



Rugby World Cup 2023 Draw

MEDIA GUIDE

14 DECEMBER, 2020 – PARIS



WELCOME

SIR BILL BEAUMONT



SIR BILL BEAUMONT
WORLD RUGBY
CHAIRMAN

Bonjour et bienvenus à Paris,

This is the moment that fans around the world have been waiting for – the Rugby World Cup 2023 Draw.

In this, the most challenging of all sporting years, it is fitting that we finish on a high and an event that will bring intrigue, excitement and anticipation for teams and fans alike.

Rugby World Cup is an incredible event that unites our sport and provides the opportunity to celebrate together all that is good about rugby. Aside from financially sustaining the sport below the very highest levels, France 2023 will provide an optimistic focal point for fans after the pandemic and, in the 200th anniversary of rugby, a real reason to celebrate!

We share an ambitious vision of success with our friends at the France 2023 Organising Committee and a dedication to deliver an event that will not just showcase the very best of rugby and France, but deliver a meaningful and lasting legacy that benefits local communities within the host country and around the world.

In a tournament that will reach all of France, Rugby World Cup 2023 will set new standards in social responsibility, inclusion and sustainability, providing a blueprint of best practice and pushing the boundaries of major event hosting.

Of course we want the best conditions for the 20 teams to perform to the very best of their ability and no stone will be left unturned in that regard. That commitment starts now at this Draw, which triggers the match schedule development and in turn the honing of our high performance support for challenger nations. We are also working hard to ensure the game is at its attractive best for players, coaches, match officials and fans.

I would like to thank everyone who is working hard to ensure the success of France 2023 – the government, the host cities, the FFR and the Organising Committee. But, most of all, I would like to thank the French public for embracing this opportunity, and the teams and fans who create the amazing spectacle we all love.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the rugby community. This has been an exceptionally challenging year and without a spirit of solidarity it would have been difficult to get the sport back up and running.

Together, we can reunite in three years' time to celebrate what promises to be an exceptional Rugby World Cup.

See you at France 2023!

WELCOME

BERNARD LAPORTE



BERNARD LAPORTE
WORLD RUGBY
VICE-CHAIRMAN
FFR PRESIDENT

After carrying and promoting the true colours of France to win the right to host this Rugby World Cup, it is a great pride to see this world-class event move forward at high speed.

I would like to warmly congratulate World Rugby and the Organising Committee for this exceptional work. Each day brings us one step closer to an event that promises to be memorable for all sports fans around the world, and especially those who love rugby.

This Monday, 14 December is a memorable day. The Draw is the crucial milestone which will lead the international teams on the road to this Rugby World Cup in France in 2023. It is the first x-factor which will determine the future of rugby nations in the world.

Regardless of the twists of fate, I am convinced that all nations will be happy to meet for this pool stage and share their love of the sport within the framework of this unique event.

For France, this Rugby World Cup is the chance to share our passion with the whole world, the moment to give an unprecedented window to this sport that we love so much. I am thinking in particular of all the community rugby clubs and the volunteers who work every day and every moment to develop our sport. It will be a big rugby celebration for all of us.

WELCOME

CLAUDE ATCHER



CLAUDE ATCHER,
FRANCE 2023
ORGANISING
COMMITTEE CEO

In this extraordinary year, marked by a global health crisis, being able to offer a perspective to rugby lovers is a rare privilege.

This is the additional role played by this Rugby World Cup 2023 Draw in France, in addition to revealing the sporting profile of the next tournament.

Indeed, this Monday, 14 December, 2020 will remain as the founding act of the third biggest sporting event in the world. By delivering the make up of the four pools, the Draw triggers the countdown to the opening match on 8 September, 2023 in Saint-Denis. Less than 1,000 days now separate the fans from all over the world with a single goal: vibrate in union with their beloved team.

This prospect comes with a promise: offering fans of the 20 qualified nations a festive gathering and the best of France. That's why I salute the six celebrities who have agreed to be the innocent hands of this show, broadcast all around the world. Through their internationally recognised talent in the fields of photography, cinema, fashion, dance, gastronomy and architecture, they embody the French identity.

Thanks to Yann-Arthus Bertrand, Jean Dujardin, Christian Louboutin, Alice Renavand, Guy Savoy and Jean-Michel Wilmotte for being the ambassadors of our country.

If France 2023 gives us reason for optimism, we will not wait to implement our mission: having a positive impact on rugby, France and the planet. With all the France 2023 teams, we will do our best, every day, to achieve this goal. Long live France, long live France 2023.

RUGBY, A FRENCH PASSION

As a country, France has rugby running through it. From Ajaccio to Brest, from Perpignan to Lille, from Bayonne to Strasbourg, the whole country is passionate about the oval ball and its heroes.

Three-time Rugby World Cup runners-up in 1987, 1999 and 2011, the France team has, generation after generation, created unforgettable memories and forged its own history with Jean-Pierre Rives, Serge Blanco, Fabien Galthié, Sébastien Chabal, Frédéric Michalak and Thierry Dusautoir just some of the names that resonate in the collective imagination.

This passion is felt all over the country. In all the territories, as close as possible to the 1,941 clubs, we take rugby to the heart and we practice!

With a rich rugby history, France is a land of passionate fans who can't wait to host Rugby World Cup 2023. **In 2019, according to a Nielsen study, there were 20 million rugby fans in the country. Seventy-seven per cent of French men and women are also convinced of the "positive example" that rugby gives. A whole country is ready to ignite in 2023!**

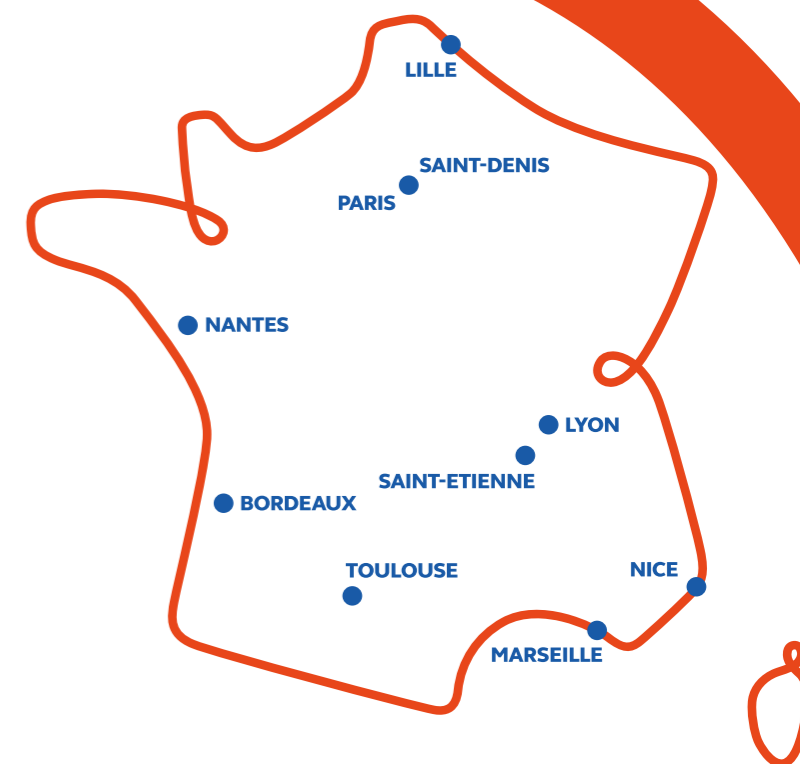


10 HOST CITIES, 9 STADIUMS

AN EVENT AT THE HEART OF THE TERRITORIES

Rugby World Cup 2023 will take place across the country, as close as possible to the French people. Eighty per cent of them will be within two hours of a match venue.

A strong territorial anchoring that France 2023 wanted to establish by devolving its organisation in the host territories as of today, three years before the event kicks off. Since 1 December, 11 Venue Managers have been in place in the host cities and regions: Bordeaux, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Nantes, Nice, Saint-Étienne, Saint-Denis and Toulouse. It's a first in the history of major international sporting events.



THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF RUGBY WORLD CUP

During 45 days, from 8 September to 21 October, Rugby World Cup France 2023 wants to be an unforgettable celebration for the fans from around the world. But France 2023 also wants to be a blueprint event, in tune with its time and aware of the social challenges of today and tomorrow, to be at the forefront of a new model for major international sporting events.

As a Public Interest Group (GIP), the Organising Committee for Rugby World Cup France 2023, founded in May 2018, stands up for a mission of general interest. Its social and environmental responsibility is essential.

More than just organising the biggest rugby event, France 2023 wants to have a positive impact for rugby, for society and for the planet.

With less than three years to go before kick-off, Rugby World Cup France 2023 is bound with five major commitments:

- > Acting for the circular and sustainable economy
- > Being committed in education, training and employment
- > Respecting and protecting the environment
- > Ensuring inclusion and sharing
- > Ensuring respect for all



Rugby World Cup France 2023 will set new standards in social responsibility, inclusion and sustainability. To be able to do this, RWC 2023 has already initiated leading societal projects, such as Campus 2023, an Internship Training Centre which will train 2,023 young people aged 18 to 30 to become tomorrow's sports experts.



9 STADIUMS FOR THE COMPETITION

STADE DE BORDEAUX
(BORDEAUX) : 42 115 SEATS

STADE PIERRE MAUROY
(LILLE) : 50 095 SEATS

STADE DE LYON
(LYON) : 59 186 SEATS

STADE VELODROME
(MARSEILLE) : 67 404 SEATS

STADE DE LA BEAUJOIRE
(NANTES) : 35 322 SEATS

STADE DE NICE
(NICE) : 34 615 SEATS

STADE DE FRANCE
(SAINT-DENIS) : 80 056 SEATS

STADE GEOFFROY GUICHARD
(SAINT-ETIENNE) : 41 965 SEATS

STADIUM DE TOULOUSE
(TOULOUSE) : 33 150 SEATS



THE RUGBY WORLD CUP 2023 DRAW

The Rugby World Cup 2023 Draw takes place at Palais Brongniart in Paris on 14 December at 12:30 CET (11:30 GMT), featuring British journalist Louise Ekland as Master of Ceremony.

Six French ambassadors recognised on the international stage will play a key role and draw the balls on Monday. With proven talents in cinema, architecture, fashion, photography, dance and gastronomy, they embody French identity and culture. The selection reflects the tournament's ambition to unite the whole of France and the rugby world through a celebration of diversity, inclusivity and innovation.

- > **YANN-ARTHUS BERTRAND:** photographer and author of worldwide bestseller *The Earth from Above*, he leads an ecological movement at the head of the GoodPlanet foundation
- > **JEAN DUJARDIN:** recipient of the Oscar for Best Actor in 2012 for his role in Michel Hazanavicius' *The Artist*, he is the first Frenchman to receive the prestigious award
- > **CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN:** French designer, he is globally recognised for his shoes with the red soles that have become his signature
- > **ALICE RENAVAND:** member of the Paris Opera ballet, she was named star dancer in 2013 after her interpretation of Angelin Preljocaj's 'Le Parc'
- > **GUY SAVOY:** one of the world's best-known chefs, his Parisian restaurant features three Michelin stars since 2002 and was recently voted Best Restaurant in the World in the La Liste ranking for the fourth time
- > **JEAN-MICHEL WILMOTTE:** renowned French architect, he has built or renovated buildings across the world including Amsterdam's famous Rijksmuseum

4 POOLS OF 5 TEAMS

DRAW FORMAT

In a year when rugby celebrates its 200th anniversary, Rugby World Cup 2023 takes place from 8 September-21 October across 10 cities in France and will be contested by 20 teams allocated into four pools of five teams.

Twelve teams are automatically qualified by virtue of a top-three place in their respective Rugby World Cup 2019 pools. These teams will be seeded based on the World Rugby Men's Rankings as of 1 January, 2020 and placed into three bands of four teams (bands one, two and three).

The remaining eight teams will come through the regional qualification process and will be allocated into bands four and five based on relative strength.

With the exception of France, who will be drawn first as host nation and placed into a pool as is tradition, the teams in each band will be randomly drawn to determine the pools they go into, the first drawn being placed in Pool A, the second in Pool B, the third in Pool C and the fourth in Pool D. The first band to be drawn will be five, with the top four seeds in band one last.

The draw will be streamed live on Rugby World Cup and France 2023's platforms and will be broadcast live worldwide.

RUGBY WORLD CUP FRANCE 2023

BAND 1	BAND 2	BAND 3
SOUTH AFRICA	IRELAND	SCOTLAND
NEW ZEALAND	AUSTRALIA	ARGENTINA
ENGLAND	FRANCE	FIJI
WALES	JAPAN	ITALY

BAND 4	BAND 5
OCEANIA 1	AFRICA 1
EUROPE 1	EUROPE 2
AMERICAS 1	AMERICAS 2
ASIA / PACIFIC 1	FINAL QUALIFIER WINNER

#RWC2023

RUGBY WORLD CUP: THE STORY SO FAR

RWC 1987

HOSTS: AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
CHAMPIONS: NEW ZEALAND

RWC 1991

HOSTS: ENGLAND, FRANCE,
IRELAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES
CHAMPIONS: AUSTRALIA

RWC 1995

HOSTS: SOUTH AFRICA
CHAMPIONS: SOUTH AFRICA

RWC 1999

HOSTS: WALES
CHAMPIONS: AUSTRALIA

RWC 2003

HOSTS: AUSTRALIA
CHAMPIONS: ENGLAND

RWC 2007

HOSTS: FRANCE
CHAMPIONS: SOUTH AFRICA

RWC 2011

HOSTS: NEW ZEALAND
CHAMPIONS: NEW ZEALAND

RWC 2015

HOSTS: ENGLAND
CHAMPIONS: NEW ZEALAND

RWC 2019

HOSTS: JAPAN
CHAMPIONS: SOUTH AFRICA

1823-2023 - 200 YEARS OF RUGBY

TEAM OVERVIEWS OF QUALIFIED TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA



COACH: JACQUES NIENABER
CAPTAIN: SIYA KOLISI
NICKNAME: SPRINGBOKS

SEED 1 (BAND 1)

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Australia on 25 May, 1995
Appearances: 7 – 1995-2019
Record: Played 43 – Won 36 Drawn 0 Lost 7
Best placing: Champions in 1995, 2007 and 2019
Points for/against: 1,512 / 553
Tries for/against: 174 / 37
Most RWC appearances: 20 – Schalk Burger
Top RWC points scorer: 162 – Handré Pollard
Top RWC try scorer: 15 – Bryan Habana

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > South Africa are one of two host nations to face the defending champions in their opening match – their first Rugby World Cup match was against 1991 champions Australia
- > South Africa's three Rugby World Cup successes each came 12 years apart
- > The Springboks scored their first tries in their third RWC final in 2019
- > Bryan Habana shares the record for most RWC tries (15) with Jonah Lomu. The Springbok winger, though, has scored the most tries in the tournament's pool stage with 13

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > South Africa have never been drawn in a pool with Argentina, France or Ireland
- > South Africa became the only team to lose a pool match and lift the Webb Ellis Cup in 2019, bouncing back from a 23-13 loss to New Zealand in their opening match
- > The Springboks have only lost three pool matches in seven tournaments, against England (2003), Japan (2015) and New Zealand (2019)
- > South Africa have scored a try in 25 of their 26 pool matches, a 25-6 defeat to England in 2003 the exception
- > The Springboks have not been in the same pool as Australia since their RWC Cup debut in 1995
- > South Africa have only met Fiji and Wales once in a pool, both at RWC 2011
- > The Springboks' only pool meeting with Japan ended in defeat in 2015
- > South Africa met Italy for the first time in RWC history at Japan 2019, winning 49-3
- > South Africa have twice been in the same pool as Scotland, in 1999 and 2015
- > Their most common opponent in a pool stage is Samoa, having been drawn with the Pacific Islanders in four of their seven tournaments

NEW ZEALAND



COACH: IAN FOSTER
CAPTAIN: SAM CANE
NICKNAME: ALL BLACKS

SEED 2 (BAND 1)

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Italy on 22 May, 1987
Appearances: 9 – 1987-2019
Record: Played 56 – Won 49 Drawn 0 Lost 7
Best placing: Champions in 1987, 2011 and 2015
Points for/against: 2,552 / 753
Tries for/against: 347 / 64
Most RWC appearances: 22 – Richie McCaw
Top RWC points scorer: 191 – Dan Carter
Top RWC try scorer: 15 – Jonah Lomu

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > New Zealand beat Italy 70-6 in the first-ever Rugby World Cup match in 1987
- > New Zealand are the only team to successfully defend the Webb Ellis Cup
- > New Zealand and South Africa have both won Rugby World Cup three times
- > New Zealand won 18 consecutive RWC matches before their 2019 semi-final loss to England

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > New Zealand have always finished top of their RWC pool
- > New Zealand have never lost a Rugby World Cup pool match, winning all 31 matches
- > New Zealand have scored the most points in a RWC pool match, 145 v Japan in 1995
- > The All Blacks are responsible for three of the six matches in which a team has scored a century of points in the pool stage
- > Marc Ellis holds the record for most tries in a RWC match, with six against Japan in 1995
- > New Zealand v Italy is the most common pool match in RWC history with the sides drawn together six times, although they have only played five due to Typhoon Hagibis in 2019
- > The only tournaments they were not in the same pool were 1995, 2011 and 2015
- > The All Blacks have never been drawn in a pool with Australia
- > New Zealand have not been in the same pool as Ireland since 1995
- > New Zealand have only met Fiji once on the RWC stage, in Pool 3 in 1987
- > The All Blacks' only pool meeting with Scotland came at France 2007
- > New Zealand have not faced Wales in the pool stage since RWC 1995
- > They have twice been in the same pool as England, in 1991 and 1999
- > New Zealand are one of two defending champions to face the hosts at the next tournament, meeting co-hosts England in 1991
- > France have twice beaten New Zealand in knockout matches, but have only met once in the pool stage, in 2011 with the All Blacks winning 37-17
- > New Zealand were drawn in the same pool as Argentina in 1987 and 2015

620 PLAYERS

ENGLAND



COACH: EDDIE JONES
CAPTAIN: OWEN FARRELL

SEEDED 3 (BAND 1)

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Australia on 23 May, 1987
Appearances: 9 – 1987-2019
Record: Played 50 – Won 36 Drawn 0 Lost 14
Best placing: Champions in 2003
Points for/against: 1,569 / 783
Tries for/against: 169 / 67
Most RWC appearances: 22 – Jason Leonard
Top RWC points scorer: 277 – Jonny Wilkinson
Top RWC try scorer: 11 – Rory Underwood

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > England are the only host nation not to reach the knockout stages (2015) – this was also the only time they have failed to progress from the pool stage
- > England are the only northern hemisphere nation to lift the Webb Ellis Cup
- > Jonny Wilkinson is one of only three players to kick points in the pool stage of four Rugby World Cups, alongside Gareth Rees (CAN) and Merab Kvirikashvili (GEO)
- > Josh Lewsey holds the England record for most tries in a pool stage match with five in a 111-13 defeat of Uruguay in 2003

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > England have never been drawn in a RWC pool with Ireland
- > Five of England's six defeats in a pool match have been at the hands of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Wales are the only other team to beat England, in 2015
- > England were in the same pool as France for the first time at RWC 2019 although they didn't face each other as the match was cancelled due to Typhoon Hagibis
- > RWC 2015 is the only time England have been in the same pool as Fiji and Wales
- > USA are England's most common pool opponent with four meetings
- > Of the RWC 2023 qualified teams Italy and Argentina have faced England the most (3)
- > England have only faced Scotland once in the pool stage, in 2011
- > England have not been in the same pool as Japan since the inaugural tournament in 1987
- > England faced South Africa twice in a pool match, winning in 2003 and losing in 2007
- > They beat Australia in the RWC 2003 final but have lost their two pool meetings in 1987 and 2015
- > England met Italy three tournaments in a row from 1991-99 but not since

WALES



COACH: WAYNE PIVAC
CAPTAIN: ALUN WYN JONES

SEEDED 4 (BAND 1)

RWC STATISTICS

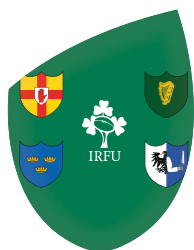
Debut: v Ireland on 25 May, 1987
Appearances: 9 – 1987-2019
Record: Played 44 – Won 26 Drawn 0 Lost 18
Best placing: Third place, 1987
Points for/against: 1,238 / 865
Tries for/against: 149 / 94
Most RWC appearances: 21 – Alun Wyn Jones
Top RWC points scorer: 98 – Neil Jenkins
Top RWC try scorer: 10 – Shane Williams

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Wales have finished top of their pool on three occasions, in 1987, 1999 and 2019
- > Wales have missed out on the knockout stages at three tournaments, in 1991, 1995 and 2007
- > Gareth Thomas is one of three players to score a try in the pool stage of four Rugby World Cups, along with Brian O'Driscoll (IRE) and Brian Lima (SAM)
- > Dan Biggar's first-minute drop goal against Australia in their Pool D meeting at RWC 2019 is the fastest in Rugby World Cup history
- > Wales are one of two teams to score five tries in a pool match and lose, doing so in a 38-34 loss to Fiji at RWC 2007

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Wales have lost 10 of their 32 RWC pool matches – against Australia (3), New Zealand (2), Samoa (2), Fiji, Ireland and South Africa (1)
- > Wales have never been in the same pool as France and Scotland among the qualified teams. They have also not faced Romania, Russia or USA
- > Wales' first RWC match was against Ireland but the sides have not been drawn together in a pool since 1995
- > Fiji and Australia are Wales' most common opponent in the pool stage (4)
- > Wales have faced Fiji in the last four tournaments, missing out the quarter-finals after a loss in 2007 before winning the next three
- > Wales have been in the same pool as Australia on four occasions, including 2015 and 2019
- > They have not faced Italy on the RWC stage since 2003
- > Wales have met Japan three times but not since RWC 2007
- > Wales haven't been drawn in a pool with Argentina since 1999

IRELAND

COACH: ANDY FARRELL
CAPTAIN: JOHNNY SEXTON

SEEDED 5 (BAND 2)**RWC STATISTICS**

Debut: v Wales on 25 May, 1987
Appearances: 9 – 1987-2019
Record: Played 40 – Won 24 Drawn 0 Lost 16
Best placing: Quarter-finalists in 1987-95, 2003, 2011-19
Points for/against: 1,108 / 735
Tries for/against: 134 / 70
Most RWC appearances: 17 – Brian O’Driscoll / Paul O’Connell
Top RWC points scorer: 93 – Ronan O’Gara
Top RWC try scorer: 8 – Keith Earls

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Ireland have never gone beyond the quarter-final stage despite reaching it seven times
- > Ireland have topped their pool twice, in 2011 and 2015
- > Brian O’Driscoll is one of three players to score a try in the pool stage of four Rugby World Cups, along with Gareth Thomas (WAL) and Brian Lima (SAM)
- > Rory Best became Ireland’s oldest player and oldest try scorer in RWC history in 2019
- > Ireland boast the only two forwards to have scored four tries in a RWC match, Brian Robinson in 1991 v Zimbabwe and Keith Wood v USA in 1999

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Ireland have never been in a pool with England, Fiji or South Africa
- > Ireland have been drawn in the same pool as the host nation on three occasions in 2003, 2007 and 2019
- > They have lost eight RWC pool matches but only failed to reach the knockout stages once, in 2007 after losing to Argentina and France
- > RWC 2019 was the first time Ireland had been drawn with Scotland since 1991
- > Ireland faced Japan for the third time in 2019 but the first for 24 years after meeting in 1991 and 1995
- > Ireland’s loss to Japan in 2019 was only their second to a team not in the Six Nations or Rugby Championship at the time they met, having lost to Argentina in 2007
- > Ireland have only faced New Zealand once in the pool stage, back in 1995
- > They met Argentina in back-to-back tournaments in 2003 and 2007
- > Ireland met Wales in two of the first three tournaments, but haven’t been in a pool with them since 1995
- > Ireland have met Australia three times, in 1999, 2003 and 2011
- > They met Italy in back-to-back tournaments in 2011 and 2015, winning both
- > Ireland first met France in a pool match in 2007 and then again in 2015

AUSTRALIA

COACH: DAVE RENNIE
CAPTAIN: MICHAEL HOOPER
NICKNAME: WALLABIES

SEEDED 6 (BAND 2)**RWC STATISTICS**

Debut: v England on 23 May, 1987
Appearances: 9 – 1987-2019
Record: Played 53 – Won 42 Drawn 0 Lost 11
Best placing: Champions in 1991, 1999
Points for/against: 1,797 / 754
Tries for/against: 230 / 57
Most RWC appearances: 20 – George Gregan
Top RWC points scorer: 195 – Michael Lynagh
Top RWC try scorer: 14 – Drew Mitchell

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Australia were the first nation to lift the Webb Ellis Cup twice after successes in 1991 and 1999
- > The Wallabies, though, have lost their two finals since that success
- > Drew Mitchell shares the record for most tries in a pool stage (seven in 2007) with New Zealand’s Marc Ellis (1995)
- > Australia hold the record for the biggest margin in a pool match, having beaten Namibia 142-0 at RWC 2003

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > The Wallabies have lost only three pool matches, against South Africa (1995), Ireland (2011) and Wales (2019)
- > Australia have topped their pool at six of the nine tournaments and have never failed to reach the knockout stages
- > Australia have played the host nation twice in a RWC pool, in 1995 and 2015
- > Australia have never been drawn in a pool with France, New Zealand or Scotland
- > The Wallabies have faced Fiji and Wales in their last two tournaments
- > Wales are Australia’s most common pool opponent with four meetings, including in both 2015 and 2019
- > Australia met England in their first RWC match, but it would be 28 years before the two were drawn together in a pool again, in 2015
- > They have not been drawn with South Africa since the Springboks’ debut match in 1995
- > The Wallabies have not faced Argentina since 2003, their second meeting in a pool
- > Australia’s only RWC meeting with Italy was in 2011
- > Australia have faced Japan twice in the pool stages, in 1987 and 2007
- > The Wallabies have met Ireland three times, in 1999, 2003 and 2011

FRANCE



COACH: FABIEN GALTHIÉ
CAPTAIN: CHARLES OLLIVON
NICKNAME : LES BLEUS

SEEDED 7 (BAND 2)

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Scotland on 23 May, 1987
 Appearances: 9 – 1987-2019
 Record: Played 52 – Won 36 Drawn 1 Lost 15
 Best placing: Runners-up 1987, 1999 and 2011
 Points for/against: 1,585 / 966
 Tries for/against: 183 / 91
 Most RWC appearances: 18 – Raphaël Ibanez
 Top RWC points scorer: 136 – Frédéric Michalak
 Top RWC try scorer: 11 – Vincent Clerc

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > France drew their opening Rugby World Cup match, 20-20 with Scotland – one of only three draws in RWC history
- > France are the only team to reach a RWC final and not lift the Webb Ellis Cup after defeats in 1987, 1999 and 2011
- > Vincent Clerc is France’s top try-scorer in pool matches with 10 with Frédéric Michalak their top point scorer with 111
- > Aurélien Rougerie played the most pool matches for France with 11 from 2003-11

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > France have never been in a pool with Australia, South Africa or Wales
- > Les Bleus are one of only two teams to reach the knockout stages after losing two pool matches in a tournament, at RWC 2011 after losing to New Zealand and Tonga
- > France topped their pool for the first five tournaments but haven’t done so since 2003
- > France have met New Zealand in two finals but only once in a pool match, in 2011
- > RWC 2019 was France’s first time being drawn in a pool with England – although they didn’t face each other as the match was cancelled due to Typhoon Hagibis
- > Canada are France’s most common pool opponent, having been drawn together on four occasions, the last time in 2015
- > Les Bleus have met Scotland on three occasions, but not since 2003
- > France have also faced Fiji three times, in 1991, 1999 and 2003
- > They have met Ireland twice in a pool match, in both 2007 and 2015
- > France met Japan for the second time in a pool match in 2011
- > France have met Argentina twice, losing the RWC 2007 opening match but winning their last meeting in 2019
- > Les Bleus have only faced Italy once on the RWC stage, in 2015

JAPAN



COACH: JAMIE JOSEPH
CAPTAIN: MICHAEL LEITCH
NICKNAME: BRAVE BLOSSOMS

SEEDED 8 (BAND 2)

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v USA on 24 May, 1987
 Appearances: 9 – 1987-2019
 Record: Played 33 – Won 8 Drawn 2 Lost 23
 Best placing: Quarter-finalists in 2019
 Points for/against: 644 / 1,347
 Tries for/against: 73 / 183
 Most RWC appearances: 14 – Luke Thompson
 Top RWC points scorer: 58 – Ayumu Goromaru
 Top RWC try scorer: 6 – Kotaro Matsushima

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Japan have played in two of the three draws in RWC history, both against Canada – 12-12 in 2007 and 23-23 in 2011
- > Japan conceded the most points in RWC history with a 145-17 defeat to New Zealand in 1995
- > Japan went 24 years between their first and second RWC victories, but have won six of their last eight matches
- > Japan reached the knockout stages for the first time in 2019

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > The Brave Blossoms became the 10th team to top a Rugby World Cup pool by beating Ireland, Russia, Samoa and Scotland in 2019
- > Japan are the only team to win three pool matches and fail to reach the knockout stages after beating South Africa, Samoa and USA in 2015
- > Japan won only one of their first 24 pool matches, 52-8 against Zimbabwe in 1991, but have lost only one of their last eight pool matches – against Scotland at RWC 2015
- > Japan have never faced Italy in Rugby World Cup history
- > Scotland are Japan’s most frequent opponent in the pool stage, having faced each other four times – in 1991, 2003, 2015 and 2019
- > Japan have not been in a pool with England since the inaugural event in 1987
- > The Brave Blossoms also faced Australia in that tournament, and did so again in 2007 in France
- > Japan have also only faced Argentina once, at RWC 1999
- > Japan have twice been drawn in the same pool as Fiji, in 2003 and 2007
- > 2019 was the first time Japan had faced Ireland since 1995
- > Japan are one of two teams with a positive record against South Africa in the pool stage of a Rugby World Cup, the other being New Zealand

SCOTLAND

COACH: GREGOR TOWNSEND
CAPTAIN: STUART HOGG

SEED 9 (BAND 3)

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v France on 23 May, 1987
Appearances: 9 – 1987-2019
Record: Played 42 – Won 24 Drawn 1 Lost 17
Best placing: Fourth in 1991
Points for/against: 1,261 / 803
Tries for/against: 146 / 79
Most RWC appearances: 15 – Chris Paterson
Top RWC points scorer: 227 – Gavin Hastings
Top RWC try scorer: 9 – Gavin Hastings

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Scotland drew their first Rugby World Cup match, 20-20 with France
- > Scotland failed to reach the knockout stage for the first time after losing to England and Argentina at RWC 2011. They repeated the feat at RWC 2019, finishing behind Japan and Ireland in Pool A
- > Gavin Hastings holds the record for most points scored in RWC pool matches with 181 and the most for a single tournament with 89 in 1995
- > Gavin Hastings is also the second-highest point scorer in RWC history behind Jonny Wilkinson
- > Scotland are the only team with two players who have scored 100 points in RWC pool matches, Chris Paterson has 124

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Scotland have met the most opponents in the pool stage with 20 different teams
- > Scotland have only topped their pool once, in 1991, after beating Ireland, Japan and Zimbabwe
- > Scotland have never been drawn in the same pool as Australia or Wales
- > Japan are Scotland's most frequent pool opponent, having met on four occasions – including at the last two tournaments
- > Scotland met France in their first RWC match but have not been in a pool with Les Bleus since 2003
- > Scotland met England in the RWC 1991 semi-final but only once in a pool match, in 2011
- > The Scots were also paired with Argentina in 2011 – their only meeting in the pool stage
- > Scotland have only been drawn with New Zealand once, in 2007
- > Their only meeting with Italy was a tight affair, Scotland winning 18-16 to progress to the quarter-finals in 2007
- > Scotland faced Ireland in Pool A at Japan 2019, their first RWC pool meeting since 1991
- > Scotland have twice faced South Africa, losing their pool meetings in 1999 and 2015

ARGENTINA

COACH: MARIO LEDESMA
CAPTAIN: PABLO MATERA
NICKNAME: LOS PUMAS

SEED 10 (BAND 3)

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Fiji on 25 May, 1987
Appearances: 9 – 1987-2019
Record: Played 41 – Won 21 Drawn 0 Lost 20
Best placing: Third in 2007
Points for/against: 1,098 / 839
Tries for/against: 115 / 84
Most RWC appearances: 18 – Mario Ledesma
Top RWC points scorer: 135 – Gonzalo Quesada
Top RWC try scorer: 7 – Juan Imhoff

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Argentina beat hosts France twice on the way to claiming the bronze medal at RWC 2007
- > Argentina's Gonzalo Quesada was top point scorer at RWC 1999 with 102 – a feat matched by Nicolás Sánchez at RWC 2015 with 97 points
- > Hooker Julián Montoya is the top try-scoring Argentinian and forward in pool matches (6)
- > Coach Mario Ledesma played at four Rugby World Cups and boasts the most pool matches (13) of any Los Pumas player. He is also their oldest RWC player, having been 38 in 2011

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Argentina have topped their pool once, in 2007 after beating hosts France, Ireland, Georgia and Namibia
- > Argentina finished bottom of their pool at the first three Rugby World Cups, winning just one of their nine matches – against Italy in 1987
- > Los Pumas have won 17 of their 32 pool matches at Rugby World Cup
- > Argentina have never been drawn in a pool with South Africa
- > England are one of four teams that Argentina have faced three times in a pool match, the others being Georgia, Namibia and Samoa
- > Argentina have been in a pool with England twice in the last three tournaments (2011 and 2019)
- > Argentina played Fiji in their first RWC match in 1987 but have not been drawn together since
- > Los Pumas have been in a pool with Italy twice, winning in 1987 but losing in 1995
- > They have met New Zealand on two occasions, each time the All Blacks won the title (1987 and 2015)
- > Argentina have met Australia twice in the pool stage but not since RWC 1995
- > Argentina's last pool meeting with Wales was in the opening match of RWC 1999
- > 2019 was the first time Argentina met France in a pool match since they upset Les Bleus in the opening match of RWC 2007
- > Argentina have not met Ireland since 2007, having also played them in 2003
- > Los Pumas have only faced Japan and Scotland once, in 1999 and 2011 respectively

FIJI



COACH: VERN COTTER
CAPTAIN: SEMI RADRADRA
NICKNAME: FLYING FIJIANS

SEEDED 11 (BAND 3)

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v Argentina on 24 May, 1987
 Appearances: 8 – 1987-91, 1999-2019
 Record: Played 32 – Won 11 Drawn 0 Lost 21
 Best placing: Quarter-finalists in 1987 and 2007
 Points for/against: 732 / 971
 Tries for/against: 86 / 116
 Most RWC appearances: 14 – Nicky Little
 Top RWC points scorer: 125 – Nicky Little
 Top RWC try scorer: 5 – Vereniki Goneva

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Fiji have reached the quarter-finals twice, in 1987 and 2007
- > Fiji have missed only one Rugby World Cup, having not played in 1995
- > Fiji had to qualify for the last two Rugby World Cups but not 2023 after finishing third in Pool D in Japan
- > Fiji's coach Vern Cotter was in charge of Scotland at RWC 2015
- > Nicky Little is one of only eight players to score a century of points in RWC pool matches, with 119 – three times higher than the next best Fiji player
- > Fiji's Josua Tuisova became the first player to score a try in an Olympic gold medal match and in a Rugby World Cup match, against Georgia at RWC 2019

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Fiji lost two pool matches at RWC 1987 but still progressed to the quarter-finals. It would be 24 years before another team would do the same in France
- > The Flying Fijians are one of two teams to score five tries and lose a RWC match, after losing 30-27 to Uruguay at RWC 2019. Fiji were involved in the occasion when they beat Wales 38-34 in 2007
- > Fiji have never been drawn in a pool with Ireland
- > Fiji met Argentina, Italy and New Zealand in the inaugural tournament in 1987 but have not been drawn in the same pool as any of them since
- > Fiji have been in a pool with Wales for the last four tournaments dating back to 2007 – making Wales their most frequent opponent at Rugby World Cup
- > They have faced Australia three times in the last four tournaments, the exception being 2011
- > Fiji have only faced South Africa once in a pool match, in 2011
- > The Flying Fijians have been drawn in the same pool as Scotland once, in 2003
- > Fiji's only RWC pool meeting with England was the opening match of RWC 2015 at Twickenham
- > Fiji have met France on three occasions, but not since 2003
- > They faced Japan in back-to-back tournaments in 2003 and 2007 but the teams haven't met since

ITALY



COACH: FRANCO SMITH
CAPTAIN: LUCA BIGI
NICKNAME: AZZURRI

SEEDED 12 (BAND 3)

RWC STATISTICS

Debut: v New Zealand on 22 May, 1987
 Appearances: 9 – 1987-2019
 Record: Played 31 – Won 13 Drawn 0 Lost 18
 Best placing: Pool stages
 Points for/against: 627 / 977
 Tries for/against: 68 / 122
 Most RWC appearances: 15 – Sergio Parisse
 Top RWC points scorer: 98 – Diego Dominguez
 Top RWC try scorer: 5 – Marcelo Cuttitta

INTERESTING STATISTICS

- > Italy are the only team to have appeared at every Rugby World Cup never to have reached the knockout stages
- > Italy faced New Zealand in the first-ever Rugby World Cup match in 1987, losing 70-6 at Eden Park
- > Italy boast two of the three players to have played at five Rugby World Cups in Sergio Parisse and Mauro Bergamasco.

PAST POOL STATISTICS

- > Italy have never faced Japan at a Rugby World Cup
- > Italy's most-common opponent at a RWC is New Zealand, having been drawn in the same pool as the All Blacks on six occasions
- > No other pairing have met each other as often on the RWC stage
- > Their 2019 meeting with New Zealand was cancelled due to Typhoon Hagibis
- > The Azzurri met England in both 1987 and 1991 but have not faced them since 1999
- > Italy were drawn in the same pool as Ireland in both 2011 and 2015
- > Argentina are the other directly qualified team that Italy have faced more than once, having been drawn together in both 1987 and 1995
- > Italy have not met Fiji since the inaugural tournament in 1987
- > They met South Africa for the first time in 2019, losing 49-3
- > Italy have also met Wales (1995), Scotland (2007), Australia (2011) and France (2015) only once
- > Of the 12 direct qualified teams for RWC 2023, Italy have only beaten Fiji and Argentina on the RWC stage, in 1987 and 1995 respectively

17,000 JOBS CREATED OR SUPPORTED

PAST RUGBY WORLD CUP POOLS

Pool C has yielded the most Rugby World Cup winners on four occasions, one more than Pool A. South Africa became the first Pool B team to be crowned champions in 2019 while Pool D is the only one never to produce a champion.

	POOL 1 / A	POOL 2 / B	POOL 3 / C	POOL 4 / D	POOL E
RWC 1987	Australia England USA Japan	Wales Ireland Canada Tonga	NEW ZEALAND Fiji Italy Argentina	France Scotland Romania Zimbabwe	
RWC 1991	New Zealand England Italy USA	Scotland Ireland Japan Zimbabwe	AUSTRALIA Western-Samoa Wales Argentina	France Canada Romania Fiji	
RWC 1995	SOUTH AFRICA Australia Canada Romania	England Western Samoa Italy Argentina	New Zealand Ireland Wales Japan	France Scotland Tonga Ivory Coast	
RWC 1999	South Africa Scotland Uruguay Spain	New Zealand England Tonga Italy	France Fiji Canada Namibia	Wales Argentina Samoa Japan	AUSTRALIA Ireland Romania USA
RWC 2003	Australia Ireland Argentina Romania Namibia	France Scotland Fiji USA Japan	ENGLAND South Africa Samoa Uruguay Georgia	New Zealand Wales Italy Canada Tonga	
RWC 2007	SOUTH AFRICA England Tonga Samoa USA	Australia Fiji Wales Japan Canada	New Zealand Scotland Italy Romania Portugal	Argentina France Ireland Georgia Namibia	
RWC 2011	NEW ZEALAND France Tonga Canada Japan	England Argentina Scotland Georgia Romania	Ireland Australia Italy USA Russia	South Africa Wales Samoa Fiji Namibia	
RWC 2015	Australia Wales England Fiji Uruguay	South Africa Scotland Japan Samoa USA	NEW ZEALAND Argentina Georgia Tonga Namibia	Ireland France Italy Romania Canada	
RWC 2019	Japan Ireland Scotland Samoa Russia	New Zealand SOUTH AFRICA Italy Canada Namibia	England France Argentina Tonga USA	Wales Australia Fiji Georgia Uruguay	

INTERESTING STATS ... PAST POOLS

0

NUMBER OF TIMES NEW ZEALAND HAVE LOST A POOL MATCH

1

SOUTH AFRICA ARE THE ONLY TEAM TO LIFT THE WEBB ELLIS CUP AFTER LOSING A POOL MATCH (23-13 V NEW ZEALAND IN 2019)

3

JAPAN ARE THE ONLY TEAM TO WIN THREE MATCHES IN A RWC POOL AND NOT PROGRESS TO THE KNOCKOUT STAGES (BEAT SOUTH AFRICA, SAMOA AND USA AT RWC 2015)

5

TWO TEAMS HAVE SCORED FIVE TRIES IN A POOL MATCH AND LOST (WALES V FIJI IN 2007 AND FIJI V URUGUAY IN 2019)

6

MOST TRIES SCORED BY AN INDIVIDUAL IN A RWC POOL MATCH (MARC ELLIS, NEW ZEALAND V JAPAN, 1995)

13

THE RECORD FOR MOST TRIES SCORED BY A PLAYER IN THE POOL STAGE (BRYAN HABANA, SOUTH AFRICA)

15

THE MOST POOL MATCHES PLAYED BY AN INDIVIDUAL IN RWC HISTORY (SERGIO PARISSÉ (ITA), BRIAN LIMA (SAM), MERAB KVIRIKASHVILI (GEO), MAMUKA GORGODZE (GEO), PAUL O'CONNELL (IRE) AND DTH VAN DER MERWE (CAN))

17

UNANSWERED POINTS SCORED BY ROMANIA AS THEY COMPLETED THE BIGGEST COMEBACK IN RWC HISTORY AGAINST CANADA AT RWC 2015 TO WIN 17-15

22

POOL MATCHES NAMIBIA HAVE PLAYED WITHOUT RECORDING A MAIDEN RWC VICTORY

45

MOST POINTS SCORED BY AN INDIVIDUAL IN A RWC POOL MATCH (SIMON CULHANE, NEW ZEALAND V JAPAN, 1995)

46

MOST TRIES SCORED BY A TEAM IN A SINGLE RWC POOL (NEW ZEALAND, 2007)

145

MOST POINTS SCORED BY A TEAM IN A RWC POOL MATCH (NEW ZEALAND V JAPAN, 1995)

249

TRIES SCORED IN THE POOL STAGE OF JAPAN 2019

299

NUMBER OF POOL MATCHES PLAYED IN RWC HISTORY

1,958

TRIES SCORED IN THE RUGBY WORLD CUP POOL STAGES TO DATE

8,741

DAYS BETWEEN JAPAN'S FIRST RWC VICTORY AGAINST ZIMBABWE (1991) AND THEIR SECOND AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA (2015). THEY WOULD WAIT ONLY 14 DAYS FOR A THIRD WIN AND HAVE NOW WON SEVEN OF THEIR LAST EIGHT POOL MATCHES

15,985

POINTS SCORED IN THE RUGBY WORLD CUP POOL STAGES TO DATE



2.6 MILLION TICKETS AVAILABLE

THE ROAD TO FRANCE 2023

World Rugby announced the global qualification process for Rugby World Cup 2023 in June, following consultation with its member unions and regions and a full review of performance at Japan 2019.

The process will determine the remaining eight teams who will join the 12 teams who qualified directly by virtue of a top-three finish in their pools at Rugby World Cup 2019 in Japan.

The Americas and Europe regions will provide two qualifiers with one coming from Africa, Oceania and an Asia / Pacific play-off. The 20th and final place will be filled by the winner of the four-team Final Qualification Tournament which gives teams a second chance to claim their ticket to France.

AFRICA – The Rugby Africa Cup 2022 winner will qualify as **Africa 1** with the runner-up entering the Final Qualification Tournament

AMERICAS – The process will now comprise two play-offs, the first will see the Rugby Americas North and Sudamérica Rugby champions playing home and away with the winner on aggregate qualifying as **Americas 1** and the loser entering the Americas 2 play-off. The 2021 regional runners-up will also play home and away with the aggregate winner progressing to the **Americas 2** play-off. The winner of this will qualify for France 2023 as Americas 2 with the loser entering the Final Qualification Tournament

EUROPE – The top two teams across the combined 2021 and 2022 editions of the Rugby Europe Championship will qualify as **Europe 1** and **Europe 2**. The third-placed team will enter the Final Qualification Tournament

OCEANIA – Samoa and Tonga will play-off home and away with the aggregate winner qualifying for RWC 2023 as **Oceania 1**. The loser will play the Oceania Rugby Cup 2021 winner to enter the Asia / Pacific play-off

ASIA / PACIFIC – The winner of the Asia Rugby Championship 2021 will contest the Asia / Pacific play-off home and away with the aggregate winner qualifying as **Asia / Pacific 1**. The loser will enter the Final Qualification Tournament

FINAL QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT – A round-robin tournament in November 2022 featuring a side from Africa, the Americas, Europe and Asia / Pacific. The winner will qualify for RWC 2023 as **Final Qualification Winner**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE RWC 2023 QUALIFICATION PROCESS, VISIT

WWW.RUGBYWORLD.CUP.COM/2023/QUALIFIERS



RWC 2019 A STATISTICAL LOOK



1 THE FIRST RUGBY WORLD CUP HELD IN ASIA SAW HOSTS JAPAN REACH A FIRST QUARTER-FINAL

2,196

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS SCORED AT RWC 2019, INCLUDING 285 TRIES

54.8 MILLION

ALMOST HALF THE JAPANESE POPULATION TUNED IN ON NATIONAL FREE-TO-AIR BROADCASTER NTV TO WATCH JAPAN'S DECISIVE POOL MATCH AGAINST SCOTLAND – A SINGLE MARKET AUDIENCE RECORD FOR RUGBY

3

SOUTH AFRICA JOINED NEW ZEALAND AS THREE-TIME WINNERS OF RUGBY WORLD CUP WITH A 32-12 DEFEAT OF ENGLAND, A MATCH THAT SAW THEM SCORE THEIR FIRST EVER TRIES IN A FINAL

70,103

SPECTATORS AT INTERNATIONAL STADIUM YOKOHAMA FOR THE RWC 2019 FINAL

425 MILLION

THE TOTAL CUMULATIVE AUDIENCE IN JAPAN THAT TUNED INTO RWC 2019 – MORE THAN FIVE TIMES THE VIEWERSHIP OF ENGLAND 2015

242,000



NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS TO JAPAN FOR RWC 2019

7

WALES WINGER JOSH ADAMS WAS THE TOURNAMENT'S TOP TRY SCORER

12

THE YEARS BETWEEN EACH OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RWC SUCCESSES IN 1995, 2007 AND 2019

1.13 MILLION

THE RECORD NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WENT THROUGH THE DOORS OF AN OFFICIAL FANZONE DURING THE TOURNAMENT

857 MILLION

PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD WATCHING THE ACTION VIA WORLD RUGBY'S NETWORK OF RIGHTS-HOLDING BROADCASTER PARTNERS

69

SOUTH AFRICA FLY-HALF HANDRÉ POLLARD WAS THE TOURNAMENT'S TOP POINT-SCORER, KICKING 22 OF HIS TALLY IN THE FINAL

£2 MILLION

PLEGGED FOR THE CHILDFUND PASS IT BACK PROGRAMME, A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WORLD RUGBY, ASIA RUGBY AND THE JAPAN RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

2.1 BILLION



A RECORD NUMBER OF DIGITAL VIDEO VIEWS

99.3

THE ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE ACROSS THE TOURNAMENT, RESULTING IN TICKET SALES OF

1.84 MILLION ACROSS THE 45 MATCHES

2.25 MILLION

THE AIM WAS TO CREATE ONE MILLION NEW RUGBY PARTICIPANTS IN ASIA AS PART OF THE IMPACT BEYOND LEGACY PROJECT, THE FINAL FIGURE WAS FAR HIGHER

WORLDWIDE PARTNER



OFFICIAL SPONSORS



OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS



WORLDWIDE PARTNER



As a long-standing loyal partner of Rugby World Cup, Societe Generale is the first French company to sign up as a Worldwide Partner of this international event.

Frédéric Oudéa, CEO of Société Générale, said: *“Societe Generale has been an historical partner of rugby. We share the sport’s values of team spirit and commitment, and we want to support its development in an inclusive way all around the world. Our long-term commitment carries a special weight within the current sanitary context and economic uncertainty, which has affected the global rugby family. It was both a natural fit and our responsibility to partner for the seventh time with the next Rugby World Cup in France in 2023.”*

OFFICIAL SPONSORS



A global player in the events industry, committed with passion and responsibility to the world of sport for several decades, GL events group shares the ambition to organise «the most beautiful rendez-vous» at Rugby World Cup France 2023 for all its stakeholders (players, fans, communities and the commercial and media family).

GL events group Chairman Oliver Ginon said: *“The GL events group welcomes this natural partnership. Indeed, the group has always anchored a large part of its activities in the world of sport. Rugby is one of the disciplines in which we are primarily involved. The strength of the team, commitment, and conviviality are common values that bring us together and provide a solid foundation for this official sponsorship of Rugby World Cup France 2023.”*



A leader in rail transport, SNCF will ensure the connection between different competition sites, and will have an essential role in the mobility and gathering of rugby fans all over the country.

SNCF Group Chairman Jean-Pierre Farandou said: *“I am delighted to engage the SNCF Group with Rugby World Cup France 2023, which will connect all regions within our country and carry human values of solidarity and commitment, in which all railway workers recognise themselves. SNCF and its teams will put all their energy into making this great sporting event a resounding worldwide success.”*



As Official Equipment Rental Provider for Rugby World Cup France 2023, the LOXAM group, a leader in equipment rental, will use its know-how on the various competition sites during the preparatory phase and during the tournament.

LOXAM Group Chairman, Gérard Déprez said: *“We are very proud that LOXAM can play its part in the Rugby World Cup France 2023 logistic. We are thus extending our historic involvement with rugby. While LOXAM is an international group, it also remains, through its equipment rental activity, a local company.”*



A global leader in the entertainment sector, Vivendi has become a Rugby World Cup France 2023 Official Sponsor. Vivendi’s diverse activities across music, television, communication, publishing, and live performances will make sure the event has an unprecedented impact.

Arnaud de Puyfontaine, Vivendi’s Board of Directors Chairman, said: *“Rugby has been intimately linked to our Group’s identity for more than 20 years. It was only natural to immediately involve Vivendi in this great adventure of organising a Rugby World Cup. Aligning a top-notch sporting competition with a festive event targeting a large audience is a superb challenge. Our different businesses are at the crossroads of entertainment, media, and communication and carry strong values. As such, I am convinced that together we can contribute to Rugby World Cup France 2023’s success.”*



A major player in human resources, PROMAN is committed to playing its role in ensuring Rugby World Cup France 2023 a major contributor in training and employment, taking part in the recruitment of volunteers for instance.

Roland Gomez, PROMAN Managing Director, said: *“PROMAN and France 2023 is a perfect match! This event taking place in France but resonating throughout the world, conveying values of conviviality, universality, respect and excellence as well as deeply oriented on unemployed people’s inclusion is definitely made for us. Rugby World Cup France 2023 is an exceptional opportunity for PROMAN and our 2,600 employees to deploy our recruiting expertise for the benefit of this competition and this highly acclaimed sport. It will offer many employment and training opportunities to thousands of French people.”*



As Official Telecom Operator of Rugby World Cup 2023, Orange will supply all the telecommunications services required for the competition. High-speed broadband networks will be installed at each site, allowing everyone to experience all the thrills and spills of the event’s 48 matches, whether they are in France or overseas. Orange will offer the highest standards to both spectators and broadcasters.

Chairman and CEO of Orange Stéphane Richard said: *“Orange is proud to join Rugby World Cup France 2023 as an Official Sponsor. Our teams will be working hard to support the organisers, partners, broadcasters and spectators of this 10th Rugby World Cup. Back in 2007, we demonstrated our technical expertise to the rugby world, and the planet as a whole. Rugby World Cup 2023 will be an excellent opportunity to showcase France’s love of rugby, one year before it hosts the Olympics.”*

RESOURCES

[REPORT: The benefits of hosting men's Rugby World Cup \(PDF\)](#)

[PRESS KIT: THE RUGBY WORLD CUP FRANCE 2023 POSITIVE IMPACT \(PDF\)](#)

[POOL PHASE STATISTICS BY COUNTRY FOR RWC 2023 DRAW \(PDF\)](#)

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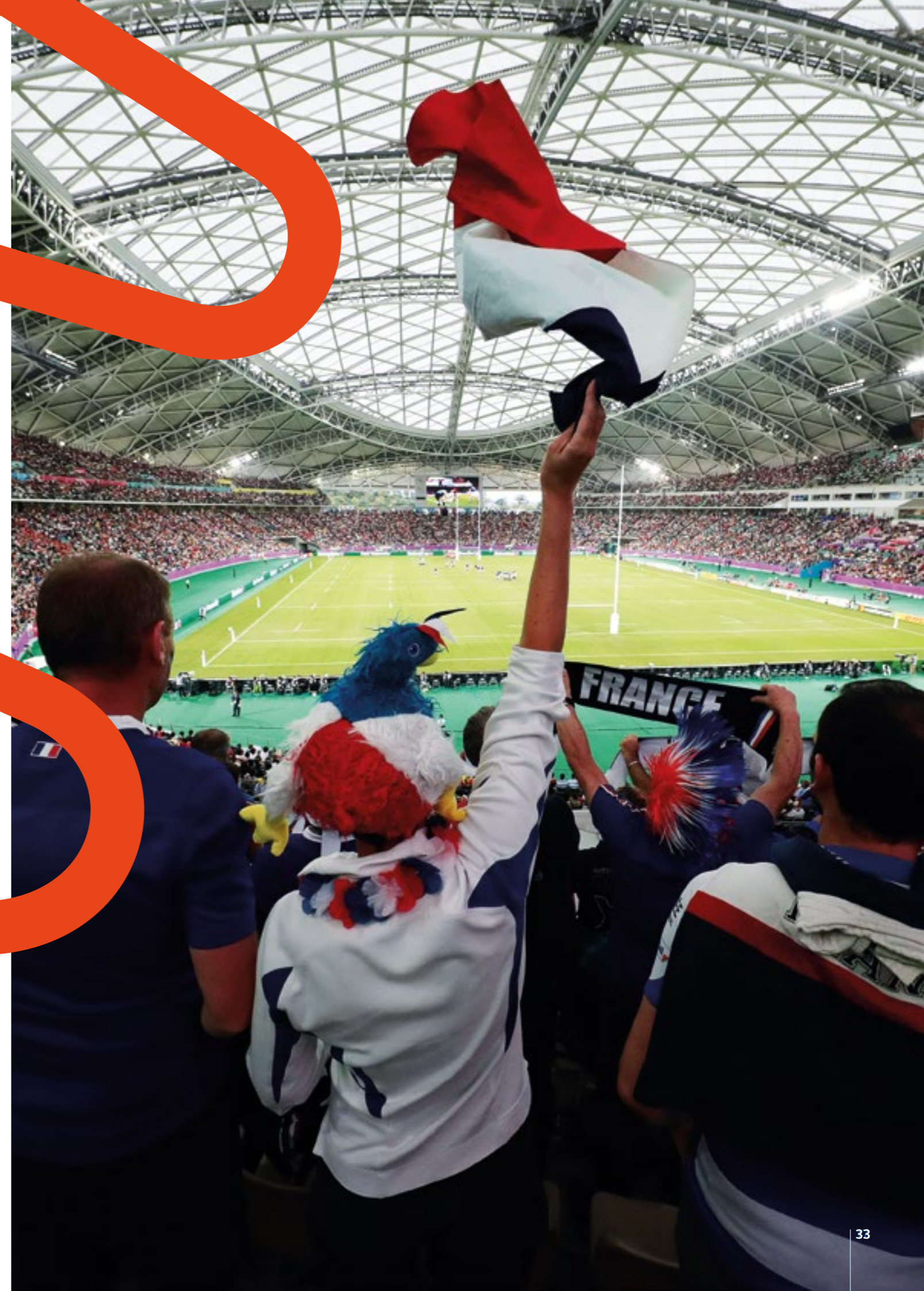
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