

Men's internationals – 1-2 February

World Rugby Men's Rankings highlights:

- England cannot climb from third place
- Three teams – Wales, Ireland and France – could end the weekend fourth
- Scotland could equal their highest ever ranking of fifth
- Spain could climb to their highest ever position in 15th
- Romania could climb above Georgia for the first time since November 2013

SIX NATIONS

WALES (4) 85.02 v ITALY (12) 72.04 (Saturday)

Wales to win by 15 points or less – Wales 85.02, Italy 72.04 (No change)

Wales to win by more than 15 points – Wales 85.02, Italy 72.04 (No change)

Draw – Wales 84.02, Italy 73.04

Italy to win by 15 points or less – Wales 83.02, Italy 74.04

Italy to win by more than 15 points – Wales 82.02, Italy 75.04

Head to head:

Played: 27 – Wales leads 24-2 with one draw

Points for: Wales 912 / Italy 436

Average score: Wales 33-16 Italy

First met: 12 October, 1994 – Wales 29-19 Italy – Cardiff Arms Park

Most recent meeting: 9 February, 2019 – Wales 26-15 Italy – Stadio Olimpico, Rome

- With no rating points awarded to them for a win, Wales cannot climb any higher
- Defeat for Wales – in tandem with an Ireland win – would see them drop to fifth
- Wales will drop another place to sixth if France also beat England by more than 15
- Italy cannot improve their position, even with a win by more than 15 points, as they trail Fiji by nearly four rating points

IRELAND (5) 84.45 v SCOTLAND (9) 79.23 (Saturday)

Ireland to win by 15 points or less – Ireland 84.62, Scotland 79.06

Ireland to win by more than 15 points – Ireland 84.71, Scotland 78.97

Draw – Ireland 83.62, Scotland 80.06

Scotland to win by 15 points or less – Ireland 82.62, Scotland 81.06

Scotland to win by more than 15 points – Ireland 81.71, Scotland 81.97

Head to head:

Played: 136 – Scotland leads 67-64 with five draws

Points for: Ireland 1,574 / Scotland 1,431

Average score: Ireland 11-10 Scotland

First met: 19 February, 1877 – Ireland 0-0 Scotland (winners) – Ormeau, Belfast

Most recent meeting: 22 September, 2019 – RWC 2019 – Ireland 27-3 Scotland – Yokohama, Japan

- Ireland cannot climb from fifth unless they win and Wales lose to lower-ranked Italy
 - Scotland will climb above their RWC 2019 conquerors Japan in victory – and France if Les Bleus also lose to England
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- Scotland could match their highest ranking of fifth if they win by more than 15 points and France lose at home to England
- Ireland would fall to seventh in this instance

FRANCE (7) 80.88 v ENGLAND (3) 88.82 (Sunday)

France to win by 15 points or less – France 82.37, England 87.32

France to win by more than 15 points – France 83.12, England 86.58

Draw – France 81.37, England 88.32

England to win by 15 points or less – France 80.37, England 89.32

England to win by more than 15 points – France 80.12, England 89.58

Head to head:

Played: 105 – England leads 58-40 with seven draws

Points for: France 1,336 / England 1,702

Average score: France 10-16 England

First met: 23 March, 1906 – England 35-8 France – Parc des Princes, Paris

Most recent meeting: 10 February, 2019 – England 44-8 France - Twickenham

- England cannot climb any higher than their present position of third
- They also are guaranteed to remain in third with a defeat by more than 15 points
- France will move about Australia into sixth with victory
- It is possible for France to climb as high as fourth but this would need them to beat England by more than 15 points and both Wales and Ireland lose at home
- France will fall one place if they lose and Scotland beat Ireland in Dublin

RUGBY EUROPE CHAMPIONSHIP

RUSSIA (20) 63.09 v SPAIN (16) 68.16 (Saturday)

Russia to win by 15 points or less – Russia 64.30, Spain 66.96

Russia to win by more than 15 points – Russia 64.90, Spain 66.35

Draw – Russia 63.30, Spain 67.96

Spain to win by 15 points or less – Russia 62.30, Spain 68.96

Spain to win by more than 15 points – Russia 61.90, Spain 69.35

Head to head:

Played: 22 – Russia leads 16-6

Points for: Russia 627 / Spain 487

Average score: Russia 28-22 Spain

First met: 10 April, 1994 – Russia 16-9 Spain – Ciudad Universitaria, Madrid

Most recent meeting: 10 February, 2019 – Spain 16-14 Russia – Estadio Central, Madrid

- Russia will remain in 20th whatever the outcome of the match is in Sochi
 - Spain can only improve their position – to a new high of 15th – if they win by more than 15 points and Georgia lose by the same margin to Romania
 - Spain will drop two or three places, depending on margin of defeat and result in Tbilisi
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PORTUGAL (24) 61.01 v BELGIUM (27) 55.74 (Saturday)

Portugal to win by 15 points or less – Portugal 61.18, Belgium 55.57
Portugal to win by more than 15 points – Portugal 61.27, Belgium 55.48
Draw – Portugal 60.18, Belgium 56.57
Belgium to win by 15 points or less – Portugal 59.18, Belgium 57.57
Belgium to win by more than 15 points – Portugal 58.27, Belgium 58.48

Head to head:

Played: 14 – Portugal leads 9-3 with two draws
Points for: Portugal 210 / Belgium 164
Average score: Portugal 15-11 Belgium

First met: 24 April, 1966 – Belgium 3-3 Portugal – Brussels

Most recent meeting: 20 May, 2017 – Belgium 29-18 Portugal – Stade Roi Baudouin, Brussels

- Portugal will climb above Namibia and Canada if they win their first match back in the Rugby Europe Championship
- A win by more than 15 points will also lift them above Hong Kong into 21st
- Belgium will remain in 27th with any margin of defeat
- Portugal will drop below the Netherlands in defeat but also Brazil and Belgium if they lose by more than 15 points

GEORGIA (14) 71.26 v ROMANIA (19) 66.69 (Saturday)

Georgia to win by 15 points or less – Georgia 71.51, Romania 66.45
Georgia to win by more than 15 points – Georgia 71.63, Romania 66.33
Draw – Georgia 70.51, Romania 67.45
Romania to win by 15 points or less – Georgia 69.51, Romania 68.45
Romania to win by more than 15 points – Georgia 68.63, Romania 69.33

Head to head:

Played: 23 – Georgia leads 13-9 with one draw
Points for: Georgia 435 / Romania 381
Average score: Georgia 18-16 Romania

First met: 18 November, 1998 – Romania 27-23 Georgia – Lansdowne Road, Dublin, Ireland

Most recent meeting: 9 February, 2019 – Georgia 18-9 Romania – Cluj Arena, Cluj

- Georgia have only lost one match (eight wins, one draw) in last 10 matches v Romania
- Georgia will climb above Tonga if they begin their title defence with a victory
- Romania cannot fall from 19th even with a heavy defeat
- Georgia will drop below Samoa with a narrow defeat – but could drop as low as 17th in event of a loss by more than 15 points and Spanish win by same margin
- A win by more than 15 points would see Romania become the higher ranked of the nations for the first time since November 2013
- Romania could go as high as 15th – for the first time in nearly two years – if they win by this margin and Spain triumph by 15 or less in Russia

The World Rugby Men's Rankings update every Monday at 12:00 GMT
