



MEDIA GUIDE

GEORGIA

GeorgianRugby



This is Georgia



Brave Rugby Nation from Caucasus Cradle of Vine & Wine, by the way

Georgia Rugby logo stems from old Caucasian sign, called "Borjghali" – rotating cross which symbolizes "Eternity of Life"

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Greetings from Aspiring Nation

First of all, let us congratulate and thank RWC 2019 hosts – Japan which arranged true feast for the entire rugby world and spared nothing to entertain visitors

Georgia will be represented at RWC for the fifth time in a row. Just this fact obliges us to present a high quality, viable team to rugby aficionados

While our Lelos are preparing for this event, rugby folks can't wait for the show to begin. Georgia should pass another exam – prove to the world that, unlike in the past, the Lelos are not there just to make numbers; that we are not easy beats any more

This RWC is a big challenge for our Union. We believe that the team will play nicely, give their all and prove that we are "Happy to fight", as our motto has it

In Japan our team will meet top notch opposition. Beating them is difficult but no-way impossible. Wherever the Lelos have been so far they tackled this reality eye to eye, both physically and mentally. Each of our guys embodies Georgian rugby and Georgian soul – noble and full of respect

You see, it is out of our control how strong opposition we met and therefore, what result we would achieve. In any case, we will fight



in true rugby spirit, fully commit ourselves and provide a decent show

Just participation in this comp is already a success for any team. We anticipate RWC 2019 making history and creating fond memories. We are glad that Japan were given the honour to host the event. We see this as another recognition of recent trend – the gap between game's elite and so-called Tier 2 is shrinking

We sincerely hope that RWC 2019 will produce plenty of pleasant upsets both for spectators and those involved in the game as pros. Therefore, this competition will become a milestone for inevitable spreading and development of our marvelous game all over the world

**Gocha SVANIDZE, President
Georgia Rugby Union**

From Lelo to Club Rugby

WE, GEORGIANS have been playing our own version of rugby by – **LELO** – since times immemorial: from the outset the game was free-for-all form of folk pastime, with ball symbolizing the Sun

Village vied with village, uppies with downies, or the vast squads were assembled on tribal lines. The original, pagan activity later was adopted by the Orthodox Church: priest blessing a red ball at Easter and throwing it up to the players

And, of course, the game was used as a means of military training

Lelo is still alive both in old – held on holidays – and modern varieties – on rugby pitch, 12-a-side. Its goal is to carry, throw, kick or roll heavy, 5 kg ball over the opposition's end-line. Forward passing is permitted and, as one could guess, there is no law prohibiting side entry at tackle

OVAL BALL first came to Georgia in strange fashion: for a branding mix-up caused by lack of contacts with outer world, "American Football" was presented as "Rugby" in demo game on 24/05/1935

After switching to proper rules games were played on intermittent basis in 1940 and again in 1947, but due to withdrawal of state funding, followers abandoned the "non-Olympic, bizarre brutality"

The Game took firm foothold a decade later and since has never stalled: Jacques HASPEKIAN, raised in Marseille, formed a team at Georgia Polytechnical Institute (GPI) and held first training session at Saburtalo Racecourse on 15/10/1959

This was followed by formation of first controlling body – Tbilisi Rugby Section, by Givi MRELASHVILI on 01/12/1961. That very same organization since has evolved into Georgia Rugby Union (GRU) which sits sole representative on World Rugby Council from 2016



Collector's silver, 5 Lari coin was issued by National Bank of Georgia on 28/08 to showcase link between LELO and GEORGIA's 5th participation in RWC

From 1923 to 1991 Georgia has been a "Socialist Republic" within Soviet Union and had no opportunity to field a fully fledged National side

Instead, several of its top clubs – de facto regional selections – were involved in Soviet leagues since early 1960s whilst other teams – made of students – played in local comps

This ended in 1990 when National championship was established

At present it is held over four groups at senior level: Big 10, Division 1 and two regional leagues: East and West – in all, 32 clubs

Trophies of Soviet Era

Aia Kutaisi

Gold 1987 1988 1989

Silver 1984

Bronze 1985

Cup 1987 1990

Lokomotivi Tbilisi

Silver 1967

Bronze 1968 1972 1978 1981

Cup 1978

Dinamo Tbilisi

Silver 1966

Gantiadi Tbilisi

Bronze 1963



Legends from western town of Kutaisi: coached by wily Douglas KAVTELASHVILI and spear-headed by versatile Nugzar DZAGNIDZE

Victory that turned the tide



GEORGIA played its inaugural test just before break-up of Soviet Union, on 12/09/1989, beating Zimbabwe by 16:3 in Kutaisi, under captaincy of Oleg LIPARTELIANI and tutelage of Davit KILASONIA

In autumn 1993 Georgia made its debut at FIRA Champs, Level 5, just drawing 10:10 in Luxembourg (sic)

On 20/10/1996 the Lelos, led by Dimitri OBOLADZE and coached by Guram MODEBADZE, beat Russia for very first time, 29:20 in Tbilisi, setting the trend. That became a turning point for **OUR RUGBY**

Since 2000 Georgia participates in European Nations Cup (ENC), later re-branded as "Rugby Europe" Championship (REC). During two decades of it the Lelos never finished outside "Top 3" and have completed as many as 8 Grand Slams (sic)

Lelos' 31-year Totals | 1989-2019

Played 225 Tests (92 at Home, 92 Away, 41 at Neutral venue)

Won 140 - Lost 78 * Drawn 7

Points 5248:4031 (+ 1217) Tries 631/417 (+ 214)

In all, 262 capped Lelos: 102 backs, 150 forwards and 10 utilities, with backs scoring 305 tries and forwards 326

GEORGIA

vs ...	W-L	*D
ARG ARGENTINA	0-5	
ARG ARGENTINA "A"	2-1	
BAR Barbarians	0-1	
BEL BELGIUM	5-0	
BUL BULGARIA	1-0	
CAN CANADA	4-3	
CHL CHILE	1-1	
CRO CROATIA	1-0	
CZE CZECHIA	8-0	
DEN DENMARK	1-0	
ENG ENGLAND	0-2	
FIJ FIJI	1-2	
FRA FRANCE	0-1	
FRA FRANCE "A"	2-0	
GER GERMANY	8-0	
HOL HOLLAND	3-1	
IRE IRELAND	0-4	
IRE IRELAND "A"	0-3	
ITA ITALY	0-4	
ITA ITALY "A"	3-3	
JPN JAPAN	1-5	
KAZ KAZAHSTAN	1-0	
LAT LATVIA	1-0	
LUX LUXEMBOURG	0-0	*1
MOL MOLDOVA	1-0	
MOR MOROCCO	1-0	
NAM NAMIBIA	4-1	
NZL NEW ZEALAND	0-1	
POL POLAND	0-2	
POR PORTUGAL	14-4	*2
ROM ROMANIA	13-9	*1
RSA SOUTH AFRICA	0-1	
RSA SOUTH AFRICA "A"	0-5	
RUS RUSSIA	21-1	*1
SAM SAMOA	3-1	*1
SCO SCOTLAND	0-4	
SCO SCOTLAND "A"	1-1	
SPN SPAIN	16-3	*1
SUI SWITZERLAND	1-0	
TON TONGA	5-2	
UKR UKRAINE	9-0	
URU URUGUAY	3-2	
USA UNITED STATES	3-3	
WAL WALES	0-1	
ZIM ZIMBABWE	2-1	

Most Capped

116	* Davit KATCHARAVA
115	Merab KVIRIKASHVILI
100	Giorgi CHKHAIDZE
92	* Lasha MALAGHURADZE
92	* Giorgi NEMSADZE
85	Irakli ABUSERIDZE
79	* Sandro TODUA
77	Tedo ZIBZIBADZE
77	* Shalva SUTIASHVILI
75	Levan DATUNASDHVILI
75	* Lasha KHMALADZE
73	Irakli MACHKHANELI
71	* Mamuka GORGODZE
70	Makho URJUKASHVILI

Top Try Scorers

26	* Mamuka GORGODZE
24	Irakli MACHKHANELI
22	* Davit KATCHARAVA
21	Tedo ZIBZIBADZE
18	Makho URJUKASHVILI
16	Merab KVIRIKASHVILI
15	Ilia ZEDGINIDZE
15	Besik KHAMASHURIDZE
14	Beso UDESIANI
14	* Giorgi NEMSADZE
12	Gia LABADZE
12	* Merab SHARIKADZE

Top Point Scorers

833	Merab KVIRIKASHVILI
325	Makho URJUKASHVILI
320	Paliko JIMSHELADZE
191	* Lasha MALAGHURADZE
135	* Soso MATIASHVILI
124	Beka TSIKLARI
105	Nugzar DZAGNIDZE

* NOT OUT = selected for RWC 2019

Rulers of Eastern Europe

"Rugby Europe" Championship (REC)

2016	Pt	W-L*D	Diff	T	\$
GEO	24	5-0	+155	28/ 3	4
ROM	19	4-1	+83	19/11	3
RUS	14	3-2	+13	18/14	2
SPN	9	1-3*1	-4	11/13	3
GER	7	1-3*1	-109	12/29	1
POR	1	0-5	-138	10/28	1

2017	Pt	W-L	Diff	T	\$
ROM^	19	4-1	+44	16/ 9	3
GEO	19	4-1	+92	19/ 4	3
SPN	13	3-2	+37	9/ 5	1
RUS	9	2-3	-10	14/14	1
GER	8	2-3	-80	14/28	0
BEL	2	0-5	-83	7/19	2

2018	Pt	W-L	Diff	T	\$
GEO	24	5-0	+153	26/ 2	4
ROM	14	3-2	+118	28/ 9	2
SPN	13	3-2	+72	19/ 5	1
RUS	11	2-3	+58	19/12	3
BEL	9	2-3	-76	14/26	1
GER	0	0-5	-325	3/55	0

2019	Pt	W-L	Diff	T	\$
GEO	24	5-0	+128	25/ 2	4
SPN	18	4-1	+52	18/ 9	2
ROM	15	3-2	+44	14/12	3
RUS	11	2-3	+45	20/ 8	3
BEL	4	1-4	-154	8/33	0
GER	1	0-5	-115	7/28	1



It was business as usual for the Lelos between World Cups: another three Grand Slams at REC and a sole, 1pt loss to arch-rivals Romania with whom Georgia contests an Orthodox Bledisloe – ANTIM CUP

REC (ex-ENC) Official Winners

GEORGIA	11	2001	2007/8	2009	2011	2012	2013
		2014	2015	2016	2018	2019	
ROMANIA	5	2000	2002	2005/6	2010	2017	
PORTUGAL	1	2003/4					

Annual Informal 6N"B" Winners

GEORGIA	13	2001 [^]	2005	2007	2008 [^]	2009	2011 [^]	2012
		2013	2014 [^]	2015 [^]	2016 [^]	2018 [^]	2019 [^]	
ROMANIA	6	2000	2002 [^]	2004	2006	2010	2017	
PORTUGAL	1	2003 [^]						

[^] Grand Slam = W-L 5-0

Antim Cup Holders | Since 2002

GEORGIA 12-6 ROMANIA

ENC - REC 20-YEAR TOTAL | 2000-2019

	PT %	Y	P	W- L*D \$BP	T	6N	GS	RL
GEO	91.2	20	100	83-13*4 \$25	11	13	8	-
ROM	79.5	20	100	72-26*2 \$26	5	6	1	-
RUS	60.9	19	94	51-40*3 \$19	-	-	-	-
MOR	60.0	1	5	3- 2	-	-	-	#
POR	45.6	17	85	35-47*3 \$ 9	1	1	1	1
SPN	42.8	18	90	32-54*4 \$18	-	-	-	1
BEL	21.0	5	25	3-21*1 \$ 7	-	-	-	1
CZE	20.7	6	29	6-23	-	-	-	1
GER	12.1	7	35	3-31*1 \$ 3	-	-	-	2
HOL	6.7	3	15	1-14	-	-	-	1
UKR	6.3	4	20	1-19 \$ 1	-	-	-	2

PT% = (4*W + 2*D + BP) / (4*P) * 100

Y = YEAR, T = OFFICIAL TITLE, 6N = ANNUAL INFORMAL 6N"B"

GS = GRAND SLAM, RL = RELEGATED (# ELIMINATED)

Current RWC Cycle

GEORGIA's Tests

2016

06/02	H	RE	GER	W	59: 7
13/02	A	RE	POR	W	29: 3
27/02	H	RE	SPN	W	38: 7
12/03	A	RE	RUS	W	24: 7
19/03	H	RE	ROM	W	38: 9
11/06	A	PC	SAM	D	19:19
18/06	N	PC	TON	W	23:20
24/06	A	PC	FIJ	W	14: 3
12/11	H	T2	JPN	L	22:28
19/11	H	T2	SAM	W	20:16
26/11	A	T1	SCO	L	16:43

2017

11/02	A	RE	BEL	W	31: 6
19/02	H	RE	GER	W	50: 6
04/03	A	RE	SPN	W	20:10
12/03	H	RE	RUS	W	28:14
19/03	A	RE	ROM	L	7: 8
10/06	A	AM	CAN	W	13: 0
17/06	A	AM	USA	W	21:17
24/06	A	AM	ARG	L	29:45
11/11	H	T2	CAN	W	54:22
18/11	A	T1	WAL	L	6:13
25/11	H	T2	USA	W	21:20

2018

10/02	H	RE	BEL	W	47: 0
17/02	A	RE	GER	W	64: 0
03/03	H	RE	SPN	W	23:10
10/03	A	RE	RUS	W	29: 9
18/03	H	RE	ROM	W	25:16
31/05	H	CL	FRB	W	16:15
09/06	N	PC	TON	W	16:15
16/06	A	PC	FIJ	L	15:37
23/06	A	PC	JPN	L	0:28
10/11	A	T1	ITA	L	17:28
17/11	H	T2	SAM	W	27:19
24/11	H	T2	TON	W	20: 9

2019

09/02	A	RE	ROM	W	18: 9
17/02	H	RE	SPN	W	24:10
02/03	A	RE	BEL	W	46: 6
10/03	H	RE	GER	W	52: 3
17/03	A	RE	RUS	W	22: 6
31/08	H	T1	SCO	L	10:44
06/09	A	T1	SCO	L	9:36

H = Home, A = Away, N = Neutral venue; RE = Rugby Europe Champ, T# = Tier # Autumn Test; Tour of: PC = Pacifics, AM = Americas

CL = Celebration Game; FRB = French Barbarians

Current RWC Cycle

20 participants of RWC | 2016-2019

Within Tier 1

194 tests	W%	P:	W- L*D	DIFF
NZL	86.6	41:	35- 5*1	+778
ENG	76.8	41:	31- 9*1	+467
IRE	69.7	38:	26-11*1	+265
WAL	58.8	40:	23-16*1	+85
RSA	52.3	43:	21-19*3	+13
SCO	51.6	32:	16-15*1	+7
AUS	40.9	44:	17-25*2	-193
FRA	35.1	37:	13-24	-124
ARG	15.4	39:	6-33	-449
ITA	3.0	33:	1-32	-849

Tier 1 vs Tier 2

45 tests	W%	P:	W- L*D	DIFF
IRE	100.	6:	6- 0	+163
WAL	100.	5:	5- 0	+80
NZL	100.	3:	3- 0	+201
ENG	100.	3:	3- 0	+97
AUS	100.	3:	3- 0	+75
ARG	100.	2:	2- 0	+50
RSA	100.	1:	1- 0	+34
SCO	80.0	10:	8- 2	+181
ITA	66.7	9:	6- 3	+77
FRA	50.0	3:	1- 1*1	+37
FIJ	37.5	8:	3- 5	-100
USA	25.0	4:	1- 3	-82
TON	25.0	4:	1- 3	-151
JPN	11.5	13:	1-11*1	-216
GEO	0.0	6:	0- 6	-122
SAM	0.0	6:	0- 6	-183
CAN	0.0	3:	0- 3	-71
RUS	0.0	1:	0- 1	-70
NAM	0.0	0:		
URU	0.0	0:		

Within Tier 2

75 tests	W%	P:	W- L*D	DIFF
JPN	88.9	9:	8- 1	+124
GEO	80.6	18:	14- 3*1	+99
FIJ	80.0	15:	12- 3	+189
USA	69.0	21:	14- 6*1	+236
URU	66.7	15:	10- 5	-53
TON	33.3	15:	5-10	-94
RUS	28.6	14:	4-10	-105
SAM	25.0	14:	3-10*1	-41
NAM	16.7	6:	1- 5	-87
CAN	13.2	23:	2-20*1	-268

$$W\% = (2*W + D)/(2*P)*100$$

<http://stats.espnscrum.com/statsguru/rugby/stats/index.html?class=1;type=team>

Patrons of Rugby World Cup

Georgia is improving step by step at Rugby's premier event

Before turn of the century the Lelos failed on both occasions to qualify, but in the new Millennium they became regular participants of RWC Finals – already making "Top 20" **FIVE** times

They have secured ticket to Japan as early as 4 years ago – by finishing third in their pool



Beka TSIKLAURI scores a try vs All Blacks in 2015

2003

In Australia | Overall 19th

12/10 Perth	ENG	L	6:84
19/10 Perth	SAM	L	9:46
24/10 Sydney	RSA	L	19:46
28/10 Sydney	URU	L	12:25

TOTAL W-L 0-4 | T 1/28 46:200

Coach: Claude SAUREL (FRA)

Captains: Ilia ZEDGINIDZE | Vasil KATSADZE

2007

In France | Overall 13th

11/09 Lyon	ARG	L	3:33
15/09 Bordeaux	IRE	L	10:14
26/09 Lens	NAM	W	30: 0
30/09 Marseille	FRA	L	7:64

TOTAL W-L 1-3 | T 5/15 50:111

Coach: Malkhaz TCHEISHVILI

Captains: Ilia ZEDGINIDZE | Irakli ABUSERIDZE

2011

In New Zealand | Overall 15th

14/09 Invercargill	SCO	L	6:15
18/09 Dunedin	ENG	L	10:41
28/09 Palmerston	ROM	W	25: 9
02/10 Palmerston	ARG	L	7:25

TOTAL W-L 1-3 | T 3/9 48:90

Coach: Richie DIXON (SCO)

Captain: Irakli ABUSERIDZE

2015

In England & Wales | Overall 12th

19/09 Gloucester	TON	W	17:10
25/09 Gloucester	ARG	L	9:54
02/10 Cardiff	NZL	L	10:43
07/10 Exeter	NAM	W	17:16

TOTAL W-L 2-2 | T 5/16 53:123

Coach: Milton HAIG (NZL)

Captain: Mamuka GORGODZE

RWC at a Glance | 1987-2015

#	N	87	91	95	99	03	07	11	15	C	F	S	Q	W	P	L	D*ET	
1	NZL	8	1	3	2	4	3	5	1	1	3	4	7	8	44	50	6	0*1
2	AUS	8	4	1	6	1	2	6	3	2	2	4	6	8	39	48	9	0*2
3	RSA	6	_	_	1	3	5	1	5	3	2	2	4	6	30	36	6	0*2
4	ENG	8	6	2	4	5	1	2	6	10	1	3	4	7	31	44	13	0*1
5	FRA	8	2	5	3	2	4	4	2	7	.	3	6	8	33	48	14	1
6	WAL	8	3	11	9	8	7	9	4	8	.	.	2	5	21	37	16	0
7	ARG	8	10	14	13	7	9	3	8	4	.	.	2	4	19	37	18	0
8	SCO	8	5	4	5	6	8	7	9	6	.	.	1	7	22	38	15	1
9	IRE	8	7	6	8	9	6	11	7	5	.	.	.	6	21	35	14	0
10	SAM	7	_	7	7	11	10	14	10	13	.	.	.	2	12	28	16	0
11	FIJ	7	8	13	#	10	11	8	14	15	.	.	.	2	10	28	18	0
12	CAN	8	9	8	10	12	14	17	13	17	.	.	.	1	7	29	20	2
13	ITA	8	13	10	11	20	12	12	11	11	.	.	.	.	11	28	17	0
14	TON	7	14	#	12	15	17	10	12	14	.	.	.	.	7	25	18	0
15	ROM	8	12	12	14	14	15	15	19	16	.	.	.	.	6	28	22	0
16	JPN	8	15	9	16	17	18	16	17	9	.	.	.	.	4	28	22	2
17	GEO	4	_	_	#	#	19	13	15	12	.	.	.	.	4	16	12	0
18	USA	7	11	15	#	16	13	18	16	19	.	.	.	.	3	25	22	0
19	URU	3	_	_	#	13	16	#	#	20	.	.	.	.	2	11	9	0
20	NAM	5	_	_	#	19	20	20	20	18	.	.	.	.	0	19	19	0
21	ZIM	2	16	16	#	#	#	#	#	#	.	.	.	.	0	6	6	0
22	RUS	1	_	_	#	#	#	#	18	#	.	.	.	.	0	4	4	0
23	POR	1	_	#	#	#	#	19	#	#	.	.	.	.	0	4	4	0
24	IVC	1	_	#	15	#	#	#	#	#	.	.	.	.	0	3	3	0
25	SPN	1	_	#	#	18	#	#	#	#	.	.	.	.	0	3	3	0

N = number of times the Team made RWC final stage

00 = finished there in 00th place; # did NOT qualify; _ did NOT participate

C = lifted the Cup; reached F = Final, S = Semi Final, Q = Quarter Final

ET = extra time; Ordering criteria: C > F > S > Q > W > P > Best placing

Lelos' "Japanese" Schedule

Georgia vs

Match date	KO	Venue	OPPOSITION	W-L	H2H	T
Pool D						
Mon 23/09	19.15	Toyota	WALES	0-1	6:13	0/1
Sun 29/09	14.15	Kumagaya	URUGUAY	3-2	85:72	7/6
Thu 03/10	14.15	Osaka	FIJI	1-2	48:64	4/8
Fri 11/10	19.15	Shizuoka	AUSTRALIA	0-0		
Play Off						
Sat 19/10	16.15	Oita	QF | C1 v D2			
Sun 20/10	16.15	Oita	QF | D1 v C2			
Sat 26/10	17.00	Yokohama	SF | C1/D2 v B1/A2			
Sun 27/10	18.00	Yokohama	SF | D1/C2 v A1/B2S			
Fri 01/11	18.00	Tokyo	Bronze Final			
Sat 02/11	18.00	Yokohama	Cup Final			

JPN Time = UTC+9 = GEO+5



RWC 2019 SQUAD

Pos	Player	Age	Cap	©	t	c	s	p	d	pt	sb
B3	Sandro TODUA	32	79	.	11	.	.	.	.	55	2
	Soso MATIASHVILI	26	19	.	6	21	.	21	.	135	.
	Mirian MODEBADZE	22	10	.	5	.	.	.	.	25	.
	Zurab DZNELADZE	27	9	.	1	.	.	.	.	5	1
CE	Davit KATCHARAVA	34	116	4	22	.	.	.	.	110	3
	Merab SHARIKADZE	26	63	16	12	.	.	.	.	60	.
	Tamaz MTCHEDLIDZE	26	53	.	7	.	.	.	.	35	1
	Giorgi KVESELADZE	22	19	.	3	.	.	.	.	15	.
FH	Lasha MALAGHURADZE	33	92	.	5	41	.	25	3	191	2
	Lasha KHMALADZE	31	75	.	9	4	.	.	.	53	.
	Tedo ABZHANDADZE	20	9	.	.	8	1	9	.	50	.
HB	Giorgi BEGADZE	33	65	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	2
	Vasil LOBZHANIDZE	23	45	.	8	.	.	.	.	40	.
	Gela APRASIDZE	21	17	.	2	7	.	.	.	24	.
LH	Mikheil NARIASHVILI	29	56	2	2	.	.	.	.	10	2
	Guram GOGICHASHVILI	21	6	.	1	.	.	.	.	5	.
HK	Shalva MAMUKASHVILI	29	68	.	6	.	.	.	.	30	1
	Jaba BREGVADZE	32	54	.	2	.	.	.	.	10	4
	Vano KARKADZE	19	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	.
TH	Levan CHILACHAVA	28	49	.	8	.	.	.	.	40	1
	Giorgi MELIKIDZE	23	14	.	1	.	.	.	.	5	.
	Beka GIGASHVILI	27	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	.
LK	Giorgi NEMSADZE	35	92	11	14	.	.	.	.	70	6
	Shalva SUTIASHVILI	35	77	15	2	.	.	.	.	10	3
	Mamuka GORGODZE	35	71	13	26	.	.	.	.	130	5
	Kote MIKAUTADZE	28	59	.	2	.	.	.	.	10	3
BR	Giorgi TKHILAISHVILI	28	51	.	11	.	.	.	.	55	1
	Lasha LOMIDZE	27	46	.	6	.	2	.	.	44	1
	Otar GIORGADZE	23	21	.	4	.	.	.	.	20	.
	Beka GORGADZE	23	19	.	6	.	1	.	.	37	2
	Beka SAGHINADZE	21	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	.

B3 = back three, CE = centre, FH = flyhalf, HB = halfback, LH = loosehead, HK = hooker, TH = tighthead, LK = lock, BR = back rower, @ = captain, s = 7 point PT



Milton
HAIG

**Head Coach (inc Attack)
since Spring 2012**
Born 06/02/1964
in Te Puia Springs (NZL)
**Played at HB for Southland (NZL),
London Scottish, Orrell, Rich-
mond (ENG), Bay of Plenty (NZL)**
**Coached at Wanganui and Count-
ies Manukau (NZL); assisted at
NZL U21, Maori, Chiefs (S15)**
**Honours: ENC-REC 2012, 2013,
2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019**
(as coach)
Coached GEO in 87 tests:
W 57 - L 28 * D 2 = W% 66.7
**At RWC: 2015 v TON, ARG, NZL,
NAM = W-L 2-2, 53:123, T 5/16;**
12th place out of 20
Daughters: Molly 16yo, Lily 14



© Levan VERDZEULI



Levan

MAISASHVILI

**Assistant Coach (Defense)
since Spring 2016**

Born 01/09/1976 in Tbilisi

Started at: Akademia Tbilisi

**Played at FH: University Tbilisi
1994-1999**

**Head Coach: Lelo (Saracens)
Tbilisi 2000-2019, U19 2004-
2005, U18 2007, U20 2008**

**Club Honours: GEO League
2004, 2009, 2013, 2014,
2015, 2016;**

GEO Cup 2008, 2009, 2010

Sons: Luka 2005, Saba 2012

Hobbies: Hunting





Graham
ROWNTREE

**Assistant Coach (Forwards)
since Autumn 2018**

**Born 18/04/1971
in Stockton on Tees (ENG)**

**Played at LH: Leicester
1990-2007, ENG 1995-2006
(54 caps: W 38 - L 16),
Lions 2005 (0-2 * D 1)**

**Forwards Coach: ENG 2007-
2015, Lions 2013 & 2017,
Harlequins 2018**

**At RWC: 1995 v ITA, SAM;
1999 v ITA, TON, FIJ = 5 caps**

**Education: John Cleveland
College**

**Daughter: Lily 2000;
Sons: Jack 2002, Joel 2007**

**Hobbies: Cycling, training,
walking**





Joseph "Joe"

WORSLEY

Assistant Coach (Breakdown)
since Summer 2019, **MBE**

Born 14/06/1977
in London (ENG)

Played in BR: Wasps 1993–
2011, ENG 1999-2011 (78
caps: W 47 - L 30 * D 1, 10t),
Lions 2009 (1-0)

Education: Brunel University

At RWC: 1999 v TON, FIJ;

2003 v RSA, SAM, URU
^ Winner;

2007 v USA, SAM, AUS, FRA,
RSA ^ Runner-up = 10 caps
(9-1)



Dean

CUMMINS

Assistant Coach (Attack &
Skills, esp **Kicking**)
since Spring 2017

Born 21/07/1987
in Papakura (NZL)

Played at FH: Counties
Manukau (NZL) 2007-2011

FH



Tedo

ABZHANDADZE

Born 13/06/1999 in Kutaisi
174 cm, 74 kg

Started at: Aia Kutaisi

2019/20 club: Brive
(FRA Top 14)

Lelo # 255

Debut: Test # 217, 17/11_2018
@ Avtchala; v SAM, W 27:19

Caps: 9

Scoring | cards: s 8c 9p (50 pt)

Honours: REC 2019

At RWC: -

Hobbies: Reading books



HB



Gela

APRASIDZE

Born 14/01/1998 in Bolnisi
175 cm, 74 kg

Started at: Iveria Tbilisi
2019/20 club: Montpellier
(FRA Top 14)

Lelo # 247

Debut: Test # 197, 19/02/2017
@ Rustavi; v GER, W 50:6

Caps: 17

Scoring | cards: 2t 7c (24 pt)

Honours: REC 2018, 2019

At RWC: -



HB



Giorgi

BEGADZE

Born 04/03/1986 in Tbilisi

178 cm, 78 kg

Started at: Hooligana Tbilisi

2019/20 club: Jiki Gori

Lelo # 209

Debut: Test # 133, 15/06/2011

@ Bucharest; v ARG "A",

W 14:13

Caps: 65

Scoring | cards: 2sb

Honours: ENC-REC 2012, 2013,

2014, 2015, 2016, 2019

At RWC: 2015 TON (sub) ARG

(sub) NZL, NAM (sub) = 4 caps

Sons: Levan 2010,

Alexandre 2012

Hobbies: Travelling



HK



Jaba

BREGVADZE

Born 23/04/1987 in Tbilisi
178 cm, 103 kg
Started at: Qochebi Tbilisi
2019/20 club: Sunwolves
Tokyo (JPN S15)

Lelo # 188

Debut: Test # 103, 11/06/2008 @
Bucharest; v RSA "A", L 3:11

Caps: 54

Scoring | cards: 2t 4sb

Honours: ENC-REC 2011,
2013, 2014, 2016

At RWC: 2011 v SCO, ENG,
ROM, ARG (sub); 2015 v TON,
ARG, NAM (sb) = 7 caps (sb)

Daughter: Elene 2014

Hobbies: Sleeping



TH



Levan

CHILACHAVA

Born 17/08/1991 in Sokhumi
184 cm, 133 kg

Started at: University Tbilisi

2019/20 club: Montpellier
(FRA Top 14)

Lelo # 212

Debut: Test # 139, 11/02/2012
@ Madrid; v SPN, L 18:25

Caps: 49

Scoring | cards: 8t sb

Honours: ENC-REC 2012, 2013,
2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019

At RWC: 2015 v TON (sub)
ARG (sub) NZL = 3 caps

Daughter: Natalia 2017;

Son: Vache 2019

Hobbies: Travelling



B3



Zurab

DZNELADZE

Born 23/01/1992 in Kutaisi
190 cm, 94 kg
Started at: Aia Kutaisi
2019/20 club: Lokomotivi
Tbilisi

Lelo # 222

Debut: Test # 155, 16/06/2013 @
Avtchala; v RSA "A", L 16:21

Caps: 9

Scoring | cards: t sb

Honours: REC 2019

At RWC: -

Hobbies: Spending time with
family | friends



TH



Beka

GIGASHVILI

Born 17/02/1992 in Baghdati
177 cm, 114 kg

Started at: Bagrati Kutaisi

2019/20 club: Toulon
(FRA Top 14)

Lelo # 256

Debut: Test # 217, 17/11/2018
@ Avtchala; v SAM, W 27:19

Caps: 9

Scoring | cards: -

Honours: REC 2019

At RWC: -

Hobbies: Hunting



BR



Otar

GIORGADZE

Born 02/03/1996 in Kutaisi

193 cm, 111 kg

Started at: Aia Kutaisi

**2018/19 club: Brive
(FRA Top 14)**

Lelo # 235

Debut: Test # 177, 17/06/2015

@ Avtchala; v ITA "A", L 10:26

Caps: 21

Scoring | cards: 4t

Honours: REC 2018, 2019

At RWC: -

Hobbies: Watching movies



LH



Guram

GOGICHASHVILI

Born 04/09/1998 in Khashuri
183 cm, 118 kg

Started at: Legioni Khashuri

2019/20 club: Racing
(FRA Top 14)

Lelo # 257

Debut: Test # 217, 17/11/2018
@ Avtchala; v SAM, W 27:19

Caps: 6

Scoring | cards: t

Honours: REC 2019

At RWC: -



BR



Beka

GORGADZE

**Born 08/02/1996 in Rustavi
189 cm, 107 kg**

Started at: Kharebi Rustavi

**2019/20 club: Bordeaux
(FRA Top 14)**

Lelo # 232

**Debut: Test # 176, 13/06/2015
@ Avtchala; v URU, W 19:10**

Caps: 19

Scoring | cards: 6t s 2sb

Honours: REC 2016, 2019

At RWC: -

**Hobbies: Reading, TV serials,
PC games**





Lelos' RWC 2019 Squad posing a



at Murrayfield in Edinburgh (SCO)

LK



Mamuka
GORGODZE

Born 14/07/1984 in Tbilisi
195 cm, 117 kg
Started at: Lelo Tbilisi
2019/20 club: Toulon (FRA Top 14)

Lelo # 127

Debut: Test # 53, 22/02/2003 @
Didube; v SPN, W 34:3

Caps: 71 (13 as captain)

Scoring | cards: 26t 5sb

Honours: ENC-REC 2008, 2009,
2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015,
2016

At RWC: 2007 v ARG, IRE, NAM;
2011 v SCO, ENG, ROM (t) ARG;
2015 v TON (© t) ARG (© sb) NZL
(©) NAM (© t) = 11 caps (4© 3t sb)

Daughter: Lizi 2004; Sons: Nika
2008, Bero 2018

Hobbies: Hunting



HK



Vano

KARKADZE

Born 25/06/2000 in Kutaisi
178 cm, 107 kg

Started at: Aia Kutaisi

2019/20 club: Brive
(FRA Top 14)

Lelo # 260

Debut: Test # 219, 09/02/2019
@ Cluj; v ROM, W 18:9

Caps: 3

Scoring | cards: -

Honours: REC 2019

At RWC: -



CE



Davit

KATCHARAVA

Born 16/01/1985 in Tbilisi
184 cm, 99 kg
Started at: Qochebi Tbilisi
2019/20 club: Enisey
Krasnoyarsk (RUS Pre)

Lelo # 167

Debut: Test # 78, 29/04/2006
@ Odesa; v UKR, W 32:12

Caps: 116 (4 as captain)

Scoring | cards: 22t 3sb

Honours: ENC-REC 2008, 2009,
2011, 2012, 2013, 2014,
2015, 2016, 2018, 2019

At RWC: 2007 v IRE, NAM (t);
2011 v SCO, ENG, ROM,
ARG; 2015 v TON, ARG,
NZL, NAM = 10 caps (t)

Son: Nikoloz 2009

Hobbies: Snow'boarding



FH



Lasha

KHMALADZE

Born 20/01/1988 in Tbilisi
180 cm, 82 kg

Started at: Lelo Tbilisi

2019/20 club: Batumi RC

Lelo # 187

Debut: Test # 103, 11/06/2008
@ Bucharest; v RSA "A",
L 3:11

Caps: 75

Scoring | cards: 9t 4c (53 pt)

Honours: ENC-REC 2012,
2013, 2014, 2015, 2016,
2018, 2019

At RWC: 2011 v ENG (sub),
ROM, ARG(t); 2015 injured
= 3 caps (t)



CE



Giorgi

KVESELADZE

Born 11/11/1997 in Tbilisi
185 cm, 96 kg

Started at: Iunkerebi Kiketi
2019/20 club: Jiki Gori

Lelo # 252

Debut: Test # 204, 11/11/2017
@ Didube; v CAN, W 54:22

Caps: 19

Scoring | cards: 3t

Honours: REC 2016, 2018,
2019

At RWC: -

Hobbies: Having fun with
friends



HB



Vasil

LOBZHANIDZE

Born 14/10/1996 in Tbilisi
175 cm, 75 kg

Started at: Armazi Tbilisi

2019/20 club: Brive
(FRA Top 14)

Lelo # 226

Debut: Test # 171, 07/02/2015
@ Heusenstamm; v GER,
W 64:8

Caps: 45

Scoring | cards: 8t

Honours: REC 2015, 2016,
2018, 2019

At RWC: 2015 v TON, ARG,
NZL (sub) NAM = 4 caps

Son: Nikoloz 2018

Hobbies: Just being with family



BR



Lasha

LOMIDZE

Born 30/06/1992 in Tbilisi

195 cm, 110 kg

Started at: Akademia Tbilisi

**2018/19 clubs: Aurillac (FRA
Pro D2) | Doncaster (ENG
CH)**

Lelo # 218

**Debut: Test # 150, 23/02/2013
@ Sochi; v RUS, W 23:9**

Caps: 46

Scoring | cards: 6t 2s sb

**Honours: ENC-REC 2013,
2015, 2016, 2018**

**At RWC: 2015 v NZL, NAM
(sub) = 2 caps**

Hobbies: Tennis



FH



Lasha

MALAGHURADZE

Born 02/06/1986 in Tbilisi
185 cm, 93 kg
Started at: Qochebi Tbilisi
2019/20 club: VVA Monino
(RUS Pre)

Lelo # 178

Debut: Test # 97, 02/02/2008
@ Vake; v POR, W 31:3

Caps: 92

Scoring | cards: 5t 41c 25p 3d
(191 pt) 2sb

Honours: ENC-REC 2008,
2009, 2011, 2012, 2014,
2015, 2016, 2018, 2019

At RWC: 2011 v ARG (sub);
2015 v TON, ARG, NZL (c p)
NAM (t) = 5 caps (t c p)

Daughter: Anastasia 2011;
Son: Giorgi 2015



HK



Shalva

MAMUKASHVILI

Born 02/10/1990 in Tbilisi
180 cm, 100 kg

Started at: Qochebi Tbilisi

2018/19 club: Enisey
Krasnoyarsk (RUS Pre)

Lelo # 208

Debut: Test # 132, 10/06/2011 @
Bucharest; v RSA "A", L 17:31

Caps: 68

Scoring | cards: 6t sb

Honours: ENC-REC 2012, 2013,
2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019

At RWC: 2015 v TON (sub)
ARG (sub) NZL, NAM (sub)
= 4 caps

Daughter: Taso 2016

Hobbies: Hunting



B3



Soso

MATIASHVILI

Born 27/01/1993 in Tbilisi
185 cm, 79 kg
Started at: Akademia Tbilisi
2019/20 club: Lelo Saracens
Tbilisi

Lelo # 249

Debut: Test # 198, 04/03/2017
@ Valladolid; v SPN,
W 20:10

Caps: 19

Scoring | cards: 6t 21c 21p
(135 pt)

Honours: REC 2018, 2019

At RWC: -

Hobbies: Skiing, Hiking, Bas-
ketball, Football, Frisbee,
Volleyball



TH



Giorgi

MELIKIDZE

Born 24/05/1996 in Aspindza
179 cm, 113 kg

Started at: Lomebi Aspindza
2019/20 club: Stade Francais
(FRA Top 14)

Lelo # 237

Debut: Test # 185, 06/02/2016
@ Avtchala; v GER, W 59:7

Caps: 14

Scoring | cards: t

Honours: REC 2016, 2018,
2019

At RWC: -



LK



Kote

MIKAUTADZE

Born 01/07/1991 in Sokhumi
200 cm, 130 kg
Started at: University Tbilisi
2019/20 club: Montpellier
(FRA Top 14)

Lelo # 200

Debut: Test # 122, 11/06/2010
@ Bucharest; v SCO "A",
W 22:21

Caps: 59

Scoring | cards: 2t 3sb

Honours: ENC-REC 2012,
2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

At RWC: 2015 v TON, ARG,
NZL (sub) NAM = 4 caps

Hobbies: Gambling



B3



Mirian

MODEBADZE

Born 27/10/1997 in Kutaisi

191 cm, 99 kg

Started at: Aia Kutaisi

2019/20 club: Aia Kutaisi

Lelo # 251

Debut: Test # 204, 11/11/2017

@ Didube; v CAN, W 54:22

Caps: 10

Scoring | cards: 5t

Honours: REC 2019

At RWC: -



CE



Tamaz

MTCHEDLIDZE

Born 17/03/1993 in Tbilisi
194 cm, 115 kg
Started at: University Tbilisi
2019/20 club: Rouen
(FRA Pro D2)

Lelo # 217

Debut: Test # 148, 02/02/2013
@ Bruxelles; v BEL, W 17:13

Caps: 53

Scoring | cards: 7t sb

Honours: ENC-REC 2013,
2014, 2015, 2016

At RWC: 2015 v TON, ARG,
NZL, NAM = 4 caps

Daughters: Nia 2012, Liza
2014, Mariam;
Son: Demetre 2017



LH



Mikheil

NARIASHVILI

Born 25/05/1990 in Kutaisi
186 cm, 118 kg

Started at: Aia Kutaisi

2019/20 club: Montpellier
(FRA Top 14)

Lelo # 210

Debut: Test # 139, 11/02/2012
@ Madrid; v SPN, L 18:25

Caps: 56 (2 as captain)

Scoring | cards: 2t 2sb

Honours: ENC-REC 2012,
2013, 2014, 2015, 2016,
2018

At RWC: 2015 v TON, ARG,
NZL (sub) NAM = 4 caps

Son: Alexandre 2015

Hobbies: Motor'cycling



LK



Giorgi

NEMSADZE

Born 26/09/1984 in Kutaisi
194 cm, 111 kg
Started at: Aia Kutaisi
2019/20 club: Aia Kutaisi

Lelo # 163

Debut: Test # 74, 12/11/2005
@ Vake; v CHL, W 29:6

Caps: 92 (11 as captain)

Scoring | cards: 14t 6sb

Honours: ENC-REC 2008,
2011, 2012, 2014, 2015,
2016, 2018, 2019

At RWC: 2011 v ARG (sub);
2015 v TON, ARG, NAM
= 4 caps

Son: Davit

Hobbies: Hunting



BR



Beka

SAGHINADZE

Born 29/10/1998 in Bolnisi
192 cm, 105 kg

Started at: Lelo Tbilisi
2019/20 club: Aurilliac
(FRA Pro D2)

Lelo # 259

Debut: Test # 219, 09/02/2019
@ Cluj; v ROM, W 18:9

Caps: 5

Scoring | cards: -

Honours: REC 2019

At RWC: -

Hobbies: Spending time with
family



CE



Merab

SHARIKADZE

Born 17/05/1993 in Moscow (RUS) = qualifies for GEO via parents and residence

185 cm, 96 kg

Started at: Akademia Tbilisi

2019/20 club: Aurillac (FRA Pro D2)

Lelo # 211

Debut: Test # 139, 11/02/2012 @ Madrid; v SPN, L 18:25

Caps: 63 (16 as captain)

Scoring | cards: 12t

Honours: ENC-REC 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019

At RWC: 2015 v TON, ARG, NZL (sub) NAM = 4 caps

Hobbies: Carving in wood



LK



Shalva

SUTIASHVILI

Born 24/01/1984 in Tbilisi
193 cm, 107 kg

Started at: University Tbilisi
2019/20 club: Angouleme
(FRA Pro D2)

Lelo # 165

Debut: Test # 74, 12/11/2005
@ Vake; v CHL, W 29:6

Caps: 77 (15 as captain)

Scoring | cards: 2t 3sb

Honours: ENC-REC 2008, 2011,
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016,
2018, 2019

At RWC: 2011 v SCO, ENG;
2015 v TON (sub) ARG (sub)
NZL = 5 caps

Sons: Beka 2002, Giorgi 2008,
Luka 2012, Irakli 2016



BR



Giorgi "Koki"

TKHILAISHVILI

Born 08/04/1991 in Kobuleti

180 cm, 104 kg

Started at: Batumi

2019/20 club: Batumi RC

Lelo # 214

Debut: Test # 143, 09/06/2012

@ Avtchala; v UKR, W 33:3

Caps: 51

Scoring | cards: 11t sb

**Honours: ENC-REC 2012, 2014,
2015, 2016, 2018, 2019**

**At RWC: 2015 v TON (t) ARG,
NAM = 3 caps (t)**

Daughter: Nutsa 2017

Hobbies: Strolling with family



B3



Sandro

TODUA

Born 02/11/1987 in Tbilisi

181 cm, 94 kg

Started at: Lelo Tbilisi

2019/20 club: Batumi RC

Lelo # 180

Debut: Test # 100, 29/03/2008

@ Prague; v CZE, W 22:3

Caps: 79

Scoring | cards: 11t 2sb

**Honours: ENC-REC 2008,
2009, 2012, 2013, 2015,
2016, 2018, 2019**

**At RWC: 2011 v SCO, ENG,
ROM, ARG; 2015 v NZL,
NAM = 6 caps**



Persons completing Full Staff



Irakli
KHUNDADZE

Team Manager



Vasil
ABASHIDZE

Team Management



Giorgi
TCHITCHINADZE

Baggage Master



Irakli
TCHQONIA

S&C Coach



Phillip
HEALEY

S&C Coach



Ged
McNAMARA

S&C Coach



Ben
ESSENHIGH

Sport scientist



Davit
RAMISHVILI

Performance Analyst

Full Staff (CONTINUED)



Simon

POPE

**Head of
Medical Group**



Nutsa

SHAMATAVA

**Team
Doctor**



Tatia

BERIASHVILI

**Team
Media Manager**

**+ 080 7703 4052
media@rugby.ge**



Beso

ABRAMISHVILI

Massage Therapist



Christian

MARIN

Osteopath



Ed

BARRY

Osteopath

TEAM MEDIA SCHEDULE

WAL Match Build-up

Mon 16/09 'On-arrival' conference
17.00 Team Hotel @ NAGOYA
30' Official = Formal press conference style

Mon 16/09 Team Green screen filming
19.00 Team Hotel
90'

Mon 16/09 Team Member Official Tournament
19.00 Head and Shoulder Photos
90' Team Hotel

Tue 17/09 non-media day

Wed 18/09 Team Welcome Ceremony
18.00 TWC Venue | Entire Event

Thu 19/09 Open Training Session
tbc (AM) OTV
Entire Session Long AM session;
exact time will be provided closer to the date

Thu 19/09 After training briefing
tbc (AM) OTV
45'

Fri 20/09 Requested daily interviews
11.00 Team Hotel
60' Team own media activity
Casual interview type
Lounge area or other casual space

Fri 20/09 Community Engagement
10.00-12.00 School Clinic
60'

Sat 21/09 Team announcement conference (vs Wales)
17.30 Team Hotel
30' Official = 48hrs RULE
Formal press conference style

Sat 21/09 Training session access for TV/photo opportunities
tbc (AM) OTV
15' Long AM session;
exact time will be provided closer to the date

Sun 22/09 Captain's Run TV/photo opportunities
10.30-12.30 Match Venue
15' Not sure if we have go for the Captain's run

Sun 22/09 Eve of match conference
10.30-12.30 Match Venue
45' This is the provisional time gap

Mon 23/09 Match day-Arrival interviews with HB and RHBs

URU Match Build-up

Tue 24/09 Requested daily interviews
11.00 Team Hotel
60' Team own media activity
Casual interview type
Lounge area or other casual space

Wed 25/09 Open Training Session
tbc (AM) OTV
Entire Session Long AM session;
exact time will be provided closer to the date

Wed 25/09 After training briefing
tbc (AM) OTV
45'

Thu 26/09 non-media day
Travel day Nagoya – Kumagaya

Fri 27/09 Community Engagement
14.00-15.00 School Clinic
60'

Fri 27/09 Team announcement conference (vs Uruguay)
13.30 Team Hotel
30' Official = 48hrs RULE
Formal press conference style

Fri 27/09 Training session access for TV/photo opportunities
tbc (AM) OTV
15' Long AM session;
exact time will be provided closer to the date

Sat 28/09 Captain's Run TV/photo opportunities
10.30-12.30 Match Venue
15'

Sat 28/09 Eve of match conference
10.30-12.30 Match Venue
45' This is the provisional time gap

Sun 29/09 Match day-Arrival interviews with HB and RHBs
Travel day Kumagaya – Hanazono

FIJ Match Build-up

Mon 30/09 non-media day

Tue 01/10 Community Engagement
16.30-18.00 Gym in Sakai City
60'

Tue 01/10 Training session access for TV/photo opportunities
tbc (AM) Training venue
15' Long AM session;
exact time will be provided closer to the date

Tue 01/10 Team announcement conference (vs Fiji)
13.30 Team hotel/OTV
30' Official = 48hrs RULE
Formal press conference style

Wed 02/10 Captain's Run TV/photo opportunities
10.30-12.30 Match Venue
15'

Wed 02/10 Eve of match conference
10.30-12.30 Match Venue
45'

Thu 03/10 Match day-Arrival interviews with HB and RHBs

AUS Match Build-up

Fri 04/10 Requested daily interviews
11.00 Team Hotel
60' Team own media activity
Casual interview type
Lounge area or other casual space

Sat 05/10 Travel day Hanazono – Shizuoka

Sun 06/10 Open Training Session
tbc (AM) Training venue
Entire Session Long AM session;
exact time will be provided closer to the date

Sun 06/10 After training briefing
tbc (AM) Training venue
45'

Mon 07/10 Community Engagement
14.00-15.30 City Mayor's office
30'

Tue 08/10 non-media day

Wed 09/10 Training session access for TV/photo opportunities
tbc (AM) Training venue
15' Long AM session;
exact time will be provided closer to the date

Wed 09/10 Team announcement conference (vs Australia)
17.30 Team Hotel
30' Official = 48hrs RULE
Formal press conference style

Thu 10/10 Captain's Run TV/photo opportunities
10.30-12.30 Match Venue
15'

Thu 10/10 Eve of match conference
10.30-12.30 Match Venue
45' This is the provisional time gap

Fri 11/10 Match day - Arrival interviews with HB and RHBs

Land of Vine, Wine and Rugby



Hope this explains embroidery on back of our jersey, beneath collar

