

Past pool statistics by country for RWC 2023 Draw



RUGBY
WORLD CUP

RUGBY WORLD CUP POOL STAGE STATISTICS

Statistics by country on their pool campaigns at Rugby World Cups ahead of the France 2023 Draw on 14 December, 2020 in Paris.

SOUTH AFRICA

- South Africa have successfully negotiated the pool stage at all seven Rugby World Cups they have participated in, losing only three matches. The Springboks were beaten by England (2003), Japan (2015) and New Zealand (2019) during the pool stage.
- At Rugby World Cup 2019, South Africa became the first team to lift the Webb Ellis Cup after losing a pool match. In their opening game, they lost 23-13 against New Zealand.
- The Springboks have scored a try in 25 of their 26 Rugby World Cup pool matches. The exception is their 25-6 defeat by England at Rugby World Cup 2003.
- South Africa's biggest Rugby World Cup victory was by 87 points (87-0) against Namibia in the pool stages of Rugby World Cup 2011.
- South Africa's biggest comeback win during a Rugby World Cup pool stage was in their opening match at Rugby World Cup 2011. After going 16-10 down against Wales in the 55th minute, the Springboks came back to win 17-16.
- Bryan Habana is the record try scorer in Rugby World Cup pool matches. Habana scored 13 tries across three Rugby World Cups (2007, 2011, 2015).
- The record points scorer for South Africa in Rugby World Cup pool matches is André Pollard with 68 points. He went past Percy Montgomery (67) during South Africa's match against Italy at Rugby World Cup 2019.
- Jaque Fourie and Bryan Habana have each scored a try in a record seven different Rugby World Cup pool stage matches.
- Victor Matfield and Schalk Burger both played in a South Africa record four Rugby World Cups. Burger and John Smit have played in most Rugby World Cup pool matches for the Springboks (12).
- South Africa have never fielded a teenager in a Rugby World Cup (pool) match. The youngest Springbok in a Rugby World Cup match is Frans Steyn who debuted in the tournament aged 20 years and 118 days old against Samoa at RWC 2007.
- Aged 38 years and 145 days old, Schalk Brits became the oldest player for a Rugby Championship or Six Nations team to play at a Rugby World Cup match when he faced Canada at RWC 2019.
- Brits broke a record set by Argentina's Mario Ledesma at Rugby World Cup 2011 and matched by Brits' compatriot Victor Matfield at Rugby World Cup 2015 by seven days. England's Simon Shaw is the only other player from a Six Nations or Rugby Championship team to play a Rugby World Cup match after his 38th birthday.
- South Africa have been drawn with Samoa the most in Rugby World Cup pools, meeting Samoa in the pool stage at four of South Africa's seven Rugby World Cups.
- South Africa have never been drawn in the same Rugby World Cup pool as Argentina, France, Ireland or Russia.

NEW ZEALAND

- New Zealand's biggest Rugby World Cup win was their 145-17 pool stage victory against Japan at Rugby World Cup 1995. This was the competition record until Australia beat Namibia 142-0 during the pool stage of Rugby World Cup 2003.
- New Zealand's 145-17 win against Japan still holds the record for the highest total number of points in a Rugby World Cup match.
- There have been six Rugby World Cup pool stage matches in which one team has scored at least 100 points. New Zealand have been responsible for three of them – 145-17 v Japan, 101-3 v Italy in 1999 and 108-13 v Portugal in 2007.
- New Zealand have won all 31 Rugby World Cup pool matches they have played and have topped their pool at all nine of the previous Rugby World Cups.
- New Zealand have been behind in only eight of their Rugby World Cup pool matches and have never gone more than seven points down. At Rugby World Cup 1995, Ireland went 7-0 up against the All Blacks but New Zealand went on to win 43-19. That seven-point deficit remains the biggest New Zealand have ever faced during a Rugby World Cup pool match.
- New Zealand's record try scorer in Rugby World Cup pool matches is Doug Howlett with 12 tries.
- Marc Ellis's six tries against Japan at Rugby World Cup 1995 remains the competition record for most tries scored in a match by one player. Australia's Chris Latham and England's Josh Lewsey both got closest to this at Rugby World Cup 2003 by scoring five.
- Ellis scored one more try during the Rugby World Cup 1995 pool stage. His record of seven tries in the pool stage of one Rugby World Cup remains today but has since been matched by Australia's Drew Mitchell.
- Dan Carter holds the record for most points for New Zealand during pool stage play with 129.
- Dan Carter, Richie McCaw and Keven Mealamu all played for the All Blacks at a New Zealand record four Rugby World Cups. The quartet all played pool matches at the Rugby World Cups of 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2015.
- McCaw holds the record for most pool stage matches for New Zealand (12), but Dan Carter started the most Rugby World Cup pool matches (10).
- New Zealand have never fielded a teenager in a Rugby World Cup match. The youngest player to appear for the team is Jonah Lomu who was 20 years and 15 days old when he debuted in the tournament in a pool match against Ireland at Rugby World Cup 1995.
- Jonah Lomu became New Zealand's youngest Rugby World Cup try scorer on his competition debut against Ireland in 1995.
- Brad Thorn was 36 when he played in all four pool matches at Rugby World Cup 2011 and is therefore the oldest All Black to play at a Rugby World Cup. Keven Mealamu is the only other 36-year-old to play in the tournament for New Zealand.
- Aged 35, prop Richard Loe is New Zealand's oldest Rugby World Cup try scorer during the pool stage, scoring against Japan at Rugby World Cup 1995. Brad Thorn was older when he scored against Argentina at Rugby World Cup 2011 but that was during the knockout stages.
- Sonny Bill Williams holds the record for most tries scored as a replacement at a Rugby World Cup. Williams scored four tries, all during the pool stage, against Japan (2), France and Tonga in 2011 and 2015. No other player has scored more than two Rugby World Cup tries as a replacement.
- Replacement players for both New Zealand and Australia have scored 23 Rugby World Cup tries in pool matches.

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- New Zealand have been drawn in the same pool as Italy at six of the nine Rugby World Cups. No other pair of teams have been drawn together more than four times.
- New Zealand have never been drawn in the same Rugby World Cup pool as Australia. Russia, Samoa and Uruguay have also never been pool opponents for the All Blacks.

ENGLAND

- England's biggest Rugby World Cup win was by 98 points (111-13) against Uruguay in the pool stages of Rugby World Cup 2003.
- The 111 points scored is also England's highest return in a match.
- Josh Lewsey scored five tries in that match, a record for an England player in any Rugby World Cup game.
- Paul Grayson's 36 points against Tonga in England's 101-10 pool victory at Rugby World Cup 1999 is the record number of points scored by an England player in a RWC match.
- Jonny Wilkinson's 160 points in pool matches is second only to Scotland's Gavin Hastings (181).
- Jonny Wilkinson is one of three players – Gareth Rees (CAN) and Merab Kvirikashvili (GEO) are the others – to kick points in the pool stage of four different Rugby World Cups.
- Jonny Wilkinson scored eight drop goals in World Cup pool matches. No other player has managed more than five.
- Rory Underwood scored a try in five different Rugby World Cup pool matches at three different tournaments. Neil Back also scored a try in the pool stage of three different Rugby World Cups.
- Rory Underwood's eight tries in Rugby World Cup pool stage matches is the most by an England player.
- Lewis Moody, Jason Leonard and Dan Cole hold the England record for playing in most Rugby World Cup pool matches (11) but Jonny Wilkinson (10) was in the starting XV in most pool matches for England.
- Jason Leonard, Mike Catt and Jonny Wilkinson are the only England players to have appeared in pool matches at four different Rugby World Cups.
- England's biggest comeback win in a pool game was the 35-23 win against Samoa at Rugby World Cup 2003. After eight minutes, England were 10-0 down in that match.
- England are the only team to have scored four tries against Argentina in a Rugby World Cup pool match since Rugby World Cup 1991. At RWC 2019, England scored six tries against the Pumas in a 39-10 pool victory.
- England have been drawn into a pool with the USA on four occasions.
- Argentina, Italy, Samoa and Tonga have all been in the same pool as England three times.
- Ireland are the only team from the current Six Nations or Rugby Championship not to be drawn in a Rugby World Cup pool with England.
- Canada, Namibia and Russia are the only other teams who have participated in at least one of the last three Rugby World Cups who have never been paired with England in the pool stage.
- Five of England's six Rugby World Cup pool stage defeats have been against the southern hemisphere teams Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The only other team to beat England in a pool match is Wales, at Rugby World Cup 2015.
- England have failed to qualify for the knockout stage on just one occasion – when they finished third behind Australia and Wales at Rugby World Cup 2015.

WALES

- Wales' biggest Rugby World Cup win was their 81-7 pool stage win against Namibia at Rugby World Cup 2011.
- Wales have lost 10 of their 32 Rugby World Cup pool matches, missing out on the knockout stages of Rugby World Cups in 1991, 1995 and 2007.
- Wales have lost three of their four Rugby World Cup pool matches against Australia, both pool games against New Zealand and two of their three against Samoa. Other pool defeats have been against Ireland, Fiji and South Africa.
- Shane Williams is the top try scorer for Wales during the Rugby World Cup pool stage, scoring eight tries. Williams's eight pool stage tries were scored in six different matches, also a record for Wales.
- Gareth Thomas is one of three players – with Brian O'Driscoll (IRE) and Brian Lima (SAM) – to score a try in the pool stage of four different Rugby World Cups.
- Neil Jenkins is still Wales' record points scorer during the Rugby World Cup pool stage, scoring 89 points.
- Jonathan Davies remains the only Wales player to have scored more than one drop goal during the Rugby World Cup pool stage. Five others – including both Dan Biggar and Rhys Patchell against Australia at Rugby World Cup 2019 – have scored a total of one drop goal during pool play.
- George North is the only teenager to have played a Rugby World Cup pool match for Wales. He debuted on the right wing against South Africa at Rugby World Cup 2011 aged 19 years and 151 days old. Fifteen days later, North became the youngest try scorer at a Rugby World Cup, scoring two against Namibia in his team's third pool match.
- North's two tries against Namibia were as a replacement. He remains the only player to score two Rugby World Cup tries for Wales coming off the bench.
- In 2019, Alun Wyn Jones became the fourth player to play at four different Rugby World Cups for Wales. He followed Gareth Thomas (1995-2007), Stephen Jones (1999-2011) and Gethin Jenkins (2003-15).
- Alun Wyn Jones holds the Wales record for most Rugby World Cup pool matches (14) and starts (13).
- The oldest player for Wales in a Rugby World Cup pool match is Laurance Delaney who played in all three pool matches of Rugby World Cup 1991. He and teammate Phil May remain the only players to have played at a World Cup for Wales past their 35th birthdays.
- Colin Charvis is Wales' oldest Rugby World Cup try scorer, scoring in the 42-17 pool win against Canada at Rugby World Cup 2007, aged 34 years and 256 days.
- Dan Biggar's first-minute drop goal during the Rugby World Cup 2019 pool match against Australia was the fastest in RWC history.
- Wales are the only team to have won having gone at least 10 points down in the second half against another Six Nations or Rugby Championship team during a Rugby World Cup pool match. Wales achieved this against England at Rugby World Cup 2015, recovering from a 22-12 deficit after 52 minutes to win 28-25.
- Wales also recovered to win from 10 points behind during the pool stage of Rugby World Cup 2019. After 17 minutes of their match against Fiji, Wales were 10-0 down but they went on to win 29-17.
- Wales are the only team to have scored four tries in a pool match against Australia, New Zealand or South Africa. At Rugby World Cup 2003, Wales touched down four times against New Zealand but still lost the match, 53-37.
- Wales are one of two teams to score five tries in a Rugby World Cup pool match and lose. At Rugby World Cup 2007, Wales scored five tries but lost 38-34 to Fiji. Fiji

themselves became the second team to score five tries and lose when they were beaten by Uruguay at Rugby World Cup 2019.

- The most common opponents for Wales during the Rugby World Cup pool stage are Australia and Fiji who the Welsh have been drawn with four times each, including at both of the last two Rugby World Cups.

- Wales have never been drawn in the same pool as France or Scotland at a Rugby World Cup. Wales have also never been paired with Romania, Russia or the USA in a Rugby World Cup pool.

IRELAND

- Brian O'Driscoll is one of three players – with Brian Lima (SAM) and Gareth Thomas (WAL) – to score a try in the pool stage of four different Rugby World Cups.
- Brian Robinson set a record for a forward by scoring four tries in a Rugby World Cup match against Zimbabwe during the pool stage of Rugby World Cup 1991. His compatriot Keith Wood is the only other forward to have since scored four tries in a Rugby World Cup match when achieving this against the USA during the pool stage of RWC 1999.
- Conor Murray and Johnny Sexton became the second half-back pairing to start matches together at three different Rugby World Cups when they played at RWC 2019. Australia's George Gregan and Stephen Larkham were the first.
- Rory Best became Ireland's oldest Rugby World Cup player during the 2019 pool stage. He is the only player to represent Ireland in the tournament after his 37th birthday. Best's two tries also make him Ireland's oldest Rugby World Cup try scorer.
- Aged 20, Brian O'Driscoll became Ireland's youngest try scorer when he scored in a pool match against the USA at Rugby World Cup 1999. At the time he was also Ireland's youngest Rugby World Cup player but this was broken by a teenage Gordon D'Arcy 13 days later in a pool game against Romania.
- O'Driscoll and D'Arcy went on to become the most frequent centre pairing in Rugby World Cup pool matches for any country, starting seven pool matches together in the centres at the 2007 and 2011 tournaments.
- At Rugby World Cup 2011, Brian O'Driscoll became the first player to represent Ireland at four different Rugby World Cups. He was joined by Paul O'Connell and Rory Best in this in 2015 and 2019 respectively.
- O'Driscoll is the only Ireland player to have scored a try in the pool stages of four different Rugby World Cups.
- Rob Kearney scored a try for Ireland in a team record six different Rugby World Cup pool matches.
- Paul O'Connell is one of six players to have played in a record 15 Rugby World Cup pool matches.
- Ireland's record try scorer in Rugby World Cup pool games is Keith Earls with seven, all scored in 2011 and 2015.
- Ronan O'Gara is Ireland's record points scorer in Rugby World Cup pool matches with 88 points.
- Ireland have lost eight Rugby World Cup pool matches but only failed to progress to the knockout stages in 2007. In 1999, they lost in the quarter-final play-offs.
- Ireland have lost two pool matches against teams not playing in the Six Nations or Rugby Championship. At Rugby World Cup 2007, Ireland lost 30-15 to Argentina and last year they were beaten 19-12 by Japan.
- Ireland have never been drawn in a Rugby World Cup pool with either England, Fiji or South Africa. Ireland have also never played Uruguay during the pool stage.

AUSTRALIA

- Australia's 142-0 win against Namibia during the pool stage of Rugby World Cup 2003 is the biggest winning margin in the tournament's history.
- Drew Mitchell is Australia's top try scorer during the Rugby World Cup pool stages with 12. Seven of his tries were scored during the pool stage at RWC 2007, equaling the tournament record for most pool tries at a Rugby World which was set by Marc Ellis (NZL) in 1995.
- Drew Mitchell and Adam Ashley-Cooper have both scored tries in six different Rugby World Cup pool matches, a record for Australia.
- Michael Lynagh is the only Australia player to score a century of points during Rugby World Cup pool play. Lynagh scored 105 points in the pool stages in 1987, 1991 and 1995.
- George Gregan and Stephen Larkham are one of only two half-back pairings to start matches at three different Rugby World Cups. Gregan and Larkham started games for Australia in 1999, 2003 and 2007. Conor Murray and Johnny Sexton (IRE) matched this feat last year having also started games for Ireland in 2011 and 2015.
- Aged 19 years and 205 days, Jordan Petaia set new Rugby World Cup records for youngest player and youngest try scorer for Australia when he played and scored against Uruguay in 2019. In both cases, he beat the records set by the only other 19-year-old to represent the Wallabies at a Rugby World Cup, Joe Roff (1995). Only George North scored a Rugby World Cup try at a younger age than Petaia.
- Adam Ashley-Cooper is Australia's oldest player and oldest try scorer at Rugby World Cups. In 2019, he scored a try against Wales to beat Radike Samo's record by 110 days.
- Australia prop James Slipper is one of three players who hold the record for most bench appearances during the pool stage of Rugby World Cups. Slipper has been on the bench eight times, a record he shares with Romania scrum-half Valentin Calafeteanu and Argentina hooker Agustín Creevy.
- Australia have lost only three of their 32 Rugby World Cup pool matches and have qualified for the knockout stages at all nine tournaments. South Africa (1995), Ireland (2011) and Wales (2019) are the only teams to have beaten the Wallabies in the pool stage.
- Australia's most frequent opponents in the Rugby World Cup pool stage are Wales who they have played four times, including at both of the last two editions of the tournament.
- Australia have never been drawn in the same Rugby World Cup pool as France, New Zealand or Scotland. Tonga have also never been drawn with the Wallabies.

FRANCE

- Frédéric Michalak is the only France player to have scored a century of Rugby World Cup points in pool matches. Michalak scored 111 points in his three Rugby World Cups (2003, 2007, 2015).
- Vincent Clerc is France's top try scorer in Rugby World Cup pool matches, scoring 10 tries.
- Christophe Dominici was the only France player to score a try at three different Rugby World Cups (1999, 2003, 2007).
- Aurélien Rougerie played in most Rugby World Cup pool matches for France. Rougerie only missed one of France's 12 pool games from 2003-11. That was 2003's 41-14 win against USA where he remained on the bench as an unused replacement.
- France became the first team to recover from at least 10 points down against another tier one team to win a Rugby World Cup match. They achieved this during the pool stage of Rugby World Cup 1995, winning 22-19 against Scotland after going 13-3 down at the end of the first half.
- France played in the first draw in Rugby World Cup history when they finished level 20-20 with Scotland on the second day of the inaugural competition in 1987.
- France have never selected a teenager for a Rugby World Cup match. The team's youngest player is Romain Ntamack who, aged 20, also became the team's youngest RWC points scorer in the pool match against Argentina in 2019.
- Twenty-one-year-old Frédéric Michalak remains France's youngest Rugby World Cup try scorer. He set the record by scoring against Japan in 2003.
- Thirty-seven-year-old second-row Francis Haget is the oldest player to represent France at a Rugby World Cup. He set this record during the 1987 pool match against Romania before extending it in the quarter-final that year.
- During pool play, France have been shocked by teams (at least then) not playing in the Rugby Championship or Six Nations on two occasions. In the opening game of Rugby World Cup 2007, France lost 17-12 to Argentina and four years later, France lost 19-14 against Tonga.
- France have also been beaten by New Zealand (RWC 2011) and Ireland (RWC 2015).
- At Rugby World Cup 2011, France lost two pool matches but went on to play in the final. Only two teams (Fiji 1987, France 2011) have progressed from the pool stage after losing twice and France are the only one of the two to have won their quarter-final match.
- France's most common Rugby World Cup pool opponents are Canada. France have played Canada in pool play at four different Rugby World Cups.
- France have never been drawn into a Rugby World Cup pool with Australia, South Africa or Wales. They have also never played Russia, Samoa or Uruguay during a pool stage.

JAPAN

- Japan head coach Jamie Joseph is one of seven players who have played for two different teams at a Rugby World Cup. Joseph played for New Zealand at Rugby World Cup 1995 and Japan four years later.
- At Rugby World Cup 1991, Japan fielded their only teenage player in the tournament's history. Winger Terunori Masuho played in all three pool matches, scoring two tries in Japan's win against Zimbabwe.
- Second-row Luke Thompson became Japan's oldest player at a Rugby World Cup during the pool stage in 2019. He is one of only four players to have played in the tournament having turned 38 years old. Thompson is the second oldest player from any nation to appear in a Rugby World Cup match.
- Luke Thompson is Japan's record appearance maker in pool matches, playing 13 times across four Rugby World Cups.
- At Rugby World Cup 2019, Luke Thompson joined Yukio Motoki as the only players to have played at four Rugby World Cups for Japan.
- Kotaro Matsushima has scored tries for Japan in a national record four different Rugby World Cup matches.
- Matsushima's six tries during Rugby World Cup pool matches is the most by a player representing Japan.
- Ayumu Goromaru is Japan's record points scorer during the pool stages of Rugby World Cups with 58 points, all at Rugby World Cup 2015. Goromaru was the tournament's second top scorer at the end of the pool stage, headed only by Scotland's Greig Laidlaw with 60.
- Hirotoki Onozawa is the only player to have scored tries for Japan at three different Rugby World Cups. His tries came during the pool stages of the tournament in 2003, 2007 and 2011.
- Japan are the only team to beat more than one opponent from the Six Nations or Rugby Championship at a Rugby World Cup after previously conceding a century of points in a RWC match. At Rugby World Cup 1995, Japan lost 145-17 to New Zealand. Twenty-four years later, Japan beat both Ireland and Scotland at Rugby World Cup 2019.
- Japan won one of their first 24 pool matches at Rugby World Cups, beating Zimbabwe 52-8 in 1991. At the last two Rugby World Cups, Japan have lost one of their eight pool matches – a 45-10 defeat by Scotland in their second match of Rugby World Cup 2015.
- Japan's pool stage wins against Ireland and Scotland at Rugby World Cup 2019 made them the second tier two team to beat two current tier one sides during the pool stages of a Rugby World Cup. In 2007, Argentina beat both France and Ireland.
- Japan have played at all nine Rugby World Cups but progressed to the knockout stage for the first time in 2019.
- At Rugby World Cup 2015, Japan became the first team to win three pool matches but fail to progress to the knockout stages.
- Japan have beaten South Africa, Ireland and Scotland during pool play at the last two Rugby World Cups. No other team from outside the Rugby Championship or Six Nations has won a single pool match against teams from those competitions at the last two Rugby World Cups.
- Japan have been drawn in the same Rugby World Cup pool as Scotland on four occasions, making the Scots their most frequent opponents.
- Japan have never been drawn against Italy, Romania or Uruguay in the Rugby World Cup pool stage and have therefore never met any of these teams in the competition.
- Japan's Timothy Lafaele became the first player born in Samoa to score a Rugby World

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Cup try against Samoa when he touched down during the pool stage of RWC 2019.

SCOTLAND

- Chris Paterson has played most pool matches for Scotland at Rugby World Cups, appearing in 13.
- Paterson is the only Scotland player to be selected for four Rugby World Cups. He represented the team in 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2011.
- Gavin Hastings is Scotland's top try scorer in Rugby World Cup pool matches with nine tries.
- Gavin Hastings scored 181 points in Rugby World Cup pool matches during his career. This remains a Rugby World Cup record to this day.
- Hastings is the only Scotland player to have scored a try at three different Rugby World Cups. He did so in 1987, 1991 and 1995.
- John Barclay is the only player under the age of 21 to represent Scotland at a Rugby World Cup. He made his Rugby World Cup debut aged 20 years and 363 days in the 40-0 pool match defeat by New Zealand in 2007.
- Graham Shiel and Doddie Weir remain the two youngest try scorers for Scotland at a Rugby World Cup. During the pool stage of Rugby World Cup 1991, Doddie Weir first became Scotland's youngest Rugby World Cup try scorer when he scored against Zimbabwe but three days later Shiel took the record by scoring against Ireland.
- Tight-head prop Norrie Rowan is Scotland's oldest player at a Rugby World Cup. He was 35 years and 258 days old when he packed down against Romania during the 1987 pool stage.
- Another 35 year old, Alan Tait, is the team's oldest Rugby World Cup try scorer, scoring against South Africa in 1999.
- Scotland are the only team with two players who have scored a century of points during Rugby World Cup pool stages. In addition to RWC record holder Gavin Hastings, Chris Paterson also achieved this, scoring 124 pool stage points in his career.
- Gavin Hastings holds the record for most points during a Rugby World Cup pool stage with 89 in 1995. Despite the addition of an extra match in the pool stages, Hastings record has not really been challenged. France's Frédéric Michalak has come the closest with 78 points during the pool stage of Rugby World Cup 2003. Michalak is the only player to score more than 67 pool stage points since Hastings set his record.
- Scotland played in the very first draw in Rugby World Cup history when they finished level at 20-20 with France on the second day of the inaugural tournament in 1987.
- Scotland have lost nine matches in the pool stage and failed to progress to the knockout stages at Rugby World Cup 2011 and 2019.
- The Scots have lost two pool matches to teams not part of the Rugby Championship or Six Nations at the time. In 2011, Scotland lost 13-12 to Argentina and last year they were beaten 28-21 by Japan.
- Scotland have played against a record 20 different opponents during the Rugby World Cup pool stages.
- Scotland's most frequent opposition during the Rugby World Cup pool stage are Japan, who they have met on four occasions.
- Scotland have yet to be drawn in a Rugby World Cup pool with Australia or Wales. In addition, Scotland have not met Canada or Namibia.

ARGENTINA

- Current Argentina head coach Mario Ledesma is one of five Argentines to have played at four different Rugby World Cups. Of that quintet, Ledesma played in the most pool matches (13).
- Ledesma is Argentina's oldest player at Rugby World Cups, playing matches at the age of 38 during RWC 2011.
- Gonzalo Quesada is Argentina's top scorer in Rugby World Cup pool stage matches with 99 points.
- Argentina's top try scorer in Rugby World Cup pool matches is a forward. Julián Montoya scored six tries as a hooker or replacement hooker and is the top scoring forward from any nation in Rugby World Cup pool games.
- Argentina have been awarded the most penalty tries (6). All six penalty tries were awarded to Los Pumas during the Rugby World Cup pool stage.
- Argentina hooker Agustín Creevy is one of three players who hold the record for most bench appearances during the pool stage at Rugby World Cups. Creevy was on the bench eight times, a record he shares with Romanian scrum-half Valentin Calafeteanu and Australia prop James Slipper.
- Against Tonga during the Rugby World Cup 2019 pool stage, hooker Julián Montoya became the second player in his position to score a hat-trick of Rugby World Cup tries. Keith Wood (IRE) was the first 20 years earlier.
- Federico Méndez is Argentina's youngest player at a Rugby World Cup. Méndez was 19 when he played against Australia at Rugby World Cup 1991.
- Guido Petti became Argentina's youngest Rugby World Cup try scorer when he scored against New Zealand at RWC 2015.
- Felipe Contepomi became Argentina's oldest try scorer at a Rugby World Cup when he scored against Georgia at RWC 2011, aged 34.
- Argentina became the first tier two team to beat two tier one sides during the Rugby World Cup pool stages when they beat both France and Ireland during the 2007 tournament.
- England, Georgia, Namibia and Samoa have each been drawn into a Rugby World Cup pool with Argentina three times.
- Argentina have never met Rugby Championship rivals South Africa in the Rugby World Cup pool stages. Los Pumas have also never been drawn against Canada, Russia or Uruguay.
- Argentina have won 17 of their 32 Rugby World Cup pool matches, beating France, Ireland (both 2007) and Scotland (2011) along the way.
- Argentina have progressed to the knockout stages of Rugby World Cup on four of their last six appearances, missing out only in 2003 and 2019.

FIJI

- Nicky Little is the only Fiji player to have played at four Rugby World Cups. He played in 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2011.
- Little is one of eight players to score a century of Rugby World Cup points in pool matches. He scored 119 in total, more than three times Fiji's next highest scoring player.
- Vereniki Goneva scored four tries on his Rugby World Cup debut against Namibia in a 2011 pool match and immediately became Fiji's joint top try scorer in the tournament's history. He added a fifth try to his total four years later to hold the title of Fiji's top Rugby World Cup try scorer on his own.
- Fiji have never selected a teenager to play in a Rugby World Cup match. Their youngest player was Filimoni Seru who played in a pool match against Canada at Rugby World Cup 1991, aged 20.
- Kavekini Nalaga is Fiji's youngest Rugby World Cup try scorer. The 21-year-old winger scored against Argentina at Rugby World Cup 1987.
- Fiji were 19-5 down against Canada after 33 minutes of their pool encounter at Rugby World Cup 1999 but recovered to win 38-22. This was the biggest comeback in a Rugby World Cup pool match until it was broken by Romania against the same opponents 16 years later.
- Fiji's 30-27 pool match defeat by Uruguay at Rugby World Cup 2019 made the Flying Fijians the second team to score five tries and lose. Wales were the first when they lost 38-34 to Fiji at Rugby World Cup 2007.
- Against Uruguay, Fiji became the third team to score two tries more than their opposition in a Rugby World Cup match and lose. Argentina (1995) and Wales (2003) both scored two tries more than England but lost.
- Fiji lost against both Argentina and New Zealand during the Rugby World Cup 1987 pool stage but still progressed to the quarter-finals. It took 24 years for France to become the second team to lose twice during the pool stage and still reach the knockout stage.
- Fiji have been drawn into a Rugby World Cup pool with Wales at each of the last four Rugby World Cups. They have not played any other team as frequently as Wales in the pool stages.
- Fiji have yet to be drawn against Ireland in a Rugby World Cup pool. Fiji have also not been paired with Russia or Tonga in the pool stages.
- Fiji have won 11 of their 29 Rugby World Cup pool matches but their only win against tier one opposition was against Wales at Rugby World Cup 2007.
- During the Rugby World Cup 2019 pool match against Georgia, Fiji's Josua Tuisova became the first person to follow up a try in an Olympic (sevens) final with one in a Rugby World Cup match.

ITALY

- Mauro Bergamasco and Sergio Parisse are two of only three players to have played at five different Rugby World Cups. The other is Brian Lima (SAM).
- Marcello Cuttitta remains the only Italy player to have scored tries in the pool stage at three different Rugby World Cups. He achieved this at the first three editions of the tournament (1987, 1991, 1995).
- Cuttitta scored his tries in five different Rugby World Cup pool matches which also remains a record for Italy. His five tries also make him Italy's top try scorer at Rugby World Cups.
- Diego Dominguez is Italy's record points scorer at Rugby World Cups with all 98 of his points being scored in the pool stages of the three tournaments held in the 1990s.
- Italy have never selected a teenager in a Rugby World Cup match. Their youngest player is Sergio Parisse, who made his debut in the tournament against New Zealand at Rugby World Cup 2003, aged 20.
- Sixteen years after his Rugby World Cup debut, Sergio Parisse became Italy's second oldest player in the tournament behind Mauro Bergamasco. They are the only two players to play for Italy in a Rugby World Cup after turning 36.
- Parisse is Italy's youngest try scorer at a Rugby World Cup, scoring his first against Canada at RWC 2003.
- Italy have been drawn in the same pool as New Zealand on a Rugby World Cup record six different occasions. At Rugby World Cup 2019, their encounter with the All Blacks was one of three matches which did not take place because of Typhoon Hagibis.
- Italy have played against 18 different opponents during the Rugby World Cup pool stages. Only Scotland have been drawn against more different teams in their Rugby World Cup history.
- Italy have not yet been drawn with Georgia, Japan or Uruguay in a Rugby World Cup pool.

GENERAL POOL STATISTICS

- Diego Ormaechea (URU) is the oldest player to score a try in a Rugby World Cup match. At Rugby World Cup 1999, Ormaechea touched down at the age of 40 against Spain.
- Ormaechea remains the only 40-year-old to ever play a Rugby World Cup match. No other player at the tournament has been older than 38.
- Cobus Reinach (RSA) scored the earliest ever hat-trick at a Rugby World Cup in South Africa's pool match against Canada at Rugby World Cup 2019. Reinach's third try was scored in the 21st minute of the game.
- Adam Ashley-Cooper (AUS) holds the record for the fastest ever hat-trick, scoring three tries in nine minutes and 16 seconds against the USA at Rugby World Cup 2011. Reinach was just over a minute slower in scoring his three.
- Gareth Rees (CAN) is the only player to have scored a drop goal during the pool stage of four different Rugby World Cups.
- Uruguay's Rodrigo Sánchez, Diego Lamelas and Pablo Lemoine started together in the front row in six matches at a Rugby World Cup, all in the pool stage. No other front-row combination has started as many Rugby World Cup matches together.
- Elton Flatley's try after 18 seconds against Namibia during the pool stage of Rugby World Cup 2003 remains the fastest try in RWC history.
- No head coach has beaten the country he comes from in a pool match. Eddie Jones became the first to do so in any match when England beat Australia in the quarter-finals of Rugby World Cup 2019.
- The biggest comeback at a Rugby World Cup took place in the pool stage of RWC 2015 when Romania recovered from 15-0 down after 45 minutes to win 17-15 against Canada.
- Romania produced the first double figure comeback of a Rugby World Cup in 1987, beating Zimbabwe 21-20 after being 20-9 behind with 19 minutes remaining.
- There have been three draws in Rugby World Cup pool matches and two of these have been between Canada and Japan. At Rugby World Cup 2007, the two teams drew 12-12. Four years later, they drew 23-23. A 20-20 draw between Scotland and France is the only other draw in the tournament's history.
- New Zealand (three times), England (twice) and Australia are the only teams to have scored a century of points in a Rugby World Cup match with all taking place in the pool stage. No team has done this since New Zealand beat Portugal 108-13 at Rugby World Cup 2007.
- At Rugby World Cup 2011, Tonga became the first tier two team to beat a tier one team at a Rugby World Cup after previously conceding 100 points in a match. At Rugby World Cup 1999, Tonga lost 111-10 to England during the pool stage. Twelve years later, Tonga beat France 19-14.
- No Rugby World Cup match has been won by a margin of more than 63 points at either of the last two Rugby World Cups.
- The youngest player to start a Rugby World Cup match is Georgian scrum half Vasil Lobzhanidze, who was 18 years and 340 days old when he started in the 17-10 win against Tonga during the pool stage of Rugby World Cup 2015.
- The youngest player in a Rugby World Cup squad is Tongan fly-half Talia'uli Liava'a who was 16 years and 337 days old when named in the match-day squad against Ireland in a pool match at Rugby World Cup 1987.
- Tonga have fielded the oldest team to start a Rugby World Cup match. At Rugby World Cup 2015, the Tonga team which lost 45-16 against Argentina during the pool stage had an average age of 31 years and 38 days.

- Brian Lima (SAM) is one of three players – with Brian O'Driscoll (IRL) and Gareth Thomas (WAL) – to score a try in the pool stage of four different Rugby World Cups.
- Brian Lima (SAM), Mauro Bergamasco (ITA) and Sergio Parisse (ITA) are the only players to have played at five different Rugby World Cups.
- Merab Kvirikashvili (GEO) is the only player to have successfully kicked a penalty goal in 11 different Rugby World Cup pool matches. Jonny Wilkinson (ENG) and Gareth Rees (CAN) both scored penalties in 10 different Rugby World Cup pool games.
- The trio of Kvirikashvili, Wilkinson and Rees are the only players to have kicked a penalty during the pool stage of four different Rugby World Cups.
- Sergio Parisse (ITA), Brian Lima (SAM), Merab Kvirikashvili (GEO), Mamuka Gorgodze (GEO), Paul O'Connell (IRE) and DTH van der Merwe (CAN) jointly hold the record for playing in most Rugby World Cup pool matches (15). Van der Merwe is the only one of the group to start in all 15.
- Samoa lined up the same eight forwards to start all four of their pool matches at Rugby World Cup 2003. Canada also selected the same forward pack in all four of their pool matches at Rugby World Cup 2011.

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