

FIJI EMBASSY TOKYO

Special Edition – Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, August 2021



Team Fiji Highlights:

- Arrival in Japan:
9 July 2021
- Pre-Games training camp in
Oita City, Oita Prefecture:
9 July to 24 July 2021
- First event:
Table Tennis, 24 July 2021
- Last event:
Athletics, 31 July 2021
- Olympic Medals:
1-Gold (Rugby 7s Men's Team)
1-Bronze (Rugby 7s Women's
Team)
- 1st Wave Departure:
29 July 2021
- 2nd Wave Departure:
10 August 2021



Fiji Embassy in Tokyo coordinated closely with FASANOC, FRU, Oita City, Oita Prefecture, Fiji Honorary Consulate in Beppu, and relevant line agencies to provide the best and smooth facilitation for Team Fiji preparation towards the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Team Fiji was represented by 34 athletes in 6 sports with 2 winning medals.

**HE Mr. Isikeli U. Mataitoga
Ambassador
Embassy of the Republic of Fiji
TOKYO, JAPAN**

Fiji at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

Fiji's first appearance at the Olympic Games was in Melbourne in 1956, where athletes represented the Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (FASANOC) in sailing, boxing, and athletics. For the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, Team Fiji was represented in six sports, including table tennis, sailing, swimming, men's and women's rugby sevens, judo, and athletics.

The Team Fiji contingent arrived at Narita Airport, Japan, on Friday, 9 July 2021. Fifty-one members came in from Fiji, while 7s rugby player Semi Radradra flew in from England, sailor Sophia Morgan flew in from New Zealand, and judoka Tevita Takayawa joined the team in Japan. While sailing and judo representatives joined in from Tokyo, the remaining team members headed to Haneda Airport from Narita Airport to connect to Oita City, Oita Prefecture, where they undertook a two-week pre-Games training camp from 9 to 24 July 2021.

The Men's Rugby 7s were prepared for their Olympic Games gold medal defence in Tokyo. They performed exceptionally well and earned their second consecutive gold medal in rugby sevens, following their success in the sport's inaugural Olympic tournament at Rio de Janeiro in 2016. The Women's Rugby 7s team also earned a bronze medal, and both their win was an impressive win for Team Fiji as a whole.

The Team Fiji first wave departure for Fiji was on 29 July 2021, while the second wave was on 10 August 2021.

*Photo by FASANOC



Having made its Olympic debut at the 1956 Summer Games, Team Fiji's athletes for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics took part in table tennis, sailing, swimming, rugby sevens, judo, and athletics. Team Fiji completed all its events on Saturday, 31 July 2021 evening.

*Photo by Olympics Facebook

OPENING CEREMONY

21-year-old swimmer Taichi Vakasama and 33-year-old Fijiana 7s team captain Rusila Nagasau were Team Fiji's flagbearers in the Olympic Games opening ceremony on Friday, 23 July 2021. Mr. Vakasama replaced two-time Olympian Fiji Men's 7s captain Jerry Tuwai who was initially announced to be the male flagbearer for the Opening of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Both Pacific Games gold medalists, Mr. Vakasama and Ms. Nagasau, were dressed in traditional iTaukei attire made from "Kuta". They led out a small Team Fiji contingent, including Chef De Mission Patrick Bower, Fiji Men's 7s coach Gareth Baber, swimmer Cheyenne Rova, sailor Sophia Morgan, judoka Tevita Takayawa and other Team Fiji officials.

...table tennis, sailing, swimming, rugby sevens, judo and athletics.

TABLE TENNIS

Following the opening ceremony on 23 July 2021, Fiji's Table Tennis representative Ms. Sally Ukenia Yee tried her best; however, she lost to Guyana's Chelsea Edghill one set to four (1-4) in her opening Women's Singles Preliminary Round on 24 July 2021. This is the second time Ms. Yee has participated in the Olympic Games; she represented Fiji at the 2016 Rio Olympics in Brazil when she was only 15 years old.

**Photo by FASANOC Facebook*



“Sally secured an Olympic scholarship for Athletes preparation for Tokyo 2020 from the International Olympic Committee in partnership with the Japan Olympic Committee. This enabled her to receive education, board and Table Tennis training in Nagasaki, Japan in her bid to qualify for the 2020 Olympic Games.”

Fiji Sun, 19 July 2021



SAILING



*Photo by FASANOC Facebook



Results:

- Race 1 – 43 out of 44
- Race 2 – 40 out of 43
- Race 3 – 41 out of 44
- Race 4 – 35 out of 44
- Race 5 – 42 out of 44
- Race 6 – 43 out of 43
- Race 7 – 41 out of 44
- Race 8 – 41 out of 44
- Race 9 – 42 out of 44
- Race 10 – 36 out of 43

Team Fiji's youngest and Sailing representative, Ms. Sophia Frances Morgan, was ranked forty-third in Race 1; however, she ranked thirty-six in Race 10 when she completed the sailing competition. Overall, Sophia Morgan was ranked 42nd after ten races.

SWIMMING



*Photo by FASANOC Facebook

Pacific Games Swimming gold medalist Mr. Taichi Vakasama finished third in Heat 1 of the Men's 200m breaststroke. Vakasama's winning time on 27 July 2021 was 2:17.35; however, he did not qualify for the semifinals.

Also, on 30 July 2021, Ms. Cheyenne Rova finished third in Heat 5 of the Women's 50m freestyle. Rova's winning time was 27.11; however, she did not qualify for the semifinals.

“Both Taichi and Cheyenne were competing in their first ever Olympic Games and Rova said it was an honour for both of their families, swim club and peers.”

Fiji Sun, 9 August 2021



JUDO



*Photo by FASANOC, Tevita Takayawa Facebook



Fiji judoka Mr. Tevita Takayawa, a business law student at Ryutsu Keizai University in Ryugasaki, Ibaraki, Japan, lost to Serbian Aleksandar Kukolj (0-10) in the Elimination Round of 32 at the Nippon Budokan Mat 1 on 29 July 2021.



MEN'S RUGBY 7s



*Photo by Fiji Embassy, FASANOC, FRU Facebook

On 28 July 2021, the defending champion Fiji men's rugby 7s team sealed its second Olympic gold medal with a 27-12 win over New Zealand at Tokyo Stadium.

**Coach – Gareth Colin Baber*



Medal: GOLD

WOMEN'S RUGBY 7s



*Photo by Fiji Embassy, Oita City, Fiji Rugby Union



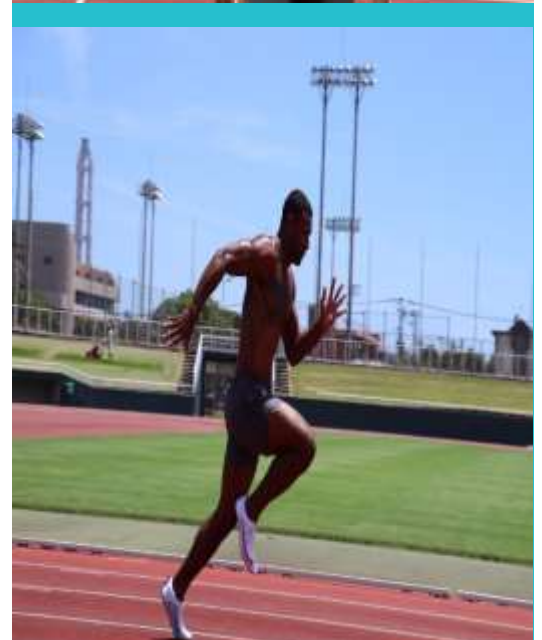
On 31 July 2021, Fiji women's rugby 7s team sealed its first Olympic bronze medal with a 21-12 win over Great Britain at Tokyo Stadium.

**Coach – Saiasi Fuli*



Medal: BRONZE

ATHLETICS



*Photo by Oita City, FASANOC Facebook

On 31 July 2021, Fiji Athletics representative Ratu Banuve Tabakaucoro also known as Pacific sprint king finished third in Heat 1 of the Men's 100m Preliminary Round - Heat 2, with a winning time of 10.59 his season-best. He proceeded to Men's 100m Round 1 - Heat 4 with a winning time of 10.70; however, he did not qualify for the semifinals.



MEN'S 100M PRELIMINARY ROUND - HEAT 2/3				Q 3 (Q) +1 (q)
LIVE RESULTS				
1	OMA	AL HARTHI Barakat	10.27	Q
2	GUY	ARCHIBALD Emanuel	10.30	Q
3	UAE	ALHAMMADI Mohamed	10.59	Q
3	FIJ	TABAKAUCORO Ratu Banuve	10.59	Q

SUPPORT OFFICIALS

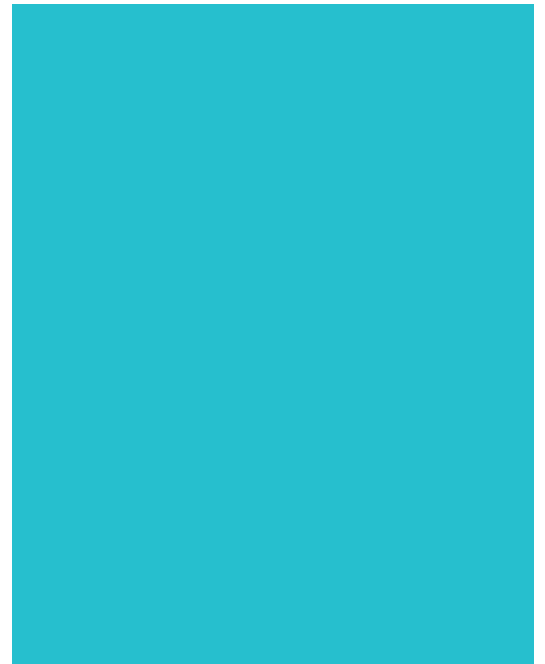


(above) FASANOC CEO-SG Lorraine Mar, HE Mr. Isikeli Mataitoga, FASANOC President Makarita Lenoa; (below) Team Fiji CDM Patrick Bower, General Manager Wayne O'Connor, Attache Vineet Chandra, and ONOC President Dr Robin Mitchell. → Fiji Embassy Tokyo – HE Mr. Isikeli Mataitoga and FS Kelera Savu, joined FASANOC, Team Fiji, ONOC and other PIC officials following Fiji's gold medal win.





*Photo by Attache Vineet Chandra



CLOSING CEREMONY – 8 AUGUST 2021

Fiji Women's Rugby 7s team Captain and Olympic Bronze Medallist, Rusila Nagasau was amongst six other athletes representing the different continents on stage with IOC President Mr. Thomas Bach.



With one gold, one bronze medal won, Fiji finished as the 59th country on the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Medal table.

FIJI EMBASSY SUPPORTS



(above) FET and Oita City officials await Team Fiji Arrival, at Narita Airport, on 9 July 2021.

Top (left) Team Fiji Assembly in Oita City on 15 July
Middle (left) 1st Wave Team Fiji Departure on 29 July
Bottom (left) 2nd Wave Team Fiji Departure on 10 August 2021.

(below) HE Mr. Isikeli Mataitoga with Chef De Mission, Mr. Patrick Bower on 10 August 2021.



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