A CLOSER LOOK AT THE TOKYO 2020 POOLS

MEN’S

The three pool winners at Rio 2016 were the medallists in Fiji, Great Britain and South Africa.

There is an Olympic debutant in each pool in Korea, Canada and Ireland.

Pool A – New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Korea

Argentina met Australia and New Zealand in knockout matches in Rio – beating Australia 26-21 in the fifth place semi-final before losing 17-14 to New Zealand to finish sixth.

New Zealand and Australia met in the last match played on the World Rugby Sevens Series, the All Blacks Sevens winning the Canada Sevens Cup final 17-14 in Vancouver in March 2020.

Korea have only met one of their pool opponents in the last four years, losing 45-19 to Argentina at the Los Angeles Sevens in 2020.

Korea failed to score in their last meetings with New Zealand (61-0 in Hong Kong in 2011) and Australia (52-0 in Hong Kong in 2017).

Pool B – Fiji, Great Britain, Canada, Japan

Fiji and Great Britain, the gold and silver medallists from Rio 2016, will meet in Pool B.

Both teams played Japan at Rio 2016, Fiji winning 20-5 in the semi-final to guarantee a first ever Olympic medal for the country.

Fiji have never lost to Japan in a World Rugby sevens event.

Great Britain beat Japan 21-19 in their pool encounter in Rio, although Japan’s Kazuhiro Goya missed a conversion attempt with the last kick that would have secured a draw.

Canada beat Fiji in their last meeting, 26-21 in the pool stage in Vancouver en route to winning a bronze medal in the last World Rugby Sevens Series event played.

Pool C – South Africa, USA, Kenya, Ireland

Unlike the other two pools, there are no previous Olympic encounters between the teams.

South Africa recorded their 50th World Series victory against USA when the sides last met in the Canada Sevens quarter-finals in Vancouver in 2020, winning 26-10.

Ireland and South Africa drew 19-19 in their last encounter, in the Los Angeles round of the World Series in 2020.

USA have not met Kenya since the World Series 2019 finale in Paris when they triumphed 26-14 in the Cup quarter-finals.

The two meetings between South Africa and Kenya in 2020 were split. Kenya won 36-14 in Hamilton, New Zealand, before South Africa avenged that with a 31-5 win in Los Angeles.
Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games: Pool by pool

**WOMEN’S**

Two of the pool winners at Rio 2016 went on to medal in Australia and New Zealand. Great Britain topped Pool C ahead of Canada but lost to the North Americans in the bronze medal match.

There are two Olympic debutants, China and the Russian Olympic Committee team.

**Pool A – New Zealand, Russian Olympic Committee, Great Britain, Kenya**

New Zealand faced Kenya in their first Olympic match, winning 52-0.

They also beat Great Britain at Rio 2016, 25-7 in the semi-final to guarantee a medal.

Great Britain's place at Tokyo 2020 was confirmed with a 19-0 defeat of hosts Russia in the Europe regional qualifier.

Russia ended New Zealand’s record-equalling 37-match winning run on the World Series with a 17-17 draw in Kitakyushu, Japan, in April 2019. This matched their best result against New Zealand, a draw at the first World Series event in Dubai in 2012.

Great Britain have never faced Kenya or the Russian Olympic Committee.

**Pool B – Canada, France, Fiji, Brazil**

Canada beat both Brazil and France at Rio 2016. They overcome hosts Brazil 38-0 in the pool stage and then beat France 15-5 in the quarter-finals.

France, the last qualifier for Tokyo 2020, have never lost to Brazil.

France have won their last five meetings with Fiji, having lost the previous five.

Fiji have won seven in a row against Brazil, the most recent a 31-0 victory at the Sydney Sevens in February 2020.

**Pool C – Australia, USA, China, Japan**

Olympic champions Australia and USA were in the same pool at Rio 2016. Their match ended 12-12 – the only draw in Olympic rugby sevens history.

Australia have never lost to China or Japan and haven’t conceded a point in their last three meetings with the Sakura Sevens.

USA have only lost once to China and Japan on the World Series, 17-7 against China in Guangzhou in 2014 and 15-14 against Japan in Dubai in 2015.

China beat Japan 7-0 in their last meeting on the World Series in Kitakyushu in 2019.