



STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND MATCH REVIEW

THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

IRB GAME ANALYSIS



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THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

COMMENTARY

The Rugby Championship has been in existence for three years.

Over this period, there have been two constants:





- The domination of the tournament by New Zealand.
- The challenge to Argentina in a competition that comprises three of the top four teams in the IRB World Rankings.

In 2014, while New Zealand continued to top the table and Argentina remained fourth, there were some significant results:


- New Zealand were beaten for the first time in the three years.
- Argentina won their first match.

Despite their one defeat, however, New Zealand continued their domination of The Rugby Championship. The following table shows that over the three-year period:

- They won 16 of 18 matches.
- They won 13 of those 16 matches by 10 or more points.
- They were the best attacking team, scoring 25 per cent more tries than their nearest rival.
- They were the best defensive team conceding at least 20 per cent fewer tries than any of their opponents.

	NZL 	RSA 	AUS 	ARG 
MATCHES PLAYED	18	18	18	18
MATCHES WON	16	10	7	1
% WON BY >10pts	13/16	6/10	1/7	0/1
% LOST BY <10pts	1/1	4/7	2/10	7/16
POINTS SCORED	540	451	349	270
POINTS CONCEDED	272	336	467	547
TRIES SCORED	60	48	29	23
TRIES CONCEDED	23	36	40	58

This year, Argentina celebrated their first win, which was the culmination of a steady improvement throughout the three years of the competition with the following table showing that, in addition to winning their first match, they scored more points, more tries and conceded fewer points than in earlier editions.

ARG 	2014	2013	2012
MATCHES PLAYED	6	6	6
MATCHES WON	1	-	-
MATCHES LOST	5	6	5
LOST BY <10pts	3/5	2/6	2/5
MATCHES DRAWN	-	-	1
POINTS SCORED	102	88	80
POINTS CONCEDED	157	224	166
TRIES SCORED	9	7	7
TRIES CONCEDED	17	25	16

What was also evident was the shape of the Argentina game appeared to have changed.

- This year, they obtained the highest proportion of possession and had the most possession in five of their six matches. Last year, they obtained less possession than any other team.
- They had higher passing and rucking rates than last year.
- They were the most successful on opposition scrum.
- They were penalised the least.
- They were the only team not to receive a yellow or red card.

One noticeable factor that emerged from the 2014 Championship was that it was far more competitive than previous seasons, with eight matches having a scoring margin of 10 or fewer points. This is shown below.

POINTS DIFFERENCE	THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014	THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2013	THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2012
Draw	1	-	1
1 – 5	5	2	1
6 – 10	2	-	4
% < 10pts	67%	17%	50%
11 – 20	2	7	2
21 – 30	1	1	3
31+	1	2	1

SCRUMS





The Rugby Championship in 2013 was the first international competition to implement the "crouch, bind, set" scrum engagement sequence. This was an initiative aimed at enhancing player welfare by reducing impact on engagement by 25 per cent. The expectation was that the requirement that props must bind correctly on the referee's command and that the ball be fed correctly into a stationary scrum could also result in less disrupted and more orderly scrums.

A comparison of between the 2013 and 2014 scrums, however, shows that little has changed:

- The rate of collapses has increased
- The rate of resets has increased
- Penalties and free kicks showed little reduction.

	COLLAPSES PER 100 SCRUMS	RESETS PER 100 SCRUMS	PK/FKS PER 100 SCRUMS	BALL OUT PER 100 SCRUMS
THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014	77	39	38	62
THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2013	58	29	40	60

The rate of collapses, resets and penalties are not, however, evenly spread among the four participating teams. The following table shows that Australia's scrums had a collapse rate almost twice that of New Zealand and that Argentina's scrums saw a penalty and free-kick rate that was almost 50 per cent greater than the scrums of the other teams.

	COLLAPSES PER 100 SCRUMS		RESETS PER 100 SCRUMS		PK/FKS PER 100 SCRUMS		BALL OUT PER 100 SCRUMS	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
 NEW ZEALAND	55	76	21	37	33	47	67	53
 SOUTH AFRICA	68	48	37	18	32	27	68	73
 ARGENTINA	88	58	50	32	50	38	50	62
 AUSTRALIA	100	50	51	30	38	38	62	62

The table also shows a change in New Zealand's scrum. Last year, there were more collapses, resets penalties and free kicks on New Zealand's scrums than any other teams'. This year saw the complete reverse – New Zealand's scrums collapsed and were reset the least with only one team's scrums producing fewer penalties and free kicks.

COMPARISON WITH THE SIX NATIONS

With less than a year to go until Rugby World Cup 2015, an exercise was undertaken to compare the shape of the game between the two major annual competitions, the Six Nations and The Rugby Championship. The following table shows the profiles of each, from which it can be seen that the shape of the game in the two international competitions is very similar.





















	SIX NATIONS 2014	THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014
MATCHES	15	12
AVG. POINTS SCORED	40	43
AVG. TRIES SCORED	4	4
% OF POINTS FROM TRIES	51%	48%
BALL IN PLAY	46%	42%
AVG. PASSES	282	272
AVG. RUCK/MAULS	182	166
AVG. KICKS	46	44
AVG. LINEOUTS	27	26
AVG. SCRUMS	13	12
AVG. PENALTIES/FKS	21	23
AVG. CARDS	8 + 3	8 + 0

The following table shows the scrum rates for the two competitions. It can be seen that in The Rugby Championship scrums collapsed and were reset at a higher rate. The amount of ball used was similar.

	COLLAPSES PER 100 SCRUMS	RESETS PER 100 SCRUMS	PK/FKS PER 100 SCRUMS	BALL OUT PER 100 SCRUMS
THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014	77	39	38	62
SIX NATIONS 2014	60	27	41	59

Broken down further, it can be seen that:

- Italy's scrums were the least likely to collapse, Australia's the most
- Italy's and England's scrums were the least likely to be reset, Australia's the most
- The ball was most likely to come back into general play from Ireland's scrums and the least from Wales's.
- Wales's scrums were likely to be sanctioned the most, Ireland's the least.

		COLLAPSES PER 100 SCRUMS	RESETS PER 100 SCRUMS			PK/FKS PER 100 SCRUMS	BALL OUT PER 100 SCRUMS
	ITA	46	18		IRE	23	77
	ENG	48	18		RSA	32	68
	IRE	55	39		NZL	33	67
	NZL	55	21		ENG	37	63
	SCO	60	24		SCO	37	63
	RSA	68	37		AUS	38	62
	FRA	73	30		ITA	40	60
	WAL	77	36		FRA	48	52
	ARG	88	50		ARG	50	50
	AUS	100	51		WAL	64	36

The comparison was extended to examine if there were any differences in areas of sanction. The following table shows where penalties and free kicks were awarded in each competition. While there were proportionally more sanctions at scrum in the Six Nations and proportionally more sanctions for dangerous play in The Rugby Championship, overall there was little difference between the two competitions.

	SIX NATIONS 2014	THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014
TACKLE/RUCK	47%	47%
SCRUM	25%	21%
DANGEROUS PLAY	5%	13%
OFFSIDE	11%	9%
GENERAL	5%	6%
MAUL	6%	4%
LINEOUT	2%	1%

THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

MATCH FACTS

- New Zealand won four of their six matches, scoring 18 tries.
- New Zealand lost their first match since the formation of The Rugby Championship.
- Argentina won their first match in The Rugby Championship with a four-point victory against Australia in Mendoza.
- The home team won nine of the 12 matches, the away team won two and there was one draw.
- There were no tries in the Australia v New Zealand match, making it the first match without a try in the history of The Rugby Championship.
- 50 per cent of matches were won by the team scoring the most tries. There was one draw and in five matches tries were equal. No match was won by the team scoring fewer tries.
- Fifty tries were scored and 63 penalty goals were kicked compared to 66 tries and 66 penalty goals last year.
- There were five matches with a margin of five points or less; the highest margin was 31 points (New Zealand v Australia).
- 70% of tries were scored by backs, 28% by forwards and 2% were penalty tries.
- 48% of tries originated from lineout possession and 18% from scrum possession.
- 38% of tries started from inside the scoring teams own half.
- 62% of tries were preceded by two or fewer phases and 42 per cent of tries by three or fewer passes.
- Average ball in play time was 33m 44s or 42 per cent.
- In the South Africa v Australia match the ball was in play 55 per cent. In the 44 minutes, there were 387 passes and 272 ruck/mauls.
- In contrast, in the South Africa v Argentina match the ball was in play 38 per cent or 30 minutes, resulting in 145 passes and 130 ruck/mauls.
- The most kicks in a match was 73 (RSA v ARG) and the least was 24 (ARG v AUS).
- Australia were involved in three of the four matches which contained the fewest kicks.
- There were only two scrum tightheads and four free kicks for crooked feed.
- 47% of penalties/free kicks were at tackle/ruck, with 62% in favour of the team in possession.
- 21 per cent of penalty kicks/free kicks were at the scrum, with 62 per cent of penalty/free kicks in favour of the team in possession.
- This year there were eight yellow cards and no red cards awarded, which was 11 yellow cards and one red card fewer than last year.
- There were 33 TMO referrals of which 16 were try referrals, 15 were foul play referrals and two were touchdown referrals.

THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

TEAM FACTS



NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand won The Rugby Championship.

- They scored the most tries and conceded the least.
- They had the best try scoring rate and the best try conceding rate.
- They were the only team to score more tries than penalty goals.
- They scored more tries in the second half than the first half.
- Their forwards scored seven tries, which was more than any other team.
- They scored twice as many tries from scrum possession as the other three teams combined.
- They scored six tries from scrum possession, which was more than any other team.
- Along with Australia, they did not attempt a drop goal.
- Along with South Africa, they did not concede a single try from turnover possession.
- They had the highest passing rate.
- Their forwards were most likely to pass the ball with their second row passing every 2.3 possessions and their back row passing every 2.0 possessions.
- Their backs were also most likely to pass the ball with their centres passing every 1.9 possessions and their back three passing every 2.2 possessions.
- They were most successful on their own lineouts and opposition lineouts, and they contested 71 per cent of opposition lineouts.
- They had the most successful scrum, winning 90 per cent of their own ball.
- Their scrums collapsed the least.
- They conceded four yellow cards, the most by any team.





SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa were runners up and beat New Zealand in the final round.

- They won four matches and lost two matches with both defeats by less than five points.
- They were the only team to score more tries in the first half than the second half.
- Their backs scored the majority of their tries with only two tries being scored by a forward.
- Along with New Zealand, they did not concede a single try from turnover possession.
- Of their 13 tries scored, six tries were from inside their own half.
- Along with Australia, they were the most successful goal kickers.
- They kicked two drop goals from three attempts.
- They had the second best try scoring rate and try conceding rate.
- They obtained the lowest proportion of possession.
- They had the lowest passing rate and the highest kicking rate.
- Their forwards were least likely to pass the ball.
- Their scrum-half was most likely to kick possession.
- Along with Argentina, their fly-half was most likely to kick possession.
- They were least likely to kick contestable 50m restarts and had the lowest regain success.
- They contested the least number of opposition lineouts.
- They received one yellow card.



AUSTRALIA

Australia came third with wins over South Africa and Argentina plus a draw against New Zealand.

- The majority of their points came from kicks at goal.
- Their forwards scored four of the 10 tries.
- They scored 50 per cent of their tries from their own half and they conceded 10 of the 16 tries from within their own 22m.
- Along with South Africa, they were the most successful goal kickers.
- They had the highest rucking rate.
- They were least likely to kick in open play.
- Their scrum-half, fly-half and back three were the least likely to kick possession.
- They were the least successful on own lineouts and opposition lineouts.
- Their scrum was the most likely to collapse.
- Along with New Zealand, they did not attempt a drop goal.
- They were penalised the most.
- They received three yellow cards.





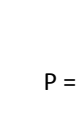

ARGENTINA

Argentina lost five matches but did win their first match in The Rugby Championship at the 18th attempt.

























- They scored the least tries and conceded the most.
- The majority of their points came from kicks at goal.
- Their backs scored the majority of their tries with only one being scored by a forward.
- They conceded nine tries from possession gained within their opposition's half.
- They were the least successful goal kickers.
- They obtained the highest proportion of possession. They had the most possession in five of their six matches.
- Their front rows were most likely to pass the ball when in possession.
- Along with South Africa, their fly-half was most likely to kick possession.
- They were the most likely team to kick contestable 50m restarts and had the highest regain success.
- Their scrum was the most likely to result in a penalty or free kick.
- They were the most successful on opposition scrum, receiving 11 penalties or free kicks but no tightheads or through 90 degrees.
- They were penalised the least.
- They were the only team not to receive a single yellow or red card.

THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

FINAL STANDINGS & RESULTS

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	BP	PTS
 NEW ZEALAND	6	4	1	1	164	91	73	4	22
 SOUTH AFRICA	6	4	0	2	134	110	24	3	19
 AUSTRALIA	6	2	1	3	115	160	-45	1	11
 ARGENTINA	6	1	0	5	105	157	-52	3	7

P = Played W = Won D = Draw L = Lost PF = Points For PA = Points Against
 PD = Points Difference BP = Bonus Points PTS = Points

	AUSTRALIA	12-12	NEW ZEALAND	
	SOUTH AFRICA	13-6	ARGENTINA	
	NEW ZEALAND	51-20	AUSTRALIA	
	ARGENTINA	31-33	SOUTH AFRICA	
	NEW ZEALAND	28-9	ARGENTINA	
	AUSTRALIA	24-23	SOUTH AFRICA	
	NEW ZEALAND	14-10	SOUTH AFRICA	
	AUSTRALIA	32-25	ARGENTINA	
	SOUTH AFRICA	28-10	AUSTRALIA	
	ARGENTINA	13-34	NEW ZEALAND	
	SOUTH AFRICA	27-25	NEW ZEALAND	
	ARGENTINA	21-17	AUSTRALIA	





THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

OVERALL SUMMARY

	THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014	THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2013	THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2012
SCORING			
AVG. POINTS	43	52	40
AVG. TRIES	4.2	5.5	3.7
AVG. PENALTY GOALS	5.3	5.5	5.4
CONVERSION SUCCESS	70%	74%	68%
TOTAL DROP GOALS	3	-	1
TOTAL TRY TMO REFERRALS	16	18	12
ACTIVITY			
BALL IN PLAY	42%	40%	41%
AVG. PASSES	272	235	234
AVG. RUCK/MAULS	166	146	152
RUCK/MAUL SUCCESS	94%	93%	93%
AVG. KICKS	44	47	49
SET PIECE			
AVG. LINEOUTS	26	28	29
LINEOUT SUCCESS	85%	84%	87%
AVG. SCRUMS	12	14	13
SCRUM SUCCESS	85%	80%	90%
CONTESTABLE 50m RESTART REGAIN SUCCESS	1 in 5	1 in 3	1 in 8
DISCIPLINE			
AVG. PENALTIES/ FKS	23	22	23
TOTAL CARDS	8 + 0	19 + 1	9 + 0
TOTAL FOUL PLAY TMO REFERRALS	15	15	-

THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

OVERALL SUMMARY BY TEAM

	 NZL		 RSA		 AUS		 ARG	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
SCORING								
AVG. POINTS SCORED	27	34	22	34	19	22	18	15
AVG. POINTS CONCEDED	15	19	18	20	27	28	26	37
AVG. TRIES SCORED	3.0	4.0	2.2	3.8	1.7	2.0	1.5	1.2
AVG. PENALTY GOALS SCORED	2.7	2.7	2.5	3.0	2.8	3.2	2.5	2.2
% POINTS SCORED FROM TRIES	55%	59%	49%	57%	43%	45%	43%	40%
% KICKS AT GOAL SUCCESS	74%	73%	77%	81%	77%	77%	66%	77%
DROP GOAL SUCCESS RATE	0/0	0/0	2/3	0/1	0/0	0/1	1/4	0/1
GENERAL PLAY								
AVG. POSSESSION	16m 44s	15m 22s	16m 43s	17m 31s	17m 07s	15m 56s	16m 55s	14m 45s
AVG. PASSES	164	125	111	122	148	133	121	90
AVG. RUCK/MAULS	77	71	80	80	93	78	82	63
RUCK/MAUL RETENTION	92%	94%	93%	94%	94%	93%	95%	92%
AVG. KICKS	24	29	27	24	15	21	22	22
SET PIECE								
OWN LINEOUT SUCCESS	89%	83%	86%	89%	81%	86%	84%	77%
OWN SCRUM SUCCESS	90%	74%	84%	100%	76%	70%	88%	74%
OWN CONTESTABLE 50m RESTART SUCCESS	1 in 4.6	5 / 17	1 in 7.0	2 / 8	1 in 5.2	5 / 19	1 in 3.6	6 / 15
DISCIPLINE								
PENALTIES & F/Ks FOR	48%	44%	52%	61%	47%	47%	53%	48%
PENALTIES& F/Ks AGAINST	52%	56%	48%	39%	53%	53%	47%	52%
YELLOW/RED CARDS	4 + 0	5 + 0	1 + 0	5 + 1	3 + 0	5 + 0	0 + 0	4 + 0

THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2014 REVIEW





1.0 SCORING

1.1 SCORING MARGINS

There were **eight** matches with a margin of 10 points or fewer. The following table groups together all scoring margins.

POINTS DIFFERENCE	NO OF MATCHES	CUMULATIVE
Draw	1	1 drawn
1 – 5	5	6 with 5 points or less
6 – 10	2	8 with 10 points or less
11 – 20	2	10 with 20 points or less
21 – 30	1	11 with 30 points or less
31+	1	

The following table shows the winning and losing margins for each team.

	WON BY 31 +	WON BY 21 - 30	WON BY 11 - 20	WON BY 1 - 10	DRAW	LOST BY 1 - 10	LOST BY 11 - 20	LOST BY 21 - 30	LOST BY 31 +
 NZL	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
 RSA	-	-	1	3	-	2	-	-	-
 AUS	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	1
 ARG	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	1	-





1.2 POINTS SCORING

There were **518** points scored, giving an average of **43** points per match. There was an average of **4.2** tries per match, **2.9** conversions per match and **5.3** penalty goals per match. There were **three** drop goals.





The following table shows a breakdown of all points scored.

	TOTAL	POINTS	%
TRIES	50	250	48
CONVERSIONS	35	70	14
PENALTY GOALS	63	189	36
DROP GOALS	3	9	2





The following table shows the total and average points scored and conceded by team.

		POINTS FOR		POINTS AGAINST	
		TOTAL	AVERAGE	TOTAL	AVERAGE
	NZL	164	27	91	15
	RSA	134	22	110	18
	AUS	115	19	160	27
	ARG	105	18	157	26

The following table shows the breakdown of points scored by each team

		TRIES SCORED	PENALTY GOALS SCORED	DROP GOALS SCORED	% POINTS SCORED FROM TRIES	% POINTS SCORED FROM KICKS	TRIES : PENALTY GOALS SCORED
	NZL	18	16	-	55%	45%	1 : 0.9
	RSA	13	15	2	49%	51%	1 : 1.2
	AUS	10	17	-	43%	57%	1 : 1.7
	ARG	9	15	1	43%	57%	1 : 1.7
	TOTAL	50	63	3	48%	52%	1 : 1.3

The following tables show the breakdown of points conceded per team.





		TRIES CONCEDED	PENALTY GOALS CONCEDED	DROP GOALS CONCEDED	% POINTS CONCEDED FROM TRIES	% POINTS CONCEDED FROM KICKS	TRIES : PENALTY GOALS CONCEDED
	NZL	7	13	1	38%	62%	1 : 1.9
	RSA	10	15	1	45%	55%	1 : 1.5
	AUS	16	19	1	50%	50%	1 : 1.2
	ARG	17	16	-	54%	46%	1 : 0.9
	TOTAL	50	63	3	48%	52%	1 : 1.3

1.4 TIME OF SCORES – TRIES & PENALTY GOALS

The following table shows when tries and penalty goals were scored.

	TOTAL TRIES	TRIES %	TOTAL PENALTY GOALS	PENALTY GOALS
FIRST HALF	23	46%	36	57%
SECOND HALF	27	54%	27	43%

The following tables show the number of tries and penalty goals scored and conceded by half per team.





		TRIES						PENALTY GOALS					
		FIRST HALF		SECOND HALF		TOTAL		FIRST HALF		SECOND HALF		TOTAL	
		OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN PGs	OPP PGs	OWN PGs	OPP PGs	OWN PGs	OPP PGs
	NZL	7	4	11	3	18	7	13	7	3	6	16	13
	RSA	8	4	5	6	13	10	7	9	8	6	15	15
	AUS	5	6	5	10	10	16	9	10	8	9	17	19
	ARG	3	9	6	8	9	17	7	10	8	6	15	16

1.5 PLAYERS & TRIES

The following table shows which group of players scored tries.

	TOTAL TRIES	TRIES %
TRIES BY BACKS	35	70%
TRIES BY FORWARDS	14	28%
PENALTY TRIES	1	2%

The following table shows the number and percentage of tries scored by backs and forwards per team.

		TRIES BY BACKS		TRIES BY FORWARDS		PENALTY TRIES	
		TOT	%	TOT	%	TOT	%
	NZL	10	56%	7	39%	1	5%
	RSA	11	85%	2	15%	-	-
	AUS	6	60%	4	40%	-	-
	ARG	8	89%	1	11%	-	-

2.0 TRY SCORING

2.1 IMPACT OF TRIES & PENALTY GOALS ON MATCH RESULTS

The winning team scored the most tries in **six** or **50 per cent** of matches. There was one draw and in five matches tries were equal.

2.2 RATE OF TRY SCORING & TRY CONCEDED

There were **50** tries scored giving a try scoring rate of one try every **eight minutes** of play.

The following tables show the rate of try scoring and the rate of try conceding for each team. This is a measure of each team's success in converting possession into tries and their opponent's success in converting possession into tries.

		TRY SCORING RATE			TRY CONCEDED RATE
	NZL	One every 5m 35s		NZL	One every 14m 52s
	RSA	One every 7m 43s		RSA	One every 11m 02s
	AUS	One every 10m 16s		AUS	One every 6m 15s
	ARG	One every 11m 17s		ARG	One every 5m 20s

2.3 SOURCE OF TRIES

The following table shows the possession source of tries.

	TOTAL	%
LINEOUT	24	48%
TURNOVER/HANDLING ERROR	9	18%
SCRUM	9	18%
OPPONENTS KICK	4	8%
RESTART	3	6%
PENALTY/FREE KICK	1	2%
TOTAL	50	100%

The following table shows the source of tries scored and conceded by each team.





	LINEOUT		SCRUM		PEN & FK		KICK		TURNOVER		RESTART		TOTAL	
	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES
NZL	8	4	6	1	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	1	18	7
RSA	8	6	1	2	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	1	13	10
AUS	4	7	-	2	-	1	2	-	2	5	2	1	10	16
ARG	4	7	2	4	1	-	-	2	2	4	-	-	9	17

2.4 ORIGIN OF TRIES

The following table shows the origin of tries.

	TOTAL	%
OWN HALF	19	38%
HALFWAY TO 10M	2	4%
10M TO 22M	12	24%
22M TO GOAL LINE	17	34%

The following table shows the origin of tries scored and conceded per team.





	OWN HALF		HW – 10m		10m – 22m		22m - TRY		TOTAL	
	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES
 NZL	6	3	2	-	3	2	7	2	18	7
 RSA	6	3	-	1	1	3	6	3	13	10
 AUS	5	4	-	-	3	2	2	10	10	16
 ARG	2	9	-	1	5	5	2	2	9	17

2.5 NUMBER OF RUCKS / MAULS IN BUILD UP TO TRIES

The following table show the number of rucks and mauls that preceded each try.

RUCKS/MAULS	NUMBER	%	CUMULATIVE %
0 R/Ms	15	30%	30%
1 R/Ms	9	18%	58%
2 R/Ms	7	14%	62%
3+ R/Ms	19	38%	100%
TOTAL	50	100%	

The following table shows the number of ruck/mauls in the build up to tries scored and conceded per team.





	NO R/Ms		1 R/Ms		2 R/Ms		3+ R/Ms		TOTAL	
	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES
 NZL	8	1	2	2	3	-	5	4	18	7
 RSA	2	2	4	-	1	3	6	5	13	10
 AUS	2	5	2	4	2	3	4	4	10	16
 ARG	3	7	1	3	1	1	4	6	9	17

2.6 NUMBER OF PASSES IN BUILD UP TO TRIES

The following table shows the number of passes that preceded each try.

PASSES	NUMBER	%	CUMULATIVE %
0	8	16%	16%
1 - 3	13	26%	42%
4 - 6	12	24%	66%
7 - 9	9	18%	74%
10+	8	16%	100%
TOTAL	50	100%	

The following table shows the number of passes in the build up to tries scored and conceded per team.





	NO PASSES		1 – 3 PASSES		4 – 6 PASSES		7 – 9 PASSES		10+ PASSES		TOTAL	
	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES	OWN TRIES	OPP TRIES
 NZL	3	1	5	1	5	2	2	1	3	2	18	7
 RSA	3	-	4	1	3	3	3	3	-	3	13	10
 AUS	2	4	1	6	2	4	2	1	3	1	10	16
 ARG	-	3	3	5	2	3	2	4	2	2	9	17

3.0 KICKS AT GOAL

The following table shows kick success rates.

	KICKING SUCCESS
CONVERSIONS	70%
PENALTY GOALS	76%
DROP GOALS	3/7

The following table shows the kicking success for penalty goals, conversions and drop goals per team.

		CONVERSION SUCCESS	PENALTY SUCCESS	OVERALL SUCCESS	TOTAL DROP GOAL SUCCESS
	RSA	69%	83%	77%	2/3
	AUS	70%	81%	77%	0/0
	NZL	72%	76%	74%	0/0
	ARG	67%	65%	66%	1/4

4.0 BALL IN PLAY & POSSESSION









The average ball in play time per match was **33m 44s** or **42 per cent**.

The highest ball in play in any match was **44m 52s** or **56 per cent** and the lowest was **29m 41s** or **37 per cent**.

The table below shows the ball in play times and possession times for each match and team. The winning team won with less possession in **four** matches (highlighted in gold).

TEAM	POSSESSION TIME	%	TEAM	POSSESSION TIME	%	TOTAL TIME	% BIP
South Africa	13:41	46%	Argentina	16:22	55%	30:03	38%
Australia	18:54	62%	New Zealand	11:33	38%	30:27	38%
Argentina	17:34	54%	South Africa	14:48	46%	32:22	40%
New Zealand	18:16	54%	Australia	15:48	46%	34:04	43%
New Zealand	13:52	43%	Argentina	18:21	57%	32:13	40%
Australia	17:21	58%	South Africa	12:47	42%	30:08	38%
New Zealand	22:33	61%	South Africa	14:26	39%	36:59	46%
Australia	16:44	56%	Argentina	12:57	44%	29:41	37%
South Africa	26:10	58%	Australia	18:42	42%	44:52	56%
Argentina	18:06	53%	New Zealand	16:18	47%	34:24	43%
South Africa	18:27	51%	New Zealand	17:49	49%	36:16	45%
Argentina	18:10	55%	Australia	15:11	46%	33:21	42%

The following tables show the average possession time and the proportion of possession per match obtained by each team and their opponents.

	OWN POSSESSION AVERAGE	OPP POSSESSION AVERAGE		% OWN POSSESSION	% OPP POSSESSION
 AUS	17m 07s	16m 39s	 ARG	53%	47%
 ARG	16m 55s	15m 06s	 AUS	51%	49%
 NZL	16m 44s	17m 20s	 NZL	49%	51%
 RSA	16m 43s	18m 24s	 RSA	47%	53%

5.0 OPEN PLAY

Open play activity includes passes, ruck/mauls and kicks. The following table shows the average number and rate of passes, ruck/mauls and kicks per match.

	AVG. PER MATCH	RATE FREQUENCY OF PASSING
PASSES	272	One every 7secs
RUCKS/MAULS	166	One every 12secs
KICKS	44	One every 46secs





5.1 PASSING

The average number of passes per match was **272** and the passing rate was **one** every **seven seconds** of possession.

The most passes in a match was **387** and the least was **145**.

Ninety-three per cent of all passing movements contained three or fewer passes.

The following table shows the average, the most and the least number of passes per match per team and the passing rate per team.





		AVG. PASSES PER MATCH	MOST	LEAST	RATE FREQUENCY OF PASSING
	NZL	164	235	92	One every 6secs
	AUS	148	174	105	One every 7secs
	ARG	121	155	74	One every 8secs
	RSA	111	213	70	One every 9secs

5.2 PLAYER PASSING









The following table shows the proportion of all passes made by forwards, scrum-halves and backs.

	%
PASSES BY FORWARDS	17%
PASSES BY SCRUM-HALF	48%
PASSES BY BACKS	35%













The following table shows the number and proportion of passes made by the forwards, the scrum-half and backs of each team.

		PASSES BY FORWARDS	%	PASSES BY SCRUM-HALF	%	PASSES BY BACKS	%
	NZL	207	21%	386	39%	390	40%
	ARG	145	20%	346	48%	234	32%
	AUS	121	14%	488	55%	277	31%
	RSA	80	12%	352	53%	232	35%













The following tables show how often forwards and backs of each team passed the ball.

		FORWARDS PASS : POSSESSION RATIO			BACKS PASS : POSSESSION RATIO
	NZL	1 : 2.3		NZL	1 : 1.8
	ARG	1 : 3.1		AUS	1 : 2.1
	AUS	1 : 3.8		ARG	1 : 2.2
	RSA	1 : 4.7		RSA	1 : 2.2

Overall, forwards passed the ball once in every **3.2** possessions. The following tables show how often the front rows, second rows and back rows of each team passed the ball.

		FRONT ROW PASS : POSSESSION			SECOND ROW PASS : POSSESSION			BACK ROW PASS : POSSESSION
	ARG	1 : 3.2		NZL	1 : 2.3		NZL	1 : 2.0
	NZL	1 : 3.5		AUS	1 : 3.8		ARG	1 : 2.7
	AUS	1 : 3.8		ARG	1 : 5.1		AUS	1 : 3.9
	RSA	1 : 4.4		RSA	1 : 6.9		RSA	1 : 4.4

Overall, backs passed the ball every **2.1** possessions. The following tables show how often the fly-halves, centres and back threes of each team passed the ball.





		FLY HALF PASS : POSSESSION			CENTRES PASS : POSSESSION			BACK THREE PASS : POSSESSION
	NZL	1 : 1.4		NZL	1 : 1.9		NZL	1 : 2.2
	AUS	1 : 1.5		ARG	1 : 2.3		RSA	1 : 2.5
	ARG	1 : 1.7		AUS	1 : 2.3		ARG	1 : 3.0
	RSA	1 : 1.7		RSA	1 : 2.5		AUS	1 : 3.5

5.3 RUCKS/MAULS

The average number of ruck/mauls per match was **166** and the ruck/maul rate was **one** every **12 seconds** of possession.

The most ruck/mauls in a match was **272** and the least was **130**.





The following table shows the average, the most and the least number of ruck/mauls per match per team and the ruck/maul rate per team.

		AVERAGE R/Ms PER MATCH	MOST	LEAST	RATE FREQUENCY OF R/Ms
	AUS	93	113	63	One every 11secs
	ARG	82	100	62	One every 12secs
	NZL	77	106	58	One every 13secs
	RSA	80	164	53	One every 13secs

5.4 RUCK/MAUL RETENTION

The retention rate at ruck/mauls was **94 per cent**.

The following table shows how often each team retained ruck/maul possession and how often each team turned over opposition possession.





		SUCCESS IN OWN RUCK/MAULS	SUCCESS IN OPP RUCK/MAULS
	ARG	95%	6%
	AUS	94%	6%
	RSA	93%	7%
	NZL	92%	7%

5.5 KICKING

The average number of kicks per match was **44** and the kick rate was **one** every **46 seconds** of possession.









The most kicks in a match was **73** and the least was **24**.









The following table shows the average, the most and the least number of kicks per match by team and the kick rate by team.

		AVERAGE KICKS PER MATCH	MOST	LEAST	RATE FREQUENCY OF KICKS
	RSA	27	38	17	One every 38secs
	NZL	24	32	17	One every 42secs
	ARG	22	35	9	One every 46secs
	AUS	15	22	7	One every 68secs

5.6 PLAYER KICKING

Overall, scrum-halves kicked the ball every **12.3** possessions and backs kicked the ball every **6.4** possessions. The following tables show how often the scrum-halves, fly-halves, centres and back threes of each team kicked the ball.

		SCRUM HALF KICK : POSSESSION			FLY HALF KICK : POSSESSION
	RSA	1 : 7.9		ARG	1 : 4.2
	NZL	1 : 10.2		RSA	1 : 4.2
	ARG	1 : 13.4		NZL	1 : 5.2
	AUS	1 : 27.9		AUS	1 : 7.2

		CENTRES KICK : POSSESSION			BACK THREE KICK : POSSESSION
	ARG	1 : 6.1		RSA	1 : 4.0
	AUS	1 : 8.7		ARG	1 : 7.1
	NZL	1 : 15.2		NZL	1 : 7.1
	RSA	1 : 15.9		AUS	1 : 10.8






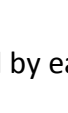


6.0 SET PIECE

6.1 50m RESTARTS





The following table shows the proportion of 50m restarts that were contestable and the success rates of contestable restarts.

	50m RESTARTS
% CONTESTABLE 50m	69%
RECEIVING CONTESTABLE RESTARTS – SUCCESS	1 in 1.3 = 77%
REGAINING CONTESTABLE RESTARTS – SUCCESS	1 in 4.6 = 23%

The following tables show the success per team on own and opposition restarts.

		RECEIVING CONTESTABLE 50m RESTARTS			REGAINING CONTESTABLE 50m RESTARTS
		SUCCESS			SUCCESS
	ARG	1 in 1.0		ARG	1 in 3.6
	RSA	1 in 1.2		NZL	1 in 4.6
	AUS	1 in 1.3		AUS	1 in 5.2
	NZL	1 in 1.5		RSA	1 in 7.0

The following table shows the type of restart kicked by each team.









		TYPE OF 50m RESTARTS	
		CONTESTABLE %	NOT CONTESTABLE %
	ARG	78%	22%
	AUS	67%	33%
	NZL	88%	12%
	RSA	44%	66%

6.2 LINEOUTS

The following table shows the average number of lineouts per match, the most/least number of lineouts in a match, the proportion of lineouts contested and the lineout retention rates.

	LINEOUTS
AVERAGE PER MATCH	26
MOST IN A MATCH	37
LEAST IN A MATCH	19
% COMPETED	52%
% POSSESSION RETAINED	85%

The following tables show the success per team on own and opposition lineouts.

OWN LINEOUTS				OPP LINEOUTS			
	SUCCESS %	CONTESTED %	LOST BY STEALS		SUCCESS %	CONTESTED %	WON BY STEALS
 NZL	89%	39%	9	 NZL	19%	71%	13
 RSA	86%	62%	13	 RSA	15%	41%	11
 ARG	84%	57%	9	 ARG	14%	44%	10
 AUS	81%	48%	10	 AUS	11%	52%	7

6.3 SCRUMS





The following table shows the average number of scrums per match, the most/least number of scrums in a match and the scrum retention rate.

	SCRUMS
AVG. PER MATCH	12
MOST IN A MATCH	19
LEAST IN A MATCH	7
POSSESSION RETAINED	85%





In total there were **two** tightheads and **no** through 90 degree turnovers in **149** scrums.

In total, there were 149 scrums which produced 55 penalties and free kicks. The ball came back into play 94 times – an average of eight times per match. The most times the ball came back into play was 15 and the fewest was three.

The following table shows the success per team on own scrums.

OWN SCRUMS							
	WON %	BALL RELEASED	PEN/FK FOR	LOST %	TIGHTHEAD	THRU 90	PEN/FK AGAINST
 NZL	38 = 90%	31	7	4 = 10%	-	-	4
 ARG	28 = 88%	18	10	4 = 12%	1	-	3
 AUS	28 = 76%	18	10	9 = 24%	1	-	8
 RSA	32 = 84%	25	7	6 = 16%	-	-	6









The following table shows the success per team on opposition scrums.

OPP SCRUMS							
	WON %	TIGHTHEAD	THRU 90	PEN/FK FOR	LOST %	BALL RELEASED	PEN/FK AGAINST
 ARG	11 = 24%	-	-	11	34 = 76%	21	13
 NZL	5 = 13%	2	-	3	35 = 87%	25	10
 AUS	4 = 11%	-	-	4	32 = 89%	26	6
 RSA	3 = 11%	-	-	3	25 = 89%	20	5





The following table shows the rate of collapses, resets, penalties/free kicks and ball back into play.

The Rugby Championship 2014	COLLAPSES PER 100 SCRUMS	RESETS PER 100 SCRUMS	PK/FKS PER 100 SCRUMS	BALL OUT PER 100 SCRUMS
	77	39	38	62

The following table shows the rate of collapses, penalties/free kicks and ball back into play on each team's scrum put-in.

		COLLAPSES PER 100 SCRUMS	RESETS PER 100 SCRUMS			PK/FKS PER 100 SCRUMS	BALL OUT PER 100 SCRUMS
	AUS	100	51		RSA	32	68
	ARG	88	50		NZL	33	67
	RSA	68	37		AUS	38	62
	NZL	55	21		ARG	50	50

The following table shows the distribution of penalties/free kicks for each team on own and opposition put-ins.





		OWN SCRUMS		OPP SCRUMS		TOTAL	
		PEN/FK FOR	PEN/FK AGAINST	PEN/FK FOR	PEN/FK AGAINST	PEN/FK FOR	PEN/FK AGAINST
	ARG	10	3	11	13	21	16
	AUS	10	8	4	6	14	14
	NZL	7	4	3	10	10	14
	RSA	7	6	3	5	10	11

7.0 PENALTIES & FREE KICKS

The following table shows the overall average number of penalties/free kicks per match.

	PENALTY/ FREE KICKS
AVG. PER MATCH	23
MOST IN A MATCH	28
LEAST IN A MATCH	15

The following tables show the total penalties for and against, and the proportion of penalties for and against for each team.





		TOTAL PK/FK FOR	TOTAL PK/FK AGAINST	PK/FK FOR %	PK/FK AGAINST %
	ARG	73	65	53%	47%
	RSA	65	59	52%	48%
	NZL	66	72	48%	52%
	AUS	69	77	47%	53%

7.1 OPTIONS TAKEN AT PENALTIES/FREE KICKS

The following table shows the options taken at penalties/free kicks.

	%
KICK TO TOUCH	57%
KICK AT GOAL	31%
TAP KICKS	10%
SCRUM	3%

The following table shows the options taken at penalties and free kicks per team.





		KICK TO TOUCH %	KICK AT GOAL %	TAP KICKS %	SCRUM %
	RSA	64%	28%	8%	-
	ARG	56%	32%	6%	6%
	AUS	54%	30%	15%	1%
	NZL	53%	32%	13%	2%

7.2 CATEGORIES OF OFFENCES PENALISED

The following table shows proportion of penalties and free kicks awarded in each facet of play.

	%%
TACKLE/RUCK	47%
SCRUM	21%
FOUL PLAY	13%
OFFSIDE	9%
GENERAL	6%
MAUL	4%
LINEOUT	1%

The following table shows the proportion of penalties and free kicks against each team in each facet of play.

	TACKLE/ RUCK %	SCRUM %	LINEOUT %	MAUL %	GENERAL PLAY %	FOUL PLAY %	OFFSIDE %
 RSA	51%	20%	0	0	5%	5%	19%
 AUS	51%	18%	1%	3%	4%	12%	12%
 NZL	44%	19%	1%	7%	6%	8%	14%
 ARG	42%	25%	0	5%	8%	9%	12%

Of penalties awarded at the ruck, **62 per cent** were in favour of the team in possession and **38 per cent** were in favour of the team not in possession. Of penalties/free kicks awarded at the scrum, **62 per cent** were in favour of the team in possession and **38 per cent** were in favour of the team not in possession.

8.0 CARDS

The following table shows the total number of cards.

	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS
TOTAL	8	-

The most cards in any match was **three** and the least was **none**. There were **four** matches that contained at least one yellow card with **eight** or **67 per cent** of all matches containing **none**.

The following table shows the reasons for the yellow cards.

	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS
TACKLE/RUCK	3	-
DANGEROUS TACKLE/CHARGE	2	-
GENERAL	1	-
OFFSIDE	1	-
MAUL	1	-

The following table shows the number of cards awarded against each team and the reasons for the cards.

	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARDS	REASONS
 NZL	4	-	2 x tackle/ruck; 1 x general play; 1 x offside
 AUS	3	-	1 x maul; 1 x dangerous tackle/charge; 1 x tackle/ruck
 RSA	1	-	1 x dangerous tackle/charge
 ARG	-	-	-

9.0 TMO

There were **31** referrals to the TMO as shown in the table below.

The shortest try referral took **15 seconds** and the longest took **2 minutes 25 seconds**.

	TOTAL	AVERAGE NUMBER PER MATCH	AVERAGE TIME TAKEN
TRY TMO	16	1.3	76s
FOUL PLAY TMO	15	1.3	54s
TOTAL TMO REFERRALS	31	2.6	65s

The following table shows the reasons for the try referrals to the TMO.

	TOTAL	TRY	NO TRY
GROUNDING	8	4	4
TOUCH	4	4	-
FORWARD PASS	1	1	-
KNOCK ON	1	-	1
OBSTRUCTION	1	1	-
OFFSIDE	1	-	1
TOTAL	16	10	6

The following table shows the reasons for the foul play referrals.

	TOTAL	NO ACTION	PENALTY	YELLOW CARD	RED CARD
CHARGING	6	3	2	1	-
LIFTING TACKLE	2	2	-	-	-
HIGH TACKLE	2	-	1	1	-
UNSPORTSMANLIKE	2	2	-	-	-
TACKLE IN THE AIR	1	-	1	-	-
RUCK CHARGE	1	-	1	-	-
OBSTRUCTION	1	-	1	-	-
TOTAL	15	7	6	2	-