**ADIDAS LAUNCHES NEW BLACK FERNS KIT TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF PLAYERS AHEAD OF THE 2021 WOMEN’S RUGBY WORLD CUP**

**A group of women in black uniforms

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* As the first bespoke adidas x Black Ferns Rugby World Cup kit, the jersey aims to put the limelight on the stars of the Black Ferns – on the biggest stage – to inspire the next generation of fans and players.
* The jersey celebrates the team’s heritage, featuring a large, debossed fern graphic across the front and back of the jersey.
* The new kit and training collection features AEROREADY materials to manage your body’s sweat and keep athletes feeling dry whilst maximizing comfort.
* Each garment in the collection is made in part with Parley Ocean Plastic, intercepted from beaches and coastal communities
* Black Fern fans will be able to cheer on the team in the new replica jersey and full training range, available to purchase via the adidas app, online, and in-store from September 1st, 2022.

**Herzogenaurach, September 1st** – Today, adidas Rugby launches the adidas x New Zealand Black Ferns Rugby World Cup 2021 playing in 2022 jersey. Designed for one of the most elite teams in World Rugby, the jersey commemorates the growth of the women’s game, as the Black Ferns take to the biggest stage in World Rugby.

With the women’s game finally getting the recognition it deserves, the first bespoke Black Ferns Rugby World Cup 2021 playing in 2022 kit has been designed to help inspire the next generation. The current crop of Black Ferns had to pave their own path to reach the top of the game. The biggest stage in women’s World Rugby provides the perfect platform to provide young aspiring athletes with a generation of role models to look up to.

Based on insights from the current New Zealand Black Ferns squad, the jersey celebrates the team’s unique and versatile heritage with the inclusion of a large, debossed fern graphic across the front and back of the jersey. To ensure maximum performance capabilities and comfort were achieved, adidas body mapped the entire squad to attain exact measurements for a tailored fit for each member of the squad.

As part of adidas’ continued efforts to help end plastic waste, the bespoke Black Ferns Rugby World Cup 2021 playing in 2022 jersey, replica jersey, and training range all feature a yarn which contains at least 50% Parley Ocean Plastic — re-imagined plastic waste, intercepted on remote islands, beaches, coastal communities and shorelines, preventing it from polluting our ocean. The other 50% of the yarn is recycled polyester. Just one of the innovations that represent our commitment to help end plastic waste.

The jersey also includes adidas AEROREADY, which uses sweat wicking materials designed to keep the Black Ferns feeling dry, whilst maximizing comfort – leaving the players free from distractions, allowing them to focus fully on their performance.

**Celine DelGenes, adidas Global General Manager Specialist Sports commented**:

*“Women’s rugby continues to grow as a sport both competitively and in popularity. We wanted to showcase this growth and celebrate this year’s Women’s Rugby World Cup by creating a kit for one of the most elite teams in the sport – The New Zealand Black Ferns.*

*We’re excited to debut this kit ahead of such an iconic sporting moment and we hope that by seeing the kit in action on their favorite athletes, we can help inspire the next generation of women’s rugby players to take up the sport.”*

The replica Black Ferns jersey and the training range will be available for fans to purchase from today, ranging from €70 to €85. For further information please visit <https://www.adidas.com/rugby> or follow @adidasRugby on Instagram to join the conversation.

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**About adidas Rugby**

adidas Rugby is proud to support New Zealand Rugby, and many individual players from around the world. For more information on adidas Rugby, please visit <https://www.adidas.com/rugby>. For additional images please visit our media Newsrooms on news.adidas.com and follow us on Instagram under @adidasRugby.