

## Men's internationals – 8-9 February

### World Rugby Men's Rankings highlights:

- Ireland will swap places with Wales if they win at home
- Wales and Ireland could both replace England as the highest ranked northern hemisphere team
- A Scotland victory will take them above Japan and into the second band of seeds for the RWC 2023 draw
- Georgia will climb above Italy if they win and the Azzurri lose
- Portugal could return to the top 20 for the first time since November 2011
- Spain could climb to their highest ever ranking of 14th

### SIX NATIONS

#### **IRELAND (5) 84.62 v WALES (4) 85.02 (Saturday)**

Ireland win by 15 points or less – Ireland 85.36, Wales 84.28

Ireland win by more than 15 points – Ireland 85.73, Wales 83.91

Draw – Ireland 84.36, Wales 85.28

Wales win by 15 points or less – Ireland 83.36, Wales 86.28

Wales win by more than 15 points – Ireland 82.73, Wales 86.91

#### Head-to-head

Played: 129 – Wales leads 69-53 with seven draws

Points for: Ireland 1,475 / Wales 1,578

Average score: Ireland 11-12 Wales

First meeting: 28 January, 1882 – Ireland 0-0 Wales\* – Lansdowne Road, Dublin

Last meeting: 7 September, 2019 – Ireland 19-10 Wales – Aviva Stadium, Dublin

\* *Wales won by two goals*

- Whoever wins will be the higher ranked of the two teams
- Ireland cannot fall from fifth place even if they lose by more than 15 points as France are unable to improve their rating by beating Italy
- Wales will climb one to third if they win and England lose to Scotland
- Ireland can also occupy third spot if they beat Wales and England lose by more than 15 points to Scotland

#### **SCOTLAND (9) 79.06 v ENGLAND (3) 87.32 (Saturday)**

Scotland win by 15 points or less – Scotland 80.58, England 85.80

Scotland win by more than 15 points – Scotland 81.35, England 85.03

Draw – Scotland 79.58, England 86.80

England win by 15 points or less – Scotland 78.58, England 87.80

England win by more than 15 points – Scotland 78.35, England 88.03

#### Head-to-head

Played: 137 – England leads 75-43 with 19 draws

Points for: Scotland 1,225 / England 1,674

Average score: Scotland 9-12 England

First meeting: 27 March, 1871 – Scotland\* 0-0 England – Raeburn Place, Edinburgh

Last meeting: 16 March, 2019 – England 38-38 Scotland – Twickenham

\* *Scotland won by one goal*

- Scotland will climb above Japan into eighth with any margin of victory
- Seventh is possible if a Scotland win comes in tandem with a France loss to Italy
- England will surrender third place if they lose and Wales win, or if they lose by more than 15 points and Ireland win

### **FRANCE (6) 82.37 v ITALY (12) 72.04 (Sunday)**

France win by 15 points or less – France 82.37, Italy 72.04 (No change)

France win by more than 15 points – France 82.37, Italy 72.04 (No change)

Draw – France 81.37, Italy 73.04

Italy win by 15 points or less – France 80.37, Italy 74.04

Italy win by more than 15 points – France 79.37, Italy 75.04

#### Head-to-head

Played: 42 – France leads 39-3

Points for: France 1,270 / Italy 481

Average score: France 30-12 Italy

First meeting: 17 October, 1937 – France 43-5 Italy – Parc des Princes, Paris

Last meeting: 30 August, 2019 – France 47-19 Italy – Stade de France, Paris

- Neither team can improve their rankings position this weekend
- However, France will drop below Australia in defeat and also Scotland if they beat England
- Italy will drop below Georgia if they lose and the Lelos beat Spain

## **RUGBY EUROPE CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **BELGIUM (27) 55.57 v RUSSIA (20) 61.90 (Saturday)**

Belgium win by 15 points or less – Belgium 56.90, Russia 60.57

Belgium win by more than 15 points – Belgium 57.57, Russia 59.90

Draw – Belgium 55.90, Russia 61.57

Russia win by 15 points or less – Belgium 54.90, Russia 62.57

Russia win by more than 15 points – Belgium 54.57, Russia 62.90

#### Head-to-head

Played: 7 – Russia leads 7-0

Points for: Belgium 110 / Russia 263

Average score: Belgium 16-36 Russia

First meeting: 11 October, 1992 – Russia 17-11 Belgium – Stade du Heysel, Brussels

Last meeting: 6 February, 2019 – Russia 64-7 Belgium – Central Stadium Sochi

- Russia cannot improve their position even if they win by more than 15 points and Romania above them lose by the same margin
- Russia could actually win by that margin and still fall a place if Portugal beat Romania as emphatically
- However, Russia will fall between four and five places with defeat, depending on the margin
- Belgium cannot improve their position even with a win by more than 15 points
- However, Belgium will fall below Germany if they lose by more than 15 points

**PORTUGAL (22) 61.18 v ROMANIA (19) 66.33 (Saturday)**

Portugal win by 15 points or less – Portugal 62.40, Romania 65.11

Portugal win by more than 15 points – Portugal 63.00, Romania 64.51

Draw – Portugal 61.40, Romania 66.11

Romania win by 15 points or less – Portugal 60.40, Romania 67.11

Romania win by more than 15 points – Portugal 60.00, Romania 67.51

Head-to-head

Played: 24 – Romania leads 21-3

Points for: Portugal 233 / Romania 758

Average score: Portugal 10-32 Romania

First meeting: 28 May, 1967 – Romania 6-46 Portugal – Stadium Tapadinho, Lisbon

Last meeting: 10 November, 2018 – Romania 36-6 Portugal – Arena Zimbrilor, Baia Mare

- Romania will climb above Uruguay if they win by more than 15 points
- Portugal will drop below Canada and Namibia again if they lose on home soil – and also the Netherlands if the margin is by more than 15 points
- Portugal will climb above Hong Kong with victory, but must win by more than 15 points or hope that Russia fail to beat Belgium to return to the top 20 for the first time since November 2011
- Romania will still be the higher ranked of the nations, albeit only by 1.51 rating points if Portugal win by more than 15 points

**SPAIN (16) 69.35 v GEORGIA (13) 71.63 (Sunday)**

Spain win by 15 points or less – Spain 70.28, Georgia 70.70

Spain win by more than 15 points – Spain 70.74, Georgia 70.24

Draw – Spain 69.28, Georgia 71.70

Georgia win by 15 points or less – Spain 68.28, Georgia 72.70

Georgia win by more than 15 points – Spain 67.74, Georgia 73.24

Head-to-head

Played: 20 – Georgia leads 16-3 with one draw

Points for: Spain 290 / Georgia 614

Average score: Spain 15-31 Georgia

First meeting: 4 March, 2000 – Spain 36-32 Georgia – Ciudad Universitaria, Madrid

Last meeting: 17 February, 2019 – Georgia 24-10 Spain – Avchala Stadium, Tbilisi

- Georgia will climb above Italy if they win and the Azzurri lose to France in Paris
- Spain will swap places with USA below if they lose by more than 15 points
- Georgia will fall two or three places, depending on the margin of defeat
- They would still be the higher ranked of the two providing the margin if by 15 points or less
- Spain currently occupy their highest position of 16<sup>th</sup> but would to 14<sup>th</sup> if they win by more than 15 points
- Spain have never won on Georgian soil and their last victory over the Lelos (25-18) came on 11 February, 2012 in Madrid

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