

Force avoid super Rugby rivals in Beachcomber world club 10s draw

MAURITIUS, 18 MAY 2017 - Defending Beachcomber World Club 10s champions the Western Force avoided Super Rugby rivals the Vodacom Bulls, Toyota Cheetahs and the Brumbies when the draw was made for the tournament on Wednesday evening.

The Force is grouped in Pool A alongside England's Harlequins, Japan's Kubota Spears and a combined Africa Pacific Dragons.

Pool B sees the two South African heavyweights – the Bulls and the Cheetahs – up against current Australian Conference Super Rugby leaders the Brumbies and the combined Tsunami Pyrenees.

The tournament takes place at Mauritius' Anjalay Stadium on June 17 and 18.

The tournament structure means that all elite eight teams advance to day two's knockout phase after playing three pool matches.

It's unique in that a team could lose three matches on day one but still go on to win the tournament if they find form on day two. So there is always something to play for even if a team suffers a few pool losses.

"All eight teams are capable of winning the tournament," says Carinat Sports Marketing managing director Heyneke Meyer.

"Because all teams go through to the knockout phase, there is a chance for surprises because some teams take a few matches to get into their stride. Last year when I coached the Africa Pacific Dragons, we struggled on day one because we hadn't had much time together. But by day two we were playing more cohesive rugby and were unlucky not to win.

Both pools are very powerful this year and it will make for superb viewing. The structure is good too because while day one determines positions in the Pool, day two is straight knockout and that brings its own pressures.

Finishing high in the Pool is important for a good ranking in the knockout phase, but it's happened in the past that teams losing on day one, bounced back to win knockout matches on day two.

It's a round robin and a knockout in one. Everybody starts at zero on day two and then the real competition starts.

Obviously you want to be higher in your Pool to increase chances in the knockout phase, but there are no guarantees.

I've seen that teams get momentum on day two, just like the Western Force last year. They bounced back from losing to the Brumbies in Pool play and beat them in the final. It's a great format."

The opening match of the third staging of the tournament sees the defending champions take on the Africa Pacific Dragons, which will hopefully set the tone for a wonderful weekend of rugby.

Pool A

- Western Force
- Harlequins
- Africa Pacific Dragons
- Kubota Spears

Pool B

- Brumbies
- Toyota Cheetahs
- Vodacom Bulls
- Tsunami Pyrenees

Elite Teams Match Schedule:

Day one

Pool A

- Match 1: Western Force vs. Africa Pacific Dragon
- Match 2: Harlequins vs. Kubota Spears

Pool B

- Match 3: Brumbies vs. Toyota Cheetahs
- Match 4: Vodacom Bulls vs. Tsunami Pyrenees

Pool A:

- Match 5: Africa Pacific Dragons vs. Harlequins
- Match 6: Western Force vs. Kubota Spears

Pool B:

- Match 7: Brumbies vs. Vodacom Bulls
- Match 8: Toyota Cheetahs vs. Tsunami Pyrenees

Pool A:

- Match 9: Kubota Spears vs. Africa Pacific Dragons
- Match 10: Western Force vs. Harlequins

Pool B:

- Match 11: Brumbies vs. Tsunami Pyrenees
- Match 12: Vodacom Bulls vs. Toyota Cheetahs

The Beachcomber World Club 10s is fully sanctioned by World Rugby, Rugby Afrique and Rugby Union Mauritius.

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About Beachcomber

Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels is the pioneer and leader of the Mauritian tourism industry. Since the creation of Park Hotel in 1952, a collection of 11 resorts have emerged over the years, including the mythical RoyalPalm Mauritius in 1985, considered by everyone as the reference in hospitality for luxury holidays in Mauritius.

Beachcomber has exported the tradition of Mauritian hospitality beyond the shores of the island, with the launching of Sainte Anne Resort & Spa in Seychelles, in 2002.

The Group is presently expanding its collection, with the integration of the Beachcomber French Riviera Resort & Spa, situated on the Côte d'Azur, in France.

The collection of 10 resorts affords a choice of accommodation options ranging from rooms and apartments to suites and villas. Each hotel is imbued with a particular history and cachet, embodying an image of discrete luxury.

Social responsibility – Fondation Espoir Développement (FED), by Beachcomber

Set up and financed by Beachcomber since 1999, with the participation of hotels and employees, this foundation takes care of these main projects:

- Projet Employabilité Jeunes (PEJ): professional insertion of school drop-outs through a training programme and industrial attachments.
- Collaboration with NGOs, schools and associations
- Regional projects – youth mentoring: the “Amour et Espoir” NGO; IT initiation; youth monitoring via the “Duke of Edinburgh International Award” programme, participation of regional sports clubs in the organisation of the Beachcomber UTRB Trail 2015

Social responsibility – Local Hands

Programme launched in 2006 to support small local artisans by providing them with training and guidance as they embark upon the process of creation, production, marketing and sales.

Sustainable development – our environmental actions – EarthCheck label

Sustainable development and environmental protection constitute real considerations within the Group, which has set up, amongst other initiatives, practices that ensure energy savings and favour renewable energy sources. These initiatives in favour of sustainable development have been recognised and rewarded, with two of our hotels recently obtaining the EarthCheck Benchmarked Bronze accreditation for their ongoing commitment to environmentally responsible practices.