

# Women's preview – 27 February, 2021



WORLD  
RUGBY

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONALS – 27 FEBRUARY, 2021

### WORLD RUGBY WOMEN'S RANKINGS STATS

- Spain cannot improve their rating with victory due to the 14.27 rating points between the teams before home weighting is factored in
- Spain will drop out of the top 10 for the first time in rankings history with defeat
- A Spanish loss will see Scotland enter the top 10 for the first time
- The Netherlands will climb above Samoa with a first-ever victory over Spain
- They will jump three places to 14th with a win by more than 15 points – one shy of their highest-ever position which they last held in November 2019

### SPAIN (10) 72.54 v NETHERLANDS (17) 58.27

Spain win by 15 points or less – Spain 72.54, Netherlands 58.27 (No change)

Spain win by more than 15 points – Spain 72.54, Netherlands 58.27 (No change)

Draw – Spain 71.54, Netherlands 59.27

Netherlands win by 15 points or less – Spain 70.54, Netherlands 60.27

Netherlands win by more than 15 points – Spain 69.54, Netherlands 61.27

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

## **RUGBY EUROPE WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP 2020**

### **SPAIN v NETHERLANDS – ESTADIO PEDRO ESCARTÍN, GUADALAJARA – KO 16:00 (15:00 GMT)**

#### Head to head

Played: 9 – Spain leads 8-0 with one draw

Points for: Spain 307 / Netherlands 31 (avg. score: Spain 34-3 Netherlands)

Highest score: Spain 78 (78-0 on 23 April, 2013) / Netherlands 12 (26-12 on 8 May, 2010)

Biggest winning margin: Spain 78 (78-0 on 23 April, 2013)

First met: 12 April, 1991 – RWC 1991 – Spain 8-0 Netherlands – Cardiff, Wales

Last met: 30 March, 2019 – Spain 54-0 Netherlands – Estadio Central, Madrid

Referee: Clara Munarini (Italy)

- A draw is enough for Spain to win the Rugby Europe Women's Championship 2020 title
- This will see them join Ireland, Italy and Scotland in the region's final RWC 2021 qualifier
- Spain beat Russia 56-7 last weekend, while the Netherlands lost 27-21 to Russia last March
- That Rugby Europe Women's Championship 2020 opener was the Netherlands' last test
- This match was originally scheduled for April 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- The Dutch have only scored in four of their nine matches with Spain
- Spain scored eight tries in their last meeting with the Netherlands in March 2019 – three of them by Patricia García in her 29-point haul
- Second-row Anna Puig scored three of Spain's nine tries against Russia last weekend
- There are four changes to the Spain pack with hooker Cristina Blanco, second-row Carmen Castellucci, flanker Paula Medin and number eight Maria Losada coming in
- Medin resumes the captaincy after Laura Delgado led Spain against Russia
- The only personnel change in the backline is Alba Vinuesa's selection on the right wing, although Amaia Erbina, Lide Erbina and Amalia Argudo will wear a different jersey
- Sisters Amaia and Lide Erbina will start as the centre pairing for the first time in a test
- Five players come onto the bench in Monica Castelo, Sidorella Bracic, Iera Echebarria, Uri Barrutieta and Elisabet Segarra
- Puig is one of four members of Spain's recently announced Team of the Decade who will face the Netherlands. The others are prop Laura Delgado, flanker Paula Medin and Lourdes Alameda, who starts on the bench this weekend
- Nine of Spain's match-day squad played on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series 2020 – three of them in all five rounds in Olivia Fresneda, Amaia Erbina and Iera Echebarria
- Netherlands have named eight uncapped players in their squad, although only flanker Liza de Wild in the starting line-up
- Jara Bunnik, Julia Morauw, Merel van Kampen, Michaja van Capel, Dido van der Gon, Kim Dekker and Flore Voogd could all make their debuts off the bench
- Morauw is the first player from the U18 squad formed in 2019 by Rugby Netherlands to graduate to the senior side
- Dutch number eight and captain Linde van der Velden will come up against her Exeter Chiefs Women's team-mate Laura Delgado, the Spanish prop
- Second-row Inge Jongerius, prop Nicky Dix, fly-half Jordan Heill and winger Lieve Stallmann play their club rugby in Spain and will also face club team-mates
- Netherlands head coach Sylke Haverkorn played in the front-row when they lost 78-0 to Spain in Madrid in April 2013