	DEFEATED IN FINAL
2019	Dubai	USA (21-5)
2018	Cape Town	Argentina (38-14)
2015-16	Vancouver	South Africa (19-14)
2015-16	Sydney	Australia (27-24)
2015-16	Wellington	South Africa (24-21)
2014-15	Wellington	England (27-21)
2013-14	London	Australia (52-33)
2013-14	Glasgow	Canada (54-7)
2013-14	Hong Kong	England (26-7)
2013-14	Wellington	South Africa (21-0)
2013-14	Gold Coast	Australia (40-19)
2012-13	London	Australia (47-12)
2012-13	Port Elizabeth	France (47-12)
2011-12	Glasgow	England (29-14)
2011-12	Wellington	Fiji (24-7)
2011-12	Port Elizabeth	South Africa (31-26)
2010-11	Adelaide	South Africa (28-20)
2010-11	Hong Kong	England (29-17)
2010-11	Wellington	New Zealand (29-14)
2010-11	George	England (22-19)
2009-10	George	Fiji (21-12)
2009-10	Dubai	Samoa (24-12)
2007-08	Edinburgh	England (24-14)
2007-08	Hong Kong	South Africa (26-12)
2007-08	San Diego	South Africa (27-12)
2007-08	Wellington	Samoa (22-7)

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2007-08	George	Fiji (34-7)
2007-08	Dubai	Fiji (31-21)
2006-07	Edinburgh	Samoa (34-5)
2006-07	London	Fiji (29-7)
2006-07	George	South Africa (24-19)
2004-05	Singapore	England (26-5)
2004-05	Los Angeles	Argentina (34-5)
2004-05	Wellington	Argentina (31-7)
2004-05	George	Fiji (33-19)
2003-04	Bordeaux	England (28-19)
2003-04	Wellington	Fiji (33-15)
2002-03	Wellington	England (38-26)
2002-03	Dubai	Samoa (36-0)
2001-02	Cardiff	England (24-12)
2001-02	London	South Africa (54-14)
2001-02	Durban	Samoa (19-17)
2001-02	Kuala Lumpur	South Africa (29-5)
2001-02	Singapore	Argentina (21-17)
2001-02	Beijing	South Africa (43-14)
2001-02	Santiago	Argentina (21-7)
2000-01	Cardiff	Australia (31-5)
2000-01	London	Australia (19-12)
2000-01	Tokyo	Australia (26-12)
2000-01	Hong Kong	Fiji (29-5)
2000-01	Dubai	Fiji (38-12)
2000-01	Durban	Fiji (34-5)
1999-00	Paris	South Africa (69-10)
1999-00	Hong Kong	Fiji (31-5)
1999-00	Suva	Fiji (31-5)
1999-00	Punta del Este	Fiji (42-19)
1999-00	Dubai	Fiji (38-14)

SAMOA TEAM NOTES

- Samoa finished sixth in Hamilton, their best result at a Sevens Series event since Hamilton last year.
 - They played their first Cup quarter-final since Singapore in 2018 and will be hoping to reach this stage in consecutive tournaments for the first time since Singapore and Paris in 2016.
- Samoa have scored 63 tries this season, their most after the opening three events in a series since 2011-12 when they scored 65 tries across Gold Coast, Dubai and Port Elizabeth.
 - Their 63 tries are nearly double the number of tries they scored in the first three tournaments on the 2018 Series (38 tries).
 - They have scored nearly twice as many tries across Dubai, Cape Town and Hamilton this season than they have in their past three visits to Sydney combined (32 tries).
 - They are averaging 21 tries per tournament this season, and will be looking to score 20 or more tries in Australia for the first time since 2014 on the Gold Coast.
- Samoa's best result in Australia came in Adelaide in 2010, defeating USA 38-10 in the Cup final.
 - They have played three Cup finals in Australia, two in Adelaide in 2007 and 2010 and one on the Gold Coast in 2014.
 - They are yet to reach a Cup quarter-final in Sydney, finishing 10th in 2016 and joint-11th in 2017 and 2018.
- **Alatasi Tupou** will become the second Samoan to play 70 Sevens Series tournaments when he takes the field in Sydney. Only Uale Mai (78) has played more events for the 2009-10 Series champions.
- **Tomasi Alosio** is the only member of the current Samoan squad to have played in all three previous HSBC Sydney Sevens tournaments.
- Captain **David Afamasaga** was Samoa's leading try-scorer in Hamilton last week with five tries.
- **Joe Perez** was the only Samoan player at last year's HSBC Sydney Sevens to score more than one try in the tournament.

- **Alamanda Motuga** has made the joint most line-breaks (15) and scored the third most tries (13) of any player this season.

Cup titles (10)

SERIES	ROUND	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2015-16	Paris	Fiji (29-26)
2012-13	Dubai	New Zealand (26-15)
2011-12	Las Vegas	New Zealand (26-19)
2009-10	Edinburgh	Australia (41-14)
2009-10	Hong Kong	New Zealand (24-21)
2009-10	Adelaide	USA (38-10)
2009-10	Las Vegas	New Zealand (33-12)
2007-08	London	Fiji (19-14)
2006-07	Hong Kong	Fiji (27-22)
2006-07	Wellington	Fiji (17-14)

SCOTLAND TEAM NOTES

- Scotland finished fifth in Hamilton, their best result on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series since their 2017 Cup title in London.
 - They will look to bring this form to Sydney where they are yet to play a Cup quarter-final.
 - They played their first Sevens Series tournament in Australia at the Adelaide Oval in 2007. This was the last time Scotland reached the Cup quarter-finals in Australia, losing 40-14 against New Zealand.
 - Scotland have not finished fifth or better at consecutive events since their back-to-back Cup finals in Paris and London in 2017.
- Scotland scored 18 tries in Hamilton, their most in a Sevens Series event since London last season (also 18 tries).
 - They scored 20 tries in Sydney last year, their highest total in Australia.
- Co-captain **Robbie Fergusson** scored the joint-most tries (eight) and made the joint-most line-breaks (seven) of any player in Hamilton.
 - This was his largest try haul in a tournament, surpassing the six tries he scored in Singapore in 2018.
 - He became the first Scottish player since Darcy Graham in Dubai in 2017 to finish a tournament as the leading or joint-leading try-scorer.
- **Max McFarland** was Scotland's leading try-scorer in Sydney last year with seven tries, including a hat-trick against Canada.
- **Ally Miller** has been named as the 13th-man injury replacement, and if called upon, he will make his first appearance this series. His last Sevens Series event was in Paris in 2018.
 - He has played nine events after making his debut in Las Vegas in 2017 but has not scored a try in his past seven tournaments.
- **Nyle Godsmark**, **Joe Nayacavou** and **Alec Coombes** all made their Sevens Series debuts in Australia with Godsmark and Nayacavou at the Gold Coast Sevens in 2015 and 2014 respectively, and Coombes in Sydney last year.

Cup titles (2)

SERIES	ROUND	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2016-17	London	England (12-7)
2015-16	London	South Africa (27-26)

SOUTH AFRICA TEAM NOTES

- South Africa are looking to reach the Cup final in Sydney for the third consecutive year after claiming the title in 2017 and finishing runner-up in 2018.
 - New Zealand are the only team to play three or more consecutive Cup finals in Australia, playing four straight between Adelaide in 2011 and Gold Coast in 2013.
 - They are yet to reach a Cup final across the opening three events of the 2019 series. Not since 2012-13 have the Blitzboks failed to play at least one Cup final inside the opening four events of a season.
- South Africa have topped their pool in Sydney in two of the past three years, but two of their three Cup titles won in Australia (Adelaide in 2009 and Sydney in 2017) have come after finishing second on day one.
- South Africa are averaging 19.3 tries per tournament this season. This is the first time since 2012-13 that they have averaged less than 20 tries per event.
 - They scored 27 tries in Sydney last year, the most of any team.
- **Justin Geldud** was the highest point-scorer at last year's HSBC Sydney Sevens with 56 points, a record for this event in Sydney.
 - This is the only time he has been the leading point scorer at a Sevens Series tournament.
 - He requires 28 points to become the fifth South African to score 900 Sevens Series points. Only Cecil Afrika (1,430), Branco du Preez (1,198), Seabelo Senatla (1,120) and Fabian Juries (925) have reached this milestone.
- Coach **Neil Powell** has seven survivors in his squad from the team who won in Sydney two years ago. Chris Dry, Phillip Snyman, Zain Davids, Werner Kok, Branco du Preez, Justin Geldud and Siviwe Soyizwapi all played in 2017.
- **Werner Kok** and **Siviwe Soyizwapi** were South Africa's leading try-scorers in Hamilton with four tries each.
 - **Werner Kok** needs six more tries to reach 100 tries.
 - **Siviwe Soyizwapi** has scored seven tries in eight games against Australia, including a double the last time he played against them in the Cup quarter-final in Vancouver last year.
- **JC Pretorius** will make his Sevens Series debut after being called into the 12-man squad.

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- If called upon as an injury replacement, **Kyle Brown** will become South Africa's most capped player in his 69th HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series event.
 - He made his debut in Dubai in 2008 and was part of the squad who won South Africa's inaugural Sevens Series title that season.
 - He also captained South Africa to gold at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and bronze at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Cup titles (29)

SERIES	ROUND	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2018	Paris	England (24-14)
2018	Dubai	New Zealand (24-12)
2016-17	Paris	Scotland (15-5)
2016-17	Las Vegas	Fiji (19-12)
2016-17	Sydney	England (29-14)
2016-17	Wellington	Fiji (26-5)
2016-17	Dubai	Fiji (26-14)
2015-16	Cape Town	Argentina (29-14)
2014-15	Port Elizabeth	New Zealand (26-17)
2014-15	Dubai	Australia (33-7)
2013-14	Las Vegas	New Zealand (14-7)
2013-14	Port Elizabeth	New Zealand (17-14)
2012-13	Glasgow	New Zealand (28-21)
2012-13	Tokyo	New Zealand (24-19)
2012-13	Las Vegas	New Zealand (40-21)
2010-11	Edinburgh	Australia (36-35)
2010-11	London	Fiji (24-14)
2010-11	Las Vegas	Fiji (24-14)
2008-09	Adelaide	Kenya (26-7)
2008-09	George	New Zealand (12-7)
2008-09	Dubai	England (19-12)
2007-08	Adelaide	New Zealand (15-7)
2006-07	Dubai	New Zealand (31-12)
2005-06	Paris	Samoa (33-12)
2004-05	London	England (21-12)
2003-04	Singapore	Argentina (24-19)
2003-04	Dubai	New Zealand (33-26)
2002-03	Cardiff	Argentina (35-17)
2001-02	Wellington	Samoa (17-14)

SPAIN TEAM NOTES

- Spain return to Sydney after making their first Sevens Series tournament appearance in Australia for three years last season.
 - They made their Sevens Series debut in Australia on the Gold Coast in 2012, playing in two of the four tournaments hosted there.
 - They played their first event in Sydney last year, finishing joint-15th.
- Spain have scored 10 or more tries in each of their opening three events this season, averaging 15.3 tries per tournament, their highest average when playing as a core Sevens Series team.
 - After scoring eight tries in Sydney last year, Spain will be looking to bring this 2019 Series average to Spotless Stadium.
- Spain have named five survivors in their current squad from the team who last played in Sydney.
 - **Javier de Juan**, **Pablo Fontes**, **Francisco Hernandez**, **Pol Pla** and **Manuel Sainz-Trapaga** all return for their second appearance in Sydney.
 - Javier Carrion and Francisco Hernandez are the only Spanish survivors from the Gold Coast Sevens in 2013.
- **Pol Pla**, **Javier Carrion** and **Manuel Sainz-Trapaga** were the only Spanish players that scored more than one try in Hamilton, each crossing the try-line twice during the tournament.
 - **Manuel Sainz-Trapaga** was Spain's joint-leading try-scorer in Sydney last year with two tries. He and **Pablo Fontes** are the only returning players who have scored a try in Sydney.
- **Pol Pla** has made the most line-breaks (eight) and scored the most tries (12) for Spain this season.
- **Alejandro Alonso** led Spain's defence in Hamilton with a team-high 13 tackles.

TONGA TEAM NOTES

- Tonga will play their first HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series event in Sydney as the invitational team. Their last tournament in Australia was the Gold Coast Sevens in 2013.
 - This will be their 42nd Sevens Series event, and the first time they have played back-to-back tournaments since 2010-11 in Hong Kong and Adelaide.
 - They have also played at three Commonwealth Games (2002, 2006 and 2010), and six Rugby World Cup Sevens tournaments (1993, 1997, 2005, 2009, 2013 and 2018).
 - They have participated in 11 of the 15 Sevens Series tournaments in Australia since 2000.
 - Their best finish in Australia came in 2006, winning the Plate final in Adelaide.
 - Their best try-scoring effort in Australia came in 2000 when they scored 27 tries in Brisbane, the joint-second most of any team at that event.
- Tonga scored 16 tries in Hamilton, their most in a Sevens Series event since Adelaide in 2010 (17 tries).
 - They finished 13th in Hamilton with their two wins coming against Japan (31-7) and France (33-10) on day two. This is the first time since Wellington in 2012 that Tonga have won back-to-back games at a Sevens Series event.
 - They are looking to win three consecutive Sevens Series matches for the first time since 2009 in Hong Kong, but are up against a South African team who have kept them scoreless in their past two meetings.
- **Sione Tupou** made the most offloads of any player in Hamilton with 12.
- **Atieli Pakalani** will captain the side for the first two games in the absence of **Tana Fotofili** due to his suspension.
 - He represented Australia in four tournaments in 2013-14, scoring seven tries in 24 matches played.
 - He played 14 Super Rugby games for the Waratahs between 2011-12 scoring five tries.
- **Potolaka Maake** led much of the Tongan attack in Hamilton, scoring two tries and making the most line-breaks (three) for his team.

USA TEAM NOTES

- USA have topped their pool in consecutive events for the first time since Vancouver and Hong Kong in 2017, and just the second time on the Sevens Series. They have never topped their pool in three straight tournaments.
 - After finishing runner-up in Dubai, Cape Town and Hamilton they will be hoping to win their third Cup title.
 - Only four teams have played four straight Cup finals in the same season with New Zealand achieving this on seven occasions, Fiji four times, Samoa twice, and South Africa once.
- They have scored the second most tries of any team this season with 69 tries.
 - They are averaging 23 tries per tournament in 2019, their highest on the Sevens Series, and will look to score more than 20 tries in a tournament in Australia for the first time.
- They finished fourth in Sydney last year, losing the bronze final 31-10 to Argentina.
 - After reaching the Cup quarter-finals in all three previous events in Sydney, last year was the first time they played a Cup semi-final.
 - They have only topped their pool in Australia once, winning Pool D in Sydney in 2017.
 - Their best result in Australia came in Adelaide in 2010, finishing runner-up against Samoa in the Cup final.
- **Folau Niuā** will become the most capped Eagles Sevens player, surpassing Zack Test in his 63rd Seven Series event.
 - He made his Sevens Series debut in Australia, playing his first tournament on the Gold Coast in 2011.
- **Carlin Isles** was USA's leading try-scorer in Hamilton with seven tries.
 - This is the fourth time in the past eight tournaments he has scored seven or more tries in an event.
 - He has scored at least one try in seven of his past eight matches.
 - He made the joint-most line-breaks (7) of any player in Hamilton.

Cup titles (2)

SERIES	ROUND	DEFEATED IN CUP FINAL
2018	Las Vegas	Argentina (28-0)
2014-15	London	Australia (45-22)

WALES TEAM NOTES

- Wales finished runner-up in the Challenge Trophy final at last year's HSBC Sydney Sevens.
 - The last time they topped their pool in a Sevens Series event was in Sydney in 2017, 20 tournaments ago.
- They have played a Cup quarter-final in three of their past five visits to Australia, reaching this stage in Sydney in 2017 and the Gold Coast in 2013 and 2014.
 - They won the Shield final at the inaugural HSBC Sydney Sevens in 2016.
- Wales will look to increase their try-scoring rate in Sydney after scoring just eight tries in Hamilton.
 - The only time they have scored less than 10 tries in consecutive events was in 2004-05, scoring two tries in George followed by seven tries in Wellington.
- Wales face New Zealand in their opening pool game, and will be looking to end their 31-match losing streak against across all competitions.
 - Their last victory against the All Blacks Sevens came at Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009 (15-14), while it will be almost 10 years since they last defeated them on the Sevens Series, winning 28-17 in Wellington in 2009.
 - Current Welsh coach Richie Pugh scored a try in that RWC Sevens 2009 quarter-final win.
- **Rio Dyer** had an impressive Sevens Series debut in Hamilton, scoring the most tries for Wales with three.
- Captain **Luke Treharne** is Wales' leading scorer this season with eight tries and 78 points.
 - He made his Sevens Series debut in Australia at the Gold Coast Sevens in 2014.
 - He has been Wales' only try-scorer in their past two matches against New Zealand, scoring against the All Blacks Sevens in Dubai and Singapore last year.
- If called upon as a injury replacements, **Will Thomas** will play his first Sevens Series event since 2014 in London.
 - Thomas played club rugby for Southern Districts in Sydney's Shute Shield competition last season.