# Men's preview – 30 October, 2021

WORLD RUGBY

# WORLD RUGBY RANKINGS EXPLAINER

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The men's and women's World Rugby Rankings are calculated using a points exchange system, in which sides take points off each other based on the match result. Whatever one side gains, the other loses.

The exchanges are based on the match result, the relative strength of each team and the margin of victory (15 points or less / more than 15 points), and there is an allowance for home advantage.

Any match that is not a full international between two World Rugby full member unions does not count towards the rankings, e.g. the British and Irish Lions test against Japan.

For more on the World Rugby Rankings, visit www.world.rugby/rankings.

## WORLD RUGBY MEN'S RANKINGS STATS

- New Zealand will return to number one if they beat Wales in Cardiff, regaining the position they lost after defeat to South Africa on 2 October
- Wales cannot fall from ninth place if they suffer a 32nd consecutive loss to New Zealand
- Wales will climb two places to seventh if they end a 68-year wait for victory over New Zealand, above a victorious Scotland and Argentina
- A draw would be enough to lift Wales one place, two if Scotland also draw with Tonga
- New Zealand cannot slip from second place even with a heavy defeat as they would still have at least a 0.85-point cushion over Australia
- Scotland cannot improve their rating with victory over Tonga due to the 13.45 rating points between the teams before home weighting is factored in
- Scotland will drop two places to ninth in defeat, even if Wales are also beaten by New Zealand
- Tonga must win by more than 15 points to climb above Italy into 14th

**AUTUMN NATIONS SERIES 2021**

## SCOTLAND (7) 82.02 v TONGA (15) 68.57

Scotland win by 15 points or less – Scotland 82.02, Tonga 68.57 (No change)
Scotland win by more than 15 points – Scotland 82.02, Tonga 68.57 (No change)
Draw – Scotland 81.02, Tonga 69.57
Tonga win by 15 points or less – Scotland 80.02, Tonga 70.57
Tonga win by more than 15 points – Scotland 79.02, Tonga 71.57

## WALES (9) 80.59 v NEW ZEALAND (2) 90.97

Wales win by 15 points or less – Wales 82.33, New Zealand 89.23
Wales win by more than 15 points – Wales 83.20, New Zealand 88.36
Draw – Wales 81.33, New Zealand 90.23
New Zealand win by 15 points or less – Wales 80.33, New Zealand 91.23
New Zealand win by more than 15 points – Wales 80.20, New Zealand 91.36

## RUGBY EUROPE TROPHY 2021-22

### LITHUANIA (50) 46.05 v GERMANY (30) 53.13

Lithuania win by 15 points or less – Lithuania 47.46, Germany 51.73
Lithuania win by more than 15 points – Lithuania 48.16, Germany 51.02
Draw – Lithuania 46.46, Germany 52.73
Germany win by 15 points or less – Lithuania 45.46, Germany 53.73
Germany win by more than 15 points – Lithuania 45.16, Germany 54.02

## RUGBY EUROPE CONFERENCE 1 SOUTH 2021-22

### SLOVENIA (72) 37.56 v MALTA (38) 49.13

Slovenia win by 15 points or less – Slovenia 39.42, Malta 47.27
Slovenia win by more than 15 points – Slovenia 40.35, Malta 46.34
Draw – Slovenia 38.42, Malta 48.27
Malta win by 15 points or less – Slovenia 37.42, Malta 49.27
Malta win by more than 15 points – Slovenia 37.35, Malta 49.34

## RUGBY EUROPE CONFERENCE 2 SOUTH 2021-22

### ANDORRA (73) 36.97 v BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (87) 32.25

Andorra win by 15 points or less – Andorra 37.20, Bosnia and Herzegovina 32.02
Andorra win by more than 15 points – Andorra 37.31, Bosnia and Herzegovina 31.90
Draw – Andorra 36.20, Bosnia and Herzegovina 33.02
Bosnia and Herzegovina win by 15 points or less – Andorra 35.20, Bosnia and Herzegovina 34.02
Bosnia and Herzegovina win by more than 15 points – Andorra 34.31, Bosnia and Herzegovina 34.90

## AUTUMN NATIONS SERIES 2021

## SCOTLAND v TONGA – MURRAYFIELD, EDINBURGH – KO 14:30 BST

Head to head
Played: 4* – Scotland leads 3-1
Points for: Scotland 136 / Tonga 58 (avg. score: 34-15)
Highest score: Scotland 43 (43-20 on 10 November, 2001)/ Tonga 21 (21-15 on 24 November, 2012)
Biggest winning margin: Scotland 36 (41-5 on 30 May, 1995) / Tonga 6 (21-15 on 24 November, 2012)
* Capped matches for both sides

First met: 30 May, 1995 – RWC 1995 – Scotland 41-5 Tonga – Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria
Last met: 22 November, 2014 – Scotland 37-12 Tonga – Rugby Park, Kilmarnock

Referee: Nic Berry (Australia)
Debut as referee: 11 November, 2016 - Hong Kong 51-5 Papua New Guinea
Tests as referee: 19

- Referee Nic Berry has refereed Scotland twice, the last time in the 2019 Six Nations against France
- Berry has also taken charge of Tonga twice, most recently against France at RWC 2019
- This will be Scotland's first test since March 2021 after their July schedule was cancelled due to COVID-19 outbreaks
- Scotland have won their last two matches, against Italy and France in the Six Nations
- This is the first meeting between the sides since Scotland won 37-12 in Kilmarnock in November 2014
- Three of Scotland's four tests with Tonga have been on Scottish soil, the other in South Africa during Rugby World Cup 1995
- They have played two other matches, in 1974 at Murrayfield and 193 in Nuku'alofa but these were non-capped matches for Scotland
- This will be their third meeting at Murrayfield, Scotland having won 44-8 in September 1974 and 43-20 in November 2001
- Tonga's only victory against Scotland came in Aberdeen in November 2012, Fetu'u Vainikolo's try and Fangatapu Appikotoa's penalty securing the come-from-behind 21-15 victory
- Stuart Hogg was among Scotland's try-scorers in their 2015 meeting with Tonga, while Latiume Fosita kicked all of the 'Ikale Tahi's points
- Tonga's last match was a 54-10 defeat of the Cook Islands in their RWC 2023 qualifier in July, a victory which set up a play-off against the winner of the Asia Rugby Championship to determine the Asia/Pacific 1 qualifier
- This was Tonga's fourth match in July, having lost to New Zealand (102-0) and Samoa twice (42-13 and 37-15), the latter in the Oceania 1 qualifier for RWC 2023
- Tonga last played in Europe during November 2018, losing to Wales (74-24) and Georgia (20-9) after beating the French Barbarians
- Scotland have named co-captains for the first time with flanker Jamie Ritchie and scrum-half Ali Price leading the team
- Ritchie and Price will become the 60th and 61st World Rugby U20 Championship graduates to captain their country
- Scotland coach Gregor Townsend has named eight debutants in his match-day 23, four in the starting line-up and four on the bench
- Prop Pierre Schoeman, second-row Jamie Hodgson, winger Rufus McLean and centre Sione Tuipulotu will start against Tonga
- Second-row Marshall Sykes, back-row Luke Crosbie and half-backs Jamie Dobie and Ross Thompson could join them as debutants off the bench

- Six of these have come through the World Rugby U20 Championship pathway – although not all for Scotland – and would take Scotland's tally to 67 graduates, behind only Argentina (81) and France (78)
- Flanker Rob Harley makes his first start since November 2016 against Georgia and is the only player who also featured in Scotland's last encounter with Tonga
- Centre Kyle Steyn's wins his second cap, having made his debut off the bench against France in March 2020 in the last test match at Murrayfield played before a crowd
- Blair Kinghorn will start at fly-half for the first time in what is his 26th test for Scotland
- There are 263 caps in the Scotland starting line-up, split 158 in the forwards and 105 in the backline
- With Tonga coach Toutai Kefu having remained in Australia as he continues to recover injuries suffered in a violent home invasion, Grant Doorey will act as interim head coach, assisted by Richie Rees, former Fiji coach John McKee and Jimmy Duffy
- Tonga have named eight debutants in their match-day squad, six in the starting line-up and two on the bench
- Prop Loni Uhila, hooker Maile Ngauamo, second-row Setofano Funaki, flanker Tanginao Halaifonua, centre Vaea Vaea and winger Atunaisa Manu will start
- Replacement prop Toma Taufa and back Navarre Haisila can win their first caps off the bench
- Vaea and Manu both played for Tonga at the World Rugby Sevens Repechage in Monaco in June when the final men's spot at the Tokyo Olympic Games was at stake
- Prop David Lolohea and number eight Valentino Mapapalangi will both play for the 'Ikale Tahi for the first time since June 2018
- Fly-half Kurt Morath, who turns 37 next month, returns for the first time since the loss to England at Rugby World Cup 2019
- Onehunga Havili could make his first appearance since August 2019 off the bench

## WALES v NEW ZEALAND – PRINCIPALITY STADIUM, CARDIFF – KO 17:15 BST

Head to head
Played 35 – New Zealand leads 32-3
Points for: Wales 391 / New Zealand 1110 (avg. score: 11-32)
Highest score: Wales 37 (37-53 on 2 November, 2003/ New Zealand 55 (55-3 on 21 June, 2003)
Biggest winning margin: Wales 5 (on 19 December, 1953/ New Zealand 52 (55-3 on 21 June, 2003)

First met: 16 December, 1905 – Wales 3-0 New Zealand – Cardiff Arms Park
Last met: 1 November, 2019 – New Zealand 40-17 Wales – Tokyo Stadium, Japan

Referee: Mathieu Raynal (France)
Debut as referee: 25 April, 2009 – Malta 9-27 Netherlands
Tests as referee: 32

- Referee Mathieu Raynal takes charge of this fixture for the first time
- He has refereed both sides before, New Zealand three times (W2 L1) and Wales six times (W3 L3)
- Wales won their first three matches with Raynal as referee but have lost the last three
- The sides last met in the Rugby World Cup 2019 bronze final in Japan with New Zealand winning 40-17
- The match pits the Six Nations champions against The Rugby Championship winners
- This will be Wales' first match since a 33-11 loss to Argentina in July
- New Zealand arrive in Cardiff on the back of a 104-14 victory over USA in Washington DC last weekend
- This was New Zealand's third highest score in a test match and the seventh time they have scored a century of points in a test
- The All Blacks have won 10 of their 11 matches in 2021, Wales have won five, lost two and drawn one this year
- New Zealand have won their last 31 matches against Wales, dating back to a 13-8 loss at Cardiff Arms Park in 1963
- Some 24,787 days have passed since that last Welsh victory
- Wales won three of their first four tests with New Zealand between 1905 and 1953
- Wales have not come within seven points of New Zealand since a 19-12 loss at the Millennium Stadium in November 2009 – a run of 10 matches
- The closest Wales have come to victory in the last 31 matches is one point twice, losing 26-25 in November 2004 and 13-12 in November 1978
- New Zealand have scored at least 30 points in their last eight meetings with Wales
- Only six times in the 31-match winning run have New Zealand failed to score at least 20 points
- Falling outside of the November international window, Wales are without a number of English-based players for this match
- Only four players – Ross Moriarty, Tomos Williams, Jonathan Davies and Owen Lane – who started Wales' last match against Argentina in July will also start against the All Blacks
- Alun Wyn Jones returns to captain Wales on the occasion of his 149th cap for his country, taking him past Richie McCaw's record for a national team
- Jones is already the most-capped player in history with 161 test in total (Wales 148, British and Irish Lions 13). He surpassed McCaw's total of 148 against Scotland on 31 October, 2020
- Taine Basham will make his first start after scoring a brace on his debut against Canada in July
- Gareth Anscombe, a World Rugby U20 Championship winner with New Zealand in 2011, returns to a Wales squad for the first time since suffering a knee injury against England in a RWC 2019 warm-up match

- The fly-half will face the country of his birth for the second time, having come off the bench in a 39-21 loss in November 2016
- Ken Owens was initially named at hooker but withdrew after failing a fitness test on a back problem so Ryan Elias is promoted from the bench
- Kirby Myhill, only called into the squad on Thursday due to Elliot Dee's neck injury, takes his place on the bench and could make his test debut. Myhill captained Wales when they handed New Zealand a first-ever World Rugby U20 Championship defeat in 2012 to end a run of 16 consecutive wins
- Replacement Rhys Priestland is named in a Wales squad for the first time since he came off the bench in a 33-18 loss to New Zealand in November 2017 – a gap of 1,435 days
- New Zealand coach Ian Foster has made 12 personnel and one positional change from the starting line-up against USA with only captain Sam Whitelock, Dalton Papalii and Will Jordan retained
- Fly-half Beauden Barrett will win his 100th cap against Wales, becoming the 11th All Blacks test centurion. Barrett, who made his debut against Ireland in June 2012, needs seven points to reach 700 in test rugby
- Barrett becomes the eighth World Rugby U20 Championship graduate to reach 100 tests for his country and the third All Black after Whitelock and Aaron Smith
- Australia quartet Will Genia, Rob Simmons, Michael Hooper and James Slipper plus England's Ben Youngs are the others while Wales' Leigh Halfpenny and England's Owen Farrell have also reached a century when including their British and Irish Lions tests
- Brodie Retallick, who returns to partner Whitelock in the second-row, will win his 90th cap
- Joe Moody, Codie Taylor and Nepo Laulala return in the front-row with Ethan Blackadder and Ardie Savea joining Papalii in the back row
- TJ Perenara will partner Barrett at half-back with David Havili and Anton Lienert-Brown the centre pairing
- David Havili has scored six tries in 2021 after his double against Australia on 5 September. Only Ma'a Nonu has scored more for New Zealand as an inside centre in a calendar year with seven in 2008
- Rieko Ioane and Jordie Barrett return to the back three alongside Will Jordan
- Jordan's hat-trick against USA took his tally to 15 in 10 tests, making him the second fastest All Black to 15 tries behind Joe Rokocoko (nine tests)
- There are 553 caps for Wales among their starting line-up, 366 in the forwards and 187 in the backs
- By contrast, New Zealand have 771 caps, split 445 in the forwards and 326 in the backs