



For immediate release
Issued on behalf of Lakapi Samoa

Date: 28 May 2021
Press Release: 11/2021

MANU SAMOA PACIFIC IN UNION TEST SERIES TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT & JERSEY REVEAL 2021

Lakapi Samoa announces the Manu Samoa Squad for the June-July 2021 Test Series. Head Coach: Vaovasamanaia Seilala Mapusua has selected his team from all the world with players selected from clubs in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Samoa.

Manu Samoa Squad: refer to Annex I

Two additional games have been added to the Pacific in Union Series:

- 26 June Manu Samoa vs Maori All Blacks – Sky Stadium, Wellington NZ
- 10 July Manu Samoa vs Tonga – Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland NZ

Tickets for the June / July Test Series will be on sale next week, and expressions of interest available on Friday 28th May 2021 on Ticketek.

Full June / July Manu Samoa Test Series Fixtures:

- 26 June Manu Samoa vs Maori All Blacks – Sky Stadium, Wellington NZ
- 3 July Manu Samoa vs Maori All Blacks – Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland NZ
- 10 July Manu Samoa vs Tonga – Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland NZ
- 17 July Manu Samoa vs Tonga – FMG Stadium, Hamilton NZ

Quote from Faleomavaega: “We are all excited to named our Manu Samoa since 2019, like Tonga, we hope to get another chance to qualify for the RWC2023 in France. The Covid-19 Pandemic has huge impact on international rugby and we acknowledged the continuous support from NZR for allowing us this opportunity to carry out fixtures against Maori All Blacks to warm up for our RWC Qualifier against Tonga.”

Quote from Vaovasamanaia: “This is a very important initial campaign for us playing the qualifier against Tonga and also privileged to play the Maori All Blacks as lead up to the qualifier. This will be my first campaign and considering the impacts of Covid-19 it wasn’t an easy task selecting the Manu. However, I am very confident we have the best players to represent the jersey and earn us a spot for the RWC2023”





LAKAPI SAMOA | PRESS RELEASE

Lakapi Samoa also announces its partnership with Dynasty Sport and reveal the New Manu Samoa Jersey for the June-July 2021 Test Series.

The jersey consists of a new design with Samoan traditional patterns which reflects Samoa's culture and heritage.

The New Manu Samoa Jersey is on sale online on link: manusamoashop.com

Quote from Peter Rakich: "Dynasty Sport is proud to Partner with Lakapi Samoa and excited about the upcoming Pacific in Union Test Series. It's going to be quite the Rugby Spectacle. We are also excited about the new Manu Samoa jersey design, which has a strong Samoan design and imprint element which we hope everyone will love"

Lakapi Samoa also announces its partnership with Westview Events who will manage the Match Day Event for each match in June-July 2021 Test Series.

Jason Hill, Director Westview Events added "Westview Events is humbled to be partnering with Lakapi Rugby to promote 2 key matches as part of this historic tour of New Zealand - Maori All Blacks v Samoa @ Sky Stadium, Saturday June 26 and Tonga v Samoa @ Mount Smart Stadium, Saturday July 10.

We look forward to working with our new Samoan friends, the Maori All Blacks, Tonga and the entire New Zealand rugby community to deliver the best events we can."

The June-July 2021 Pacific in Union Test Series will be the first internationals hosted by Lakapi Samoa outside of Samoa

FACTS ABOUT TEAM SELECTION

1. HEAD COACH VAOVASAMANAIA FIRST CAMPAIGN
2. FOURTEEN (14) NEW CAPS NAMED IN THE TEAM
3. FOUR (4) LOCAL PLAYERS SELECTED
4. A TOTAL OF ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-EIGHT TEST MATCHES FOR THE FULL SQUAD
5. FIRST CAMPAIGN AS TEAM CAPTAIN FOR MICHAEL ALAALATOA
6. EIGHT (8) PLAYERS SELECTED STARTED CAREERS AS MANU SAMOA 7S PLAYERS



Annex I

1. Ah See Tuala - Northampton Saints, England
2. AJ Alatimu - Seattle Seawolves, USA
3. Aki Seiuli – Glasgow, Scotland *
4. Alamanda Motuga – Counties, New Zealand
5. Albert Anae – Melbourne Rebels, Australia *
6. Auvasa Falealii – Papatoetoe, New Zealand
7. Ben Nee Nee – Kamaisihi, Japan
8. D'Angelo Leuila – Fraser Tech, New Zealand
9. Dwayne Polataivao – Pakuranga, New Zealand
10. Elisapeta Alofipo – Tama Uli Salelologa, Samoa *
11. Henry Stowers – Brumbies, Australia
12. Henry Taefu – Western Force, Australia
13. Jack Lam - NEC Green Rockets, Japan
14. Joe Perez – Laulii Lions, Samoa *
15. John Vaili – Aana Chiefs, Samoa
16. JP Sauni – Associates, Australia *
17. Kalolo Tuiloma – Counties, New Zealand *
18. Losi Filipo – Bay of Plenty, New Zealand *
- 19. Michael Alaalatoa – Crusaders, New Zealand – CAPTAIN**
20. Neria Fomai – Hawkes Bay, New Zealand *
21. Olajuwon Noa – Hunter Wildfires, Australia *
22. Ray Niuia – Blues, New Zealand
23. Rodney Yona – Brumbies, Australia
24. Sam Slade – Counties, New Zealand *
25. Seilala Lam – Perpignan, France
26. Stacey Ili – Melbourne Rebels, Australia
27. Teofilo Paulo – Avalon, New Zealand
28. Theodore McFarland – Moamoa Roosters, Samoa *
29. Tietie Tuimauga – Manawatu, New Zealand *
30. TJ Ioane – Glasgow, Scotland
31. Tomasi Alosio – Hutt Old Boys Marist, New Zealand *

* Indicates non-capped players

**For more information;
Please contact;**

**Seiuli Salesa Seiuli
Events & Competitions Coordinator
Lakapi Samoa
salesa.s@samoarugbyunion.com
Mobile: +685 757 9957**

