

Men's internationals – 22-23 February

World Rugby Men's Rankings highlights:

- Ireland will replace England in third if they win at Twickenham
- England cannot improve their position of third even with an emphatic win
- Wales can return to the top band of seeds for RWC 2023
- France will climb above Wales if they keep their Grand Slam hopes alive
- A victorious Italy will regain 12th place from Georgia and condemn Scotland to their lowest ranking (10th) for four years
- It is possible for Spain to climb to their highest ever position of 15th
- Romania will make their worst-ever start to a Rugby Europe Championship campaign if they lose to Spain

SIX NATIONS

ITALY (13) 72.04 v SCOTLAND (9) 78.58 (Saturday)

Italy win by 15 points or less – Italy 73.40, Scotland 77.23

Italy win by more than 15 points – Italy 74.07, Scotland 76.55

Draw – Italy 72.40, Scotland 78.23

Scotland win by 15 points or less – Italy 71.40, Scotland 79.23

Scotland win by more than 15 points – Italy 71.07, Scotland 79.55

Head-to-head

Played: 30 – Scotland leads 22-8

Points for: Italy 515 / Scotland 749

Average score: Italy 17-24 Scotland

First meeting: 14 December, 1996 – Scotland 29-22 Italy – Murrayfield

Last meeting: 2 February, 2019 – Scotland 33-20 Italy – Murrayfield

- Scotland have won the last seven meetings since Italy's 22-19 win at Murrayfield in February 2015
- Italy will fall below Tonga with a home defeat but can drop no lower than 14th
- The Azzurri will return to 12th place – at Georgia's expense – if they win
- Scotland must win by more than 15 points to climb above Japan into eighth place
- Anything but a win will see Scotland drop below Argentina to occupy their lowest position since February 2016

WALES (5) 84.28 v FRANCE (6) 82.37 (Saturday)

Wales win by 15 points or less – Wales 84.79, France 81.86

Wales win by more than 15 points – Wales 85.04, France 81.61

Draw – Wales 83.79, France 82.86

France win by 15 points or less – Wales 82.79, France 83.86

France win by more than 15 points – Wales 82.04, France 84.61

Head-to-head

Played: 98 – Wales leads 51-44 with three draws

Points for: Wales 1,479 / France 1,419

Average score: Wales 15-14 France

First meeting: 2 March, 1908 – Wales 36-4 France – Cardiff Arms Park

Last meeting: 20 October, 2019 – RWC 2019 – Wales 20-19 France – Oita Stadium, Japan

- France have won only one of their last nine meetings with Wales, 20-18 at Stade de France in 2017
- Their last victory on Welsh soil was 26-20 on 26 February, 2010
- France will drop below Australia in defeat
- Wales will return to the top band of seeds for the RWC 2023 pool draw if they win by more than 15 points and Ireland lose at Twickenham
- A smaller margin of victory will see the same outcome if Ireland lose by more than 15 points at Twickenham
- France will be the higher-ranked of the two teams if they win
- France will close to within a fraction under a tenth of a point of the top band of seeds if they win by more than 15 points and Ireland lose by the same margin

ENGLAND (3) 87.80 v IRELAND (4) 85.36 (Sunday)

England win by 15 points or less – England 88.25, Ireland 84.91

England win by more than 15 points – England 88.48, Ireland 84.68

Draw – England 87.25, Ireland 85.91

Ireland win by 15 points or less – England 86.25, Ireland 86.91

Ireland win by more than 15 points – England 85.48, Ireland 87.68

Head-to-head

Played: 135 – England leads 78-49 with eight draws

Points for: England 1,639 / Ireland 1,151

Average score: England 12-8 Ireland

First meeting: 15 February, 1875 – England* 0-0 Ireland – Kennington Oval, London

Last meeting: 24 August, 2019 – England 57-15 Ireland – Twickenham

* *England won on goals*

- Victory for Ireland would be their 50th test win over England
- England cannot climb any higher than third because they will still trail New Zealand by 3.63 rating points even with an emphatic victory
- Ireland will be the higher ranked of the nations in victory
- England can fall no lower than fourth, even if they lose by more than 15 points and Wales beat France by the same margin

RUGBY EUROPE CHAMPIONSHIP

ROMANIA (19) 65.11 v SPAIN (16) 68.28 (Saturday)

Romania win by 15 points or less – Romania 66.13, Spain 67.26

Romania win by more than 15 points – Romania 66.64, Spain 66.75

Draw – Romania 65.13, Spain 68.26

Spain win by 15 points or less – Romania 64.13, Spain 69.26

Spain win by more than 15 points – Romania 63.64, Spain 69.75

Head-to-head

Played: 37 – Romania leads 33-4

Points for: Romania 1,057 / Spain 375

Average score: Romania 28-10 Spain

First meeting: 1 May, 1958 – Romania 14-12 Spain – Liege, Belgium

Last meeting: 3 March, 2019 – Spain 21-18 Romania – Estadio Nacional Universidad Complutense, Madrid

- Spain have won the last two meetings between the sides with three of their four victories coming in the last eight years
- Spain will slip below USA and Uruguay in defeat
- Spain could climb to a new high of 15th but this would require Los Leones to win by more than 15 points and Georgia to lose by the same margin to Belgium
- Romania cannot improve their position but a victory by more than 15 points would leave them just 11 hundredths behind Spain
- Romania can only fall from 19th if they lose by more than 15 points and Portugal beat Russia by a similar margin, in which case the teams would trade places

GEORGIA (12) 72.70 v BELGIUM (27) 57.57 (Saturday)

Georgia to win by 15 points or less – Georgia 72.70, Belgium 57.57 (No change)

Georgia to win by more than 15 points – Georgia 72.70, Belgium 57.57 (No change)

Draw – Georgia 71.70, Belgium 58.57

Belgium to win by 15 points or less – Georgia 70.70, Belgium 59.57

Belgium to win by more than 15 points – Georgia 69.70, Belgium 60.57

Head-to-head

Played: 5 – Georgia leads 5-0

Points for: Georgia 176 / Belgium 25

Average score: Georgia 35-5 Belgium

First meeting: 2 February, 2013 – Georgia 17-13 Belgium – Stade Roi Baudouin, Brussels

Last meeting: 2 March, 2019 – Georgia 46-6 Belgium – Petit Heysel, Brussels

- Georgia have scored 30 or more points in their last four meetings with Belgium
- Georgia cannot improve their rating as a result of the 15.13 points difference to Belgium before home weighting is factored in
- Georgia could win and still drop below Italy, if the Azzurri avoid defeat at home against Scotland
- A first ever defeat for Georgia at the hands of Belgium would see them fall three places – four if they lose by more than 15 points and Spain win by the same margin
- Belgium will remain 27th in defeat but will climb at least one place in victory

RUSSIA (25) 59.90 v PORTUGAL (20) 62.40 (Saturday)

Russia to win by 15 points or less – Russia 60.85, Portugal 61.45

Russia to win by more than 15 points – Russia 61.32, Portugal 60.97

Draw – Russia 59.85, Portugal 62.45

Portugal to win by 15 points or less – Russia 58.85, Portugal 63.45

Portugal to win by more than 15 points – Russia 58.32, Portugal 63.97

Head-to-head

Played: 19 – Russia leads 13-5 with one draw

Points for: Russia 518 / Portugal 362

Average score: Russia 27-19 Portugal

First meeting: 7 April, 2001 – Russia 45-27 Portugal – Dynamo Stadium, Krasnodar

Last meeting: 19 March, 2016 – Russia 53-21 Portugal – Estadio Universitario, Lisbon



- Russia have won the last six meetings between the sides, dating back to Portugal's 21-19 win in Sochi in February 2011
- Russia will fall below Brazil in defeat – equalling their lowest ever ranking of 26th which they last occupied in November 2005
- The Bears will drop to a new low of 27th if that defeat is combined with a first Belgium victory over Georgia
- Portugal can only improve their rating if they win by more than 15 points and Romania lose by the same margin
- Russia will climb one place with victory and could regain all five of the places they lost after a heavy loss to Belgium if they win by more than 15 points
- Portugal will retain 20th place in defeat provided it is by 15 points or less. A greater margin will see Os Lobos drop four places to 24th

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

