



HSBC SINGAPORE RUGBY SEVENS

13 & 14 APRIL 2019
NATIONAL STADIUM



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

RUGBY LEGENDS WAISALE SEREVI, GEORGE GREGAN, DJ FORBES AND HURIANA MANUEL ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY AHEAD OF HSBC SINGAPORE RUGBY SEVENS

3 April 2019 – Sport Singapore and Singapore Sports Hub are thrilled to announce partnerships with world-renowned rugby legends – Fijian legend Waisale “The Wizard” Serevi, Australia’s highest-ever internationally capped player George Gregan, long-serving New Zealand Sevens captain DJ Forbes and compatriot Huriana Manuel, the New Zealand Black Ferns captain who led her team to the inaugural World Series title and World Champions title in 2013 – as ambassadors for the upcoming HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens.

In town from 9 to 14 April, the four athletes will be involved in a number of community events with international and local organisations, such as HSBC and SportCares, and local rugby clubs and schools, to promote the sport of rugby sevens and engage and inspire the next generation of talent here.

“It’s great to be headed back to Singapore and to continue my work as an Ambassador for the HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens. Seeing the junior rugby players at the Ruck and Rumble in 2018 was a real exciting experience for me and I believe the game of rugby is headed in the right direction with emphasis on providing opportunities for our youth.

The girls game is of particular interest to me and watching the young female athletes play really made me want to get back into the game. Witnessing the girls rough it out and putting on an outstanding display of skill and power simply shows that rugby is a game for all. I am excited about being back in Singapore and contributing to a world-class rugby event,” said Huriana, who will be leading an all-girls coaching clinic as part of HSBC’s global grassroots programme to nurture budding talent.

The Kiwi, who bounced back from injury to book her place and eventually win a silver medal at the Rio Olympic Games, will be joined by Serevi who is widely regarded as one of the best Sevens players of all time.

“Singapore is such an important event on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series calendar. South-East Asia is such a strong area of growth for our game, and Singapore provides the perfect destination to grow the game in the region. I am constantly amazed by the passion for the game in Singapore and the growing number of boys and girls that are playing the game each year. I look forward to coming to Singapore, supporting to inspire the next generation of rugby players and seeing the event grow from strength to strength,” added Serevi.

Having partnered with HSBC on a number of occasions for such community engagement events, HSBC rugby ambassador and second most-capped player in rugby union history Brian O'Driscoll shared, "Through my work with HSBC, I've experienced first-hand how much rugby sevens has grown these past few years, not only at the elite end of the game, but through the introduction of various grassroots initiatives as well. Asian Rugby especially is in a period of tremendous opportunity as they prepare to host their first ever Rugby World Cup later this year, and it is fair to say the Singapore Rugby Sevens and associated partners such as HSBC have had a significant impact on the rise of rugby within the region. Sevens is home to some incredible stories, astonishing athletes and unmissable moments so I can't wait to attend my first HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens next week for what I'm sure will be a hugely entertaining weekend of rugby."

No stranger to the HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens scene, DJ Forbes will also be returning to the city state, and joining fellow Kiwi Huriana, Serevi and Gregan to lead a clinic with SportCares on the 11 April. The six-time Sevens Series title winner shared, "It's always a wonderful feeling coming to Singapore and I am excited to be part of the HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens 2019."

Rugby is a game that imparts good values that form the building blocks of strong communities and it was very heartening to go out to the schools in 2018 and engage the school children. Their enthusiasm and passion for the game is a reminder of the important role that rugby has in educating and inspiring our youth. I believe that with the growth of rugby globally, there is an excellent opportunity to spread the game to all Singaporeans, young and young-at-heart. I'm looking forward to joining all rugby fans at the HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens."

Kerk Kim Por, Director, SportCares said, "We are grateful for the opportunity to work with four Rugby Sevens legends in conjunction with the HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens. It takes plenty of character, discipline and resilience to get to where they are. I believe they are going to be tremendous role models for our SportCares youths not just for rugby but also on how to tackle life's challenges."

Adam Firth from Singapore Sports Hub said, "The HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens is going to be a great spectacle. Singapore Sports Hub is set to come to life with amazing rugby action, music entertainment and family themed activities. To have these legends of rugby attend the HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens will be great for the fans, as they will be given opportunities to meet and greet these legends over the weekend."

In addition to all the rugby action, fans and attendees of the HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens may also look forward to a plethora of entertainment offerings, such as the all-new Singapore Sevens Splash Party featuring local artists Joshua Simon, Glen Wee, Joie Tan, Astronauts, M1dl1fe and Leandra, and opportunities to meet the ambassadors in and around the National Stadium.

1999 Rugby World Cup winner Gregan, who is also looking forward to engaging with the community outside of the clinics, commented, "The HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens is growing from strength to strength every year. The National Stadium is a world-class venue and I know all the players and officials look forward to their weekend in Singapore. Last year's final between Fiji and Australia was one of the games of the year. The rugby combined with all the additional music acts and family friendly entertainment make it the perfect weekend of rugby."

Tickets for the HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens are available and on sale from \$19 for youth and \$39 for adults. Family packages and premium tickets can be purchased via the Singapore 7s website www.singapore7s.sg Sports Hub Tix website www.sportshubtix.sg, hotline +65 3158 7888, Sports Hub Tix Box Office at Singapore Indoor Stadium, The Star Performing Arts Centre Box Office,

Scotts Square Concierge Desk, and all SingPost outlets. For all Private Suite and The Greenyards Club hospitality enquiries, email hospitality@singapore7s.sg.

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Event Details

Venue: National Stadium, Singapore Sports Hub

Date: 13 – 14 April, 2019

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About Sport Singapore

As the national sports agency, Sport Singapore's core purpose is to inspire the Singapore spirit and transform Singapore through sport. Through innovative, fun and meaningful sporting experiences, our mission is to reach out and serve communities across Singapore with passion and pride. With Vision 2030 – Singapore's sports master plan, our mandate goes beyond winning medals. Sport Singapore uses sport to create greater sporting opportunities and access, more inclusivity and integration as well as broader development of capabilities. Sport Singapore works with a vast network of public-private-people sector partners for individuals to live better through sport.

To find out more, visit SportSG's websites www.sportsingapore.gov.sg and www.myactivesg.com. Follow SportSG at www.facebook.com/myActiveSG and www.youtube.com/SingaporeSports.

About Singapore Sports Hub

The Singapore Sports Hub is a fully integrated sports, entertainment and lifestyle hub, with programming that comprises world-class recreational and competitive events, as well as community events, to serve children, youth, working adults, seniors, families, and less privileged population segments in Singapore and tourism sectors. Consisting of a unique cluster development of world-class sports facilities within the city, it plays a critical role in accelerating the development of Singapore's sports industry, excellence and participation. Its vision is to be the region's premier sports, entertainment and lifestyle destination.

About HSBC Holdings plc

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide across 66 countries and territories in Europe, Asia, North and Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa. With assets of US\$2,558bn at 31 December 2018, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.