



2014-15 HSBC Sevens World Series

Game Analysis Statistical Report



COMMENTARY

The 2014-15 HSBC Sevens World Series produced a high-scoring competitive contest with Fiji securing the series title for the first time since 2005-06 at the final round in London ahead of South Africa and New Zealand. The 2014-15 World Series also acted as a qualification pathway for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio with Fiji, South Africa, New Zealand and England (on behalf of Team GB) securing the four automatic qualification places. Japan, after qualifying as a core team in Hong Kong in 2014, were relegated from the series with Russia coming in to replace them for the 2015-16 series.

Fiji continued to exhibit their unique style of play in winning the 2014-15 series but improved upon two key areas of the game to better their third place finish in 2013-14:

- They conceded an average of 3.1 penalty/free-kicks per match in 2014-15, compared to 3.8 in 2013-14, with tournament averages as low as 1.7 penalty/free-kicks per match
- They retained possession in 79 per cent of their ruck/maul situations in 2014-15, and while this is low in comparison to their main opposition of South Africa and New Zealand with success rates of 81 per cent and 84 per cent, it is a significant improvement on their success rate of 73 per cent in the 2013-14 series

It is these minor but significant improvements in Fiji's performance across the 2014-15 series from previous years that enabled consistent performances across the whole series and secure the HSBC Sevens World Series title.

The core elements of rugby sevens differ very little from year, as seen in the series statistical comparison from 2011-12 to 2014-15 within this report, however some small variations were witnessed in the 2014-15 series.

2014-15 was the highest-scoring series in recent years producing the following statistics:

- An average of 36.4 points scored per game (compared to 33 points in 2013-14)
- An average of 5.8 tries scored per game (compared to 5.2 tries in 2013-14)
- A try was scored on average every 73 seconds of play (compared to 83 seconds in 2013-14)

Despite the increased rates in scoring, overall match competitiveness improved from 2013-14:

- 87 per cent of all matches in 2014-15 were won by the team scoring the most tries, compared to 91 per cent in 2013-14
- 24 per cent of all matches were drawn or won by one-five points and 43 per cent by six-10 points in 2014-15, compared to 23 per cent and 40 per cent in 2013-14 respectively

The following report is a quantitative review of the 2014-15 HSBC Sevens World Series. It brings together the relevant data relating to each round as well as the relevant data relating to each team's performance across them.

The report has several objectives:

- Provide a profile of how the game of sevens was played at international level in the 2014-15 series

- Provide a profile of each participating team's performance in all rounds of the 2014-15 series
- Provide an instrument to compare the development of the game from series to series.
- Present the relative performance of each participating team in all aspects of the game, enabling the comparison in performance between rounds and between teams
- Identify alternative strategies in performance adopted in certain area of game play by various teams

In summary, the report comprises an analysis of all aspects of play together with the approach and performance of all the participating teams.



OVERALL STANDINGS

	Country	AUS	DUB	RSA	NZL	USA	HKG	JPN	SCO	ENG	Overall
1	Fiji	22	17	12	13	22	22	17	22	17	164
2	South Africa	15	22	22	17	17	17	19	13	12	154
3	New Zealand	13	15	19	22	19	19	13	19	13	152
4	England	17	10	10	19	12	10	22	17	15	132
5	Australia	10	19	17	12	13	13	7	10	19	120
6	USA	8	5	13	10	15	12	8	15	22	108
7	Scotland	5	12	10	15	5	8	12	12	10	89
8	Argentina	12	13	15	7	7	10	2	7	7	80
9	Canada	3	3	8	3	10	5	15	10	10	67
10	Samoa	19	8	2	2	5	15	5	3	5	64
11	France	7	7	5	8	10	7	10	5	2	61
12	Wales	10	10	5	5	2	5	5	8	5	55
13	Kenya	2	2	7	10	8	3	1	5	8	46
14	Portugal	5	5	3	5	3	1	3	2	1	28
15	Japan	1	1	1	1	1	2	10	1	3	21
16	Brazil	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3
17	PNG	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	Russia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
-	Hong Kong	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
-	Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
-	Zimbabwe	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	Am. Samoa	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

TEAM FACTS

Fiji scored the highest number of tries per match, scoring an average 4.5 tries per match or one every 44 seconds of possession

South Africa conceded the fewest tries per match, conceding an average of 1.5 tries per match or one every 131 seconds of the opposition's possession

Japan scored the least and conceded the most tries per match, scoring an average of 1.8 tries per match and conceding an average of 4.5 tries

Argentina had the highest rate of conversion success, successfully kicking 75 per cent of their conversions

Scotland scored the highest percentage of their tries from a penalty or free-kick and **Canada** scored the highest percentage of their tries from turnovers

France scored the highest percentage of their tries from possession that started within their own half while **South Africa** scored the lowest percentage

Fiji scored the highest percentage of tries with no ruck or maul in the build-up and also conceded the least

South Africa scored the highest percentage of tries with less than 3 passes in the build-up of play whilst **Scotland** had the lowest percentage

New Zealand had the highest average percentage of possession in the series with 54 per cent, while **Fiji** had the lowest with 46 per cent

Japan were the most frequent passers in the series, passing on average once every 5.6 seconds of possession and of all their phases of possession, one in 5.4 phases contained five or more passes

South Africa were the least frequent passers in the series, passing on average once every 7.8 seconds of possession and of all their phases of possession, one in 18.9 phases contained five or more passes

Argentina were the most likely team to take the ball into contact, rucking on average once every 21.4 seconds of possession

Fiji were, again, the least likely team to take the ball into contact, rucking on average once every 48.2 seconds of possession

New Zealand had the highest rate of ruck and maul retention, securing possession in 84 per cent of their ruck and maul situations, while **Wales** had the lowest rate of retention securing possession in 72 per cent of situations

South Africa were the most likely to turnover possession in a ruck or maul situation, turning over possession in 27 per cent of their opponent's ruck or maul situations

Fiji were the most likely team to kick a contested restart while **New Zealand** were the least likely

USA were the most competitive under a restart, regaining possession in 41 per cent of their contested restarts

Kenya were the least penalised team in the series, conceding an average of just 2.5 penalties or free-kicks per match

Portugal were the most penalised team, conceding an average of 3.6 penalties or free-kicks per match

Samoa received the most cards over the series with 16 in total

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

	2014-15 SWS	2013-14 SWS	2012-13 SWS	2011-12 SWS
MATCHES	405	405	392	392
SCORING				
POINTS (average per game)	36.4	33	33	34
TRIES (average per game)	5.8	5.2	5.4	5.4
TRY SCORING RATE (rate)	1 every 73s	1 every 83s	1 every 80s	1 every 79s
CONVERSION SUCCESS (%)	65%	65%	63%	62%
PENALTY / DROP GOALS (total)	10	7	18	11
MATCH WON by scoring most tries (%)	87%	91%	85%	88%
SOURCE OF TRIES - pens/FKs (%)	32%	34%	33%	33%
ORIGIN OF TRIES - own half (%)	42%	40%	44%	44%
TRY BUILD UP – no rucks/mauls (%)	64%	67%	62%	70%
TRY BUILD UP - 3 or fewer passes (%)	57%	60%	57%	56%
ACTIVITY				
BALL IN PLAY (%)	50%	51%	51%	51%
PASSES (average per game)	64.1	64	66	68
5+ PASSING MOVEMENTS (rate)	1 in 8	1 in 8	1 in 8	1 in 7.7
RUCKS/MAULS (average per game)	17.2	17	17	18
RUCK/MAUL RETENTION (%)	80%	79%	81%	84%
KICKS (average per game)	2.3	2.8	2.6	2.4
SET PIECE				
CONTESTABLE RESTARTS (%)	72%	70%	71%	70%
CONTESTABLE RESTARTS REGAINED (%)	34%	36%	36%	33%
RESTART ERRORS (rate)	1 in 13.3	1 in 16	1 in 15	17
SCRUMS (average per game)	3.2	3.6	2.8	4
SCRUMS possession retained (%)	96%	96%	94%	94%
LINEOUTS (average per game)	2.6	2.5	2.4	2
LINEOUTS possession retained (%)	79%	79%	77%	74%
QUICK THROWS (rate)	1 in 17	1 in 13	1 in 9.5	1 in 13
PENALTIES/FREE-KICKS AND CARDS				
PENALTIES (average per game)	6.2	6.8	6.2	6
CARDS (total)	142 + 2	113 + 3	119 + 4	93 + 4

SCORING AND CONCEDED

TRIES

The average number of points scored in a match was **36**. The average number of points scored/conceded by a team was **18** but, not surprisingly, there were major variations around this average. **Fiji** scored an average of 29 points and conceded an average of 13 points, whereas **Japan** scored an average of 12 points and conceded an average of 29 points.

Overall there was a try scored every **73 seconds of play**. Try scoring rates show how **effective** each team was in **scoring points** in relation to the possession that they obtained, and try conceding rates show how **effective** each team was in **restricting points** in relation to the possession that their opponents obtained. The following table gives the relevant figures for each participating team. **Fiji** had the best try scoring rate, scoring a try every **44** seconds of their own possession and **South Africa** had the best try conceding rate, conceding a try every 131 seconds of opposition possession.

	Avg points scored	Avg points conceded	Avg tries scored	Avg tries conceded		Try scoring rate		Try conceding rate
FJI	28.7	12.7	4.5	2.1	FJI	44	RSA	131
NZL	24.7	11.8	4	1.8	RSA	56	FJI	112
RSA	22.4	9.5	3.6	1.5	NZL	58	NZL	110
USA	21.4	15.9	3.5	2.6	AUS	61	AUS	90
AUS	21.1	14.3	3.4	2.2	USA	62	ENG	83
ENG	19.2	14.5	3	2.3	FRA	70	USA	78
FRA	18.7	19.5	2.9	3.1	SAM	71	ARG	75
SAM	18.4	19.3	2.9	3.1	ARG	73	FRA	74
AVG	18.2	18.2	2.9	2.9	AVG	73	AVG	73
CAN	18	17.7	2.9	2.9	ENG	75	CAN	70
ARG	17.9	18	2.8	2.9	CAN	76	KEN	70
WAL	16.6	21.2	2.7	3.4	WAL	79	SAM	68
SCO	16	19.1	2.5	3	SCO	92	SCO	68
KEN	14.3	19.9	2.3	3.2	KEN	93	WAL	62
POR	12.3	22.3	1.9	3.5	POR	112	POR	60
JPN	11.5	28.5	1.8	4.5	JPN	113	JPN	49
Non-core teams					Non-core teams		Non-core teams	
BRA	8.3	29.1	1.3	4.6	BRA	164	RUS	62
BEL	7.6	35	1.2	5.4	ZIM	164	HKG	57
RUS	7.6	23.8	1.2	3.8	RUS	165	ZIM	54
HKG	7.2	27.8	1.2	4.2	HKG	176	BRA	51
ZIM	6.2	28.6	1	4.6	BEL	191	ASA	41
ASA	2.4	40	0.4	6.4	PNG	267	BEL	39
PNG	2.4	39.2	0.4	6.4	ASA	300	PNG	38

CONVERSIONS

The overall conversion success rate was **62 per cent**.

There were noticeable variations in the percentage success rates as seen in the below table. Because of the relatively few tries scored by some teams, applying percentages can only be regarded as indicative. In addition, the location of the score can be a significant factor in achieving a successful conversion.

The below table shows the success rate of all participating teams with **Argentina** having the highest conversion success rate with **75 per cent** and **Kenya** the lowest with **56 per cent**.

There were **10** penalty goals, 40 per cent of which were successful.

	Conversion Success %
ARG	75%
FJI	71%
POR	71%
SCO	70%
FRA	68%
JPN	67%
ENG	67%
SAM	66%
AVG	65%
RSA	64%
CAN	62%
USA	59%
NZL	58%
WAL	58%
AUS	57%
KEN	56%
Non-core teams	
BRA	79%
BEL	67%
RUS	67%
ZIM	60%
AMS	50%
HKG	50%
PNG	50%

TRY SCORING

There were **2,345** tries scored giving an average of **5.8** per match. **New Zealand** scored an average of five tries per match and conceded an average of two tries. The average number of tries scored and conceded by all participating teams is shown on the previous page. During the pool stages there were **1,278** tries scored, an average of six per match, and during the knockout stages there were **1,067** tries scored, an average of six per match.

IMPACT OF TRIES

With 10 penalty goals and a conversion success rate of 65 per cent, it was inevitable that tries would determine the winning team in the vast majority of cases – and this proved to be the case. Of the 405 matches, **352** (or 87 per cent) were won by the team scoring the most tries, while in **53** (or 13 per cent) tries were the equal. In those 53 matches, 50 were won by the team that scored the more conversions, three matches were won through a penalty goal and there were nine draws.

SOURCE OF TRIES

Teams obtained possession of the ball prior to the scoring a try from a variety of sources which are presented in the table below. It can be seen that the most fruitful source of tries was penalties and free-kicks (32 per cent). The table shows the importance of restarts, with 20 per cent of all tries scored from possession originating at a restart. The following table shows the possession source of tries scored by each team. The team that scored the highest proportion of their tries from penalties/free-kicks was **Scotland**, from turnovers **Canada** and from restarts **USA**.

	Penalty & FK	Turnover	Restart	Scrum	Lineout	Kick
SCO	42%	18%	16%	10%	10%	3%
RSA	41%	25%	10%	12%	9%	2%
KEN	40%	23%	14%	8%	11%	4%
WAL	36%	20%	21%	15%	6%	2%
JPN	35%	11%	26%	15%	11%	2%
POR	35%	22%	17%	10%	15%	1%
SAM	34%	22%	22%	13%	5%	4%
ENG	32%	24%	24%	8%	10%	3%
AVG	32%	21%	20%	12%	11%	3%
FRA	30%	22%	18%	13%	14%	3%
FJI	30%	24%	23%	12%	7%	4%
ARG	29%	25%	18%	6%	18%	3%
NZL	29%	16%	18%	15%	15%	7%
USA	28%	16%	27%	12%	14%	2%
CAN	26%	31%	24%	8%	10%	1%
AUS	23%	18%	23%	16%	16%	4%
Non-core teams						
ASA	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
ZIM	60%	20%	20%	0%	0%	0%
PNG	50%	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%
HKG	33%	17%	0%	17%	0%	33%
BRA	32%	32%	11%	21%	5%	0%
BEL	17%	17%	17%	33%	17%	0%
RUS	17%	0%	33%	33%	0%	17%

ORIGIN OF TRIES

Of all the tries scored, **42 per cent** originated in the try scoring team's own half and **58 per cent** in the opposition half. The team that scored the highest proportion of their tries from their own half was **France**.

	Own half	HW-10m	10m-22m	22m-try
FRA	54%	11%	26%	10%
KEN	52%	12%	23%	13%
ENG	46%	13%	25%	16%
POR	46%	10%	29%	16%
WAL	45%	9%	30%	16%
FJI	43%	16%	31%	10%
USA	42%	13%	31%	13%
CAN	42%	15%	29%	15%
SCO	42%	14%	23%	22%
AVG	42%	13%	28%	17%
JPN	41%	14%	28%	16%
SAM	40%	11%	32%	17%
NZL	39%	11%	30%	20%
ARG	37%	12%	27%	24%
AUS	33%	13%	31%	22%
RSA	32%	14%	25%	29%
Non-core teams				
ZIM	100%	0%	0%	0%
BEL	83%	17%	0%	0%
RUS	67%	0%	17%	17%
BRA	53%	16%	21%	11%
ASA	50%	0%	0%	50%
HKG	33%	17%	17%	33%
PNG	0%	50%	0%	50%

BUILD UP TO TRIES

The table below shows how many rucks/mauls and the total number of passes preceded each try scored in the tournament. The table shows that **65 per cent** of tries were preceded by no ruck or maul and that **58 per cent** of tries were preceded by three or fewer passes.

	Ruck/maul in try build-up %	cumulative
None	65%	65%
1 ruck/maul	22%	87%
2+ ruck/mauls	13%	100%

	Passes in try build-up %	cumulative
None	11%	11%
1-3 passes	47%	58%
4-6 passes	24%	82%
7+ passes	18%	100%

The percentage of tries both scored and conceded with no rucks in the build-up – and the percentage of tries scored with three or fewer passes – are in the table below. It shows, 82 per cent of tries scored by **Fiji** contained no rucks in the build-up, while 69 per cent of tries conceded by **Japan** contained no rucks. It also shows, 74 per cent of tries scored by **South Africa** contained three or fewer passes in the build-up, compared with 46 per cent by **Scotland**.

		% of tries with no ruck or maul				
		Tries scored		Tries conceded		
						% of tries with < 3 passes
FJI	82%	FJI	54%	RSA	74%	
WAL	69%	NZL	56%	FJI	67%	
RSA	68%	RSA	57%	USA	65%	
SAM	68%	AUS	60%	ARG	63%	
FRA	66%	CAN	61%	FRA	63%	
AVG	65%	ENG	61%	KEN	59%	
USA	64%	SAM	63%	AVG	59%	
KEN	64%	ARG	64%	NZL	57%	
POR	64%	AVG	65%	POR	55%	
AUS	62%	FRA	66%	AUS	55%	
ENG	61%	KEN	66%	WAL	54%	
JPN	61%	USA	67%	JPN	54%	
NZL	60%	POR	68%	ENG	54%	
SCO	58%	WAL	68%	SAM	52%	
CAN	55%	SCO	68%	CAN	51%	
ARG	53%	JPN	69%	SCO	46%	
Non-core teams						
PNG	100%	RUS	47%	PNG	100%	
BRA	84%	ZIM	48%	HKG	67%	
ZIM	80%	HKG	57%	BRA	63%	
RUS	67%	AMS	66%	ZIM	60%	
ASA	50%	BEL	74%	ASA	50%	
BEL	33%	BRA	81%	RUS	33%	
HKG	33%	PNG	81%	BEL	17%	

BALL IN PLAY AND POSSESSION

In 2014-15, the ball was in play for an average of 50 per cent of available time with each team averaging **3m 30s** possession per match. There was a considerable variation in the amount of possession achieved by the various teams. This is shown in the below table which gives the average possession times and proportion of possession percentages achieved by each team and their opponents throughout the series. As seen in the table, there were some measurable differences. **New Zealand** averaged the highest possession per match with 3m 54s, with **Fiji** only averaging 3m 15s. **New Zealand** and **England** achieved the highest proportion of possession with 54 per cent and **Fiji** had the least proportion of possession with 46 per cent.

	Own avg possession	%	Opp avg possession	%
NZL	03:54	54%	03:21	46%
SCO	03:50	53%	03:26	47%
ENG	03:48	54%	03:14	46%
CAN	03:39	52%	03:19	48%
KEN	03:38	50%	03:40	50%
USA	03:36	52%	03:19	48%
POR	03:35	50%	03:33	50%
WAL	03:34	50%	03:30	50%
AUS	03:31	51%	03:22	49%
AVG	03:30	50%	03:30	50%
SAM	03:27	50%	03:28	50%
FRA	03:24	47%	03:48	53%
JPN	03:24	48%	03:39	52%
RSA	03:22	50%	03:21	50%
ARG	03:20	48%	03:35	52%
FJI	03:15	46%	03:52	54%
Non-core teams				
BEL	03:49	52%	03:29	48%
HKG	03:31	47%	04:01	53%
BRA	03:27	47%	03:54	53%
RUS	03:18	46%	03:55	54%
ZIM	02:44	40%	04:09	60%
ASA	02:00	32%	04:20	68%
PNG	01:47	30%	04:05	70%

PASSING

The average number of passes in a game was **64**. The average number of passes by a team was **32** but, not surprisingly, there were major variations around this average.

The table below shows major differences between the teams. Such differences can however partly be explained by the amount of possession obtained by each team – more possession means more passes. If possession is taken into account, therefore, the rate at which each country passed the ball can be far closer. **Japan** had the highest passing rates (passes per minute of possession) and **South Africa** the lowest.

Passing activity can also be measured as the number of passes made per phase (or movement) of play. The frequency at which a team completes five or more passes in one phase or movement of play is reported in the table below. A 5+ passing movement occurs on average once every 8 phases of play. **Japan** had the highest frequency of 5+ passing movements and **South Africa** had the lowest, completing a 5+ passing movement only once every 18.9 movements.

	Passing rate	Avg passes		Movements with 5+ passes
JPN	5.6	36.2	JPN	5.4
SCO	5.8	39.5	WAL	5.6
WAL	6	35.4	SCO	6.7
CAN	6.2	35	CAN	6.8
SAM	6.2	33.2	FJI	6.9
AUS	6.3	33.2	SAM	7.2
ENG	6.3	36.1	FRA	7.5
USA	6.5	33.3	ENG	7.6
AVG	6.6	32.1	NZL	8.0
NZL	7	33.6	AVG	8.0
FJI	7.1	27.6	USA	9.1
FRA	7.1	29	POR	9.2
POR	7.3	29.3	AUS	9.3
KEN	7.4	29.5	KEN	11.3
ARG	7.6	26.3	ARG	12.7
RSA	7.8	25.8	RSA	18.9
Non-core teams				
BEL	5.3	43.6	BEL	5.0
BRA	5.7	36.3	ZIM	5.1
ZIM	5.7	28.8	PNG	7.0
ASA	5.9	20.4	ASA	7.6
PNG	5.9	18	RUS	7.8
RUS	6	32.8	BRA	8.0
HKG	6.8	31	HKG	12.0

RUCKS AND MAULS

The average number of rucks and mauls in a game was **17**. The average number of ruck and mauls by a team was **nine** but, not surprisingly, there were major variations around this average.

The table below shows major differences in the average number of rucks created by each team. Some of this can be explained by the amount of possession obtained by each team. If this is taken into account, the rate at which each country rucked is far closer, as also shown in the table. This expresses rucks as 'rucks per minute possession'. **Argentina** had the highest rucking rate and **Fiji** the lowest.

	Rucking rate	Avg rucks
ARG	21.4	9.3
KEN	21.6	10.1
JPN	21.7	9.4
CAN	21.9	10.0
SCO	22.6	10.2
AUS	22.9	9.2
RSA	22.9	8.8
ENG	23.5	9.7
AVG	24.5	8.6
POR	25.0	8.6
SAM	25.0	8.3
USA	25.1	8.6
NZL	26.0	9.0
FRA	27.2	7.5
WAL	27.5	7.8
FJI	48.2	4.1
Non-core teams		
RUS	17.6	11.2
HKG	19.2	11.0
BEL	21.2	10.8
ASA	23.1	5.2
BRA	24.3	8.5
ZIM	32.8	5.0
PNG	38.2	2.8

RUCK SUCCESS

At the breakdown, the team taking in the ball retained possession by either winning the ball or being awarded a penalty on **80 per cent** of occasions. The percentage success rate of each team in attack and defence is shown below. In attack **New Zealand and Australia** had the highest success at own rucks while **Wales** had the least. In defence, **South Africa** had the highest success at opponents' rucks, while **Argentina** had the least.

	% Success own rucks	% Success opp rucks
NZL	84%	25%
AUS	84%	19%
KEN	83%	19%
USA	83%	22%
ARG	82%	15%
RSA	82%	27%
SCO	81%	22%
CAN	80%	20%
AVG	80%	20%
ENG	79%	22%
FJI	79%	20%
FRA	78%	19%
SAM	78%	19%
JPN	75%	18%
POR	75%	16%
WAL	72%	20%
Non-core teams		
HKG	85%	21%
ZIM	84%	20%
BEL	81%	12%
BRA	75%	19%
RUS	71%	8%
ASA	68%	14%
PNG	43%	16%

KICKING

Kicks comprises of all kicks made in general play including punts, chips, ground (i.e. football kick) and grubber kicks. The average number of kicks in a game was **two**. As can be seen in the table, **Argentina** were most likely to kick while **Canada** kicked the least.

	Avg kicks
ARG	2.1
RSA	1.8
POR	1.4
WAL	1.3
AUS	1.3
SAM	1.1
FJI	1.1
AVG	1.1
NZL	1.0
JPN	1.0
SCO	1.0
ENG	0.9
FRA	0.9
KEN	0.8
USA	0.7
CAN	0.4
Non-core teams	
HKG	2.2
BRA	1.9
ASA	1.4
BEL	1.4
RUS	1.4
ZIM	1.2
PNG	0.8

RESTARTS

Restarts are the most common set pieces in rugby sevens with an average of 6.8 restarts per match. Restarts have been classified into two types, contestable and non-contestable: **72 per cent** of restarts kicks were contestable (kicked short) and **28 per cent** of restarts kicks were non-contestable (kicked long).

Retention rates reflect the number of times that possession was retained at contestable restarts – they varied considerably. Overall, of all contestable restarts, the kicking team regained **one in three** restarts. **Fiji** kicked the highest percentage of contestable restarts, and **USA** were the most successful in regaining their own short restarts. **New Zealand** were most likely to kick a non-contestable restart and **South Africa** were the least likely to regain possession from their own short restarts. There was a restart error once in every **13.3** restarts. **Australia** and **Kenya** made a restart error one in every 9.2.

	% Contestable restarts		% Restarts regained
FJI	90%	USA	41%
SCO	88%	CAN	40%
CAN	83%	AUS	40%
POR	83%	POR	38%
ENG	82%	NZL	37%
USA	81%	JPN	37%
AUS	74%	ARG	36%
WAL	73%	SAM	36%
AVG	72%	WAL	36%
SAM	70%	FJI	35%
FRA	70%	AVG	34%
ARG	64%	KEN	33%
KEN	63%	ENG	31%
JPN	60%	SCO	22%
RSA	51%	FRA	22%
NZL	49%	RSA	19%
Non-core teams			
BEL	100%	BEL	56%
RUS	80%	HKG	50%
ZIM	78%	BRA	33%
BRA	70%	ZIM	14%
ASA	60%	RUS	13%
HKG	44%	AMS	0%
PNG	43%	PNG	0%

SCRUMS AND LINEOUTS

Overall scrum success was **94 per cent** and overall lineout success was **79 per cent**. The following table shows the success rates for each team on their own put-in/throw-in and on their opposition's put-in/throw-in. **Samoa, Australia** and **Wales** won 99 per cent of their scrum put-ins and **Wales, New Zealand** and **Canada** won 88 per cent of their lineout throw-ins.

	Scrum success		Lineout success
SAM	99%	WAL	88%
AUS	99%	NZL	88%
WAL	99%	CAN	88%
ENG	98%	FRA	87%
RSA	98%	ENG	84%
FJI	97%	AUS	81%
KEN	96%	ARG	80%
POR	96%	USA	79%
AVG	96%	AVG	79%
CAN	96%	RSA	78%
FRA	96%	FJI	78%
SCO	95%	KEN	74%
ARG	95%	JPN	73%
JPN	95%	SAM	71%
USA	94%	SCO	71%
NZL	93%	POR	70%
Non-core teams		Non-core teams	
BEL	100%	BEL	75%
BRA	100%	HKG	75%
ZIM	100%	BRA	72%
RUS	93%	PNG	50%
HKG	88%	RUS	50%
PNG	75%	ZIM	50%
ASA	70%	ASA	33%

PENALTIES, FREE KICKS AND CARDS

The average number of penalties and free kicks per game was **six**. What needs to be noted that absolute statistics and averages do not necessarily reflect the true degree of discipline or ill-discipline of a particular team. The number of penalties can, for example, vary from match to match. Some referees penalise more than others. A better and probably more accurate indicator, therefore, is the proportion of penalties conceded by a team in all their matches compared with their opponents. Each team's proportion for and against can be seen in the below table together with the totals. It shows that **eight** teams were awarded more penalties than they conceded. Of the core teams, **Kenya** were penalised the least and **Portugal** the most.

Of all penalties awarded, **79 per cent** were awarded at the breakdown, with **55 per cent** of the penalties for the attacking team and **45 per cent** against the attacking team.

	Avg pen and FK against	% PK against	% PK for	Cards
KEN	2.5	58%	42%	7
NZL	2.9	54%	46%	8
USA	2.9	54%	46%	10
ENG	3.0	52%	48%	11
SCO	3.0	56%	44%	5
ARG	3.1	50%	50%	7
FJI	3.1	49%	51%	13
JPN	3.1	48%	52%	6
AVG	3.2	50%	50%	8.9
CAN	3.3	47%	53%	2
FRA	3.3	45%	55%	8
SAM	3.3	46%	54%	16
AUS	3.4	47%	53%	9
RSA	3.5	51%	49%	13
WAL	3.5	46%	55%	12
POR	3.6	48%	52%	7
Non-core teams				
HKG	2.4	56%	44%	0
PNG	2.4	52%	48%	4
BEL	3.0	50%	50%	0
RUS	3.2	39%	62%	0
ZIM	3.4	49%	52%	0
ASA	3.6	38%	62%	3
BRA	3.8	46%	54%	3

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