

Women's preview – 3 April, 2021



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONALS – 3 APRIL, 2021

WORLD RUGBY WOMEN'S RANKINGS STATS

- England will lose the number one ranking they have held since 16 November, 2020 if they fail to beat Scotland
- England cannot improve their rating with victory due to the 23.63 rating points separating the teams before home weighting is factored in
- The same is true for France, who have 10.99 points more than Wales before home weighting is factored in
- Wales will climb above Ireland into eighth if they beat France
- France cannot slip from fourth as even a defeat by more than 15 points would still leave them 2.64 rating points ahead of Australia in fifth
- Scotland will enter the top 10 for the first time if they upset England in Doncaster
- Ninth place is possible for Scotland but only if they beat England by more than 15 points and Wales are beaten in France

ENGLAND (1) 94.30 v SCOTLAND (11) 70.67

England win by 15 points or less – England 94.30, Scotland 70.67 (No change)

England win by more than 15 points – England 94.30, Scotland 70.67 (No change)

Draw – England 93.30, Scotland 71.67

Scotland win by 15 points or less – England 92.30, Scotland 72.67

Scotland win by more than 15 points – England 91.30, Scotland 73.67

FRANCE (4) 84.32 v WALES (9) 73.33

France win by 15 points or less – France 84.32, Wales 73.33 (No change)

France win by more than 15 points – France 84.32, Wales 73.33 (No change)

Draw – France 83.32, Wales 74.33

Wales win by 15 points or less – France 82.32, Wales 75.33

Wales win by more than 15 points – France 81.32, Wales 76.33

The World Rugby Women's Rankings update every Monday at 12:00 UK time.

WOMEN'S SIX NATIONS 2021

ENGLAND v SCOTLAND – CASTLE PARK, DONCASTER – KO 15:00 (14:00 GMT)

Head to head

Played: 29 – England leads 27-2

Points for: England 1,216 / Scotland 137 (avg. score: England 41-4 Scotland)

Highest score: England 89 (89-0 on 13 March, 2011) / Scotland 20 (20-40 on 13 May, 2000)

Biggest winning margin: England 89 (89-0 on 13 March, 2011) / Scotland 3 (8-5 on 21 March, 1998)

First met: 21 March, 1998 – Scotland 8-5 England

Last met: 10 February, 2020 – England 53-0 Scotland – Murrayfield, Edinburgh

Referee: Aurélie Groizeleau (France)

- Groizeleau has refereed three Women's Six Nations matches, two featuring England and one Scotland
- England have yet to concede a point in a Women's Six Nations match refereed by Groizeleau, beating Italy 55-0 in 2019 and 54-0 in 2020
- England are bidding for a third successive Women's Six Nations title, having won the Grand Slam in both 2019 and 2020
- England scored 219 points in the 2020 Championship, more than France, Italy, Scotland and Wales combined. The Red Roses conceded only 20 points in their five matches
- England also scored 34 tries, only seven fewer than the other five teams combined. Scotland scored the fewest with three in their three matches
- The Red Roses conceded only two tries in their five matches in the 2020 edition
- England have won all three matches played at Castle Park – 27-19 v Canada in 2018, 41-26 v France in 2019 and 27-0 v Ireland in 2020
- Scotland's last visit to England saw them lose 80-0 at Twickenham in March 2019
- England will become the first team to play 100 Women's Six Nations matches. They have won 87 and lost 12 of their 99 matches since the Championship was first held in 2001
- England have won their last 22 matches against Scotland
- They haven't tasted defeat against Scotland in the Women's Six Nations era, last losing on 24 April, 1999 (15-13)
- In this run, England have scored 1,079 points and conceded only 88, keeping Scotland scoreless on 12 occasions
- Scotland have failed to score in nine of their last 11 meetings with England – the exceptions being defeats in March 2015 (42-13) and February 2018 (43-8)
- They have conceded 640 points and scored only 21 points in these 11 meetings
- Jade Konkel scored Scotland's last points against England with a try in the 48-3 loss in 2018 but is taking a break from rugby to train as a firefighter with the London Fire Brigade
- Abby Dow and Emily Scott both scored two of England's eight tries in their last meeting with Scotland at Murrayfield, the match having been moved and played on a Monday due to weather
- England are looking for an 11th test victory in a row, having last tasted defeat against New Zealand (28-13) in July 2019
- England have won their last 11 Women's Six Nations matches since losing 18-17 to France in March 2018
- England have won their last 20 tests on home soil, dating back to a 25-20 loss to New Zealand in November 2016
- The Red Roses have won 41 of their last 45 tests, losing only to New Zealand (2016, 2017 and 2019) and France (2018) in that time
- England's Emily Scarratt was the top point-scorer in the 2020 Championship with 55 and was named the inaugural Women's Six Nations Player of the Championship

- Scarratt became England's all-time leading point-scorer, surpassing Katy Daley-Mclean in the Red Roses' defeat of Scotland in 2020
- This will be England's first test since the retirement of RWC 2014-winning captain Katy Daley-Mclean in December
- Scotland have lost their last nine Six Nations matches, dating back to a 15-12 win over Ireland in Donnybrook on 11 March, 2018
- Scarratt captains England with Sarah Hunter still managing her return from injury
- Flanker Marlie Packer will win her 75th cap for England
- Twins Poppy and Bryony Cleall will start a test for England for the first time as number eight and prop respectively. Bryony's previous cap in 2019 was off the bench
- Poppy Cleall was the joint top try-scorer in the 2020 Championship with four and the only forward with Abby Dow (ENG), Laure Sansus and Cyrielle Banet (FRA) the others
- Cath O'Donnell returns in the second-row, having won her last cap against New Zealand in July 2019 – England's last test loss
- Full-back Sarah McKenna, winger Lydia Thompson and flanker Zoe Aldcroft all return, having last played against Wales in March 2020
- England winger Jess Breach has scored 24 tries in 15 tests, only failing to score four times
- Centre Lagi Tuima's brother Rusiate played for England in the World Rugby U20 Championship, while cousin Joe Cokanasiga was part of England's RWC 2019 squad. Her uncle is former Fiji captain Akapusi Qera
- This will be Bryan Easson's first match since being named Scotland head coach in December, having been acting as interim head coach since August 2020
- Scotland's starting line-up shows only three changes from that which drew 13-13 with France in their last match on 25 October, all of them in the forwards
- Prop Christine Belisle will start her first test, while second-row Louise McMillan and number eight Siobhan Cattigan also come in. All three were on the bench for that France draw
- Evie Gallagher could make her Scotland debut if called upon from the bench
- Replacement scrum-half Jenny Maxwell returns after an injury lay-off and could make first Women's Six Nations appearance since the 80-0 loss to England in March 2019
- Seven of Scotland's match-day 23 play their rugby in the Allianz Premier 15s in England

FRANCE v WALES – STADE DE LA RABINE, VANNES – KO 21:00 (19:00 GMT)

Head to head

Played: 26 – France leads 22-4

Points for: France 676 / Wales 117 (avg. score: France 26-4 Wales)

Highest score: France 52 (52-3 on 2 February, 2019) / Wales 19 (19-39 on 18 March, 2017)

Biggest winning margin: France 50 (50-0 on 23 February, 2020) / Wales 8 (18-10 on 20 May, 2008)

First met: 24 April, 1994 – RWC 1994 – France 27-0 Wales – Raeburn Place, Edinburgh

Last met: 23 February, 2020 – France 50-0 Wales – Cardiff Arms Park, Cardiff

Referee: Nikki O'Donnell (England)

- Nikki O'Donnell refereed France's 50-0 defeat of Wales in the 2020 Women's Six Nations
- This will be O'Donnell's third Women's Six Nations Championship as a referee
- France will become the second team – after England earlier in the day – to play in 100 Women's Six Nations matches. Their record to date is 74 wins, one draw and 24 losses
- France have won the title six times, five of them with a Grand Slam. Les Bleues' last title, and Grand Slam, was in 2018
- Wales' best record in the Women's Six Nations is second, achieved in 2006, 2008 and 2009. However, they have finished bottom for two of the last three Championships
- Wales have not played since they lost 66-7 to England in March 2020, while France played two tests with England in November, losing both (33-10 at home and 25-23 away)
- Only seven players who started that match will do so against France this weekend
- Wales' last visit to France ended in a 52-3 loss in Montpellier in 2019
- Wales lost all four Women's Six Nations games played in 2020, France won two, lost one and drew one in their unfinished Championship
- France have won their last four tests with Wales with 20 points the smallest victory margin (2017) and 50 points the biggest (2020)
- Winger Cyrielle Banet and scrum-half Laure Sansus both scored two of France's eight tries in their last outing with Wales in the 2020 Women's Six Nations, a 50-0 victory in Cardiff
- Wales have failed to score in six of their last 11 matches with France – including five in a row from 2011-14
- Wales have not won on French soil since an 18-10 triumph on 20 May, 2008 – a non-cap match for France
- France have never lost a Women's Six Nations match at home against Wales
- This will be Warren Abrahams' first match as Wales head coach since his appointment in November 2020
- France's starting line-up features only five players who started their last outing against England in November in Annaëlle Deshayes, Agathe Sochat, Céline Ferer, captain Gaëlle Hermet and Émeline Gros
- Pauline Bourdon and Morgane Peyronnet will start a test as the half-back pairing for the first time since the win over USA in July 2019
- France centre Maëlle Filopon was selected as one of World Rugby's Unstoppables for the 'Try and Stop Us' campaign in 2019 **PROFILE >>**
- Emilie Boulard will make her Les Bleues' debut at full-back
- Replacement back Camille Imart returns to the France squad for the first time since the Women's Rugby Super Series in July 2019
- Jessy Trémoulière, named the World Rugby Women's 15s Player of the Decade in December, starts on the bench alongside Safi N'Diaye, the only French player in the World Rugby Women's 15s Team of the Decade
- Prop Donna Rose and scrum-half Jess Roberts will make their Wales debuts
- They could be joined by scrum-half Megan Davies if she comes off the bench, having only joined the squad this week after injury to Keira Bevan

- Prop Caryl Thomas will don the Wales jersey for the first time since a 24-5 defeat of Ireland in March 2019
- Second-row Teleri Wyn Davies will make her first start for Wales in her second appearance, which comes three years after her debut against Scotland in 2018
- Robyn Wilkins will start at test at full-back for the first time, having previously played at fly-half or centre for Wales
- Robyn Lock is named on the bench as replacement hooker, having already played five tests for Wales in the back-row in 2019-20
- All 23 players in the Wales squad play their rugby in the Allianz Premier 15s in England