

Generic information

U20 Championship: Did you know...? <https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/425370>

U20 Championship: The story so far (review and stats from previous editions)

<https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/423534>

Disciplinary update: <https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/429067>

The current number of U20 Championship graduates is 655 – including eight who featured in the 2018 edition in France

The numbers game : U20 Championship finals – <https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/431642>

FINAL

AUSTRALIA v FRANCE

Played 6 – Australia 3-3 France

22/06/2008 – France 21-42 Australia (Fifth place play-off)

18/06/2011 – Australia 25-31 France

26/06/2011 – France 17-30 Australia (Third place play-off)

12/06/2012 – France 31-7 Australia

17/06/2012 – France 19-17 Australia (Fifth place play-off)

20/06/2014 – France 27-34 Australia (Fifth place play-off)

- This is the first time the sides have met in the final
- It is the first meeting between the sides in five years
- An average of 50 points are scored in matches involving these two sides
- Both sides are playing in their second final. **Australia** lost 62-17 to New Zealand in Rosario in 2010, while **France** beat England to lift the trophy last year
- Nine players from **Australia's** 2010 final appearance have gone on to play test rugby in Paul Alo-Emile (SAM), Greg Peterson (USA), Liam Gill, captain Jake Schatz, Nic White, Matt To'omua, Dom Shipperley, Luke Morahan and Luke Jones. Jono Lance was also an unused replacement in one test
- **Australia** are bidding to become only the fifth team to have their name inscribed on the trophy after New Zealand, England, South Africa and France
- **Australia** captain Fraser McReight and **France** fly-half Louis Carbonel are nominated for the Breakthrough Player of the Tournament 2019 alongside Argentina captain Juan Pablo Castro and South Africa scrum-half Jaden Hendrikse
- **Australia** have proved an irresistible attacking force this year, scoring the most tries (20), making most clean breaks (63 – 10 more than France) and beating most defenders (159)
- **Australia** have conceded the second-most penalties in the tournament with 47
- **Australia** are the only team to have conceded two red cards in Argentina (number eight Patrick Tafa v England on MD3 and scrum-half Michael McDonald v Argentina on MD4). Both are free to play in the final (<https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/429067>)
- **Australia** hooker Lachlan Lonergan is free to play in the final after the citing against him for striking Argentina number eight Juan Bautista Pedemonte with the shoulder was dismissed (<https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/429067>)

- **Australia** centre Noah Lolesio received a High-Risk Contact Technique Warning following the semi-final against Argentina (<https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/429067>)
- **Australia** are one of four teams to have ran more than 2,000 metres with ball in hand (and are fourth in that category)
- **Australia's** Semisi Tupou is in line to set a new record for most U20 Championship matches. Alongside Argentina's Gonzalo Garcia and Georgia captain Tedo Abzhandadze, he has played in 14 matches, a total currently shared by 10 players
- **Australia's** Isaac Lucas has beaten 23 defenders, putting him second behind Argentina's Ignacio Mendy
- **Australia's** Harry Wilson is joint second for tackles made with 60
- **Australia** became the third nation to score 250 tries in U20C history in win over Ireland
- **Australia** have made two personnel and one positional change to their starting line-up from the semi-final win over Argentina. Will Harrison returns at fly-half after sitting out the win with concussion, Mark Nawaqanitawase switches to the left wing with Triton Reilly taking the vacated right-wing berth
- **Australia's** U20C graduates have accumulated the most test caps with 1,245
- **Australia** have capped 49 U20C and one U20 Trophy graduates with Will Genia the most-capped (100 tests)
- **Australia** have three of the four U20 graduates to have played more than 90 tests (Genia, Rob Simmons and Michael Hooper)
- **Australia** won the Oceania Rugby U20 Championship for the first time last month, beating New Zealand 24-0 in the final round title decider
- **Australia** have eight players returning from 2018: Trevor Hosea, Esei Ha'angana, Michael Wood, Fraser McReight, Patrick Tafa, Will Harrison, Semisi Tupou and Isaac Lucas
- **Australia's** Semisi Tupou is playing in his third U20 Championship in Argentina, having been the youngest player at U20C 2017 in Georgia
- **France** have made the most carries in the tournament with 546 and most metres (2,333)
- **France** have kicked the most drop goals in U20C history with 10 (no drop goals have been kicked in 2019)
- **France** reached 200 tries in U20C history during win over Wales on MD2
- **France's** Jordan Joseph is top try scorer in the tournament with five
- **France's** Louis Carbonel was top point scorer in 2018 with 60 point and is currently fourth in 2019 with 38 points, seven behind England's Josh Hodge. Carbonel needs two points to become the seventh player to score 100 in the U20 Championship
- **France's** Donovan Taofifenua has made more metres than any other player (445) and is joint-top for offloads with nine
- **France** flanker Sacha Zegueur received a three-week (match) suspension following his red card against Argentina on MD3 (<https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/429067>)
- **France** have named an unchanged starting line-up from the semi-final win over South Africa
- **France** are the defending champions, having won the title for the first time on home soil in 2018 with a 33-25 defeat of England
- Two members of that squad – Romain Ntamack and Demba Bamba – have made their test debuts for **France** since
- Five others who played in that final for **France** – Jean-Baptiste Gros, Killian Geraci, Jordan Joseph, Louis Carbonel and Arthur Vincent will start the 2019 title decider as well
- Louis Carbonel scored 23 of **France's** 33 points in the 2019 final with one conversion and seven penalties
- **France** number eight Jordan Joseph was named Player of the Tournament last year, aged only 17

France have 59 capped U20C graduates, second only to Argentina (67). Yoann Maestri is France's most capped graduate with 65 tests

- **France's** Donovan Taofifenua is the cousin of Romain and Sebastien, who both played in U20 Championship and have played test rugby for France since. Romain played in 2010 in Argentina
- **France** have seven players returning from last year: Jean-Baptiste Gros, Killian Geraci, Jordan Joseph, Sacha Zeguer, Louis Carbonel, Arthur Vincent and Mathis Lebel. It will be the third tournament for Killian Geraci who also played in 2017

Key graduates:

AUS – David Pocock, Will Genia, Michael Hooper, Rob Simmons, Reece Hodge

FRA – Yoann Maestri, Mathieu Bastareaud, Gael Fickou, Kevin Gourdon

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

ARGENTINA v SOUTH AFRICA

Played 4 – South Africa 2-2 Argentina

17/06/2012 – Argentina 3-35 South Africa (Semi-final)

11/06/2016 – South Africa 13-19 Argentina

25/06/2016 – Argentina 49-19 South Africa (Third place play-off)

08/06/2017 – Argentina 14-72 South Africa

- **Argentina** captain Juan Pablo Castro (misses final match through injury) and **South Africa** scrum-half Jaden Hendrikse are nominated for the Breakthrough Player of the Tournament 2019 alongside Australia captain Fraser McReight and France fly-half Louis Carbonel
- The 72 points scored by **South Africa** in their last U20 Championship meeting with **Argentina** was their joint fifth highest score in the tournament's history (108 v USA is their record score)
- **Argentina** defeated **South Africa** 34-33 in a four-team International Series in Paarl, South Africa, in April
- The only other bronze medal match between these sides went the way of **Argentina**, 49-19, in 2016 (the second most points Argentina have scored in a U20C – the record is 53 v Samoa)
- **Argentina** have conceded the most penalties in the tournament (51) and have had three men yellow carded and one sent off – Rodrigo Isdro received no further sanction after being ordered off v France on MD3 (<https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/429067>)
- **Argentina** number eight Juan Bautista Pedemonte is the tournament's most prolific ball carrier with 63 – 13 more than next best Dylan Richardson of **South Africa**
- **Argentina** full-back Ignacio Mendy has beaten more defenders (24) than any other player and is second for metres made (407)
- **Argentina's** Joaquin de la Vega Mendoza has scored 37 points – only eight behind England's Josh Hodge who leads the way with 45
- **Argentina's** Gonzalo Garcia is in line to set a new record for most U20 Championship matches. Alongside Georgia's Tedo Abzhandadze and Australia's Semisi Tupou, he has played in 14 matches, a total currently shared by 10 players
- **Argentina** have made four changes to the starting line-up from MD4. Estanislao Carullo and Jeronimo Gomez Vara come into forward pack, while Tomas Acosta Pimentel and Francisco Jorge come into backs. Gonzalo Garcia assumes captaincy with Juan Pablo Castro injured
- **Argentina** are the third nation to host the U20 Championship twice (after Italy and France), having hosted the 2010 tournament in Rosario, Santa Fe and Parana
- **Argentina** have capped the most U20 Championship graduates with 67, who between them have won more than 1,200 caps (second only to Australia)
- **Argentina's** most-capped graduate is Martin Landajo (83 tests)
- **Argentina** are bidding for their second bronze medal
- **Argentina's** best finish in U20C history is third in 2016. Their other semi-final was in 2012
- **Argentina** scored their 150th try in U20C history in round one loss to Wales
- **Argentina** won the only U20C match to require a kicking competition to decide the winner (v Wales in 2010)
- **Argentina's** Ignacio Mendy's father Cristian played 16 tests for Argentina 1987-91
- **Argentina** have seven players returning from 2018: Ignacio Mendy, Gonzalo Garcia, Joaquin de la Vega Mendoza, Santiago Chocobares, Juan Pablo Castro, Matteo Carreras and Bautista Pedemonte

- **South Africa** are bidding for their eighth bronze medal and their third in a row
- **South Africa** became the second nation to score 300 U20C tries (behind NZL) with their first v Georgia on MD2
- **South Africa** fly-half James Mollentze misses the third place play-off as he is automatically suspended for one match having received two (or more) Technique Warnings in the tournament. (<https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/429067>)
- Having received six yellow cards in their first three matches, **South Africa** did not receive one against France on MD4
- **South Africa** have the best tackle completion rate (86 per cent)
- **South Africa** have the joint-lowest goal-kicking success rate (62 per cent) in the competition
- **South Africa** scrum-half Jaden Hendrikse is sixth top point scorer with 36 – nine behind Josh Hodge (England)
- **South Africa** have made six changes to their starting line-up from the semi-final. Prop Kudzwai Dube, flankers Jaco Labuschagne and Celimpilo Gumede, scrum-half Sanele Nohamba, fly-half David Coetzer and centre David Kriel coming in.
- **South Africa** have five players returning from 2018: Asenathi Ntlabakanye, Phendulani Buthelezi, David Coetzer, Rikus Pretorius and Marnus Potgeiter
- **South Africa** have capped 47 U20C graduates with Eben Etzebeth (75 tests) the most capped.
- **South Africa's** Emile van Heerden is the son of former Springbok Fritz van Heerden who played 14 tests from 1994-99

Key graduates:

ARG – Martin Landajo, Nicolas Sanchez, Facundo Isa, Pablo Matera, Emiliano Boffelli, Tomas Cubelli

RSA – Handré Pollard, Siya Kolisi, Pieter-Steph du Toit, Eben Etzebeth, Jesse Kriel, Malcolm Marx

FIFTH PLACE PLAY-OFF

ENGLAND v WALES

Played 3 – England leads 3-0

U20 Six Nations 2019 – Wales 11-10 England in Colwyn Bay in February

WAL – Deon Smith 1T; Cai Evans 2P

ENG – Rusiate Tuima 1T; Josh Hodge 1C; Kieran Wilkinson 1P

23/06/2013 – Wales 15-23 England (Final)

06/06/2015 – England 30-16 Wales

04/06/2017 – England 34-22 Wales

- **England** have never lost to Wales in three attempts at the U20 Championship, but Wales have won three of the last five U20 Six Nations matches, including 11-10 in 2019
- **England** won the first six meetings between these sides at this level (all competitions) but they only lead 4-3 in the head-to-head record in the seven matches since
- **England** need 16 points to become the third side behind New Zealand and South Africa to score 2,000 U20 Championship points
- **England's** Josh Hodge is the tournament's leading point scorer in (45 points)
- **England** have the second-best goal-kicking success rate at the tournament with 92 per cent
- **England** have yet to miss a penalty attempt at goal
- **England** have conceded the fewest penalties (28) this tournament, at an average of only seven per match
- **England's** tally of five yellow cards is only beaten by South Africa
- **England** are the only team to still be 100% on their own scrum put in
- **England** have made three personnel and one positional change to the starting line-up. Prop James Kenny and number eight Tom Willis come into pack with Ted Hill shifting to six. Luke James replaces the suspended Cameron Redpath at 12.
- **England's** Alfie Barbeary received a five-match suspension after being ordered off for a dangerous tackle on MD1 v Ireland (<https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/429067>)
- **England's** Cameron Redpath received a six-match suspension after being cited for biting against Ireland on MD4 (<https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/429067>)
- **England's** Thomas Willis' brother Jack was part of their last U20C winning team in 2016
- **England's** most-capped U20 graduate is Ben Youngs with 87 caps (ENG/Lions). He is one of 44 U20C graduates for England
- **England** have seven players returning from 2018: Joe Heyes, Joel Kpoku, Josh Basham, Ted Hill, Aaron Hinkley, Tom Willis and Fraser Dingwall
- **England's** Ted Hill is one of only three players in the U20 Championship 2019 to have already made their test debuts – v Japan in November 2018 (others are Tedo Abzhandadze and Vano Karkadze of Georgia)
- **England** have the most family connections of any team in the U20 Championship 2019, including Manu Vunipola as cousin of Billy and Mako Vunipola, sons of former England internationals Jon Sleightholme (Ollie) and Phil de Glanville (Tom) and son of former Scotland captain Bryan Redpath (Cameron)
- Rus Tuima is also the nephew of Fijian star Akapusi Qera, the sister of England international Lagi Tuima and the cousin of England's Joe Cokanasiga
- **Wales'** Aneurin Owen has been ruled out of the tournament with concussion suffered on MD1, he has been replaced by Ioan Rhys Davies (Ioan R Davies on team sheets)
- **Wales** are one of only three teams yet to receive a card of any description
- **Wales** have made the most tackles in the tournament (642), at an average of 128 per match

- **Wales** are one of only three teams yet to receive a card of any description; their tally of 30 penalties conceded is only beaten by England
- **Wales** centre Tiaan Thomas-Wheeler received a High-Risk Contact Technique Warning arising from MD4 but if free to play after challenging his automatic one-match suspension (<https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/429067>)
- **Wales'** goal-kicking success rate of 63 per cent is the second-lowest at the tournament
- **Wales'** Cai Evans is in contention to be the tournament's top point scorer. Evans, the son of Wales and Lions legend Ieuan, is currently third with 40 – five behind England's Josh Hodge. He needs only 14 points to become the seventh centurion in U20 Championship history. Louis Carbonel of France is on 98 points and could beat him there.
- Two of the top three tacklers in the tournament are from **Wales** – Tommy Reffell (first, 66) and Jac Morgan (second equal, 60)
- **Wales** have made six personnel and one positional change to starting line-up. Props Rhys Davies and Nick English, second-row Ed Scragg and flanker Iestyn Rees come into pack, Harri Morgan returns for first start at scrum-half since MD1 (bench v NZL) with Deon Smith moving to 13 and Tom Lewis taking his place on right wing.
- **Wales** have capped 50 U20 Championship graduates since hosting the inaugural tournament in 2008
- Leigh Halfpenny is **Wales'** most-capped graduate with 81 tests (Wales and Lions)
- **Wales** full-back Cai Evans is the son of former Welsh international and World Rugby Hall of Fame inductee Ieuan Evans. Max Llewellyn is son of Gareth Llewellyn who won 92 caps for Wales and played in three Rugby World Cups. Teddy Williams' father Owain also played two tests for Wales
- **Wales** have 10 players returning from 2018: Rhys Davies, Dewi Lake, Lennon Giggans, Tommy Reffell, Harri Morgan, Cai Evans, Max Llewellyn, Tiaan Thomas-Wheeler, Ryan Conbeer and Rio Dyer

Key graduates:

ENG – Ben Youngs, Courtney Lawes, Owen Farrell, Billy and Mako Vunipola, Elliot Daly

WAL – Sam Warburton, Leigh Halfpenny, Taulupe Faletau, Jonathan Davies, Gareth Davies

SEVENTH PLACE PLAY-OFF

IRELAND v NEW ZEALAND

Played 7 – New Zealand leads 6-1

10/06/2008 – New Zealand 65-10 Ireland
09/06/2009 – Ireland 0-17 New Zealand
13/06/2013 – New Zealand 31-26 Ireland
20/06/2014 – Ireland 23-45 New Zealand (Third place play-off)
10/06/2015 – New Zealand 25-3 Ireland
11/06/2016 – New Zealand 24-33 Ireland
08/06/2017 – Ireland 3-69 New Zealand

- **Ireland's** 17-0 defeat to New Zealand is the only time in U20 Championship history that they have been left scoreless
- **Ireland's** 33-24 win over New Zealand in 2016 – the year they made the final – was the first time an Ireland men's side had beaten New Zealand
- **Ireland** have the best goal-kicking record in the competition (95 per cent), landing 15 out of 15 conversion attempts
- **Ireland's** Ben Healy is in contention to finish at top point scorer with 41 points, four behind England's Josh Hodge
- **Ireland** have had more drop goals kicked against them (seven) than any other team
- **Ireland** have made the second fewest tackles in the tournament (436)
- **Ireland** have lost six players to injury during the tournament
 - OUT: Stewart Moore (shoulder) IN: David Ryan (brother of Ireland international James Ryan)
 - OUT: John Hodnett (knee) IN: Luke Clohessy
 - OUT: Iwan Hughes (finger) IN: Max O'Reilly
 - OUT: Sean French (facial) IN: Aaron O'Sullivan
 - OUT: Ciaran Booth (knee) IN: Brian Deeny
 - OUT: David McCann – No replacement named as of yet
- **Ireland's** Ryan Baird received no sanction after being ordered off against Australia on MD2 (<https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/429067>). He is therefore free to play
- **Ireland** have lost more matches than they have won in U20C history – 28/31
- **Ireland** brought up 150 tries in U20C history on day one v England
- **Ireland** have kicked most penalties in U20C history with 136
- **Ireland** have made seven personnel and one positional change to their starting line-up from MD4: Props Josh Wycherley and Thomas Clarkson, number eight Brian Deeny, wingers Rob Russell and Angus Kernohan, centre Cormac Foley and full-back Max O'Reilly come in with Jake Flannery switching to fly-half
- **Ireland** have two players returning from 2018: Dylan Tierney-Martin and Charlie Ryan
- **Ireland** reached the final in 2016, losing to England, but finished ninth in 2017 and 11th in 2018, needing a last-gasp try to beat Japan and avoid relegation to the U20 Trophy
- **Ireland** have 49 U20C graduates with Conor Murray the most capped (77 tests IRE/Lions)
- **Ireland's** Josh Wycherley's brother Fineen has also played at U20 level for Ireland but not in a U20 Championship
- **New Zealand** are guaranteed to finish in their lowest position in the competition's history, having never finished lower than fifth before (2016)
- **New Zealand** have never lost three consecutive games at an U20 Championship
- There have been 15 **New Zealand** hat-tricks in the U20 Championship and three of them have come against Ireland (Andre Taylor in 2008 and Will Jordan and Caleb Clarke in 2017)

- **New Zealand** average 39 points per match against Ireland at the U20 Championship, while conceding an average of 14
- **New Zealand** have conceded the joint second-most penalties (47) in the competition
- **New Zealand** have the best lineout success rate in the competition (93 per cent)
- **New Zealand** have the joint-best ruck success rate in the competition (97 per cent)
- **New Zealand** made the fewest tackles in the tournament (431)
- **New Zealand** have scored the most points (2,479) and tries (352) in U20C history
- **New Zealand** need **14** points to become the first team to 2,500 points in U20 Championship history
- **New Zealand** became the first team to score 350 tries in U20C history with last try v Scotland on MD2 (scored by Kaylum Boshier)
- **New Zealand** have the best lineout success (92 per cent) in the competition
- **New Zealand** are **two** tries away from conceding 100 in U20C history, easily the lowest of all teams to have played in every tournament
- **New Zealand's** Scott Gregory has been ruled out of the tournament with a heel injury. He is replaced by Chay Fihaki
- **New Zealand's** Devan Flanders has been ruled out of the tournament through injury. He is replaced by James Thompson
- **New Zealand's** George Dyer has been ruled out of the tournament with a torn ligament in a toe that requires surgery. He is replaced by Robb Cobb
- **New Zealand's** Lalomilo Lalomilo is unavailable for MD5 due to concussion
- **New Zealand's** Samipeni Finau has been suspended for four week after being cited for striking with the shoulder/high tackle v Wales (<https://www.world.rugby/u20/news/429067>)
- **New Zealand** have retained only six players from starting line-up that lost to Wales. Tupou Vai'i and Kaylum Boshier – who takes over captaincy – in pack and Taufa Funaki, Leicester Fainga'anuku and Quinn Tupaea (who moves in one to 12)
- **New Zealand** have six players returning from 2018: Leicester Fainga'anuku, Devan Flanders, Scott Gregory, Ollie Norris, Billy Proctor and Kaliopasi Uluilakepa
- Leicester Fainga'anuku's brother Tima won the U20 Championship title in 2017 in Georgia
- Other family connections in **New Zealand's** squad are Billy Proctor and Kaylum Boshier whose brothers Matt and Lachlan have played in U20 Championship, Rivez Reihana is a distant relative of Bruce Reihana and Taine Plumtree's father John is the current Hurricanes coach in Super Rugby
- **New Zealand** have capped 46 U20 graduates since tournament began in 2008 (45 Championship and one U20 Trophy)

Key graduates:

NZL – Beauden Barrett, Sam Whitelock, Brodie Retallick, Sam Cane, Ardie Savea, TJ Perenara

IRE – Conor Murray, Peter O'Mahony, CJ Stander, Jacob Stockdale, Joey Carbery, James Ryan

NINTH PLACE PLAY-OFF

ITALY v GEORGIA

Played 1 – Georgia leads 1-0

20/06/2016 – Georgia 18-17 Italy (Ninth place semi-final)

- **Georgia** are bidding to equal last year's best-ever finish of ninth, having been 10th on their debut in 2016 and 2017
- **Georgia** need six tries for 50 in the U20 Championship
- **Georgia** are the lowest try scorers (8) and point scorers (62) in the competition
- **Georgia** are one of only three teams to have made more than 600 tackles (602)
- **Georgia** are one of the three teams yet to receive a card of any description in 2019
- **Georgia** have made eight changes to starting line-up that beat Fiji. Only second-row Luka Gelashvili and number eight Ioane lashagashvili remain in pack, while Kote Marjanishvili and Irakli Simsive (12) come into backline
- **Georgia** won more matches in 2018 (3) than in their two previous tournaments combined, beating Ireland, Japan and Scotland. Their other scalps were Italy (2016) and Argentina (2017)
- **Georgia** scrum-half Mikehil Alania will be automatically suspended for this match if his coach does not review the player's tackling technique to the satisfaction of the Citing Commissioner in order to have his first warning removed.
- **Georgia** have two of the three test-capped players in the tournament in captain Tedo Abzhandadze and Vano Karkadze (England's Ted Hill is the other)
- **Georgia** scrum-half Gela Aprasidze's try v Ireland in 2017 was nominated for IPRA Try of the Year at the World Rugby Awards
- **Georgia** have nine players returning from 2018: Tedo Abzhandadze, Mikheil Alania, Luka Azariashvili, Luka Gelashvili, Gia Kharaishvili, Lasha Lomidze, Kote Marjanishvili, Demur Tapladze and Teimuraz Tchitchinadze
- Aged just 17 years and 227 days on the first day of the tournament, **Georgia's** Dachi Papunashvili is the youngest player competing in Argentina
- **Georgia** have 42 U20 graduates: eight from U20C (including Abzhandadze) and 34 from Trophy. Most capped is Lasha Khmaladze (U20T graduate, 73 tests)
- Three players in **Georgia's** squad have fathers who have played for their country at test level in Kote Marjanishvili (father Merab), Mikhael Alania (father Kakha) and Ioseb Gusharashvili (father Alexi).
- Head coach Ilia Maisuradze's brother Simon has also played for the Lelos like him, including as a replacement against New Zealand at RWC 2015
- This is **Italy's** 50th match in the U20 Championship
- **Italy** are guaranteed to be in the U20 Championship for a seventh year
- **Italy** scored their 100th U20 Championship try in the 26-19 win over Scotland
- With a success rate of just 62 per cent, **Italy** have the joint-worst goal-kicking record in the tournament
- **Italy** have made the second-most tackles (616) behind Wales (642)
- **Italy** have made two changes to starting line-up with prop Matteo Nocera and number eight Antoine Koffi coming in
- **Italy** recorded their best-ever finish in U20C history in both 2017 and 2018 (eighth)
- **Italy's** five U20C appearances before 2017 had seen them involved in the relegation play-off each time, they won four but were relegated to U20 Trophy in 2012 after losing to Fiji

- Each time they have been relegated, **Italy** bounced back at the first attempt by winning the U20 Trophy the following year
- **Italy** have capped 54 U20 graduates (46 from the Championship and eight from the Trophy) with Edoardo Gori the most capped with 69 tests
- **Italy** need three tries to reach 100 in U20C history
- **Italy** have seven players returning from 2018: Matteo Nocera, Niccolo' Taddia, Davide Ruggeri, Antoine Koffi, Alessandro Fusco, Damiano Mazza and Matteo Moscardi
- **Italy's** defeat to Australia in 2018 featured only Ruggeri in the starting line-up, although Taddia, Fusco, Koffi and Nocera came off the bench
- **Italy's** Federico Mori is the nephew of Fabrizio Mori, the former 400m hurdler world champions (1999) and Olympian. Team-mate Matteo Moscardi's uncle Alessandro is the former Italy hooker and captain

Key graduates:

ITA – Edoardo Gori, Tommaso Benvenuti, Matteo Minozzi, Michele Campagnaro, Andrea Lovotti, Jake Polledri

GEO – Gela Aprasidze, Lasha Khmaladze (U20T), Viktor Kolelishvili (U20T), Beka Tsiklauri (U20T)

ELEVENTH PLACE PLAY-OFF

SCOTLAND v FIJI

Played 1 – Scotland leads 1-0

17/06/2009 – Scotland 39-26 Fiji (Ninth place semi-final)

- No Home Nation (England, Wales, **Scotland** or Ireland) has ever been relegated before
- This is the second time that a Home Nation has contested the 11th place play-off (Ireland survived last year's shootout with Japan)
- **Scotland** are guaranteed their lowest ever finish, having never placed lower than 10th
- This is the first U20 Championship meeting between the sides in 10 years
- **Scotland** hooker Ewan Ashman is bidding to become the first front-row player to be tournament top try-scorer (he is joint top with France number eight Jordan Joseph on five tries)
- **Scotland** are one of only three teams yet to receive a card of any description in 2019
- **Scotland** have yet to attempt a kick at goal from a penalty
- **Scotland's** Cameron Henderson has made the most lineout catches (21)
- **Scotland's** Robbie McCallum received a High-Risk Contact Technique Warning arising from the match against Italy on MD4
- **Scotland** have capped 52 U20C graduates with Stuart Hogg the most capped with 67 tests
- **Scotland** have four players returning from 2018: Murphy Walker, Ewan Johnson, Marshall Sykes and Ross Thompson
- **Scotland's** Murphy Walker is the nephew of former Scotland centre and U20 head coach Sean Lineen
- **Scotland** coach Carl Hogg will leave after the U20 Championship to join Glasgow Warriors
- **Scotland** have made four changes, two positional, from loss to Italy. Ross Bundy comes into second-row and Matt Davidson at full-back. Cameron Anderson shifts from full-back to outside-centre with Rory McMichael switching to right-wing from 13.
- **Fiji** have the third-best goal-kicking success rate in the competition of 79 per cent
- **Fiji** have made the most offloads in the competition (58)
- **Fiji** have the joint-best ruck success rate with 97 per cent
- **Fiji's** Epeli Momo has made the most clean breaks (10)
- **Fiji's** Alifereti Loaloa has made the joint-most offloads (9)
- **Fiji's** Vilve Miramira was ruled out of the tournament with injury after MD3. He was replaced by Yabaki Seeto
- **Fiji's** Meli Tuni has been out of the tournament with injury after MD2. He was replaced by Osea Natoga
- **Fiji** have made fifth personnel and one positional change since loss to Georgia. Flanker Yabaki Seeto, scrum-half Simione Kuruvoli, centres Isaac Ratumaitavuki and Veresa Tuqovu, and winger Kaminieli Rasaku come in. Osea Natoga switches from right to left-wing
- **Fiji** returned to the U20 Championship for the first time since 2014 after winning the World Rugby U20 Trophy 2018 in Romania with a record 58-8 defeat of Samoa in the final
- **Fiji** finished third at the recent Oceania Rugby U20 Championship, beating Japan and losing to Australia and New Zealand
- **Fiji** are coached by former Flying Fijians prop Kele Leawere, assistant coach at the U20 Trophy for the last four years who played 26 tests for Fiji from 2002-09
- **Fiji** have six players returning from their U20 Trophy squad in 2018: Joseva Nasaroa, Livai Natave, Tevita Ikanivere, Manoa Moceluto, Simione Kuruvoli and Caleb Muntz

- Two members of **Fiji's** winning team in 2018 have lit up the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series this season in Meli Derenalagi and Vilimoni Botitu
- **Fiji** have 21 U20 graduates, 18 from the Championship and three from the U20 Trophy. Their most-capped graduate is Manasa Saulo (40 tests)

Key graduates:

SCO – Richie Gray, Stuart Hogg, Finn Russell, Ali Price, Ryan Wilson, Hamish Watson, Stuart McInally

FIJ – Nemani Nadolo, Manasa Saulo, Semi Radradra, Frank Lomani (U20 Trophy)