



**MEN'S
RUGBY
WORLD CUP
AUSTRALIA 2027**

DRAW
MEDIA GUIDE

3 December, 2025 - Sydney



CONTENTS

- 3 Welcome message
- 4 Australia, RWC 2027 hosts
- 5 Host cities
- 8 Competition format
- 10 A tournament for all
- 12 A unique identity
- 13 Qualification Journey to Australia 2027
- 16 How the draw works
- 18 Media contacts and resources
- 19 RWC 2027 by numbers
- 20 Team profiles
- 46 Past RWC pools (1987-2023)
- 48 Tournament partners and suppliers



"THE BIGGEST RUGBY COMPETITION EVER STAGED"

There is a palpable sense of anticipation as we look ahead to Men's Rugby World Cup 2027. We are on the cusp of the biggest rugby competition ever staged, a defining moment and a genuine step forward for our global game.

Twenty-four years on, Australia is ready to host again and put on a show. Seven iconic host cities, world-class venues, and a bold new format featuring 24 nations will showcase how rugby is thriving and expanding across every continent. Expect breathtaking skill, fierce competition, and the kind of unity that draws people together; this is rugby at its best, with that unmistakable Aussie twist.

On 3 December, we mark a crucial milestone: the Rugby World Cup Draw. With all 24 teams confirmed and ready to go all out, the six pools of four will be set, shaping the first Rugby World Cup under the new format. The introduction of a round of 16 brings greater jeopardy, earlier knockout drama, and even more entertainment from the opening matches.

At the heart of our ambition is openness. We want this global celebration to be accessible to everyone, from lifelong supporters to newcomers discovering the game. That's why we're making one million tickets available for under AUD\$100, with child pricing offered at most matches. The invitation is genuine, and it extends to the world.

This is not just a tournament. It is a global party, full of character, connection, and possibility. And you are all welcome.

Brett Robinson // World Rugby Chair



AUSTRALIA, VIBRANT HOSTS READY TO GO ALL OUT

Men's Rugby World Cup 2027 in Australia marks the dawn of a transformative era for the sport. This 11th edition will be the moment rugby takes a giant leap forward, becoming more inclusive, exciting, and ambitious than ever before.

For six weeks from 1 October-13 November, 2027, Australia will welcome the world to a nationwide festival of rugby, celebrating its rich culture and heritage, and kicking off a new era of rugby that will have a positive impact for Australia, Oceania and the game globally.

With an expanded format contested by the world's top 24 teams over 52 matches, Men's Rugby World Cup 2027 will inspire an entire generation and break down barriers by making rugby even more accessible, relevant and inclusive, boosting rugby's fanbase and participation globally.

This will be the first time that Australia hosts the tournament since 2003. Australia also co-hosted the inaugural tournament with New Zealand in 1987 and were crowned world champions twice in Europe, in 1991 and 1999.

In a nation renowned for hosting some of the world's most iconic sporting events, Men's Rugby World Cup 2027 will carve its own place in history, a spectacular tournament that invites everyone to be part of the action.

All revenue generated by Men's RWC 2027 will be reinvested into the sport, supporting World Rugby's global growth ambition, its 134 member unions and six regional associations.

Rugby World Cup 2027 will take place in seven host cities across Australia, which were selected for their vibrant culture, world-class hospitality and scenic landmarks.



Celebrating First Nations Heritage

Each host city for Men's Rugby World Cup 2027 is recognised by its original name in the language of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a meaningful acknowledgement of Country and a tribute to the rich cultures, enduring knowledge, and vital contributions of First Nations communities to the story of Australia – past, present and future.



SEVEN HOST CITIES



ADELAIDE TARNTANYA

Adelaide | Tarntanya, South Australia, is a vibrant hub of culture, flavours, events, and entertainment. Just an hour from the city, you'll find world-renowned wine regions like McLaren Vale and the Adelaide Hills, perfect for indulging in premium wines. Back in the city, savour award-winning cuisine at top restaurants nestled in the heart of Adelaide | Tarntanya.

Men's Rugby World Cup 2027 will add to an exciting line-up of festivals and events that keep the city alive year-round. From the bustling Adelaide Central Market and the serene Adelaide Botanic Garden to pristine metropolitan beaches, there's something for everyone in South Australia's capital. For sports enthusiasts, the iconic Adelaide Oval RoofClimb offers breathtaking views and a unique way to explore the city's rich sporting history.

Adelaide | Tarntanya is also a gateway to some of Australia's finest wine regions and boasts exceptional restaurants, hotels, spirits, and local produce. Punching well above its weight, this city dishes up world-class experiences at every turn.



BRISBANE MEEANJIN

With the iconic Brisbane River at its heart, Brisbane | Meeanjin has sport pulsing through its veins and sets the stage for Men's Rugby World Cup 2027 like no other. Fans and teams will relish the famous atmosphere of 'the cauldron' – Australia's premier rectangular stadium – just a short journey from the city centre via Brisbane's iconic Caxton Street precinct.

Visitors can explore trendy cafés, lush parks and a vibrant arts scene, or venture further to discover epic islands, national parks and World Heritage rainforests. Idyllic spring temperatures see the city's jacarandas trees burst into bloom and allow for plenty of outdoor exploration and enjoyment of the city's attractions and alfresco dining.

Brisbane has a storied rugby history dating back to the late 1800s. Brisbane was the backdrop for five matches at Rugby World Cup 1987 and seven matches at Rugby World Cup 2003 and regularly hosts international test matches.

Get ready to experience the ultimate blend of adrenaline-pumping rugby action and the vibrant energy of urban life in Brisbane!



MELBOURNE NARRM

Melbourne | Narrm is a diverse city that knows how to live. A city that's jam-packed with things to see and do, from its roaring sports stadiums to the labyrinth of colourful laneways.

Choose from high-end cuisine to basement rock gigs, plays, festivals and blockbuster sporting events – all happening across a city full of parks, gardens and historic architecture. There's always something exciting happening in Melbourne | Narrm, whatever your taste.

Explore historic arcades and laneways lined with fine dining restaurants, chic cafés, hidden bars and fashion boutiques or head to one of the many lush gardens throughout the city.

In Melbourne | Narrm everything is live and full of energy. Turn up the volume at a concert hall, bar or pub with music from local and international acts taking over venues across the city.



TOWNSVILLE | GURAMBILBARRA

Welcome to Townsville | Gurambilbarra, where the spirit of rugby meets the tranquillity of Queensland's tropical paradise. As the gateway to the wonders of North Queensland, Townsville | Gurambilbarra invites you to experience the thrill of Men's Rugby World Cup against a backdrop of sun-kissed beaches and lush rainforests.

Visitors can explore the Great Barrier Reef's clear waters and vibrant marine life or hop on a ferry to Magnetic Island for secluded beaches and wildlife encounters. October coincides with the start of the mango season and seafood lovers can indulge in a feast of freshly caught barramundi, coral trout and mud crab.

Townsville | Gurambilbarra hosted three matches during Rugby World Cup 2003. The open-air design of North Queensland Stadium takes full advantage of Townsville | Gurambilbarra's stunning backdrop and enviable climate. The stadium hosted the historic 100th test between New Zealand and South Africa in 2021 and has also hosted the Wallabies.



NEWCASTLE AWABAKAL- WORIMI

Newcastle | Awabakal-Worimi revolves around the water, whether you're swimming in gem-like ocean pools, surfing reliably good waves, or just gazing out over the harbour from a scenic waterside perch. It is also Australia's second-oldest colonial city, with bountiful cultural attractions taking you from the cosmopolitan heart of town – with its atmospheric neighbourhoods and historic sites – to buzzing new precincts distinguished by cutting-edge architecture and blazing street art.

Visitors to Newcastle | Awabakal-Worimi can take part in a wide range of activities, from a range of unique cultural and arts experiences to scenic walks. The coastal city also has a delicious range of high-quality and authentic dining and drinking options.

Newcastle | Awabakal-Worimi is a two-hour drive north from Sydney | Gadigal along the Pacific Highway. Newcastle Airport is a 30-minute drive from the city centre, and there are regular daily flights from Sydney | Gadigal.

For more information on visitor experiences in Newcastle | Awabakal-Worimi, go to visitsnw.com



PERTH BOORLOO

The 60,000-seat world-class Perth Stadium will host the opening match for Men's Rugby World Cup 2027. Boasting views of the picturesque Swan River and Perth city, Perth Stadium has been voted the Most Beautiful Sports Facility in the World.

Perth | Boorloo has successfully hosted sell-out Bledisloe Cups, Wallabies test matches and is the Australian home to the SVNS series. With weather as welcoming as its friendly locals, Australia's sunniest capital city of Perth offers adventures for everyone. You can relax on one of Perth's 19 pristine beaches, explore the historic and bohemian port city of Fremantle | Walyalup, swim with playful wild dolphins, or cruise to Rottnest Island to meet quokkas, the world's happiest animal.

Add a thriving metropolis of luxury hotels, shopping precincts, rooftop bars and waterfront dining at Elizabeth Quay | Goomup, and it's easy to see why Perth | Boorloo is where dream events happen.



SYDNEY GADIGAL

Sydney | Gadigal is Australia's gateway and its only truly global, multicultural city. With something for everyone, it boasts dynamic neighbourhoods that celebrate diversity, golden beaches and breathtaking National Parks, cutting-edge dining and retail, a vibrant arts scene, and an ever-evolving calendar of world-class events.

As the major events capital of the Asia Pacific, Sydney | Gadigal plays host to exclusive international sporting competitions, Australian premieres of blockbuster musicals, and an impressive line-up of cultural events, including the iconic Sydney Festival, Mardi Gras, Biennale of Sydney, and the world-renowned Vivid Sydney.

This city seamlessly blends a 24-hour, beachside lifestyle with extraordinary natural beauty and unique cultural experiences that can't be found anywhere else in the world.

In 2024, Sydney | Gadigal was recognised as the world's top destination by Condé Nast and earned a top 10 ranking on the Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDS-Index), solidifying its place as an extraordinary destination for all.

For more information on visitor experiences in Sydney | Gadigal, visit sydney.com



COMPETITION FORMAT

Men's Rugby World Cup 2027 will be the first to feature 24 teams, reflecting rugby's global growth with more nations than ever before competing on the sport's biggest stage in a bid to hold aloft the Webb Ellis Cup in Sydney on 13 November, 2027.

The new expanded format will feature six pools of four teams, replacing the four pools of five teams that had been in place since Australia last hosted the tournament in 2003.

The World Rugby Men's Rankings at the end of the November internationals will be used to create four bands of six teams, with each band drawn randomly into Pool A, B, C, D, E or F.

The exception is Australia who, as hosts, will be placed in Pool A in their respective band.

The top two teams from each pool plus the four best third-placed teams will qualify for the knockout phase, allowing more sides to reach that stage, ensuring every match counts and bringing more entertainment to the competition.

The first-ever Men's Rugby World Cup round of 16 will see the winners of Pool A, B, C and D play the four best thirds, winners of Pool E and F will face the runners-up from Pool D and B, with the runners-up in Pool A and C to meet the second-placed teams from Pool E and F.

While this format does mean an increase in the number of matches from 48 to 52, it doesn't mean more games for the players – a team lifting the Webb Ellis Cup would still play seven matches, just as South Africa did at France 2023.

World Rugby have adopted this reimaged format to ensure maximum jeopardy, drama and excitement for teams and spectators, while importantly not compromising on player welfare with five-day minimum rest periods for teams between games still in place despite the reduction in the tournament duration from seven to six weeks.



A TOURNAMENT FOR ALL

RWC 2027 will be the biggest and most accessible tournament in history with more than 2.5 million tickets available, placing fans firmly at the heart of the process and a programme that embodies a new era of openness and inclusivity to open the sport's biggest stage to all.

More than one million tickets will be available under AUD\$100 across every stage of the tournament.

Making Australia 2027 as accessible as possible for everyone was a key focus in the planning, be they a lifelong supporter, a family discovering the tournament together or visitors experiencing rugby on Australian soil for the first time.

Ticket prices for adults will start from only AUD\$40 for pool matches and \$65 to watch the Wallabies bid to lift the Webb Ellis Cup for a third time, but first on home soil. More than one million tickets will be available under AUD\$100 across every stage of the tournament.

Families are also at the heart of plans with children's tickets starting at \$20 and available for all matches bar the semi-finals and final, encouraging families to enjoy world-class rugby in an unforgettable setting, creating lasting memories together.

Fans will have two initial opportunities to secure tickets for the 11th edition of Men's Rugby World Cup following today's Draw and the announcement of the match schedule in February 2026.

The first is an exclusive presale, starting on 18 February, restricted to fans who have registered and created their ticketing account before 17 February, 2026. All matches and price categories will be available during the presale and fans are encouraged to register to give themselves the best chance to secure tickets.

Then, in May 2026, a three-week general application phase will open to all supporters worldwide, offering the chance to request tickets for any match. A ballot system will be implemented for oversubscribed price categories to ensure fairness.



3 DECEMBER, 2025

RWC 2027 DRAW

3 FEBRUARY, 2026

MATCH SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

18 FEBRUARY, 2026

PRESALE FOR REGISTERED FANS

FEBRUARY 2026

TICKET-INCLUSIVE TRAVEL PACKAGES AND PREMIUM EXPERIENCES ON SALE FOR ALL MATCHES

MAY 2026

APPLICATION PHASE



A UNIQUE IDENTITY

Men's Rugby World Cup 2027 will be a tournament like no other.

The first to feature 24 teams, 52 matches and a round of 16 required a unique identity that engages fans around the world and embodies Australia as a country of light and energy, reflecting the spirit of its people while celebrating its rich heritage and the diverse social and cultural fabric of the country.

The logo itself draws inspiration from Australia's natural beauty, with a vibrant orange hue evoking the warmth of its sun and distinctive earth. The lines take cues from the coastlines, layered rock formations and winding rivers, seamlessly flowing with energy and converging around the Rugby World Cup ball at its core.

The tapestry subtly woven into the visual identity was created by an artist of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, specialising in contemporary Indigenous art. The design takes inspiration from various First Nations artistic styles and textures across the country, symbolising Australia's land, sea and sky – three elements of spiritual significance in First Nations cultures. Together, the components symbolise the diverse geography of Australia, reflecting a nation united as a whole.



We Are 27 Creative indigenous artist and designer of the tapestry, Riki Salam said: "With permission, cultural knowledge and deep respect, our goal was to represent the diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands cultures from across Australia in a contemporary design.

I'm truly impressed with the outcome and how seamlessly my work integrates into the Rugby World Cup 2027 visual identity, while also contributing to greater global awareness of Indigenous peoples and cultures."

JOURNEY TO AUSTRALIA 2027

Samoa became the 24th and final team to qualify for Men's Rugby World Cup 2027 after a nail-biting 13-13 draw with Belgium saw them win the Final Qualification Tournament last month. Both teams went unbeaten through the tournament but a draw was enough for Samoa to deny Belgium a first-ever Rugby World Cup and ensure a 10th consecutive appearance of their own on the sport's biggest stage.

The Journey to Australia 2027 had actually begun at RWC 2023 when 12 nations confirmed their place via a top-three finish in their pools: Argentina, Australia, England, Fiji, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Scotland, Wales, runners-up New Zealand and champions South Africa.

That left 12 places to be filled by a regional qualification process, which began in 2024 with preliminary rounds in Africa, Asia and South America but truly ramped up when Europe delivered the first four qualifiers in February.

Over the next nine months, eight other teams would join Georgia, Portugal, Romania and Spain on the plane to Australia for RWC 2027, among them first-time qualifiers Hong Kong China and Zimbabwe, who last contested a Rugby World Cup in 1991.

AFRICA

Eight teams converged on Kampala for the Rugby Africa Men's Cup 2025 in July with the Webb Ellis Cup in attendance on an opening day that saw defending champions Zimbabwe, Algeria, Namibia and Kenya progress to the semi-finals.

Zimbabwe and Namibia would go on to contest the final, ensuring there would be no first-time qualifier from Africa at RWC 2027. A tense decider went right down to the wire after Namibia fought back in the final 20 minutes, only to miss a long-range penalty late on to win the match.

While Zimbabwe could celebrate a return to the Rugby World Cup stage, Namibia had to negotiate a play-off against Asia runners-up the United Arab Emirates to reach the Final Qualification Tournament. They did so with ease, running out 86-29 winners.





ASIA

With Japan qualifying directly via their RWC 2023 performance, Asia would have two teams at a Men's Rugby World Cup for the first time with Hong Kong China strong favourites to create history by winning the Asia Rugby Emirates Men's Championship 2025 title.

To do so, they would have to beat Korea, Sri Lanka and UAE to retain their title, which they duly did in impressive fashion, scoring 191 points and conceding only 39 in three matches.

EUROPE

The eight-team Rugby Europe Men's Championship 2025 would deliver four qualifiers, the identity of whom was confirmed as defending champions Georgia, Portugal, Romania and Spain each won their opening two matches to confirm their places in the semi-finals.

Georgia would retain the title for an eighth consecutive year after beating Spain 46-28 in the final in March, but Los Leones still had plenty to celebrate having qualified for a first Men's Rugby World Cup this century, having made their debut in 1999.

Belgium also ended their campaign on a high, beating the Netherlands 31-10 to finish fifth and confirm their place in the Final Qualification Tournament which would deliver the 24th and last team for RWC 2027.

PACIFIC

The Asahi Super Dry Pacific Nations Cup provided three qualifiers with Canada, Samoa, Tonga and USA bidding to join the already qualified Fiji and Japan at Australia 2027. Tonga and Canada were first to secure their places by reaching the semi-finals, wins over Samoa and USA respectively in the pool phase proving decisive.

That left USA and Samoa to fight it out for the one remaining place in the fifth-place play-off. Samoa had moved 13-8 ahead just past the hour mark but the Men's Eagles responded with three late tries to book their ticket to Australia after missing out on France 2023.

SOUTH AMERICA

Uruguay and Chile reached the Sudamericano 2025 final after beating Paraguay and Brazil in their two-legged semi-finals, setting the long-time rivals against each other with the ultimate prize of a place at RWC 2027 on the line. Uruguay took a 12-point lead into the second leg at home in Montevideo, which proved to be enough to qualify despite going down 21-18 to Chile.

That left Brazil and Paraguay to meet in a play-off for third place and a spot in the Final Qualification Tournament. Brazil had emphatically won their last meeting in 2024, but Paraguay won both legs this time around. However, Paraguay would withdraw after discovering they fielded an ineligible player, sending Brazil to Dubai instead.

FINAL QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT

Belgium, Brazil, Namibia and Samoa converged on Dubai in November for a round-robin tournament to determine the final team bound for Australia 2027. Top seeds Samoa overcame Brazil and Namibia to set up the decider with Belgium, who had needed a last-gasp winning try to see off the brave Brazilians in round two.

Samoa's two bonus-point wins to Belgium's one meant a draw was enough for the Pacific Islanders, a result they ultimately got after an enthralling contest which saw Belgium captain Jean-Maurice Decubber tie the scores with five minutes to go. His side had to score again to realise their dream of RWC 2027 qualification, Samoa though held firm to break Belgian hearts.

SOUTH AMERICA/PACIFIC PLAY-OFF

Samoa's loss to USA pitted them into a South America/Pacific play-off against Chile, the Sudamericano 2025 runners-up, in September. Samoa fought back from 17 points down at half-time to secure a 32-32 draw in the first leg but, roared on by a crowd of 20,000 in Viña del Mar a week later, Chile ran out 31-12 winners to become the 23rd qualifier for RWC 2027.



THE DRAW

The Men's Rugby World Cup 2027 Draw takes place in Sydney on Wednesday, 3 December. It will be broadcast on Stan Sport, 9Gem and 9Now in Australia, but will also be available everywhere on the planet via RugbyPass TV and World Rugby YouTube.

World Rugby Chair Brett Robinson, All Blacks legend and two-time Rugby World Cup winner Dan Carter, Australia's most-capped player James Slipper and Rio 2016 Olympic gold medallist Alicia Lucas are the presenters for the draw.



Draw format

Men's Rugby World Cup 2027 takes place from 1 October-13 November, 2027 and for the first time will feature an expanded 24 teams, who will be allocated into six pools of four teams.

A first in the modern era, all teams are confirmed ahead of the draw with Samoa becoming the 24th and final national side to book their ticket to Australia after winning the Final Qualification Tournament in Dubai last month.

The World Rugby Men's Rankings as of 1 December, 2025 have been used to place the 24 teams into four bands of six for the draw (see bands on the right).

The teams will then be randomly drawn by band, starting with Band 4, so that each pool has one team from each of the four bands. The exception to this will be Australia, who will be placed in Pool A in their relevant band and will play in the opening match in Perth | Boorloo on 1 October, 2027.

RUGBY WORLD CUP 2027 DRAW PRESENTERS



BRETT ROBINSON
WORLD RUGBY CHAIR & FORMER AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL



DAN CARTER
ALL BLACKS LEGEND & TWO-TIME RUGBY WORLD CUP WINNER



JAMES SLIPPER
FORMER WALLABIES CAPTAIN & AUSTRALIA'S MOST-CAPPED PLAYER



ALICIA LUCAS
OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST & FORMER AUSTRALIAN SEVENS STAR

BAND 1

-  **SOUTH AFRICA**
-  **NEW ZEALAND**
-  **ENGLAND**
-  **IRELAND**
-  **FRANCE**
-  **ARGENTINA**

BAND 2

-  **AUSTRALIA**
-  **FIJI**
-  **SCOTLAND**
-  **ITALY**
-  **WALES**
-  **JAPAN**

BAND 3

-  **GEORGIA**
-  **URUGUAY**
-  **SPAIN**
-  **USA**
-  **CHILE**
-  **TONGA**

BAND 4

-  **SAMOA**
-  **PORTUGAL**
-  **ROMANIA**
-  **HONG KONG CHINA**
-  **ZIMBABWE**
-  **CANADA**

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MEDIA INFORMATION

What opportunities are available for Sydney-based journalists?

Sydney-based media will have the opportunity to get reactions after the Draw from the presenters as well as Australia representatives including head coach Joe Schmidt and captain Harry Wilson. If you are interested in these opportunities, please email Kirsty Johansen.

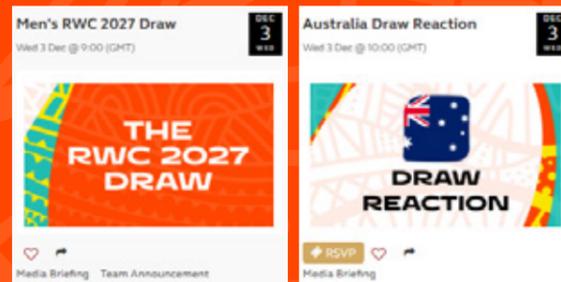
What content will be available on the day?

Visit the RWC 2027 dashboard in the Media Zone for the following rights-free content:

- > Media guide
- > Photos of the Draw
- > The entire Draw show (estimated duration of 15 minutes) and highlights
- > A graphic of the final pool line-up
- > Transcripts of team reactions

What opportunities are available for media worldwide?

Each participating team will organise its own media access with their head coach and captain within 24 hours of the Draw. The list of media events and links to register will be added to the Media Zone calendar at the following link:
www.world.rugby/media-zone/rwc-2027/calendar



www.world.rugby/media-zone/rwc-2027/dashboard



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RWC 2027 IN NUMBERS

1

Team making their Men's Rugby World Cup debut in Hong Kong China

36

Years between Zimbabwe's last Rugby World Cup in 1991 and their return in 2027

5

Record number of teams from the Americas in tournament (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Uruguay and USA)

52

Matches

7

Host cities

AUD\$ 100

One million tickets will be available for under AUD\$100

11TH

Edition of the men's tournament

2,027

The Superfan passes which sold out in under an hour

12

Regional qualifiers joined the 12 teams who qualified directly from RWC 2023 placing

250,000

international visitors expected in Australia

16

A round of 16 will be used for the first time

2.5M+

Tickets available for RWC 2027, more than ever before

24

Teams, expanded from 20

AUD\$ 1.3BN

Director visitor expenditure across the country

TEAM PROFILES



AUSTRALIA

Coach: Joe Schmidt
Captain: Harry Wilson
Nickname: Wallabies

World Ranking: **7**
Band 2

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v England on 23 May, 1987

Appearances: **10** – 1987-2023

Record: Played 57 – Won 44,
Drawn 0, Lost 13

Best placing: **Champions** (1991,
1999)

Points for/against: 1,887 / 845

Tries for/against: 241 / 65

Most RWC appearances: 21 –
James Slipper

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Australia were the first nation to lift the Webb Ellis Cup twice after successes in 1991 and 1999. They only conceded one try in winning their second title.
- > The Wallabies have lost their two finals since, to England on home soil in 2003 and New Zealand in 2015.
- > Australia hold the record for the biggest margin in a pool match, having beaten Namibia 142-0 at RWC 2003.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > The Wallabies lost two pool matches at RWC 2023, only one fewer than in the previous nine tournaments combined.
- > This meant that Australia failed to reach the knockout stage for the first time.
- > Australia have never been drawn in a pool with France, New Zealand, Portugal, Scotland, Spain or Tonga
- > They have never played against Chile, Hong Kong China or Zimbabwe.
- > Wales are Australia's most common pool opponents with five meetings, including the last three tournaments.
- > They have also faced Fiji at the last three tournaments.
- > Australia have not faced Argentina in a pool since they hosted RWC 2003.



Coach: Felipe Contepomi
Captain: Julián Montoya
Nickname: Los Pumas

World Ranking: **6**
Band 1

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Fiji on 25 May, 1987

Appearances: **10** – 1987-2023

Record: Played 48 – Won 25,
Drawn 0, Lost 23

Best placing: **Third** (2007)

Points for/against: 1,283 / 995

Tries for/against: 134 / 100

Most RWC appearances: 22 –
Agustín Creevy

ARGENTINA

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Argentina beat host nation France twice on the way to recording their best-ever finish of third in 2007.
- > Los Pumas have twice had the top points scorer at a tournament, Gonzalo Quesada with 102 in 1999 and Nicolás Sánchez with 97 in 2015.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Argentina have topped their pool only once, in 2007 after beating hosts France, Georgia, Ireland and Namibia.
- > Los Pumas won only one of their first nine Rugby World Cup matches – against Italy in 1987.
- > Argentina have never been drawn in a pool with Canada, South Africa, Spain or Uruguay.
- > They have never played against Hong Kong China, Portugal or Zimbabwe.
- > Argentina have not been in a pool with Fiji since the inaugural tournament in 1987.
- > They last faced Wales in a pool match in the tournament opener in 1999.
- > Samoa and England are Argentina's most-faced opponent in the pool stage with four.





CANADA

Coach: Steve Meehan
Captain: Lucas Rumball

World Ranking: **25**
Band 4

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Tonga on 24 May, 1987

Appearances: **9** – 1987-2019

Record: Played 32 – Won 7,
Drawn 2, Lost 23

Best placing: **Quarter-finalists**
(1991)

Points for/against: 541 / 1,015

Tries for/against: 58 / 134

Most RWC appearances: 15 –
DTH van der Merwe

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > While Canada's women have twice reached a Rugby World Cup final, their men have reached the knockout stage only once, in 1991.
- > Canada have featured in two of the four draws in Men's Rugby World Cup history, both against Japan in 2007 and 2011.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Canada's last tournament in 2019 saw them drawn with Italy, Namibia, New Zealand and South Africa. They did not face Namibia as Typhoon Hagibis saw the match cancelled.
- > Canada have never been drawn in a pool with Argentina, Chile, England, Georgia, Hong Kong China, Portugal, Samoa, Scotland, Spain, Uruguay or USA.
- > They have never played Zimbabwe in a test before.
- > France are Canada's most-common pool opponent, drawn together on four occasions.
- > They have been in the same pool as Fiji, Italy, New Zealand, Romania, Tonga and Wales at three tournaments.



CHILE

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Chile became the 26th team to play at a Men's Rugby World Cup at France 2023.
- > They are one of a record five teams from the Americas at RWC 2027, the last of Argentina, Canada, Uruguay and USA to qualify.
- > They played in the first all-South American match in the tournament's history in 2023, losing 59-5 to Argentina in Nantes.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Chile have only played Argentina, England, Japan and Samoa at a Rugby World Cup.
- > They faced Italy for the first time in a test in Genoa last month.
- > Los Cóndores have never played a match against Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Wales or Zimbabwe.
- > Their only previous test with Fiji was a 41-16 loss back in August 2003, while Chile last played Georgia in November 2005.
- > Ireland and France have both played Chile but did not award caps in their meetings in Santiago in 1952 or 1954 and 1960 respectively.

Coach: Pablo Lemoine
Captain: Clément Saavedra
Nickname: Los Cóndores

World Ranking: **17**
Band 3

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Japan on 10 September,
2023

Appearances: **1** – 2023

Record: Played 4 – Won 0,
Drawn 0, Lost 4

Best placing: **Pool stage**

Points for/against: 27 / 215

Tries for/against: 4 / 30

Most RWC appearances: 4 –
12 players





ENGLAND

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > England's Jonny Wilkinson is the record points scorer in Men's Rugby World Cup history with 277.
- > They are the only northern hemisphere team to lift the Webb Ellis Cup.
- > England are the only host nation not to reach the knockout stages – RWC 2015 was also the only time they have failed to progress from the pool phase.
- > Henry Arundell equalled Josh Lewsey's 20-year-old England record for most tries in a pool stage match with his five-try haul against Chile in 2023.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > England have never been drawn in a pool with Canada or Ireland.
- > They were drawn with France for the first time at RWC 2019, but the match wasn't played due to Typhoon Hagibis.
- > They have never played Hong Kong China, Portugal, Spain or Zimbabwe in a test.
- > Argentina and USA are England's most-common pool opponents (four).
- > England have been in the same pool as Argentina for three of the last four tournaments.
- > England met Italy in three consecutive tournaments from 1991-99 but not since.
- > Five of England's six defeats in a pool match have come against the only other nations to lift the Webb Ellis Cup in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.
- > The other was against Wales as tournament hosts in 2015, the only time the neighbours have been drawn in the same pool.

Coach: Steve Borthwick
 Captain: Maro Itoje

World Ranking: **3**
 Band 1

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Australia on 23 May, 1987
 Appearances: **10** – 1987-2023
 Record: Played 57 – Won 42, Drawn 0, Lost 15
 Best placing: **Champions** (2003)
 Points for/against: 1,790 / 885
 Tries for/against: 190 / 76
 Most RWC appearances: 22 – Jason Leonard



FIJI

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Fiji's Josua Tuisova became the first player to score a try in an Olympic gold medal match and in a Rugby World Cup match, against Georgia at RWC 2019.
- > Their quarter-final appearance at RWC 2023 was Fiji's first since the tournament was last held in France in 2007.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Fiji lost two pool matches at RWC 1987 but still made the quarter-finals – it would be 24 years before another team would do the same in France.
- > Fiji played Argentina, Italy and New Zealand in the inaugural tournament in 1987 but haven't been in the same pool as any of them since.
- > Fiji have also only met England, Romania, Samoa, Scotland, South Africa and USA once in the pool stage.
- > The Flying Fijians have been in the same pool as Wales for the last five tournaments, making the Welsh their most frequent opponent in the pool stage.
- > Fiji have never been drawn in a pool with Ireland, Spain or Tonga.
- > They have never met Zimbabwe in a test, while their last outings against Chile and Hong Kong China were in 2003 and 1996 respectively.

Coach: Mick Byrne
 Captain: Tevita Ikanivere
 Nickname: Flying Fijians

World Ranking: **8**
 Band 2

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Argentina on 24 May, 1987
 Appearances: **9** – 1987-91, 1999-2023
 Record: Played 37 – Won 13, Drawn 0, Lost 24
 Best placing: **Quarter-finalists** (1987, 2007, 2023)
 Points for/against: 844 / 1,084
 Tries for/against: 98 / 127
 Most RWC appearances: 14 – Nicky Little





FRANCE

Coach: Fabien Galthié
Captain: Antoine Dupont
Nickname: Les Bleus

World Ranking: **5**
Band 1

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Scotland on 23 May, 1987

Appearances: **10** – 1987-2023

Record: Played 57 – Won 40,
Drawn 1, Lost 16

Best placing: **Runners-up**
(1987, 1999, 2011)

Points for/against: 1,823 / 1,027

Tries for/against: 213 / 100

Most RWC appearances: 18 –
Raphaël Ibanez

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > France drew their opening Rugby World Cup match 20-20 with Scotland – one of only four draws in the tournament’s history.
- > Les Bleus are the only team to reach the final and not lift the Webb Ellis Cup after defeats in 1987, 1999 and 2011.
- > They are one of only two teams to lose two pool matches and still reach the quarter-finals of a Rugby World Cup (2011, the other being Fiji in 1987).

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > France have never been in a pool with Australia, Portugal, Samoa, South Africa, Spain or Wales.
- > They were drawn with England in 2019 but never met as Typhoon Hagibis forced the game to be cancelled.
- > They have never faced Hong Kong China in a test, while they have not played Portugal, Spain or Zimbabwe this century – only awarding caps against the latter at RWC 1987.
- > Canada are France’s most-faced pool opponent with four meetings (1991, 1999, 2011 and 2015).
- > France have not met Scotland since the last time the tournament was held in Australia.



GEORGIA

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Georgia made their Rugby World Cup debut when Australia last hosted the tournament.
- > The Lelos were involved in the fourth draw in Men’s Rugby World Cup history in 2023, after an 18-18 stalemate with Portugal in Toulouse.
- > Georgia scrum-half Vasil Lobzhanidze is the youngest player in RWC history at 18 years and 340 days against Tonga in 2015.
- > Georgia coach Richard Cockerill played for England at RWC 1999.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Georgia have never been drawn in a pool with Canada, Chile, Italy, Japan, Spain, USA or Zimbabwe.
- > They have never played Hong Kong China, while their last matches against Chile and Zimbabwe came in 2005 and 1990 respectively.
- > They have been in the same pool as Australia, Fiji and Wales for the last two tournaments.
- > Argentina are Georgia’s most-common pool opponent with three consecutive tournaments from 2007-15.
- > RWC 2015 is the only time Georgia have not been in a pool with another European team.
- > Georgia have not been drawn with South Africa or Samoa since their debut in 2003.
- > The Lelos have not faced France or Ireland since RWC 2007.

Coach: Richard Cockerill
Captain: Beka Gorgadze
Nickname: Lelos

World Ranking: **13**
Band 3

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v England on 12 October,
2003

Appearances: **6** – 2003-23

Record: Played 24 – Won 5,
Drawn 1, Lost 18

Best placing: **Pool stage**

Points for/against: 326 / 759

Tries for/against: 30 / 100

Most RWC appearances:
15 – Mamuka Gorgodze,
Merab Kvirikashvili





HONG KONG CHINA

Coach: Logan Asplin
 Captain: Joshua Hrstich

World Ranking: **23**
 Band 4

RWC STATISTICS

Hong Kong China have qualified for a first Men's Rugby World Cup.

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Hong Kong China qualified for RWC 2027 by winning the Asia Rugby Emirates Men's Championship 2025, beating Korea, Sri Lanka and UAE.
- > Hong Kong China's debut at RWC 2027 will come 10 years after their women's national team appeared for the first time at Ireland 2017.
- > They are only the second Asian team to play at a Men's Rugby World Cup after Japan.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Hong Kong China have never faced Argentina, Australia, Georgia, Italy, Ireland, New Zealand, Romania, Samoa, South Africa or Uruguay.
- > England, France, Scotland and Wales did play a match against Hong Kong China during tours of Asia in the 1970s but these were non-cap matches.
- > Hong Kong China have faced USA, Portugal and Canada in the Final Qualification Tournaments for either RWC 2019 or 2023.
- > They have won all three previous meetings with Zimbabwe, the last of them in 2016.
- > Hong Kong China last faced Fiji in 1996.



Coach: Andy Farrell
 Captain: Caelan Doris

World Ranking: **4**
 Band 1

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Wales on 25 May, 1987
 Appearances: **10** – 1987-2023
 Record: Played 45 – Won 28, Drawn 0, Lost 17
 Best placing: **Quarter-finalists** (1987-95, 2003, 2011-23)
 Points for/against: 1,345 / 809
 Tries for/against: 164 / 78
 Most RWC appearances: 18 – Conor Murray

IRELAND

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Ireland have never gone beyond the quarter-final stage despite reaching it eight times.
- > Ireland boast the only two forwards to score four tries in a RWC match, Brian Robinson v Zimbabwe in 1991 and Keith Wood v USA in 1999.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Ireland have never been drawn in a pool with Chile, England, Fiji, Portugal, Spain or Uruguay.
- > Ireland enjoyed a record 106-7 victory over Portugal in their first-ever meeting in July.
- > They did not award caps in their only previous meeting with Chile – a 30-0 win in 1952, while they have never faced Hong Kong China in a test.
- > Romania are Ireland's most-common pool stage opponent, with four meetings.
- > They have been in the same pool as the host nation on three occasions (2003, 2007 and 2019).
- > Ireland played Wales in two of the first three tournaments but haven't met them since.
- > Ireland haven't faced Georgia at a Rugby World Cup since 2007, when they escaped with a 14-10 victory.





ITALY

Coach: Gonzalo Quesada
Captain: Michele Lamaro
Nickname: Azzurri

World Ranking: **10**
Band 2

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v New Zealand on 22 May, 1987

Appearances: **10** – 1987-2023

Record: Played 35 – Won 15, Drawn 0, Lost 20

Best placing: **Pool stage**

Points for/against: 741 / 1,158

Tries for/against: 83 / 147

Most RWC appearances: 15 – Sergio Parisse

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Italy are the only team to have appeared at every Rugby World Cup never to reach the knockout stage.
- > Italy played in the first-ever RWC match in 1987, losing 70-6 to New Zealand at Eden Park when future Azzurri coach John Kirwan scored a famous try.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Italy feature in the most-common pool match in Men's RWC history, having been drawn together with New Zealand on seven occasions (not 1995, 2011-15). They did not play in 2019, though, due to Typhoon Hagibis.
- > Italy have never been in a pool with Chile, Georgia, Japan, Spain and Zimbabwe.
- > They have not played Hong Kong China before and only met Chile for the first time in November.
- > The Azzurri have not faced Fiji since the inaugural tournament in 1987.
- > Italy were drawn in a pool with England for three successive tournaments from 1991-99 but haven't been since.
- > They have only met Australia once at a Rugby World Cup, in 2011.



JAPAN

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Japan have played in two of the four draws in Men's Rugby World Cup history, both against Canada, in 2007 and 2011.
- > The Brave Blossoms went 24 years between their first and second RWC victories (1991 v Zimbabwe to 2015 v South Africa).
- > Japan conceded the most points in a RWC match, losing 145-17 to New Zealand in 1995.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Japan topped their pool on home soil at RWC 2019 after beating both Ireland and Scotland.
- > They are the only team to win three matches in a tournament and not reach the knockout stage after beating Samoa, South Africa and USA in 2015.
- > Japan's most-common pool opponents are Samoa and Scotland with four meetings.
- > The Brave Blossoms have faced Samoa in the last three tournaments.
- > Japan have not been drawn in a pool with Georgia, Hong Kong China, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Spain or Uruguay.
- > They have always faced a European team in a RWC pool.

Coach: Eddie Jones
Captain: Warner Dearn
Nickname: Brave Blossoms

World Ranking: **12**
Band 2

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v USA on 24 May, 1987

Appearances: **10** – 1987-2023

Record: Played 37 – Won 10, Drawn 2, Lost 25

Best placing: **Quarter-finals** (2019)

Points for/against: 753 / 1,454

Tries for/against: 85 / 197

Most RWC appearances: 17 – Michael Leitch





NEW ZEALAND

Coach: Scott Robertson
Captain: Scott Barrett
Nickname: All Blacks

World Ranking: **2**
Band 1

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Italy on 22 May, 1987
Appearances: **10** – 1987-2023
Record: Played 63 – Won 54, Drawn 0, Lost 9
Best placing: **Champions** (1987, 2011-15)
Points for/against: 2,588 / 842
Tries for/against: 396 / 71
Most RWC appearances: 26 – Samuel Whitelock

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > New Zealand beat Italy 70-6 in the first-ever Rugby World Cup match in 1987.
- > The All Blacks won 18 consecutive RWC matches before their 2019 semi-final loss to England.
- > New Zealand were the first team to successfully defend the Webb Ellis Cup.
- > Marc Ellis holds the record for most tries in a pool match with six against Japan in 1995, a game in which Simon Culhane scored a record 45 points.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > New Zealand suffered a first pool-stage loss at RWC 2023 in the tournament opener with hosts France, ending a run of 31 consecutive victories.
- > That was the first time the All Blacks failed to top their RWC pool.
- > New Zealand v Italy is the most-common pool match in RWC history with six. They were also drawn together in 2019 but did not play due to Typhoon Hagibis.
- > Of the teams to play in every Rugby World Cup, the only side New Zealand have not faced in a pool stage is Australia.
- > The All Blacks have never played against Chile, Hong Kong China, Spain and Zimbabwe.
- > New Zealand have not been drawn in a pool with Fiji since the inaugural tournament in 1987 and have never met Samoa in the tournament's history.
- > They have not faced Portugal, Romania or Scotland since RWC 2007, while they last faced Wales in a pool match when the tournament was held in Australia in 2003.



PORTUGAL

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Portugal had to wait 16 years after their first Rugby World Cup appearance in 2007 to return at France 2023.
- > They lost their first five pool matches before drawing 18-18 with Georgia in Toulouse. Os Lobos followed that with an historic 24-23 defeat of Fiji.
- > This is the first time Portugal have not been the last team to qualify for a Rugby World Cup, securing their place via the Rugby Europe Men's Championship 2025.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Portugal have faced eight different teams on the Rugby World Cup stage.
- > They met Italy, New Zealand, Romania and Scotland at RWC 2007 before tackling Australia, Fiji, Georgia and Wales in 2023.
- > Portugal have not played a test match against Argentina or England, while France did not award caps in three matches against Os Lobos across the 1960s and 1980s.
- > Os Lobos have not faced Tonga since 2009, while they have lost to both Ireland (106-7) and Uruguay (26-8) in 2025.

Coach: Simon Mannix
Captain: Tomás Appleton
Nickname: Os Lobos

World Ranking: **20**
Band 4

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Scotland on 9 September, 2007
Appearances: **2** – 2007, 2023
Record: Played 8 – Won 1, Drawn 1, Lost 6
Best placing: **Pool stage**
Points for/against: 102 / 312
Tries for/against: 12 / 44
Most RWC appearances: 4 – 23 players





ROMANIA

Coach: David Gérard
Captain: Andrei Mahu
Nickname: Oaks

World Ranking: **22**
Band 4

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Zimbabwe on 23 May, 1986

Appearances: **9** – 1987-2015, 2023

Record: Played 32 – Won 6, Drawn 0, Lost 26

Best placing: **Pool stage**

Points for/against: 397 / 1,355

Tries for/against: 44 / 184

Most RWC appearances: 14 – Ovidiu Tonita, Romeo Gontineac

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Romania completed the biggest comeback in Men's RWC history when they recovered from 15-0 down against Canada in 2015 to score 17 unanswered points in the final 28 minutes.
- > The Oaks played in the first-ever test played in Tasmania at RWC 2003, beating Namibia 37-7.
- > RWC 2023 was the third time Romania have returned home without a win, after 1995 and 2011.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Romania's most-faced opponents in RWC history are Ireland and Scotland (four).
- > The Oaks have not been drawn in a pool with Chile, Japan, Samoa, Spain, Uruguay or Wales.
- > They have never played against Hong Kong China.
- > The Oaks have only been drawn in a pool with Fiji once, in 1991.
- > They faced Australia in three consecutive tournaments from 1995-2003 but not since.
- > Romania have not faced New Zealand at a Rugby World Cup since 2007.
- > Romania have not met Argentina, England or Georgia since RWC 2011.



SAMOA

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Samoa were the 24th and last team to qualify for RWC 2027 after a 13-13 with Belgium in the Final Qualification Tournament decider in Dubai on 18 November.
- > Samoa legend Brian Lima was the first player to appear at five Rugby World Cups (1991-2007).
- > Western Samoa, as they were known at the time, arrived with a bang on the RWC stage, beating Wales 16-13 at Cardiff Arms Park in their first match.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Samoa have not been drawn in a pool with Canada, France, Romania or Spain.
- > They have never played Hong Kong China, Portugal or Zimbabwe.
- > Argentina are Samoa's most-common opponent with five meetings, including their first three tournaments from 1991-99.
- > Samoa played South Africa in three consecutive tournaments from 2003-11 but haven't met since.
- > Manu Samoa have only been drawn in a pool with Australia on one occasion, back in 1991.
- > They have not faced Fiji since 2011, while they met Tonga either side of that in 2007 and 2015.

Coach: Lemalu Tusiata Pisi
Captain: Theo McFarland
Nickname: Manu Samoa

World Ranking: **19**
Band 4

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Wales on 6 October, 1991

Appearances: **9** – 1991-2023

Record: Played 36 – Won 14, Drawn 0, Lost 22

Best placing: **Quarter-finalists** (1991, 1995)

Points for/against: 804 / 935

Tries for/against: 94 / 96

Most RWC appearances: 18 – Brian Lima





SCOTLAND

Coach: Gregor Townsend
 Captain: Sione Tuipulotu

World Ranking: **9**
 Band 2

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v France on 23 May, 1987

Appearances: **10** – 1987-2023

Record: Played 46 – Won 26, Drawn 1, Lost 19

Best placing: **Fourth** (1991)

Points for/against: 1,407 / 874

Tries for/against: 167 / 89

Most RWC appearances: 15 – Chris Paterson

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Scotland drew their first Rugby World Cup match, 20-20 with France in 1987. This would be the only draw across the first five tournaments.
- > Scotland have failed to reach the knockout stages at the last two tournaments.
- > They have only topped their pool at one tournament, in 1991 when they went on to finish fourth.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Scotland have never been drawn in a pool with Australia, Canada, Chile or Wales.
- > They did not award caps when they faced Hong Kong China during a tour of Asia in the 1970s.
- > Their most-common opponents in the pool stage are Romania and Japan (four).
- > Scotland have not met Italy, New Zealand or Portugal since RWC 2007.
- > They have only been in a pool with Argentina, England and Georgia once – all in 2011.
- > Scotland haven't been in the same pool as France since Australia 2003.
- > They have faced Ireland in the last two tournaments in Japan and France.



SOUTH AFRICA

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > South Africa are the most successful team in RWC history with four titles. They are seeking to become the first team to win three in a row at Australia 2027.
- > The Springboks have only scored tries in one of their four finals, against England in 2019.
- > South Africa are the only team to lose a pool match and go on to lift the Webb Ellis Cup (against New Zealand in 2019 and Ireland in 2023).
- > Bryan Habana shares the record for most tries in Men's Rugby World Cup history with Jonah Lomu (15).

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > South Africa have never been drawn in a pool with Argentina, France or Portugal.
- > They have never played a match against Chile, Hong Kong China or Zimbabwe.
- > South Africa have only lost four pool matches, against England (2003), Japan (2015), New Zealand (2019) and Ireland (2023).
- > The Springboks' most-common pool opponent is Samoa with four tournaments in a row from 2003-15.
- > South Africa have not faced Australia in a pool match since their RWC debut in 1995.
- > They have not been in a pool with Georgia since RWC 2003 in Australia.
- > The Springboks haven't faced England since 2007, while their solitary pool matches against Fiji and Wales came in 2011.

Coach: Rassie Erasmus
 Captain: Siya Kolisi
 Nickname: Springboks

World Ranking: **1**
 Band 1

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Australia on 25 May, 1995

Appearances: **8** – 1995-2023

Record: Played 50 – Won 42, Drawn 0, Lost 8

Best placing: **Champions** (1995, 2007, 2019-23)

Points for/against: 1,720 / 641

Tries for/against: 201 / 45

Most RWC appearances: 20 – Schalk Burger





SPAIN

Coach: Pablo Bouza
Captain: Jon Zabala
Nickname: Los Leones

World Ranking: **15**
Band 3

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Uruguay on 2 October, 1999

Appearances: **1** – 1999

Record: Played 3 – Won 0, Drawn 0, Lost 3

Best placing: **Pool stage**

Points for/against: 18 / 122

Tries for/against: 0 / 18

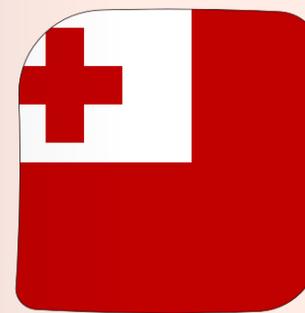
Most RWC appearances: 3 – 13 players

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Spain are yet to score a try on the Rugby World Cup stage.
- > This will be Spain's first Rugby World Cup this century after booking their place via the Rugby Europe Men's Championship 2025.
- > Ukrainian-born playmaker Andrey Kovalenco kicked all of Spain's points in a 27-15 loss to Uruguay on their RWC debut in 1999.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Spain faced Scotland, South Africa and Uruguay in their only previous Rugby World Cup in 1999.
- > They have never played against Australia, England, France, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand or Wales – but lost to the A teams of England and Ireland in November.
- > More than a decade has passed since Spain last played Japan or Zimbabwe.



TONGA

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Tonga are the only one of the three Pacific Island nations to have contested a Rugby World Cup not to reach the knockout stage.
- > Their biggest scalp at a Rugby World Cup was a 19-14 win over France in 2011, Kurt Morath kicking 14 of Tonga's points.
- > Tonga last failed to win a match in a tournament in 2003 – only the second time in nine tournaments they have returned home winless after 1987.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Tonga's most-common pool opponent are New Zealand with four, spread across five tournaments from 1999-2015.
- > They have never met Chile, Fiji, Hong Kong China, Spain or Uruguay at a Rugby World Cup.
- > Tonga have not played a test match against Australia, Portugal or Zimbabwe.
- > The 'Ikale Tahi have not been in a pool with Wales since the inaugural tournament in 1987.
- > Tonga have not been drawn in a pool with Canada and Japan since RWC 2011, while they last faced Samoa at France 2007.

Coach: Tevita Tu'ifua
Captain: Ben Tameifuna
Nickname: 'Ikale Tahi

World Ranking: **18**
Band 3

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Canada on 24 May, 1987

Appearances: **9** – 1987, 1995-2023

Record: Played 33 – Won 9, Drawn 0, Lost 24

Best placing: **Pool stage**

Points for/against: 568 / 1,143

Tries for/against: 66 / 141

Most RWC appearances: 12 – Sione Kalamafoni, Sione Piutau, Sonatane Takulua





Coach: Rodolfo Ambrosio
 Captain: Manuel Leindekar
 Nickname: Los Teros

World Ranking: **14**
 Band 3

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Spain on 2 October, 1999

Appearances: **5** – 1999-2003, 2015-23

Record: Played 15 – Won 3, Drawn 0, Lost 12

Best placing: **Pool stage**

Points for/against: 253 / 882

Tries for/against: 27 / 129

Most RWC appearances: 12 – Agustín Ormaechea, Andrés Vilaseca

URUGUAY

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Uruguay have qualified for a fourth consecutive Rugby World Cup as Sudamericano 2025 champions.
- > Los Teros coach Rodolfo Ambrosio will head to a Rugby World Cup with a third team, having played for Italy in the first-ever RWC match in 1987 and been Chile's attack coach in 2023.
- > The Ormaechea name is synonymous with Uruguay's RWC journey, Diego captaining Los Teros in their first tournament in 1999 before his sons Juan and Agustín also graced the RWC stage.
- > Diego scored Uruguay's first-ever RWC try and is also the oldest player in the tournament's history at 40 years and 26 days.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Uruguay have never been drawn in a pool with Argentina, Canada, Chile, Hong Kong China, Japan, Portugal, Romania, Tonga or USA.
- > They are yet to face Ireland or Zimbabwe in a test match.
- > Uruguay have faced four teams on two occasions at a Rugby World Cup in Australia, Fiji, South Africa and Wales.
- > Los Teros met France, Italy, Namibia and New Zealand at RWC 2023, the first time they had faced them on the RWC stage.
- > They have not played Scotland since their maiden Rugby World Cup in 1999.
- > Uruguay have not met England, Georgia, Samoa or South Africa since the tournament was last held in Australia in 2003.



Coach: Scott Lawrence
 Captain: Jason Damm
 Nickname: Men's Eagles

World Ranking: **16**
 Band 3

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Japan on 24 May, 1987

Appearances: **8** – 1987-91, 1999-2019

Record: Played 29 – Won 3, Drawn 0, Lost 26

Best placing: **Pool stage**

Points for/against: 402 / 1,048

Tries for/against: 44 / 143

Most RWC appearances: 11 – Mike MacDonald, Blaine Scully, Chris Wyles

USA

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > USA will host the men's and women's Rugby World Cups in 2031 and 2033 respectively.
- > They have lost their last 10 RWC matches since a 13-6 defeat of Russia in 2011.
- > USA failed to qualify for RWC 2023 after drawing 16-16 with Portugal in the Final Qualification Tournament deciding match to leave no North American presence in a Rugby World Cup for the first time.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > USA have never been drawn in a pool with Canada, Chile, Georgia, Hong Kong China, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay or Wales.
- > They have never met Zimbabwe in a test, while they last faced Wales in June 2009.
- > Their most-common pool opponent is England with four, including the first two editions.
- > USA have not faced New Zealand since RWC 1991, while they last met Fiji at Australia 2003.
- > The Men's Eagles have always had at least one European team in their pool.
- > They have not faced Romania in a Rugby World Cup this century.





WALES

Coach: Steve Tandy
Captain: Jac Morgan

World Ranking: **11**
Band 2

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Ireland on 25 May, 1987

Appearances: **10** – 1987-2023

Record: Played 49 – Won 30,
Drawn 0, Lost 19

Best placing: **Third** (1987)

Points for/against: 1,398 / 953

Tries for/against: 159 / 104

Most RWC appearances: 21 –
Alun Wyn Jones

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Wales topped their pool for a second consecutive tournament in 2023 – and fourth time in total after 1987 and 1999.
- > Their best placing came in the inaugural tournament in 1987 when they beat Australia to finish third.
- > Dan Biggar's first-minute drop goal against Australia at RWC 2019 is the fastest in the tournament's history.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Wales have never been drawn in a pool with France, Hong Kong China, Romania, Scotland, Spain, USA or Zimbabwe.
- > They have not played Chile, while the last time they faced Spain and Zimbabwe in a test was in the 1990s.
- > Wales have faced Fiji at the last five tournaments but cannot meet them at RWC 2027 as they are both in Band 2.
- > Fiji and Australia are Wales' most-common pool opponent with five meetings.
- > They have not faced Italy, New Zealand or Tonga since the tournament was last held in Australia in 2003.
- > Wales have only been drawn in a pool with Ireland once, back in 1995.



Coach: Pieter Benade
Captain: Hilton Mudariki
Nickname: Sables

World Ranking: **24**
Band 4

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Romania on 23 May, 1987

Appearances: **2** – 1987-91

Record: Played 6 – Won 0,
Drawn 0, Lost 6

Best placing: **Pool stage**

Points for/against: 84 / 309

Tries for/against: 11 / 52

Most RWC appearances: 6 –
Michael Martin

ZIMBABWE

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Zimbabwe return to the Rugby World Cup stage for the first time in 36 years, having been the first side to represent Africa in 1987 and 1991.
- > They have not faced one of the other 23 qualifiers in a test since meeting Hong Kong China in November 2016.
- > Zimbabwe are still seeking a first Rugby World Cup victory, the closest they have come being a 21-20 loss to Romania in their first match in 1987.
- > They have conceded 50 points or more in every RWC match bar that narrow defeat.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Zimbabwe have faced one team twice on the Rugby World Cup stage in Scotland.
- > The other sides they played in their appearances in 1987 and 1991 are France, Ireland, Japan and Romania.
- > Zimbabwe have never met Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, England, Fiji, Georgia, New Zealand, Samoa, South Africa, Uruguay or USA in a test.
- > They have faced Italy but the Azzurri didn't award caps for the 1993 match.



INTERESTING STATS... PAST POOLS

- 1** Pool matches lost by New Zealand (v France in 2023)
- 1** RWC 2023 saw the first all-South American match in RWC history with Argentina v Chile
- 2** Only twice has a team gone on to lift the Webb Ellis Cup after losing a pool match (South Africa, against New Zealand in 2019 and Ireland in 2023)
- 3** Japan are only team to win three matches in a RWC pool and not reach the knockout stage (2015)
- 4** Georgia's 18-18 draw with Portugal at RWC 2023 was the fourth in tournament history and first since 2011
- 6** Most tries by an individual in a RWC pool match (Marc Ellis, New Zealand v Japan, 1995)
- 18** Seconds after which Australia's Elton Flatley scored the fastest-ever try in RWC history (v Romania, 2003 in Brisbane).
- 45** Most points scored by an individual in a RWC pool match (Simon Culhane, New Zealand v Japan, 1995)
- 46** Most tries scored by a team in a single RWC pool (New Zealand, 2007)
- 142** Biggest winning margin in a RWC pool match (Australia v Namibia, 2003)
- 145** Most points scored by a team in a RWC pool match (New Zealand v Japan, 1995)
- 290** Points scored in pool stage of France 2023
- 339** Pool matches played in Men's RWC history
- 2,248** Tries scored in the Rugby World Cup pool stages to date
- 8,741** Days between Japan's first RWC victory against Zimbabwe (1991) and their second against South Africa (2015). They waited just 14 days for a third win.
- 18,233** Points scored in the Rugby World Cup pool stages to date



RUGBY WORLD CUP: THE STORY SO FAR

RWC 1987

Hosts: **Australia and New Zealand**

Champions: **New Zealand**

Teams: **16** (Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Romania, Scotland, Tonga, USA, Wales, Zimbabwe)

RWC 1991

Hosts: **England, France, Ireland, Scotland and Wales**

Champions: **Australia**

Teams: **16** (Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Romania, Samoa, Scotland, USA, Wales, Zimbabwe)

RWC 1995

Hosts: **South Africa**

Champions: **South Africa**

Teams: **16** (Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, France, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, New Zealand, Romania, Samoa, Scotland, South Africa, Tonga, Wales)

RWC 1999

Hosts: **Wales**

Champions: **Australia**

Teams: **20** (Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Namibia, New Zealand, Romania, Samoa, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Tonga, Uruguay, USA, Wales)

RWC 2003

Hosts: **Australia**

Champions: **England**

Teams: **20** (Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Namibia, New Zealand, Romania, Samoa, Scotland, South Africa, Tonga, Uruguay, USA, Wales)

RWC 2007

Hosts: **France**

Champions: **South Africa**

Teams: **20** (Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Namibia, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Scotland, South Africa, Tonga, USA, Wales)

RWC 2011

Hosts: **New Zealand**

Champions: **New Zealand**

Teams: **20** (Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Namibia, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Samoa, Scotland, South Africa, Tonga, USA, Wales)

RWC 2015

Hosts: **England**

Champions: **New Zealand**

Teams: **20** (Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Namibia, New Zealand, Romania, Samoa, Scotland, South Africa, Tonga, Uruguay, USA, Wales)

RWC 2019

Hosts: **Japan**

Champions: **South Africa**

Teams: **20** (Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Namibia, New Zealand, Russia, Samoa, Scotland, South Africa, Tonga, Uruguay, USA, Wales)

RWC 2023

Hosts: **France**

Champions: **South Africa**

Teams: **20** (Argentina, Australia, Chile, England, Fiji, France, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Namibia, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Scotland, South Africa, Tonga, Uruguay, Wales)

PAST RUGBY WORLD CUP POOLS

Pool C has yielded the most Rugby World Cup winners with four occasions, one more than Pool A. The only pool not to produce a champion to date is Pool D.

RWC 1987

| Pool 1 | Pool 2 | Pool 3 | Pool 4 |
|-----------|---------|--------------------|----------|
| Australia | Wales | NEW ZEALAND | France |
| England | Ireland | Fiji | Scotland |
| USA | Canada | Italy | Romania |
| Japan | Tonga | Argentina | Zimbabwe |

RWC 1991

| Pool 1 | Pool 2 | Pool 3 | Pool 4 |
|-------------|----------|------------------|---------|
| New Zealand | Scotland | AUSTRALIA | France |
| England | Ireland | Samoa | Canada |
| Italy | Japan | Wales | Romania |
| USA | Zimbabwe | Argentina | Fiji |

RWC 1995

| Pool A | Pool B | Pool C | Pool D |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| SOUTH AFRICA | England | New Zealand | France |
| Australia | Samoa | Ireland | Scotland |
| Canada | Italy | Wales | Tonga |
| Romania | Argentina | Japan | Ivory Coast |

RWC 1999

| Pool A | Pool B | Pool C | Pool D | Pool E |
|--------------|-------------|---------|-----------|------------------|
| South Africa | New Zealand | France | Wales | AUSTRALIA |
| Scotland | England | Fiji | Argentina | Ireland |
| Uruguay | Tonga | Canada | Samoa | Romania |
| Spain | Italy | Namibia | Japan | USA |

RWC 2003

| Pool A | Pool B | Pool C | Pool D |
|-----------|----------|----------------|-------------|
| Australia | France | ENGLAND | New Zealand |
| Ireland | Scotland | South Africa | Wales |
| Argentina | Fiji | Samoa | Italy |
| Romania | USA | Uruguay | Canada |
| Namibia | Japan | Georgia | Tonga |

RWC 2007

| Pool A | Pool B | Pool C | Pool D |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| SOUTH AFRICA | Australia | New Zealand | France |
| England | Fiji | Scotland | Argentina |
| France | Wales | Italy | Ireland |
| Samoa | Japan | Romania | Georgia |
| USA | Canada | Portugal | Namibia |

RWC 2011

| Pool A | Pool B | Pool C | Pool D |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| NEW ZEALAND | England | Ireland | South Africa |
| France | Argentina | Australia | Wales |
| Tonga | Scotland | Italy | Samoa |
| Canada | Georgia | USA | Fiji |
| Japan | Romania | Russia | Namibia |

RWC 2015

| Pool A | Pool B | Pool C | Pool D |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------|---------|
| Australia | South Africa | NEW ZEALAND | Ireland |
| Wales | Scotland | Argentina | France |
| England | Japan | Georgia | Italy |
| Fiji | Samoa | Tonga | Romania |
| Uruguay | USA | Namibia | Canada |

RWC 2019

| Pool A | Pool B | Pool C | Pool D |
|----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Japan | New Zealand | England | Wales |
| Ireland | SOUTH AFRICA | France | Australia |
| Scotland | Italy | Argentina | Fiji |
| Samoa | Namibia | Tonga | Georgia |
| Russia | Canada | USA | Uruguay |

RWC 2023

| Pool A | Pool B | Pool C | Pool D |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| France | Ireland | Wales | England |
| New Zealand | SOUTH AFRICA | Fiji | Argentina |
| Italy | Scotland | Australia | Japan |
| Uruguay | Tonga | Portugal | Samoa |
| Namibia | Romania | Georgia | Chile |

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OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS







PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



Emirates is one of the world's largest international airlines, flying travellers to over 150 destinations through Dubai. As a long-time supporter of the game, Emirates became a Rugby World Cup Worldwide Partner in 2007. At every international match the Emirates Fly Better promise features on the officials' kit as sponsor of the World Rugby referees.

Emirates is also the title sponsor of the Dubai Sevens and supports European Professional Club Rugby, bringing people together through a love of sport.

Whether you're flying to the tournament or on your next holiday, with Emirates the journey is just as unforgettable. Look forward to spacious seats, private suites and lie-flat comfort. Enjoy delicious regional meals and complimentary drinks. And recline to some of the best entertainment in the skies – including live sport. There's even a shower spa and a bar on the Emirates A380.

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Asahi Super Dry is the world's first super dry beer.

Curiosity led us to invent a crisp, clean tasting beer that truly embodies the refreshing taste of Modern Japan.

As Japan's interest in rugby has grown, so has our investment in the sport. The successful partnership with Rugby World Cup will continue through a long-term commitment as Official Beer and Principal Partner of all tournaments until 2029. This includes Women's Rugby World Cup England 2025 and Australia 2029, as well as Men's Rugby World Cup Australia 2027.

The three-tournament partnership with World Rugby will see Asahi Super Dry foster a cross-culture activation platform showcasing rugby like never before, bringing intrigue and a fresh perspective to rugby fans around the globe.

Taisho Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd is Japan's largest over-the-counter (OTC) pharmaceutical company, with a proud legacy of more than a century in this field. Today, we operate in over 80 countries worldwide, focusing primarily on OTC medicines across Southeast Asia and Europe. Among our many flagship brands, Lipovitan D stands out as a pioneer – widely regarded as the original energy drink.

Since 2001, we have supported the Japan national rugby team, and since fiscal year 2022, we have served as a Premium Global Partner of the New Zealand Rugby Union, contributing to the growth and promotion of rugby worldwide. In addition, we proudly sponsored Rugby World Cup as an Official Sponsor in 2019 and as an Official Supplier for 2023, and we will continue this commitment for the 2027 tournament, helping to energise this global sporting event.

Gilbert Rugby has been the official match ball of every Rugby World Cup since 1995 and are delighted to supply the balls for Rugby World Cup Australia in 2027 and 2029. Gilbert have crafted an exceptional ball to celebrate the 2027 tournament that encapsulate the look and feel inspired by Australian and First Nations culture. The official match ball will be launched in 2026 for international match use – to familiarise players with the ball – ahead of RWC 2027.

For more information on Gilbert, visit: www.gilbertrugby.com

ChildFund Rugby is championing the power of sport to create lasting, positive change across the globe – impacting lives at every level of the game. Together, we're building a more inclusive, equitable, and safer world through the power of rugby. We leverage rugby's potential to drive meaningful social impact by enabling children and young people in vulnerable communities to play, learn, and lead.

Through partnerships with unions and federations worldwide, ChildFund Rugby delivers groundbreaking initiatives, reaching over 75,000 people in 36 countries to date. This decade-long legacy of impact is just the beginning. Join our movement to champion a better world through the power of rugby.

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#RWC2027