**HSBC WORLD RUGBY SEVENS SERIES &**

**HSBC WORLD RUGBY WOMEN’S SEVENS SERIES**

* Two of the most dynamic global sporting series on the market
* Feature the dynamism of sevens rugby, paired with spectacles of entertainment and fan engagement that are second to none.
* Sevens is on the rise internationally as the newest sport to be added to the Olympic roster, debuting in Rio 2016.
* The Men’s Series in 2016-17 will include ten tournaments held around the world, in which 16 national sevens teams compete for World Series points at each round
* The Men’s Series has stops in:
  + Dubai, Cape Town, Wellington, Sydney, Las Vegas, Vancouver, Hong Kong, Singapore, Paris, London
* The 15 core Men’s National Sevens Teams are:
  + Argentina, England, Kenya, Samoa, USA, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Scotland, Wales, France, South Africa, Canada, Japan, Russia
  + The 16th team at each tournament is determined through a local qualifying procedure
* 45 matches played over two days in each stop and 149 countries will be watching from the around the world
* Vancouver hosted the Men’s Series for the first time in 2016
* The Women’s Series in 2016-17 currently has 5 stops around the world with 12 competing national Sevens teams; a 6th stop will be announced next week
* The Women’s Series has stops in:
  + Dubai, Sydney, Kitakyushi, Langford and Clermont
* The 11 core Women’s National Sevens Teams are:
  + Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Ireland, New Zealand, Russia, Spain, USA
  + The 12th team at each tournament is selected by World Rugby
* 2017 will mark the third straight year Victoria/Langford has hosted a leg of the Women’s Series
* The rugby sevens debuted at the Rio 2016 Olympics where the Canadian Women’s team won Bronze

**ABOUT THE GAME**

* Touted as one of the most exciting spectator sports on the market with seven players a-side covering a full-size rugby pitch
* While a regular rugby union match lasts at least 80 minutes, a sevens match consists of two halves of seven minutes with a one-minute half-time break.

**A WORLDWIDE SPORT**

* Over 3 million play Rugby Sevens worldwide in 116 countries
* The sport debuted as an Olympic discipline at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games
* World Rugby invested £153 million in Sevens development programs in the lead-up to Rio 2016

**CANADA AS A CONTENDER**

* Canada has been a consistent threat on the Sevens World Series circuit since its inaugural year in 1999
* Canada’s Men’s Team finished 13th most recently in the 2015-16 season, defeating perennial contenders New Zealand, Australia, and England at select tournaments
* Canada’s Women’s Team won bronze most recently in the 2016 Rio Olympics and finished 3rd in the 2015-16 Series standings
* Canadian Men’s Sevens kick-off the season with newly-appointed head coach Damian McGrath, who coached Samoa as they won the Paris tournament in the 2015-16 season