

IRB SEVENS WORLD SERIES 2006/07



STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

IRB GAME ANALYSIS
March 2007

This is a report on the San Diego, USA, 2007 IRB Sevens tournament.

It comprises an analysis of all elements of play together with the approach to, and performance of, all participating teams in various aspects of the game.

The report looks at such areas as

- Scoring and the effectiveness of each team in attack and defence**
- The source and origin of tries**
- The effectiveness of teams in retaining possession**
- Each country's passes and rate of passing**
- Each country's second phases and rate of second phase play**
- The number and nature of tackles made by each team**
- Each team's approach and success at the breakdown**
- Each country's performance on its own restarts**
- Plus data on scrums, lineouts, penalties, referees and temporary suspensions.**















Similar reports will be prepared on each leg of the IRB Sevens series. These reports will then be sent to all participating teams before the start of the next group of events.

At the end of the 2006/2007 IRB Sevens World Series, a comprehensive report, bringing together the data collected throughout the series, will then be produced and distributed to all member countries of the International Rugby Board.



NO.	TEAM	SCORE	TEAM	REFEREE
1	England	26 - 14	Kenya	Smith
2	Australia	29 - 14	USA	Pilara
3	Fiji	57 - 5	Scotland	Mafi
4	Argentina	31 - 0	West Indies	Bullen
5	South Africa	33 - 0	Portugal	Hirabayashi
6	Samoa	22 - 10	Tonga	Stanish
7	New Zealand	31 - 19	Canada	Lloyd-Jones
8	France	28 - 5	Chile	Teagarden
9	England	26 - 10	USA	Hirabayashi
10	Australia	12 - 21	Kenya	Mafi
11	Fiji	55 - 7	West Indies	Teagarden
12	Argentina	12 - 17	Scotland	Stanish
13	South Africa	19 - 0	Tonga	Smith
14	Samoa	29 - 14	Portugal	Lloyd-Jones
15	New Zealand	43 - 5	Chile	Bullen
16	France	21 - 5	Canada	Pilara
17	Kenya	5 - 33	USA	Smith
18	Scotland	31 - 5	West Indies	Bullen
19	Portugal	5 - 31	Tonga	Teagarden
20	Canada	17 - 19	Chile	Mafi
21	England	14 - 19	Australia	Stanish
22	Fiji	19 - 5	Argentina	Hirabayashi
23	South Africa	14 - 21	Samoa	Pilara
24	New Zealand	26 - 0	France	Lloyd-Jones
25	Argentina	17 - 10	Portugal	Mafi
26	Chile	12 - 31	Kenya	Smith
27	Canada	14 - 7	USA	Pilara
28	Tonga	22 - 5	West Indies	Teagarden
29	Fiji	26 - 21	South Africa	Stanish
30	New Zealand	19 - 7	England	Lloyd-Jones
31	Australia	7 - 10	France	Hirabayashi
32	Samoa	34 - 0	Scotland	Bullen
33	Portugal	42 - 10	Chile	Teagarden
34	USA	17 - 0	West Indies	Mafi
35	Argentina	22 - 5	Kenya	Hirabayashi
36	Canada	10 - 24	Tonga	Bullen
37	South Africa	21 - 14	England	Smith
38	Australia	7 - 17	Scotland	Mafi
39	Fiji	19 - 10	New Zealand	Lloyd-Jones
40	France	0 - 38	Samoa	Stanish
41	Portugal	5 - 26	USA	Hirabayashi
42	Argentina	17 - 22	Tonga	Teagarden
43	South Africa	28 - 19	Scotland	Pilara
44	Fiji	38 - 24	Samoa	Stanish



		DUB	GEO	NZL	USA	HKG	AUS	LON	SCO	TOTAL
	Fiji	12	12	16	20	0	0	0	0	60
	New Zealand	16	20	12	12	0	0	0	0	60
	South Africa	20	16	12	8	0	0	0	0	56
	Samoa	8	4	20	16	0	0	0	0	48
	England	12	12	8	4	0	0	0	0	36
	France	6	4	6	12	0	0	0	0	28
	Australia	4	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	10
	Canada	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	8
	Wales	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
	Scotland	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6
	Tunisia	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Argentina	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Kenya	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Tonga	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2



PLAYER STATISTICS

Player		Most Points	Player		Most Tries
William Ryder	FJI	56	Mikaele Pesamino	SAM	6
Uale Mai	SAM	45	William Ryder	FJI	6
Mikaele Pesamino	SAM	36	Moses Volavola	FJI	6
Pedro Leal	POR	34	Santiago Gomez Cora	ARG	5
Simon Amor	ENG	32	Uale Mai	SAM	5
Mzwandile Stick	RSA	31	Siaosi Tua'tao	TON	5
Moses Volavola	FJI	30			
Jone Naqica	USA	30			

IRB SEVENS WORLD SERIES – SAN DIEGO 2007

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

	2007	2006
POINTS (average per game)	34	40
TRIES (average per game)	5.8	6.4
CONVERSION SUCCESS (%)	59%	60%
PENALTY GOALS (total)	0	0
DROP GOALS (total)	0	0
MATCHES WON by team scoring most tries	43 out of 44	40 out of 44
SOURCE OF TRIES - Pens/FKs (%)	32%	30%
SOURCE OF TRIES - Turnover/Opp Error (%)	23%	22%
ORIGIN OF TRIES - Own Half (%)	40%	38%
BUILD UP TO TRIES - No Rucks/Mauls (%)	66%	68%
BUILD UP TO TRIES - 3 Or Fewer Passes (%)	64%	63%
BALL IN PLAY (average per game)	7m 04secs 50%	6m 47secs 48%
PASSES (average per game)	68	66
RUCKS/MAULS (average per game)	18	14
TACKLES (average per game)		
KICKS (average per game)	10	10
SCRUMS (average per game)	4.3	4.1
SCRUMS possession retained (%)	87%	86%
LINEOUTS (average per game)	2.2	2.1
LINEOUTS percentage contested(%)	55%	73%
LINEOUTS possession retained (%)	77%	71%
RESTARTS kicked short (%)	82%	78%
RESTARTS possession retained (%)	24%	26%
PENALTIES (average per game)	7	6
PENALTIES awarded at breakdown (%)	54%	52%
YELLOW CARDS (total)	16	15

















IRB SEVENS WORLD SERIES – SAN DIEGO 2007 STATISTICAL SUMMARY

SCORING POINTS

The average number of points scored in a game was **34** (2006 – 40) – with the highest number of points in a game being **62 – Fiji v Scotland and Fiji v West Indies** and the least **17 – Australia v France** and **USA v West Indies**

The average number of point scored by a team was **17** but, not surprisingly, there were major variations around this average. **Fiji**, for example, averaged 36 points per game while **West Indies** managed just 3. The average for each competing team was as follows:

AVERAGE POINTS SCORED PER TEAM PER GAME

	Matches	2007	2006
 Fiji	6	36*	24*
 Samoa	6	28*	32
 New Zealand	5	26	33
 South Africa	6	23	29
 USA	6	18	12
 Tonga	6	18	30
 England	5	17	32*
 Argentina	6	17	21
 Kenya	5	15	19
 Scotland	6	15	16
 Australia	5	15	21
 Canada	5	13	23
 Portugal	6	13	n/a
 France	5	12	18
 Chile	5	10	n/a
 West Indies	5	3	2
* inc 20min final			

The figures show the average number of points scored. The figures do not show, however, how effective each team was in scoring points in relation to the possession that it obtained. A team may, for example, obtain little possession but still manage to score a significant number of tries. The

















STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

following paragraph considers this and attempts to show how successful each team was in converting possession into tries.

This was done by adding together the time each team was in possession of the ball in all the matches it played and then dividing it by the number of tries scored. The result then gave a rate of try scoring. As an illustration of this, **Kenya** scored one try for every 75 seconds possession.

The following table gives the relevant figure for each participating team:

RATE OF TRY SCORING

		Matches	2007	2006
	Fiji	6	1 try scored every 38secs	1 try scored every 42secs
	Samoa	6	43	52
	New Zealand	5	50	44
	South Africa	6	64	38
	Argentina	6	69	48
	Tonga	6	75	45
	Kenya	5	75	75
	Scotland	6	78	104
	England	5	89	53
	Australia	5	95	67
	USA	6	95	105
	Chile	5	96	n/a
	Canada	5	103	54
	Portugal	6	110	n/a
	France	5	138	79
	West Indies	5	259	351

The table shows that on a rate of try scoring, the top four are the same but with a slight change with the bottom four. Not all teams therefore maintained an identical position to that shown in the first table.

CONCEDING POINTS

AVERAGE POINTS CONCEDED PER TEAM PER GAME

The average number of point conceded by a team was **17** but, just as in points scored, there were major variations around this average. **New Zealand**, for example, conceded 10 points per game while **Chile** conceded 32. The average for each competing team was as follows:



New Zealand
Fiji
Argentina
South Africa
Tonga
USA
Australia
France
England
Samoa
Canada
Kenya
Scotland
Portugal
West Indies
Chile

Matches	2007	2006
5	10	10
6	12*	13*
6	12	11
6	13	15
6	13	18
6	13	20
5	15	15
5	16	18
5	17	7*
6	19*	12
5	20	19
5	21	21
6	24	21
6	24	n/a
5	31	43
5	32	n/a















* inc 20min final

The figures show the average number of points conceded. The figures do not show, however, how effective each team was in restricting points in relation to the possession that their opponents obtained. A team may, for example, concede very few tries in the face of considerable opposition possession. The following paragraph attempts to give some sort of measurement to this by illustrating how successful each team was in preventing their opposition from converting possession into tries.

This was done by adding together the total time the team's opponents were in possession of the ball - and then dividing it by the number of tries conceded. The result then gave a rate of try scoring by the opposition. As an illustration of this, **Australia** conceded a try for every 96 seconds possession obtained by their opponents.

The following table gives the relevant figure for each participating team.

RATE OF TRY CONCEDED

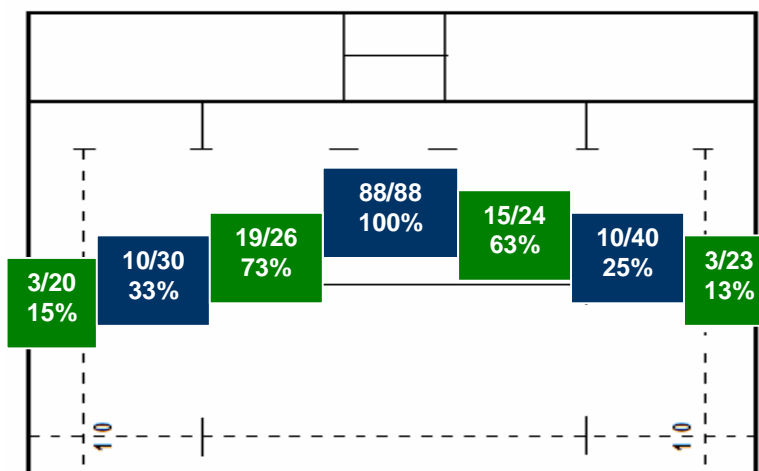
	Matches	2007	2006
 New Zealand	5	1 try conceded every 145 secs	1 try conceded every 83 secs
 Samoa	6	110	91
 South Africa	6	101	113
 Fiji	6	102	103
 Argentina	6	98	124
 Australia	5	96	81
 USA	6	90	64
 Tonga	6	85	67
 England	5	78	114
 Canada	5	74	69
 France	5	74	67
 Kenya	5	68	88
 Portugal	6	57	n/a
 Scotland	6	50	45
 Chile	5	49	n/a
 West Indies	5	40	36

OTHER SCORING

There were **253** tries scored in the tournament making an average of **5.7** per game (2006 – 6.0). No penalty goals were kicked and there were no drop goals.

The conversion success rate was **59%** (2006 - 62%).

The conversion success rates from various parts of the pitch are shown:



STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

While the participating teams had conversion success rates either side of this figure, it was interesting to note that there were noticeable variations in the percentage success rate of those teams scoring more than 18 tries as shown below:

<u>CONVERSION SUCCESS RATES</u>		
	Fiji	67%
	Argentina	39%
	New Zealand	57%
	Tonga	39%
	Samoa	50%
	South Africa	90%

West Indies and **Chile** had the lowest success rate of all 16 participating teams at 33%.

Nevertheless, because of the relatively few tries scored, applying percentages can, at this stage, only be regarded as indicative. In addition, the location of the score can be a significant factor in achieving a successful conversion. As the sevens series develops, however, and tries accumulate, it will be possible to produce, at the end of the year, a more meaningful comparison of each team's cumulative conversion hit rate.

IMPACT OF TRIES

With no penalty goals, not one drop goal and a conversion success rate of **59%**, it was inevitable that tries would determine the winning team in the vast majority of cases – and this proved to be the case.

Of the 44 matches, **43 (or 98%) were won by the team scoring the most tries.** 1 matches were won because of conversions where the tries were equal.

SOURCE OF TRIES

There were **253** tries scored in the 44 matches. The following tables show

1. The possession source that resulted in tries
2. Where tries were scored
3. Where on the pitch the lead up to the try started
4. The build up to all tries

1. Possession source

The teams scoring the tries obtained possession of the ball prior to the scoring of the try from a variety of sources. This is shown in the following table:

POSSESSION SOURCE OF TRIES (%)

	2007	2006
PENALTY/FREE KICK	32	30
TURNOVER/OPPONENT'S HANDLING ERROR	23	22
SCRUM (OWN)	13	12
RESTART (OPP)	9	7
LINEOUT (OWN)	7	7
RESTART (OWN)	5	12
KICK RECEIPT	6	6
SCRUM (OPP)	2	2
LINEOUT (OPP)	3	2
	100%	100%

The above indicates that – overall – teams score around a third of their tries through penalties and free kicks. This was not always the case however:

- 11 of **Tonga's** 19 tries came from penalties and free kicks
- this contrasted with **Argentina's** 4 out of 18
- not one of **USA** tries came from the set pieces of scrum and lineout
- only 12 tries came from regained 50m restarts – 7 came from **Fiji**. No other team had more than 1.

2. Position where tries were scored

Of all the tries scored,

35% were scored under the posts

20% within 15 metres of the left corner flag

25% within 15 metres of the right corner flag

The remaining **20%** were scored in-field either side of the posts.

















3. Origin of tries

Tries originate from various parts of the pitch. The following paragraph shows where the attacking team obtained possession from which they eventually scored

- 26%** originated within the 22 metre line
- 26%** between the 22 and 10 metre line
- 8%** between 10 metres and halfway and
- 40%** originated in the scoring team's half

Individual teams varied from these percentages as shown below.

ORIGIN OF TRIES SCORED (%)

		Own Half	HW – 10m	10m – 22m	22m – Try line	Total Tries
	Fiji	12	1	10	11	34
	Samoa	10	2	9	7	28
	New Zealand	10	3	6	2	21
	South Africa	10	1	5	4	20
	Tonga	3	1	6	9	19
	Argentina	7	2	6	3	18
	USA	9	0	3	5	17
	Scotland	2	3	7	3	15
	England	5	1	3	4	13
	Australia	7	0	4	1	12
	Kenya	5	0	3	4	12
	Portugal	8	1	2	1	12
	Canada	4	1	2	4	11
	Chile	4	0	2	3	9
	France	2	4	2	1	9
	West Indies	3	0	0	0	3

4. Build-up to tries

Possession of the ball that leads to tries is obtained from a number of sources – and they are listed above. More often than not, other actions – second phase, kicks and passes – then take place before the try is scored.

The table shows how many **second phases** preceded each try.

The table shows that **66%** of tries were preceded by not one second phase. Interestingly, not one of **Kenya's** tries contained a second phase.

BUILD UP TO TRIES (PHASES)

	2007	2006
None	66%	68%
1 rucks/mauls	24	23
2 rucks/mauls	6	5
3 + rucks/mauls	4	4
	100%	100%

BUILD UP TO TRIES (PASSES)

The table shows the total number of **passes** that preceded each of the **253** tries.

The table shows that **64%** of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer passes.

	2007	2005
No passes	17	13%
1 pass	16	13
2 passes	15	20
3 passes	16	17
4 passes	13	10
5 passes	7	8
6 passes	4	7
7 passes	4	3
8 passes	3	4
9 + passes	5	5
	100%	100%

BALL IN PLAY

The average amount of ball-in-play time was **7 minutes 04 seconds or 50%** (2005- 48%).

The highest ball in play time was
Australia v USA and **New Zealand v France** both with **8 mins 50 secs** (63%)





The lowest ball in play time was
Samoa v Usotland with **5 mins 11 secs** (37%)

While the lowest possession time by any team in a game was **Chile** with 1min 46 secs and the highest was **France** with 5 min 57 secs.

AVERAGE POSSESSION TIME PER TEAM PER GAME

There was a considerable variation between the ball in play figures achieved by the various teams. This is shown in the following table which shows the average possession time achieved by each team throughout the tournament

As seen in the table, there were some noticeable differences between the participating teams. **USA**, for example, had almost twice the possession of **West Indies**.

		2007	2006
	USA	4m 28	3m 47
	France	4m 07	3m 57
	Tonga	3m 58	3m 37
	England	3m 52	4m 05
	Canada	3m 47	3m 15
	Australia	3m 47	3m 46
	Portugal	3m 41	n/a
	South Africa	3m 34	2m 46
	Fiji	3m 33	2m 36
	New Zealand	3m 29	3m 59
	Argentina	3m 27	2m 57
	Samoa	3m 23	4m18
	Scotland	3m 15	4m 20
	Kenya	3m 01	3m 08
	Chile	2m 53	n/a
	West Indies	2m 35	2m.20

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The following table shows the percentage possession attained by each team in every game.

NO.	TEAM	POSSESSION %	TEAM	POSSESSION %	SCORE
1	England	55%	Kenya	45%	26 - 14
2	Australia	44%	USA	56%	29 - 14
3	Fiji	61%	Scotland	39%	57 - 5
4	Argentina	55%	West Indies	45%	31 - 0
5	South Africa	42%	Portugal	58%	33 - 0
6	Samoa	44%	Tonga	56%	22 - 10
7	New Zealand	45%	Canada	55%	31 - 19
8	France	63%	Chile	37%	28 - 5
9	England	41%	USA	59%	26 - 10
10	Australia	65%	Kenya	35%	12 - 21
11	Fiji	63%	West Indies	37%	55 - 7
12	Argentina	46%	Scotland	54%	12 - 17
13	South Africa	56%	Tonga	44%	19 - 0
14	Samoa	42%	Portugal	58%	29 - 14
15	New Zealand	72%	Chile	28%	43 - 5
16	France	53%	Canada	47%	21 - 5
17	Kenya	45%	USA	55%	5 - 33
18	Scotland	56%	West Indies	44%	31 - 5
19	Portugal	37%	Tonga	63%	5 - 31
20	Canada	51%	Chile	49%	17 - 19
21	England	53%	Australia	47%	14 - 19
22	Fiji	50%	Argentina	50%	19 - 5
23	South Africa	59%	Samoa	41%	14 - 21
24	New Zealand	34%	France	66%	26 - 0
25	Argentina	43%	Portugal	57%	17 - 10
26	Chile	44%	Kenya	56%	12 - 31
27	Canada	45%	USA	55%	14 - 7
28	Tonga	54%	West Indies	46%	22 - 5
29	Fiji	47%	South Africa	53%	26 - 21
30	New Zealand	36%	England	64%	19 - 7
31	Australia	50%	France	50%	7 - 10
32	Samoa	55%	Scotland	45%	34 - 0
33	Portugal	54%	Chile	46%	42 - 10
34	USA	60%	West Indies	40%	17 - 0
35	Argentina	61%	Kenya	39%	22 - 5
36	Canada	48%	Tonga	52%	10 - 24
37	South Africa	48%	England	52%	21 - 14
38	Australia	43%	Scotland	57%	7 - 17
39	Fiji	41%	New Zealand	59%	19 - 10
40	France	46%	Samoa	54%	0 - 38
41	Portugal	38%	USA	62%	5 - 26
42	Argentina	43%	Tonga	57%	17 - 22
43	South Africa	47%	Scotland	53%	28 - 19
44	Fiji	47%	Samoa	53%	38 - 24

STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

The following table shows the number of matches when the team obtained more possession than their opposition. It can be seen that **USA** obtained more possession than their opponents in all of their 6 matches, while **Chile** did not obtain more possession in any of their 5.

NUMBER OF MATCHES WHERE MOST POSSESSION OBTAINED

		6 MATCHES		5 MATCHES
	Portugal	4		4
	South Africa	3		2
	Samoa	3		2
	Australia	1 + 1 same		none
	Tonga	5		2 + 1 same
	Fiji	2 + 1 same		1
	USA	6		3 + 1 same
	Scotland	4		none

PASSING

The average number of passes per game was **68** (2006 – 66)

The most passes in a game was **104 (New Zealand v France)**












The fewest passes in a game was **46 (Samoa v Scotland)**

The team that passed most won on 20 occasions: the team that passed the least won on 21 occasions with three matches having the same number of passes. Conversely, **USA** out-passed their opponents in all 6 of theirs.

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The average number of passes made by the participating teams showed major differences as shown in the following table:

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF PASSES
PER TEAM PER GAME**

















	2007	2006
 USA	51	37
 France	41	40
 Canada	40	35
 England	36	40
 New Zealand	36	42
 Tonga	36	35
 South Africa	36	17
 Argentina	35	26
 Portugal	33	n/a
 Scotland	32	51
 Chile	30	n/a
 West Indies	29	20
 Kenya	28	31
 Fiji	28	23
 Samoa	28	47
 Australia	27	38

The above table shows major differences between the various teams. **USA** made almost twice as many passes as **Australia** for example. Such differences can however partly be explained by the amount of possession obtained by each team. If this is taken into account, the rate at which each country passed the ball is far closer as shown in the next table. In the **USA** and **Australia** case, for example, while **USA** may have made almost double the passes, they only passed at a rate that was only 50% more.

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This is shown in the following table which expresses passes as 'passes per minute possession'.

RATE OF PASSING PER TEAM
(PASSES PER MINUTE POSSESSION)

	2007	2006
 West Indies	11.4	8.7
 USA	11.3	10.5
 Canada	10.5	10.8
 New Zealand	10.3	10.6
 Chile	10.2	n/a
 Argentina	10.1	8.6
 South Africa	10.0	6.1
 France	9.9	10.2
 Scotland	9.9	11.7
 England	9.4	9.7
 Kenya	9.4	9.8
 Portugal	9.1	n/a
 Tonga	9.0	9.7
 Samoa	8.9	10.9
 Fiji	8.6	9.1
 Australia	7.3	10.1

As shown earlier, there were on average, **68** passes per game. These passes came in passing sequences of which there were just over 1000.

Of these passing sequences

31% comprised 1 pass	2006 - 28%
25% comprised 2 passes	2006 - 24%
21% comprised 3 passes	2006 - 22%
13% comprised 4 passes	2006 - 12%
10% comprised 5+ passes	2006 - 14%

Most teams fell into this profile – ie around 50+% of their passing movements contained 2 or fewer passes. Where major differences arose, these were seen in the more lengthy passing movements. Certain teams were far more inclined to continue passing than others. This is shown in the following table which notes the number of 5+ pass movements made by each country.

STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

PROPORTION OF 5+ PASSING SEQUENCES TO TOTAL NUMBER OF PASSING MOVEMENTS PER TEAM

		2007	2006
	USA	1 in 5	1 in 6
	France	1 in 6	1 in 4
	New Zealand	1 in 6	1 in 6
	West Indies	1 in 6	1 in 17
	Scotland	1 in 7	1 in 4
	Chile	1 in 8	n/a
	Fiji	1 in 8	1 in 8
	Canada	1 in 9	1 in 7
	Portugal	1 in 9	n/a
	South Africa	1 in 9	1 in 12
	Argentina	1 in 10	1 in 7
	England	1 in 16	1 in 9
	Tonga	1 in 19	1 in 8
	Samoa	1 in 20	1 in 6
	Kenya	1 in 28	1 in 8
	Australia	1 in 68	1 in 9

During the course of the analysis an attempt was made to divide passes into 3 categories:

- A **Normal** i.e. an orthodox pass from one player to another
- B **Off ground** i.e. a successful pass by a player who has been brought to ground
- C **Pressure** i.e. those passes made by a player under pressure. This would include an offload, any pass where an opponent made contact or was close enough to make the player pass the ball. It has to be said that this is a somewhat imprecise science and therefore the figures should be treated with a considerable degree of caution. At best they should only be regarded as possibly indicative.

STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

Of all the passes made in the tournament,

66% were regarded as **Normal** (2006 – 62%)

7% were **Off ground** (2006 – 7%)

27% were **Pressure** passes (2006 – 31%)

All teams made more normal passes than ground or pressure. **Australia** made the most ground passes –12% and **England** made the least – 3%.

RUCKS/MAULS

The average number of rucks/mauls (2nd Phases) per game was **18** (2006 – 14)

There were however noticeable differences from match to match:

The most rucks/mauls in a game was **28 (Canada v Tonga, Australia v USA)**


The fewest in a game was **7 (Fiji v West Indies & Scotland v West Indies)**

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF RUCKS/MAULS
PER TEAM PER GAME**

In the 44 matches, the team that rucked the most won on 15 occasions: the team that rucked the least won on 29 occasions.

Canada outrucked their opponents in all five of their matches.

















The number of rucks/mauls created by the participating teams showed major differences as shown in the attached table:

		2007	2006
	Tonga	14	8
	England	13	10
	Australia	13	9
	Canada	13	8
	USA	10	9
	Portugal	10	n/a
	Samoa	9	10
	Argentina	9	5
	France	8	5
	Kenya	7	5
	New Zealand	7	7
	Scotland	7	8
	South Africa	7	4
	Fiji	7	3
	Chile	6	n/a
	West Indies	6	7

STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

The table shows major differences between the various teams. **Tonga**, for example, rucked twice as much as **Fiji**. Again, some of the differences can be explained by the amount of possession obtained by each team. If this is taken into account, the rate at which each country rucked and mauled is far closer, as shown in the next table. This expresses rucks/mauls as 'rucks/mauls per minute possession ':














RATE OF RUCKS/MAULS PER TEAM
(RUCKS & MAULS PER MINUTE POSSESSION)

		2007	2006
	Canada	3.5	2.6
	Tonga	3.5	2.1
	England	3.3	2.5
	Australia	3.3	2.4
	Portugal	2.7	n/a
	Argentina	2.6	1.6
	Samoa	2.6	2.4
	West Indies	2.3	2.8
	Kenya	2.2	1.6
	Chile	2.1	n/a
	Scotland	2.1	1.8
	New Zealand	2.1	1.7
	USA	2.1	2.6
	France	2.0	1.3
	South Africa	2.0	1.4
	Fiji	1.9	1.2

Retention of possession at the breakdown

At the breakdown, the team taking in the ball retained possession by either winning the ball or being awarded a penalty on **80%** of occasions. The percentage success rate of each team was as follows:

BREAKDOWN RETENTION SUCCESS (%)

		2007	2006
	South Africa	90%	85
	Samoa	90	85
	Tonga	88	82
	New Zealand	84	91
	Fiji	83	85
	Canada	82	88
	Argentina	81	82
	USA	79	81
	France	78	77
	England	78	85
	Chile	77	n/a
	Australia	76	76
	Kenya	70	81
	Portugal	70	n/a
	Scotland	68	89
	West Indies	67	61

KICKS

AVERAGE NUMBER OF KICKS PER TEAM PER GAME

The average number of kicks per game was **10** – or around **5** when penalty kicks and free kicks are excluded. These four comprised kicks ahead, kicks to touch at the end of a half and assorted kicks both defensive and desperate. In numerical terms therefore, kicks played a relatively small role in the San Diego tournament.

Argentina kicked more often than any other team. **New Zealand** and **Australia**, on the other hand, kicked very little.

In 2 of the 44 matches, neither team made a single kick. This contrasts with the **Fiji v South Africa** game in which there were 12.

Of the total kicks made by teams in open play, the attached table shows how many were regained. The overall regained total was 56 out of 239 or 23%

	Argentina
	Chile
	Kenya
	Scotland
	Fiji
	Tonga
	South Africa
	Samoa
	France
	West Indies
	USA
	England
	Portugal
	Canada
	Australia
	New Zealand

KICKS MADE	KICKS RETAINED
36	9
26	6
23	5
21	6
19	4
17	6
15	3
13	5
13	1
11	3
11	2
8	1
8	2
7	1
6	1
5	1

TACKLES

Tackles have been divided into 3 categories:

Single	this is where one player attempts to bring an opponent to the ground
Team	which is where more than one player makes the tackle
Offload	which is where a player commits himself to a tackle but his opponent manages to offload the ball

Of all the tackles made: **29%** were Single Tackles
14% were Team tackles
57% were Offload tackles
100%

STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

There were some **42** tackles per game or **21** per team. Around this figure however there were major variations. While, for example, **Samoa** made 141 in 6 matches, and **USA** made 131 in their 6 matches, **England** made just 73 in their 6.

Such differences between the teams are illustrated in the following table which gives the average number of tackles per team per game:

















AVERAGE NUMBER OF TACKLES PER TEAM PER GAME

	2007	2006
 New Zealand	26	14
 Kenya	24	25
 Australia	24	21
 Samoa	24	19
 Fiji	23	24
 Canada	22	23
 Portugal	22	n/a
 USA	22	16
 Argentina	21	22
 France	21	21
 South Africa	21	31
 Chile	20	n/a
 Tonga	18	20
 West Indies	16	22
 Scotland	16	13
 England	15	12

In addition to clear differences in the overall number of tackles made by each team, there were also differences in the sorts of tackles that were made. With regard to team tackles, for example, while these accounted for around 14% of all tackles, in **England's** case the figure was 27% while **Fiji's** was 9%. The full list is as follows:

STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

TACKLE TYPE PER TEAM (%)

		Offload % 2007	Offload % 2006	Team % 2007	Team % 2006	Single % 2007	Single % 2006
	West Indies	71%	77%	11%	6%	18%	17%
	Fiji	63%	60%	9%	10 %	28%	30%
	Chile	62%	n/a	11%	n/a	27%	n/a
	New Zealand	60%	57%	12%	19%	28%	24%
	Portugal	60%	n/a	12%	n/a	28%	n/a
	Canada	60%	68%	15%	13%	25%	19%
	Australia	59%	61%	18%	11%	23%	28%
	Kenya	57%	69%	13%	10%	30%	21%
	France	55%	62%	15%	10%	30%	28%
	Argentina	54%	60%	17%	17%	29%	23%
	USA	54%	62%	9%	11%	37%	27%
	Tonga	54%	62%	19%	11%	27%	27%
	Scotland	53%	69%	10%	18%	37%	13%
	Samoa	53%	67%	14%	11%	33%	22%
	South Africa	50%	52%	19%	16%	31%	32%
	England	47%	67%	27%	14%	26%	19%

BREAKDOWN

There are over 500 breakdowns in a tournament - and a breakdown occurs when at least one player from each side is on his feet at or over the ball. When the tackler is on his feet and an opponent joins in, then there is a breakdown. When the tackler is not on his feet, a breakdown occurs when at least one player from each side joins in.

















What became immediately noticeable was that there were clear differences in the approach of the various countries in committing players to the breakdown. While certain teams frequently committed few additional players, other countries consistently committed more.

France's approach to the breakdown for example was quite different from **Kenya**. In attack for example, **Kenya** would seldom send in more than one player while **France**, on the other hand, would send in more than one on two out of three occasions.

STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

The extent of the differences between each team's approach is illustrated by an exercise that looked at how many players were committed to the breakdown (1) in attack and (2) in defence.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS COMMITTED TO BREAKDOWN – ATTACK

		1 PLAYER 2007	1 PLAYER 2006	2+ PLAYERS 2007	2+ PLAYERS 2006
	Kenya	82%	81%	18%	19%
	Samoa	81%	94%	19%	6%
	Fiji	70%	80%	30%	20%
	South Africa	69%	70%	31%	30%
	Tonga	66%	76%	34%	24%
	New Zealand	65%	94%	35%	6%
	USA	65%	64%	35%	33%
	Argentina	61%	79%	39%	21%
	Canada	58%	81%	42%	19%
	Chile	57%	n/a	43%	n/a
	Australia	57%	58%	43%	42%
	Portugal	55%	n/a	45%	n/a
	England	51%	55%	49%	45%
	West Indies	50%	45%	50%	55%
	Scotland	41%	68%	59%	32%
	France	29%	48%	71%	52%

















What was also noticeable was how few 2nd phases were created by certain teams compared with others. A comparison of past IRB Sevens winners illustrates the extent of the differences:

	2 nd phases created
 Fiji	40 in 6 games – av 6.6
 France	41 in 5 games – av 8.2
 South Africa	42 in 6 games inc. final– av 7.0
 New Zealand	37 in 5 games inc final– av 7.4
 England	64 in 5 games – av 12.8

STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

There were also noticeable differences regarding the number of players committed at defensive breakdowns. **Scotland, Kenya and South Africa's** approach was quite different from **Australia, Argentina** and **Tonga** when defending the second phase as seen in the following table. Whereas the first group would frequently not send in an additional player, the latter group did in the vast majority of cases.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS COMMITTED TO BREAKDOWN – DEFENCE

		NO PLAYER 2007	NO PLAYER 2006	1 PLAYER 2007	1 PLAYER 2006	2+ PLAYERS 2007	2+ PLAYERS 2006
	Scotland	46%	16%	46%	60%	8%	24%
	Kenya	34%	15%	53%	62%	13%	23%
	South Africa	32%	30%	52%	53%	16%	17 %
	New Zealand	30%	30%	57%	63%	13%	7%
	USA	27%	21%	55%	66%	18%	13%
	Fiji	26%	37%	52%	54%	22%	9%
	West Indies	26%	23%	57%	46%	17%	31%
	Samoa	25%	10%	51%	65%	24%	25%
	Portugal	20%	n/a	57%	n/a	23%	n/a
	Canada	20%	19%	56%	53%	24%	28%
	France	15%	26%	58%	60%	27%	14%
	Chile	13%	n/a	64%	n/a	23%	n/a
	England	13%	8%	54%	56%	33%	36%
	Tonga	12%	20%	53%	53%	35%	27%
	Argentina	12%	23%	63%	58%	25%	19%
	Australia	10%	20%	68%	66%	22%	14%

SCRUMS

	2007
Average no per game	4.3 (2006 – 4.2)
Most in a game	9 (South Africa v Tonga)
Least in a game	2 (4 matches)
Possession retained by putting in team	87%
Penalties	7 against putting in team: 12 against opponents
Crooked feeds penalised	3
Scrums against the head	1 in 11

Portugal and England were the only teams that won all their scrums. **Tonga and Kenya** each won 3 tight heads, **South Africa** and **Fiji** each won 2 – the remaining 12 teams won 1 or none. While, **Chile** lost 4 of their 9 scrums and only 5 teams never won an opposition scrum.

LINEOUTS

	2006
Average no per game	2.2 (2006 – 2.1)
Most in a game	6 (Argentina v Tonga, Fiji v South Africa)
Least in a game	0 (6 matches)
Possession retained by putting in team	77%
Percentage contested	55%

Samoa's opponents had only one lineout in total. **Argentina's** opponents had 11.

Although there were relatively few lineout throws per team, only 4 teams never lost a lineout. (**England, Fiji, New Zealand** and **Canada**). **Portugal** and **Canada** had only **two** lineout throw-ins in the entire tournament.

There were 4 lineout steals by **Argentina** and 4 by **Canada**. Two other teams managed 2 each – the remainder managed 1 or none.

RESTARTS

















Restarts were classified into 2 sorts, long and short. A short restart was one that was contestable: a long one was not.

18% of restarts were kicked long (2006– 28%)

82% were kicked short (2006 – 72%)

Of all restarts, the kicking team won **24%** or 1 in 4 (2006 - 24% or 1 in 4). There were **33** restart errors. The most successful teams were **Samoa, Kenya, Portugal,** and **West Indies** who had no restart errors in 25, 13, 14 and 3 short starts respectively.

RESTART RETENTION RATES PER TEAM

		LONG RESTART	SHORT RESTART	RESTART REGAINED 2007	RESTART REGAINED 2006
	Fiji	7	26	1 in 2	1 in 23
	Argentina	1	21	1 in 3	1 in 6
	Portugal	2	14	1 in 4	n/a
	Samoa	1	25	1 in 4	1 in 2
	Tonga	4	18	1 in 4	1 in 3
	Kenya	4	13	1 in 4	1 in 18
	England	2	13	1 in 5	1 in 2
	USA	none	19	1 in 6	1 in 19
	Chile	3	9	1 in 6	n/a
	France	2	12	1 in 7	1 in 5
	Australia	2	12	1 in 7	1 in 3
	Canada	2	12	1 in 7	1 in 2
	Scotland	4	14	1 in 9	1 in 3
	South Africa	7	16	1 in 12	1 in 2
	New Zealand	7	16	1 in 12	1 in 5
	West Indies	4	3	none	0 in 7

Lack of success at the restart is not always the result of an unsuccessful challenge. Certain teams can intentionally kick long on more occasions than others. Retention rates at restarts varied, with some teams retaining their own restarts noticeably more successfully than others as shown in the following table:

PENALTIES

The average number of penalties per game was **7** (2006 – 7)

The most in a game was **14 (Portugal v Tonga)**
















The fewest in a game was **1 (Scotland v West Indies, Fiji v West Indies)**

Of the penalties and free kicks awarded:

54% were at the breakdown (ruck/tackle)
5% were at the scrum
11% were faulty restarts
10% were for offside
6% were for illegal tackles
6% were +10m
4% were for obstruction
0% for lineout offences
3% miscellaneous
1% for foul play
100%

















With regard to the total number of penalties conceded by each team, the following table has been split into two in order to reflect the fact that some teams played 6 matches and others 5:

TOTAL NUMBER OF PENALTIES CONCEDED PER TEAM

	MATCHES	PENS		MATCHES	PENS
 Kenya	5	11	 Scotland	6	11
 West Indies	5	13	 USA	6	16
 Chile	5	15	 Fiji	6	16
 Canada	5	16	 Samoa	6	18
 New Zealand	5	19	 Portugal	6	21
 England	5	21	 Tonga	6	24
 France	5	22	 South Africa	6	25
 Australia	5	28	 Argentina	6	31

What needs to be noted however is that such figures are absolute and do not necessarily reflect the true degree of discipline or ill-discipline of a particular team. The number of penalties can, for example, vary from match to match. Some referees penalise more than others (in one game, there were 14 penalties and free kicks – in another, there were none). A better and probably more accurate indicator, therefore, is the proportion of penalties conceded by a team in all their matches compared with their opponents. This can be seen in the following table. Using **Scotland** as an example, out of 33 penalties awarded in matches, only 11 or 33% went against them.

















TOTAL NUMBER OF PENALTIES FOR & AGAINST PER TEAM

		PENALTIES FOR	PENALTIES AGAINST
	Scotland	22	11
	Kenya	21	11
	USA	27	16
	Canada	22	16
	England	24	21
	Portugal	25	21
	Fiji	19	16
	Samoa	19	18
	Tonga	25	24
	Chile	13	15
	West Indies	8	13
	South Africa	19	25
	France	15	22
	New Zealand	12	19
	Australia	17	28
	Argentina	19	31

STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

With regard to penalties awarded at the breakdown, the **team in possession** was penalised **10%** less than their opponents. Certain countries, however, show a different pattern as shown in the following table:

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PENALTIES FOR & AGAINST ATTACK
AT BREAKDOWN PER TEAM**

		PENALTIES FOR	PENALTIES AGAINST
	Chile	0	1
	Samoa	3	1
	Fiji	4	2
	Australia	5	5
	West Indies	2	4
	France	4	6
	Tonga	11	2
	Canada	6	7
	New Zealand	2	6
	South Africa	5	3
	Kenya	7	4
	Argentina	7	7
	USA	9	5
	Scotland	4	6
	England	10	10
	Portugal	6	7
	TOTAL	85	76

The average number of penalties awarded by the 8 participating referees was as follows:

	PENALTIES PER GAME	YELLOW/ RED CARDS
Smith	8.8	3 +1 red
Pilara	7.4	1
Mafi	7.2	3
Stanish	7.2	3
Teagarden	6.8	1
Lloyd-Jones	6.4	1
Hirabayashi	6.3	3
Bullen	5.8	1
		16 +1 red

STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

Of all penalties and free kicks awarded, **32%** went against the team in possession of the ball. The range varied noticeably between the 8 referees however. One referee penalised the team in possession on only **18%** of occasions while another penalised them on **44%** of occasions.




TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS (Red/Yellow cards)

There were **16** yellow cards issued – with **one** red cards. This contrasts with 13 yellow cards and no red cards in 2005.

The offences for which they were awarded were as follows:

	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARD
THROWING BALL AWAY	6	
ILLEGAL TACKLES	5	
RUCK OFFENCES	1	
TIME WASTING	1	
PLAYING OPP W/OUT BALL	1	
FOUL PLAY	1	1
NOT 10m	1	
TOTAL	16	1

This year, 7 of the 16 teams did not concede a card (**New Zealand, West Indies, USA, Canada, Samoa, Kenya and France**)

	YELLOW CARDS	RED CARD
 South Africa	3	
 Australia	3	
 Argentina	2	
 Fiji	2	1
 Chile	2	
 England	1	
 Tonga	1	
 Scotland	1	
 Portugal	1	
Total	16	1