

News, Live Scores, Fixtures, Results & Stats

Description

The first Women's Rugby World Cup was held in Wales in 1991 and was won by the United States. In the 1998 and 2002 [sports predictions and betting](#) editions of the games, both the usual fifteen-a-side variety and rugby sevens were played, but from 2006 onwards, only rugby sevens was retained. Rugby union has also been an Asian Games event since the 1998 games in Bangkok, Thailand. This is something the rugby world has aspired to for a long time and Bernard Lapasset, president of the International Rugby Board, said the Olympic gold medal would be considered to be "the pinnacle of our sport" (Rugby Sevens). In 1920, the United States, fielding a team with many players new to the sport of rugby, upset France in a shock win, eight points to zero. In World Cup years, an abbreviated tournament is held in which each team plays the others only once.

Also required in the perimeter area are a set of 14 flag posts, each with a minimum height of 1.2 metres, marking the intersections of certain lines or other nominated distances. When a ball or player goes into touch, a lineout throw is generally awarded to the opposition at the spot on the sideline where they left the field. A ball grounded in this area by an attacking player will generally result in a try being awarded, unless there has been a previous infringement, or the player has gone out-of-bounds whilst in possession of the ball. Unlike association football, where on-field advertising is strictly forbidden in the laws, World Rugby allows sponsors logos to be painted on the playing surface.

Vusi Moyo: Why has a 20-year-old with barely any senior rugby been trusted to start at No.10 for South Africa?

Fiji, Georgia, Madagascar, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and Wales are among the nations that consider rugby union their unofficial national sport. The Football Association parted ways in 1863, leading to the division between rugby union and rugby league in 1895. Rugby football consists of two primary codes, with rugby league being the other. Typically, the game involves two teams of 15 players each, who play with an oval ball on a rectangular area known as a pitch.

Players may use bandages or tape to support or safeguard injuries; for instance, some athletes wrap tape around their heads to protect their ears during scrums and rucks. Permitted protective gear also includes headgear, non-rigid shoulder pads no thicker than 10 mm, and shin guards which are worn beneath socks. A scrum serves as a method to fairly and safely restart the game following a minor rule violation. Players positioned in the forward line from each team stand a metre apart, facing perpendicular to the touchline and located between 5 and 15 meters from it. A line-out is awarded when the ball exits the field, penalizing the team that last touched it. A ruck resembles a maul, except that in this situation, the ball is on the ground, with at least three attacking players binding on the ground to secure it.



Nations Championship: Predictions, team news, kick-off times, how to watch and referee appointments for Round Three

While Argentina is the most recognized rugby nation in South America and established the Argentine Rugby Union in 1899, several other countries on the continent boast a rich rugby history. Noteworthy European nations that play rugby include Russia, which saw its first officially recorded match in 1933 between Dynamo Moscow and the Moscow Institute of Physical Education. In 1934, following the initiative of the French Rugby Federation, FIRA (Fédération Internationale de Rugby Amateur) was established to manage rugby union independently from IRFB oversight. Traditionally, British and Irish home teams faced Southern Hemisphere squads like Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, in addition to competing against France. The expansion of rugby union across Europe beyond the 6 Nations nations has shown inconsistent growth in player participation, attendance, and viewership. Fiji dispatched its inaugural overseas team to Samoa in 1924, which subsequently formed its own rugby union that same year.

The inaugural internationally recognized rugby sevens tournament was held in 1973 at Murrayfield, one of Scotland's largest stadiums, celebrating the centenary of the Scottish Rugby Union. Throughout the Second World War, the majority of countries did not play international matches, though Italy, Germany, and Romania participated in a limited number of games, while Cambridge and Oxford maintained their annual University Match. During the First World War, no international rugby matches or union-backed club competitions took place, yet service teams like the New Zealand Army team continued to compete. The 1905 New Zealand touring team performed a haka prior to each match, prompting Welsh Rugby Union official Tom Williams to recommend that Wales player Teddy Morgan lead the audience in singing the national anthem, Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau. Each of the three teams introduced novel styles of play, enhanced fitness levels, and innovative tactics, proving to be

significantly more successful than anticipated by critics. Historically, the most esteemed tours involved Southern Hemisphere nations of Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa visiting the Northern Hemisphere, alongside reciprocal tours by a combined British and Irish team.

Georgian connection excites Rob Baxter as prop re-signs

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The back row, not to be confused with 'Backs', is the third and final row of the forward positions, who are often referred to as the loose forwards. Locks also have an important role in the scrum, binding directly behind the three front row players and providing forward drive. The main role of the lock in line-outs is to make a standing jump, often supported by the other forwards, to either collect the thrown ball or ensure the ball comes down on their side. The hooker is a key position in attacking and defensive play and is responsible for winning the ball in the scrum. The role of the two props is to support the hooker during scrums, to provide support for the jumpers during line-outs and to provide strength and power in rucks and mauls. Players in these positions are generally bigger and stronger and take part in the scrum and line-out.

Notable exceptions are the Wallabies (Australia's national team), which frequently feature yellow markings. In situations where multiple sports share a field (for example, a rugby league and a rugby union club), lines may overlap, occasionally in various colors. A prominent example is Chatswood Oval in Sydney, Australia, an elliptical cricket ground that serves as the home of the Gordon rugby club, featuring curved dead-ball lines to optimize the available in-goal area.

This was replaced in 1994 by the Rugby Football Union for Women (RFUW) in England with each of the other Home Nations governing their own countries. The English-based Women's Rugby Football Union (WRFU), responsible for women's rugby in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, was founded in 1983, and is the oldest formally organised national governing body for women's rugby. Other African nations to be represented in the World Rugby Rankings as Member Unions include Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. In the early 21st century Madagascar has experienced crowds of 40,000 at national matches, while Namibia, whose history of rugby can be dated from 1915, have qualified for the final stages of the World Cup seven times since 1999. Rugby remains a minority sport in the region with Israel and the United Arab Emirates, as of 2019, being the only member unions from the Middle East to be included in the IRB World Rankings.

They also feed the scrum and sometimes have to act as a fourth loose forward. They receive the ball from the lineout and remove the ball from the back of the scrum, usually passing it to the fly-half. They are usually the first to receive the ball from the scrum-half following a breakdown, lineout, or scrum, and need to be decisive with what actions to take and be effective at communicating with the outside backs. The half-backs consist of two positions, the scrum-half and the fly-half, also known in the Southern Hemisphere as half-back and first five-eighth respectively. The two flanker positions, known as the blindside flanker and openside flanker, are the final row in the scrum.

Laws and



gameplay

In 2016, New Zealand's All Blacks set a new record with 18 consecutive test victories among tier 1 rugby nations, surpassing their prior record of 17. It subsequently revised its regulations and evolved into an independent football code. Rugby league was established after the Northern Union separated from the Rugby Football Union due to a disagreement regarding player compensation. The expression "ten man rugby" is somewhat pejorative; however, most teams will resort to these strategies to some extent, especially in adverse weather, though typically not exclusively. Touch rugby, where "tackles" are simply made by touching the ball carrier with both hands, enjoys popularity as both a training activity and a formal mixed-gender version of the sport for children and adults alike. Rugby sevens features only seven players on each side, with each half typically lasting seven minutes.

A significant event in the early development of rugby football was the production of a written set of rules at Rugby School in 1845, followed by the Cambridge Rules that were drawn up in 1848. Primitive forms of football included harpastum, played by the Romans, where two opposing teams competed to throw a large ball into an opposition net, fighting for possession of the ball. Other transnational club competitions include the United Rugby Championship of club teams from Ireland, Italy, Scotland, South Africa and Wales, the European Rugby Champions Cup in Europe, and Super Rugby in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. In 1845, the first rules of the game were written by pupils at Rugby School; other significant events in the early development of rugby include the decision by Blackheath F.C.

The total television audience for the event, which was aired in 200 countries, reportedly reached 4.2 billion. The inaugural tournament, featuring 16 teams competing for the title, was broadcast to 17 countries and attracted an aggregate of 230 million television viewers. Since the 1980s, women's rugby has grown in popularity among female athletes, and by 2010, according to World Rugby, it was being played in over 100 countries.

The Six Nations is an annual competition involving the European teams England, France, Ireland, Italy, Scotland and Wales. Major international competitions are the Six Nations Championship and The Rugby Championship, held in Europe and the Southern Hemisphere respectively. It was the ninth edition and the first time the tournament has been held in Asia.

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