

**WORLD RUGBY
HSBC SEVENS CHALLENGER
MUNICH 7S**

RUGBY



WORLD RUGBY
HSBC SEVENS
CHALLENGER



RUGBY
DEUTSCHLAND



WORLD RUGBY SEVENS CHALLENGER – WHAT IS IT?

The World Rugby Sevens Challenger is a tournament series where, so to speak, national teams from the "second row" play, aiming to make the leap into the international rugby elite, known as the World Series. Rugby Germany has been hovering on the threshold for several years, narrowly missing qualification multiple times, sometimes only by seconds.

Until a few years ago, only one team was promoted to the World Series – until 2019, as part of the Hong Kong Sevens, then through the Challenger Series. However, this time, four teams have the opportunity to join the international 7s rugby elite. The new format stipulates that the top four teams in the Challenger standings will play a relegation tournament against the four lowest-ranked teams in the World Series during the World Rugby Finals in Madrid in early June. The top four teams in the Spanish capital will compete in the World Series next season.

After the first two Challenger tournaments in Dubai (UAE) and Montevideo (URU), Rugby Germany ranks fourth in the overall standings, behind Uruguay, Kenya, and Chile, but tied on points with the fifth-placed team from Hong Kong. In Munich, Germany still has full control over qualifying for the Finals in Madrid.

It appears to be a duel with the Asians, but if one of the current top three teams falters at the Dantestadion, loses in the quarterfinals, or even misses out altogether, the Wolfpack could still make it onto the Challenger podium.





MEN'S STANDINGS – SEVENS CHALLENGER

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[Live Standings](#)

[Livestream](#)



MEN'S STANDINGS

			PTS	+/-
01		URUGUAY	36	109
02		KENYA	36	83
03		CHILE	32	78
04		GERMANY	26	106
05		HONG KONG CHINA	26	96
06		TONGA	18	-13
07		JAPAN	15	32
08		UGANDA	14	63
09		GEORGIA	10	-76
10		PORTUGAL	9	-54
11		PAPUA NEW GUINEA	4	-58
12		MEXICO	2	-366



WORLD RUGBY HSBC SVNS SERIES – ALL INFORMATION

The SVNS, formerly known until last season as the World Rugby Sevens Series, is an annual series of international tournaments in Olympic 7s rugby organized by the Rugby World Federation. This competition was first organized in the 1999/2000 season to promote an international elite in 7s rugby and develop the game into an attractive commercial product.

The current season consists of eight tournaments typically held between November and June on five continents. The same twelve teams participate in all tournaments.

Under the new regulations, the four lowest-ranked teams in the overall standings must now compete at the Finals in Madrid against the top four teams in the Challenger standings to maintain their position in the highest international tier, while the Challenger teams aim for promotion to the elite tournament series there.



WORLD RUGBY HSBC SEVENS CHALLENGER 2024

GAME SCHEDULE

Saturday
18.05.2024



12:28
GERMANY - GEORGIA
12:50
URUGUAY - PAPUA NEW GUINEA
15:10
GERMANY - PAPUA NEW GUINEA
15:32
URUGUAY - GEORGIA
17:52
GEORGIA - PAPUA NEW GUINEA
18:14
URUGUAY - GERMANY



11:44
UGANDA - TONGA
12:06
HONG KONG CHINA - MEXICO
14:26
UGANDA - MEXICO
14:48
HONG KONG CHINA - TONGA
17:08
TONGA - MEXICO
17:30
HONG KONG CHINA - UGANDA



11:00
CHILE - PORTUGAL
11:22
KENYA - JAPAN
13:42
CHILE - JAPAN
14:04
KENYA - PORTUGAL
16:24
PORTUGAL - JAPAN
16:46
KENYA - CHILE

Sunday
19.05.2024

Q1 - 11:00
1ST POOL B - BEST 3RD PLACE
Q2 - 11:22
1ST POOL C - 2ND POOL A

Q3 - 11:44
1ST POOL A - 2ND BEST 3RD PLACE
Q4 - 12:06
2ND POOL B - 2ND POOL C

9TH PLACE SFI (M23) - 12:28
BEST 4TH PLACE - 2ND BEST 4TH PLACE
9TH PLACE SFI (M24) - 12:50
3RD BEST 3RD PLACE - 3RD BEST 4TH PLACE

INVITATIONAL

MATCH 1 - 13:22
BAVARIAN SELECTION MEN - U19 GERMANY MALE

MATCH 2 - 13:44
BAVARIAN SELECTION WOMEN - U19 GERMANY FEMALE

SF1 - 14:06
WINNER Q1 - WINNER Q2
SF2 - 14:28
WINNER Q3 - WINNER Q4

11TH FINAL - 15:10
LOSER M23 - LOSER M24
9TH FINAL - 15:32
WINNER M23 - WINNER M24

7TH FINAL - 15:54
3RD BEST QF LOSER - 4TH BEST QF LOSER
5TH FINAL - 16:16
BEST QF LOSER - 2ND BEST QF LOSER

3RD PLACE PLAY OFF - 16:58
LOSER SF1 - LOSER SF2

CUP FINAL 17:23
WINNER SF 1 - WINNER SF 2



GAME SCHEDULE



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TEAMS



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GERMANY - WOLFPACK

The German team has long been considered by experts as one of the top candidates for potential qualification for the SVNS World Series. However, despite coming close on several occasions, they have not yet made the leap. Rugby Germany has since initiated a comprehensive overhaul within the squad. The heavily rejuvenated squad sometimes lacks experience and necessary cleverness, but it is on a very promising developmental path.

The relatively young German team, led by a few experienced players, is characterized by a squad that is consistently at a good level. On good days, the Wolfpack can be dangerous to almost any opponent, but on less favorable days, they can let what seems like a secure victory slip away.





The "Wolfpack's" biggest success to date was winning the European Championship for the first time in 2019. This success was mainly achieved by the "old generation" of players like Anjo Buckman, Fabian Heimpel, or Phil Szczesny, who have since retired. However, stalwarts such as Bastian van der Bosch, Tim Lichtenberg, Niklas Koch, Ben Ellerman, or Jonathon Dawe from the current squad were also part of that team.

Following their historic debut at the World Cup in 2022, the conditions in Heidelberg and the core of players are in place to aim for further major goals, such as the first-ever Olympic qualification in the association's history.

World Cup Appearances: 1

Olympic Appearances: None

Players to watch: Tim Lichtenberg, Makonnen Amekuedi, Jakob Dipper





URUGUAY

"Los Teros" are considered one of the top favorites in this year's Challenger series, perhaps even the frontrunners. They currently lead the overall rankings after two tournaments. Uruguay showed strong performances during their debut season in the World Rugby Sevens Series 2022/2023 and narrowly avoided relegation. The positive trajectory of "Los Teros" is evident as they will be making their first appearance in the Olympic 7s tournament in 2024.

World Cup Appearances: 5

Olympic Appearances: None

Players to watch: Baltazar Amaya, Guillermo Lijtenstein



KENYA

Kenya has already qualified for the 2024 Olympics in Paris. The team, known as "Shujaa" (Swahili for brave or hero), is highly experienced and has shown a clear upward trend in performance after facing setbacks. The East Africans also boast some younger talents and have a superstar in Patrick Odongo, who scored numerous tries in Dubai but was unfortunately injured and missed the Montevideo tournament, showcasing his prowess as a game-changer.

World Cup Appearances: 6

Olympic Appearances: 2 (Best Finish: 9th/2020)

Players to watch: Patrick Odongo, Brian Tanga





CHILE

Chile is a familiar opponent for the German Wolfpack in the quest for World Series qualification, often presenting a challenge with their physical and confrontational style of play, which hasn't always suited the Germans. The "Cóndores," who strongly intertwine their 7s program with 15s rugby, boast a well-balanced and solidly equipped team where only a few players truly stand out.

World Cup Appearances: 3

Olympic Appearances: none

Player to watch: Nicolas Garafulic





HONG KONG CHINA

Similar to Chile, Hong Kong is another long-standing adversary in the pursuit of World Series promotion, having struggled in vain alongside Rugby Germany. Curiously, the team doesn't feature many Asians but includes numerous players with roots in the United Kingdom. They have a professional 7s program, are highly experienced, and extremely cohesive. The team impresses not so much through individual brilliance but rather as a collective unit.

World Cup Appearances: 8

Olympic Appearances: none

Players to watch: Max Denmark, Seb Brien





TONGA

An absolute rugby powerhouse with exceptionally high-quality gameplay. More than 90% of the players hail from or reside in New Zealand and receive excellent training there. The "Ikale Tahi" (Sea Eagles) might not be as well-coordinated as other teams due to their often diverse personnel, but they excel individually and are physically dominant – tall, robust, and fast.

World Cup Appearances: 7

Olympic Appearances: None

Players to watch: Siieli Filimoehala, Semisi Maasi





JAPAN

The Japanese team, often featuring a fluctuating composition, benefits from a professional and well-funded 7s program. The players are typically technically proficient, play very fast and clean rugby, but sometimes struggle against physically imposing opponents. The star of the team is Coach Simon Amor - extremely experienced and notably innovative. Amor coached the English and later the British teams for a long time, winning Olympic silver in Rio in 2016.

World Cup Appearances: 7

Olympic Appearances: 2 (Best Finish: 4th/2016)

Players to watch: Shotaro Tsuka





UGANDA

The "Cranes" consistently possess excellent physical attributes for 7s rugby: they are tall, highly athletic, and fast. Additionally, they play with great passion and sometimes emotion on the field. The standout star of the team is Philip Wokorach, still one of the world's best 7s players, possessing a complete skill set that makes him a scoring threat at any level. However, several younger players have also developed well under his shadow.

World Cup Appearances: 2

Olympic Appearances: None

Players to watch: Philip Wokorach, Ian Munyani, Adrian Kasito





GEORGIA

Georgian rugby has earned its outstanding international reputation primarily through its 15s national team, though this doesn't mean that the Lelos aren't capable of strong performances in 7s rugby, as they have consistently demonstrated with commendable placements. However, the well-trained and physically robust Georgians – somewhat atypical for European teams – heavily rely on emotions. While they can play at a top level, they can also completely unravel during tournaments when things aren't going well.

World Cup Appearances: 4

Olympic Appearances: None

Players to watch: Giorgi Jobava, Soso Matiashvili





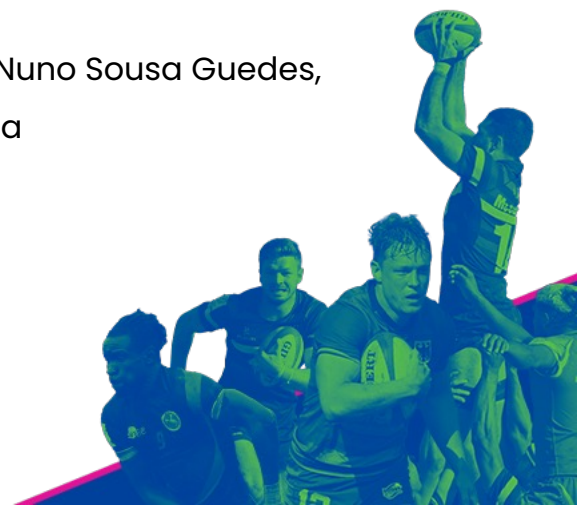
PORTUGAL

Portugal still holds the record for most European titles in 7s rugby with eight, but they haven't quite matched their past glory in recent times. This is partly due to their tendency to field varying squads, often making them unpredictable in tournaments. Nonetheless, the Lobos (Wolves) are well-trained technically and play a fast-paced style. When they field their best lineup, Portugal is capable of achieving a lot.

World Cup Appearances: 6

Olympic Appearances: None

Players to watch: Pedro Bettencourt, Nuno Sousa Guedes, Guilherme Vasconcelos, Duarte Moreira



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea predominantly consists of players who are more familiar with the rugby league variant prevalent in the Pacific nation, which sometimes leads to a lack of traditional 7s understanding at this level. However, the "Pukpuks" (Pidgin for Crocodiles) are tall, fast, and play a style reminiscent of Fiji – somewhat unconventional with plenty of offloads. However, they often struggle against structured gameplay.

World Cup Appearances: 1

Olympic Appearances: None

Player to watch: Derrick Voku





MEXICO

Mexico is the clear underdog in this Challenger season and has yet to secure a win in the first two tournaments, placing last in the overall rankings by a significant margin. However, the "Serpientes" (Snakes) can occasionally surprise during tournaments, such as their narrow result against Japan in Montevideo. The most well-known name in the Mexican delegation is that of coach Terry Bouhraoua. The 36-year-old Frenchman captained his home country at the 2016 Olympic Games.

World Cup Appearances: None

Olympic Appearances: None

Player to watch: Emilio Sanchez



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