

MADRID NOTES

- **Argentina** became just the sixth different team to top the HSBC SVNS standings at the end of the regular season, claiming the League title honours in Singapore last round.
- They have won 32 of their 39 games played this season, the most of any team, and nine more than second-placed Ireland on the SVNS standings.
- They were the top try-scoring team in the very first SVNS event to be played in Spain, with 26 tries in Málaga in 2022.
 - They finished inside the top three at both events in Spain in 2022, with a second-place in Málaga and third in Seville.
- Argentina enjoyed the second-highest retention success from the restart of any team this season with 25%. Only once this season did they failed to retain possession from at least one restart (0/18 in Los Angeles).
- After averaging 23.8 tries per tournament between Dubai and Vancouver, their scoring rate has dropped to 15.7 tries per tournament since Los Angeles.
- They have the highest ratio of tries scored from structured possession sources of any team this season, with the 68% (50% from set-piece and 18% from the restart).
 - They scored a tournament-high nine tries from set-piece in Singapore, but none from the restart. Instead, they scored six of their 17 tries last round from steals.
- They scored 17 tries from 20 visits to the opposition 22 in Singapore (85%), a marked improvements from 62% in Hong Kong, and their highest success-rate at a single event this season.
 - They have made the most visits to the opposition 22 of any team this season (180).
- Their attack made their fewest carries in a tournament this season last round in Singapore (112) but produced their best carry per linebreak ratio, averaging one every seven carries.
- They have conceded the fewest tries of any team this season, averaging 10.7 per tournament. They held their opposition scoreless after half-time in three of their five games played in Singapore, and enjoyed the second-best tackle completion-rate of any team with 81%.
- They have been the most disciplined team this season, averaging a competition-low 2.3 penalties per game, including the fewest of any team in each of the past three events.
- This will be just their second meeting with Great Britain this season after winning their pool match 17-14 in Hong Kong.
 - The team trailing at half-time has won five of the seven previous matches in this fixture, with Argentina coming from behind to win on three occasions – Cape Town and Singapore last season, and Hong Kong this season.
- They are currently enjoying a four-game winning streak against France dating back to Los Angeles last season. They have never won five consecutive matches in this fixture in SVNS history.
 - Argentina won their only previous meeting this season, 21-7 in Cape Town. They held France scoreless in the second-half, enjoying a 14-0 score-line after the break.
- This will be the fifth time Argentina and Australia have met this season, with two pool matches in Dubai and Singapore, and two Cup finals in Cape Town and Perth. They have held Australia scoreless in the first half in three of their four meetings this season.

- **Australia** finished the regular season in fourth, the fourth consecutive time they have placed inside the top five at the end of a Series.
 - The 2022 Series champions reached two Cup finals, finishing second in Cape Town and Perth. They have not won a Cup final since Hong Kong in the opening round of the 2023 Series.
 - They are one of four teams in this Grand Final to have won a Series title (2022).
 - They placed inside the top four at both SVNS events in Spain in 2022, finishing fourth in Málaga and second in Seville.
 - Australia scored a competition-high 41% of their tries this season from the quick-tap, however last round saw a change in tactic with eight of their 17 tries in Singapore (47%) originating from set-piece.
 - They have the joint-highest ratio of assisted tries this season alongside New Zealand, with 67% of their scores directly assisted by a team-mate.
 - They have made the second-most visits of any team this season into the opposition 22 (152), but will look to improve their efficiency after converting just 71% of their visits into tries, the fifth-lowest ratio of any team.
 - They have become more ill-disciplined as the season has progressed, with their penalty count increasing from 3.1 per game between Dubai and Vancouver, to 3.7 per game since Los Angeles.
 - They have received the joint-fewest yellow cards of any team this season with six.
 - Australia have not looked to retain possession from the restart this season, with the lowest rate of any team at 9%. They have retained just one of their past 27 restarts made since Hong Kong.
 - They have made the third-most kicks in play of any team this season, including a tournament-high 12 in Singapore, but enjoy the lowest retention success (18%).
 - Australia have won just two of their past eight matches against France since the start of last season, in Hong Kong and London on the 2023 Series.
 - They have led at half-time on four occasions in their past eight meetings but have only converted two of these leads into victories.
 - This fixture sees two teams who love to score from quick-tap possession go head-to-head with Australia scoring a competition-high 41% and France with the third-highest at 34% from this source.
 - They have not tasted victory against Great Britain since Perth, losing their past two meetings in Los Angeles and Singapore. The winning score has been exactly 26 points in all three games this season, with Australia's 26-14 victory in Perth, and Great Britain winning 26-19 in Los Angeles and 26-7 in Singapore.
 - Australia are responsible for one of Argentina's seven total losses this season, winning 26-19 in the pool stages in Singapore.
 - They ended a four-game losing streak and will be chasing back-to-back victories against Los Pumas 7s for the first time since Seville and Singapore in 2022.
 - The restart will be crucial in this match, with Australia enjoying the lowest retention success-rate with 9% and Argentina the second-highest with 25%.
- **Fiji** finished sixth on the HSBC SVNS standings after failing to make a Cup final in the regular season for the first time in their history.

- They have not won a Cup title at any location since Toulouse on the 2022 Series, 21 tournaments ago. This has now equalled their longest Cup title drought since playing 21 events between Brisbane in 2003 and Dubai in 2005 without lifting a trophy.
 - There have only been six seasons in their history where they have failed to win a Cup title – 2000-01, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2007-08, 2010-11, and 2023.
 - They have never been crowned Series champions without winning at least three Cup finals – 2005-06 four Cup titles, 2014-15 four Cup titles, 2015-16 three Cup titles and 2019 five Cup titles.
- They are one of four teams in the 2024 Grand Final to have been crowned Series champions (2006-07, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2019).
- This will be their first appearance in Spain after missing Málaga and Seville in 2022 due to Covid-19 travel restrictions.
- They are the best team this season at retaining possession from the restart, averaging a competition-high 29% success-rate.
- They will look to bounce back from a ninth-place result in Singapore, their lowest at a tournament this season.
- Unsurprisingly, they are the top offloading team this season, averaging 6.1 per game. However, this is coming at a cost also averaging the most errors per game (3.2).
- Their efficiency inside the opposition 22 has dropped from 82% between Dubai and Los Angeles to just 74% since Hong Kong.
- They like to score quickly with the best ratio of rucks per try (1.8), from the fourth-fewest carries per game (22.3) of any team this season.
 - Fifty-four per cent of their tries scored this season have originated from unstructured possession sources – quick tap, steals, kick returns.
 - Only 52% of their tries this season have been directly assisted by a team-mate, the second-highest ratio of solo efforts on attack by any team behind Ireland. However, in Singapore their teamwork produced an assist ratio of 69%, their joint-highest in a single tournament this season alongside Perth.
- All four matches this season between Fiji and New Zealand have been close contests, decided by a margin of seven points or less.
 - Fiji have not beaten New Zealand when ahead or level at half-time this season, losing all three matches with this advantage. Their only victory came in Perth when trailing by seven points at the break.
 - This fixture sees 18 of the past 25 Series champions since 1999-2000 go head-to-head with Fiji winning four titles and New Zealand 14.
- Fiji ended a two-game losing streak against Ireland with victory in the pool stages in Singapore. Four of their five matches this season have been close contests, decided by seven points or less.
 - Fiji, who have scored 35% of their tries this season from the quick-tap, will look to take advantage of an ill-disciplined Irish team who conceded a tournament-high 23 penalties last round in Singapore
- Fiji have won two of their three matches against South Africa this season, and have not conceded more than 14 points in a game against them. They have not conceded more than one second-half try in a match this season, outscoring them 35-21 in this period.
 - This will be their first meeting in the pool round this season – Fiji have not beaten South Africa in pool match since Tokyo in 2013, losing their past five at this stage.

- **France** finished fifth on the HSBC SVNS standings despite finishing third or better in three of their final four tournaments.
 - They finished sixth in Málaga and fifth in Seville in 2022.
 - They scored the second-most tries of any team during the regular season (119), but crossed just 13 times in Singapore last round, the joint-fewest at a single event this season alongside Cape Town.
 - Fifty-nine per cent of their tries this season have originated from unstructured possession sources (quick taps, kicks in play, and steals), the second-highest ratio of any team behind South Africa, including a competition-high 21% from steals.
 - They have the third-highest ratio of assisted tries of any team this season (66%).
 - They made a season-low 15 visits to the opposition 22 last round in Singapore, but made the most of their limited opportunities, scoring from 87% of their entries, the second-highest success-rate of any team.
 - They have been the second-most ill-disciplined team this season, conceding a 4.1 penalties per game and receiving the joint-most yellow cards of any team with 17.
 - They will look to improve their accuracy in front of goal after converting just six of their 13 shots (46%) in Singapore, down from their season average of 71% coming into the event. Two of their three losses in Singapore were by two points or less.
 - They are averaging the third-most offloads (5.2) and second-fewest passes (32.6) per game of any team this season. Thirty-three per cent of their try assists this season have come via an offload.
 - Despite averaging the fourth-lowest tackle success-rate of any team this season at 71%, they have conceded the third-fewest tries, averaging just 12.9 per tournament.
 - France have not beaten Argentina since the fifth-place play-off in Dubai on the 2023 Series, despite being level or within a one try margin at half-time in three of their past four losses.
 - They lost the penalty count 6-0 in their only meeting this season in Cape Town, with their attack making just one visit to the opposition 22 from 15 carries and three line-breaks in the match.
 - Their four-game winning streak against Great Britain came to an end in the Cup quarter-finals in Singapore, suffering only their third, but largest (-28 points) loss in the short history of this fixture.
 - Prior to conceding 35 points in Singapore, France had restricted Great Britain to just 12 points in total across all four games this season.
 - They will look to improve their discipline after losing the penalty count 5-0 in this loss.
 - The French defence is yet to miss more than four tackles in a match this season against Australia, conceding just three tries across both victories combined in Vancouver and Hong Kong.
 - France overturned a nine-point half-time deficit to win in their last meeting in Hong Kong, outscoring Australia 14-0 after the break.
- **Great Britain** secured their place in the Grand Final after finishing third in Singapore. They earned 68% of their total competition points this season across the final three events.
 - Eight of their total 17 wins this season have come since Los Angeles.

- Set-piece has been their main try-scoring source this season with 32% originating from this source, the fifth-highest ratio of any team. However, in a change in tactic since Hong Kong, they have scored 39% of their tries from the restart.
- They have rarely entered the opposition 22 this season, making the fourth-fewest visits of any team with 129 in total, but in Singapore made their most in a single tournament this season with 25.
 - Their red zone success rate has improved from a season average of 69% between Dubai and Los Angeles to 72% across Hong Kong and Singapore combined.
- Their defence produced the third-highest tackle completion-rate of any team in Singapore with 78%, and conceded just 12 tries, their fewest in a tournament this season.
- Their attack scored a season-best 18 tries last round, making a tournament-high 20 line-breaks from 160 carries. They averaged one line-break every eight carries, their best ratio in a single tournament since Cape Town (7.3).
 - They also made a season-high 28 offloads last round, with 31% of their try assists coming via this pass type.
- They have been the most ill-disciplined team this season, conceding a competition-high 4.2 penalties per game. However this dropped to just three per game in Singapore, their fewest in a tournament since Dubai.
 - Seven of their 12 yellow cards received this season have come across the past three tournaments.
- Two of their three all-time SVNS victories against Australia have come this season, in the Cup quarter-finals in Los Angeles, and third-place play-off in Singapore.
 - They have led at half-time in four of their past six meetings since Sydney last season, but have converted just two of these advantages into victories.
- Great Britain scored more points in their 35-7 victory against France in their last meeting in Singapore, than their combined total across all four games prior this season (12).
 - They have never won consecutive games against France, with each of their past two victories, Los Angeles and Singapore on the 2023 Series followed by a loss.
- Great Britain will look to end a three-game losing streak against Argentina and chase their first victory since Los Angeles last season.
 - Five of the seven previous games in this fixture have been close contests, decided by a margin of seven points or less.
 - Great Britain never beaten Argentina when leading at half-time, squandering this advantage on three occasions. Both victories have come when they have trailed at the break, in Sydney and Los Angeles last season.
 - They will look to improve their discipline after losing the penalty count 6-0 and receiving one yellow card in the only meeting this season in Hong Kong.
- **Ireland** are the only top three team this season who have not won a Cup title, finishing second in Singapore, and third in Perth, Los Angeles and Hong Kong. If they win the Grand Final, they will become only the second team in SVNS history to be crowned Series champions after winning just one event (Australia in 2022).
 - Their second place on the Series ladder is their highest since becoming a core team four seasons ago.
 - They finished seventh in Málaga and fourth in Seville in 2022.

- Ireland have scored 42% of their tries this season from set-piece possession, the third-highest ratio of any team, and their main scoring source.
 - However, 10 of their past 29 tries since Hong Kong (34%) have originated from the quick-tap.
 - They have been the highest scoring team this season in the Cup and play-off stages of a tournament with 57 tries but are still yet to win a Cup title.
- Only 51% of their tries scored this season have been directly assisted by a team-mate, the highest ratio of solo efforts on attack of any team.
- They have made the third-most visits to the opposition 22 of any team this season (151) but enjoy only the sixth highest success-rate in the red zone (75%).
- They are averaging the second-fewest offloads per game of any team this season with 2.5, however 53% of their total offloads made have come across the last three events.
- As a result, they continue to be accurate with ball in hand, averaging the fewest errors of any team with 1.8 per game, including the fewest of any team across the past three events (1.3 per game) despite their offload rate increasing (3.4 per game).
- Their defence enjoys the joint-highest tackle completion rate of any team this season with 77% alongside New Zealand. They are yet to concede more than 15 tries in a tournament, and have held their opponents to three tries or less in 78% of their matches.
- Ireland have kicked just 65% of their conversion attempts this season, the fourth-lowest success-rate of any team. Twelve of their 17 losses have been by seven points or less.
- Ireland's only Series victory against New Zealand came this season, 36-21 in Cape Town. Their past two losses since then have been narrow, by five points or less.
 - In a replay of the Cup final in Singapore last round, Ireland will look to improve the potency of their attack after making just two line-breaks from 22 carries in the match.
- Ireland broke through for their maiden SVNS victory against Fiji in Singapore in 2022, and have since won a further two of eight games played since then – Perth and Vancouver this season.
 - It has been a tightly contested first-half across three of their five meetings this season with scores level or within a converted try margin – only in Dubai Vancouver has one team been able to head to the break at least two tries ahead.
- Ireland have won three of their four matches against South Africa this season, their most in a single Series in their history.
 - Ireland have not conceded more than one try in the second-half against South Africa this season.
- **New Zealand** are chasing their 15th Series title since 1999-2000, and as the defending champions are looking to go back-to-back for the first time since winning four-straight between 2010-2014.
 - They finished third on the HSBC SVNS standings after producing a strong second-half performance to the season – they have earned 66% of their total competition points since Vancouver after placing inside the top three just once across the opening three events.
 - This will be their first Series event in Spain after missing Málaga and Seville on the 2022 Series due to Covid-19 travel restrictions.
 - They continue to be a strong team at the back end of the season, with six of their past eight Cup title since 2022 coming within the final four events of the season.

- They have won 11 of their past 12 games since Hong Kong, with Argentina in the pool stages last round the only team to defeat them. Trailing at half-time has not been a problem during this period, winning four of the five games when behind at the break.
- Their try-scoring rate has dropped significantly this season, down to 16.9 per tournament from 24.5 per event on the 2023 Series.
 - They won their Cup title in Hong Kong scoring just 17 tries, the fewest they've scored to win a Cup title in their history (previous was 18 tries to win in Vancouver in 2016), and their Cup title in Singapore scoring just 19 tries.
 - They have not scored more than 20 tries in a tournament since Dubai (21), something they achieved at their first 16 tournaments after returning from Covid-19 isolation in Singapore in 2022.
 - The quick-tap (28%) and set-piece (32%) have been their main try scoring sources this season. Since Hong Kong, 15 of their 36 tries scored have originated from set-piece (42%).
 - They have scored the second-most tries of any team this season in play-off games (52).
- They have enjoyed the second-highest success-rate inside the opposition 22 of any team this season, converting 81% of their visits into tries.
- They have made the second-most try assists of any team this season with 79, enjoying the highest ratio of assisted tries with 67%.
 - Thirty-one per cent of their try assists this season have come via the offload pass.
- Their defence conceded 16 tries in Singapore, the fourth-most of any team, and their most enroute to winning a Cup title in their history.
- They have made the fewest kicks in play of any team this season, with one or less in six of seven events.
- They made their fewest errors in a tournament this season last round with just 11 from the third-most passes (229) and fourth-most offloads (27) in Singapore.
- They will look to improve their accuracy in front of goal after kicking just 23 of their past 46 conversion attempts since Los Angeles (50%), a significant drop from their season average of 78% between Dubai and Vancouver.
- New Zealand have won just one of their three meetings against South Africa this season after winning four of six on the 2023 Series. Both losses have occurred in the pool rounds, in Dubai and Vancouver.
 - The winning score in all three games this season has been 21 points or more.
 - New Zealand have dominated possession in all three games, making a more carries (76-58) but fewer line-breaks (6-10).
- New Zealand scored three tries from just 15 carries against Ireland in the Cup final in Singapore, making the most of their limited chances on attack.
 - Their defence missed just three tackles from 22 carries by Ireland despite allowing four offloads, and conceded two tries from three visits to their own 22.
- New Zealand have won three games against Fiji this season when level or behind at half-time, but lost one when leading at the break. This has been a low scoring affair this season, with the highest winning total just 21 points, by Fiji in Perth and New Zealand in Vancouver. Both these teams like to strike quickly with New Zealand averaging a try every 2.4 rucks and Fiji every 1.8 rucks.

- **South Africa** finished seventh on the HSBC SVNS standings after failing to progress past the Cup quarter-finals following their Cup title in Dubai.
 - They are the only team outside the top five to have won a Cup title this season.
 - They are unbeaten in Spain, winning all 10 games played enroute to both Cup titles in Málaga and Seville on the 2022 Series.
 - After earning 42 competition points across the opening three rounds, this dropped dramatically to just 28 points between Perth and Singapore.
 - They are one of four teams in the Grand Final to have been crowned Series champions, and will be chasing their fifth title following the 2008-09, 2016-17, 2018 and 2021 Series.
 - They produced their best try-scoring effort since Dubai last round, scoring 18 tries in Singapore.
 - They have scored the second-highest ratio of any team of tries from quick-tap possession (35%) behind Australia.
 - They have made the most kicks in play of any team this season with 84, and have retained 39%, the fifth-highest ratio. Six of their 18 tries scored in Singapore originated from this possession source, the second-most of any team.
 - They are averaging the fewest carries (16.1) per game this season but are breaking the defensive line every 8.4 carries, the fourth-best ratio.
 - They are averaging the fewest offloads per game of any team this season with 1.4. Only six of their 61 try assists this season have come via an offload.
 - Their efficiency in the opposition 22 has improved significantly across the past two events, converting 88% of their entries in Hong Kong and 87% in Singapore. Prior to Hong Kong, their season average had been just 67%.
 - They will look to improve their accuracy in front of goal, converting just 52% of their attempts this season, the lowest success-rate of any team.
 - They converted just 28% of their attempts in Singapore, with both losses coming by five points or less.
 - They have conceded the second-fewest tries of any team this season at an average of 12.3 per tournament despite having the fifth-lowest tackle completion-rate (72%).
 - They have won 17 of 20 games when conceding 14 points or less, but just five of 16 matches when conceding three or more tries.
 - Only four of their 22 wins in total this season have come against their Pool B opponents, with two against New Zealand and one against Fiji and Ireland.
 - They have had 14 games this season decided by a margin of seven points or less, with five of these matches coming against their Pool B opponents.
 - South Africa are chasing consecutive victories against New Zealand for the first time since the start of last season in Dubai and Sydney.
 - Their attack scored three tries from just 15 carries in their 21-12 victory in their last meeting in Vancouver, making six visits to the opposition 22.
 - Their defence conceded just two tries from 24 carries by New Zealand, allowing just two visits to their own 22 and completing 75% of their tackle attempts.
 - South Africa's biggest winning margin against Ireland came in Spain, winning their Cup semi-final 26-0 in Seville in 2022. However, since the start of last season, their past three victories in this fixture have all been narrow, decided by seven points or less.

KEY PLAYER STATS

- Argentina will field the most experienced squad of any team in the Grand Final, boasting a combined total of 512 tournaments worth of experience.
- In the absence of Marcos Moneta, **Luciano Gonzalez**, **Rodrigo Isgro** and **Matías Osadczuk** are their next highest try-scorers this season with 17 each.
- **Joaquin Pellandini** has made a team-high 13 try assists this season, with his best combination coming with Santiago Mare for five tries.
- **Dietrich Roache** has been Australia's main playmaker this season with a team-high 13 try assists, including the most of any player in Singapore last round with six.
 - He scored 28 points in Singapore, the second-most of any player, and his highest points haul in a tournament this season.
 - His combination with James Turner has produced six tries, the best for Australia.
- Fiji's **Jerry Tuwai** returns to the HSBC SVNS Series for the first time since Toulouse last season. He is one of three players in this squad from their 2019 Series title winning team in Paris, alongside **Waisea Nacuqu** and **Sevuloni Mocenacagi**.
- France's **Jordan Sepho** and **Jefferson Lee Joseph** are their top try-scorers this season with 13 each. Lee Joseph is only two tries behind his season-best of 15 tries scored last season, while Sepho returns to Spain where he scored 12 tries in 11 games in 2022.
- **Antoine Dupont** returns to the HSBC SVNS Series after a memorable debut in Vancouver and Los Angeles. He made six try assists in 11 games played.
- Great Britain's **Robbie Fergusson** will make his 50th SVNS tournament appearance after playing 28 events for Scotland and 21 for Great Britain since his debut on the 2018 Series in Dubai. He has contributed on both attack and defence this season, making the second-most try assists for Great Britain with nine, and a team-high 53 tackles.
- Ireland's **Terry Kennedy** is the leading try-scorer this season with 31 including the most hat-tricks of any player with three. When he has not been scoring, he has also been creating them with a team-high 12 try assists, including four for Jordan Conroy and Zac Ward.
 - Fourteen of his 22 kicks in play this season have been retained (64%), the second-highest rate of any player who has made more than 10 behind Fiji's Joseva Talacolo.
 - Seventeen of his 31 tries this season have come in finals or placing games (54%), the most of any player outside the pool rounds.
- **Fehi Fineanganofa** was New Zealand's top try-scorer in Singapore with four, only one fewer than his season total across the first six events this season. He was directly involved in six of New Zealand's 19 tries last round (32%), after also providing two try assists.
- **Akuila Rokolisoa** returns for the first time since Vancouver. Eight of his 12 tries this season have come outside the pool rounds, scoring the most finals and play-off tries for New Zealand this season.
- **Tepaea Cook-Savage** has been New Zealand's main playmaker this season with a team-high 10 try assists.
- New Zealand's head coach **Tomasi Cama** won seven Series titles as a player, and will be looking to become only the third person after South Africa's Neil Powell and Fiji's Waisale Serevi to win an HSBC SVNS Series title both as a player and a coach.
- South Africa's **Selvyn Davids** has made the most try assists of any player this season with 22, including a season-high six from kicks in play. He scored 69 points in total across both events in Spain in 2022, including a tournament-high 39 in Seville. He was also named HSBC Player of the Final in Málaga.
- **Zain Davids** has made the most tackles of any player this season with 76.