

The 2019 Rugby World Cup has concluded in Japan with historical success for the host team. For this tournament, Iwaki was cheering for two teams: Japan and Samoa. That is because Iwaki, as the Host Town for Samoa, served as a training camp venue for the Samoan National Rugby Team “Manu Samoa” in order to help the team prepare for the tournament in mid-September, 2019. During their week-long training in Iwaki, the team were able to recover from their long flight, acclimatise to Japan and conduct a variety of cultural exchanges with the locals.

Even after the training camp and the World Cup has concluded, Iwaki continues to support Samoa as their Rugby Sevens team pursues a chance to compete in this year’s Tokyo Olympics.

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Group photo of local primary, junior high and high school rugby players with the Manu Samoa players for the rugby skills workshop at Iwaki FC Park

Photo courtesy of Iwaki Sports Promotion Division

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Fa'afetai Manu Samoa!