



RUGBY
WORLD CUP™
JAPAN日本2019

Repechage media pack

11-23 November





The road to Japan 2019

The Rugby World Cup 2019 qualification process began on 5 March, 2016 when St Vincent and the Grenadines hosted Jamaica in Arnos Vale, with England 2015 final referee Nigel Owens continuing the tradition of taking charge of the first qualifier for the next tournament.

Jamaica ran out comfortable 48-0 winners in that Rugby Americas North Championship match, the first of 182 matches played to date that have seen seven nations emerge from the qualification process to confirm their place at Japan 2019.

Seventy-one nations have taken part in the qualification process that, on the day the repechage kicks off in the French city of Marseille, will be 982 days old and has seen 10,052 points scored along the way.

The process culminates, for the first time, with a repechage tournament in one location with Canada, Germany, Hong Kong and Kenya hoping to become the 20th and final qualifier for Japan 2019, the first Rugby World Cup to be staged in Asia.

Hong Kong are the only team to have played in a repechage before, losing 28-3 to Uruguay in the first stage for RWC 2015 qualification, while Canada are no strangers to the Rugby World Cup stage having featured in every tournament since the inaugural event in 1987.

For the others, a first ever appearance in rugby's showpiece event is the prize at stake.

If Germany, Hong Kong or Kenya can triumph they will become the 26th nation to play in a Rugby World Cup and the first debutant since Russia played their first tournament in New Zealand in 2011.

The qualification principles

Twelve automatic qualifiers

The top three in each pool at RWC 2015: New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Argentina, Ireland, Scotland, France, Wales, Georgia, Japan, England and Italy.

One European qualifier – Russia

The highest ranked team from the Rugby Europe Championship (excluding Georgia) across 2017 and 2018 qualified as **Europe 1**.

Two Oceania qualifiers – Fiji and Tonga

The top two teams from the World Rugby Pacific Nations Cup across 2016 and 2017 qualified as **Oceania 1** and **Oceania 2**.

One Europe/Oceania play-off qualifier – Samoa

The third-ranked team from the Pacific Nations Cup (Samoa) faced the winner of a play-off between the second-highest ranked team from the Rugby Europe Championship (Germany) and Rugby Europe Trophy 2017 winner (Portugal). Samoa beat Germany 108-43 on aggregate to qualify as **Play-off Winner**. The loser entered the repechage tournament.

Two Americas qualifiers – USA and Uruguay

Canada and USA played home and away with the winner on aggregate qualifying for RWC 2019 as **Americas 1**. The loser then played home and away against the top-ranked South American team (excluding Argentina) with the winner on aggregate qualifying as **Americas 2**. The loser (Canada) entered the repechage tournament.

One African qualifier – Namibia

The Rugby Africa Gold Cup 2018 winner qualified as **Africa 1**. The runner-up (Kenya) entered the repechage tournament.

Asia/Oceania play-off for repechage place

The highest ranked team from the Asia Rugby Championship 2018 (Hong Kong) played home and away against the winner of the Oceania Rugby Cup 2017 (Cook Islands). Hong Kong beat the Cook Islands 77-3 on aggregate to enter the repechage tournament.

One repechage qualifier – Repechage Winner

The winner of the four-team round robin tournament involving Canada, Germany, Hong Kong and Kenya will complete the RWC 2019 line-up.

For more information on the RWC 2019 qualification process, visit www.rugbyworldcup.com/qualifying.

The final four teams

CANADA

World Rugby Ranking: 23
Twitter handle: @RugbyCanada

Coach: Kingsley Jones
Captain: Phil Mack

GERMANY

World Rugby Ranking: 29
Twitter handle: @DRVRugby

Coach: Mike Ford
Captain: Michael Poppmeier

HONG KONG

World Rugby Ranking: 21
Twitter handle: @HongKongRugby

Coach: Leigh Jones
Captain: James Cunningham

KENYA

World Rugby Ranking: 28
Twitter handle: @KRUOfficial

Coach: Ian Snook
Captain: Davis Chenge

The road to the repechage

The four nations bidding for the 20th and final place at Japan 2019 have played 34 matches between them to reach the global repechage tournament, Canada playing the fewest with four and Kenya the most with 13.

Canada

The Canucks faced neighbours USA over two legs for the Americas 1 berth, defeat pitching them into another home-and-away play-off against Uruguay for the Americas 2 berth in early 2018. They lost both legs to become the first nation confirmed for the repechage tournament.

- 24/06/2017 – Canada 28-28 USA – Hamilton, Canada
- 01/07/2017 – USA 52-16 Canada – San Diego, USA
- 27/01/2018 – Canada 29-38 Uruguay – Vancouver, Canada
- 03/02/2018 – Uruguay 32-31 Canada – Montevideo, Uruguay

Germany

Germany's journey began with a shock win over defending Rugby Europe champions Romania and included many ups and downs, including the loss of many of their top players for the Rugby Europe Championship 2018. Germany earned a reprieve following the point deductions for Romania, Spain and Belgium fielding ineligible players and then overcame Rugby Europe Trophy winners Portugal to set up a home-and-away play-off with Samoa. The Pacific Islanders triumphed to qualify as Play-off Winner with Germany taking their place in the repechage.

- 11/02/2017 – Germany 41-38 Romania – Offenbach, Germany
- 04/03/2017 – Germany 34-29 Belgium – Offenbach, Germany
- 11/03/2017 – Germany 15-32 Spain – Cologne, Germany
- 19/03/2017 – Russia 52-25 Germany – Sochi, Russia
- 01/02/2018 – Romania 85-6 Germany – Cluj, Romania
- 03/03/2018 – Belgium 69-15 Germany – Brussels, Belgium
- 11/03/2018 – Spain 84-10 Germany – Madrid, Spain
- 18/03/2018 – Germany 3-57 Russia – Cologne, Germany
- 16/06/2018 – Germany 16-13 Portugal – Heidelberg, Germany
- 30/06/2018 – Samoa 66-15 Germany – Apia, Samoa
- 14/07/2018 – Germany 28-42 Samoa – Heidelberg, Germany

Hong Kong

The last of the quartet to begin their bid to qualify for RWC 2019, Hong Kong overcame Korea and Malaysia home-and-away in the Asia Rugby Championship 2018 to set up a cross-continental play-off with Oceania Rugby Cup 2017 winners the Cook Islands. Hong Kong triumphed 77-3 on aggregate to take their place in the global repechage tournament.

- 05/05/2018 – Malaysia 8-67 Hong Kong – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 12/05/2018 – Korea 21-30 Hong Kong – Incheon, Korea
- 26/05/2018 – Hong Kong 91-10 Malaysia – Hong Kong
- 02/06/2018 – Hong Kong 39-5 Korea – Hong Kong
- 30/06/2018 – Cook Islands 3-26 Hong Kong – Rarotonga, Cook Islands
- 07/07/2018 – Hong Kong 51-0 Cook Islands – Hong Kong

Kenya

The first of the quartet to enter the qualification process with the Rugby Africa Gold Cup in 2016, Kenya went into the final round of the 2018 competition knowing that victory over Namibia in the title decider would see them qualify for a first Rugby World Cup as Africa 1, but defeat would still mean a place in the repechage. They lost 53-28 in Windhoek.

- 09/07/2016 – Zimbabwe 15-61 Kenya – Harare, Zimbabwe
- 16/07/2016 – Namibia 56-21 Kenya – Windhoek, Namibia
- 30/07/2016 – Kenya 45-24 Uganda – Nairobi, Kenya
- 24/06/2017 – Kenya 33-33 Uganda – Nairobi, Kenya
- 08/07/2017 – Kenya 100-10 Tunisia – Nairobi, Kenya
- 15/07/2017 – Kenya 45-25 Senegal – Nairobi, Kenya
- 22/07/2017 – Zimbabwe 22-41 Kenya – Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
- 29/07/2017 – Namibia 45-7 Kenya – Windhoek, Namibia
- 23/06/2018 – Morocco 24-28 Kenya – Casablanca, Morocco
- 30/06/2018 – Kenya 45-36 Zimbabwe – Nairobi, Kenya
- 07/07/2018 – Kenya 38-22 Uganda – Nairobi, Kenya
- 11/08/2018 – Kenya 67-0 Tunisia – Nairobi, Kenya
- 18/08/2018 – Namibia 53-28 Kenya – Windhoek, Namibia

Rugby World Cup repechage history

A repechage, of one form or other, has been used to determine qualifiers for a Rugby World Cup since the 1999 tournament hosted by Wales.

However, this is the first time that a round-robin event in one location has been used.

RWC 1999

Teams involved: Georgia, Korea, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Tonga, Uruguay

Repechage 1:

06/03/1999 – Tonga 37-6 Georgia – Nuku'alofa, Tonga

28/03/1999 – Georgia 28-27 Tonga – Tbilisi, Georgia

Tonga won 64-34 on aggregate

13/03/1999 – Uruguay 46-9 Portugal – Montevideo, Uruguay

03/04/1999 – Portugal 24-33 Uruguay – Lisbon, Portugal

Uruguay won 79-33 on aggregate

14/03/1999 – Netherlands 31-30 Korea – Amsterdam, Netherlands

04/04/1999 – Korea 78-14 Netherlands – Seoul, Korea

Korea won 108-45 on aggregate

Repechage 2:

18/04/1999 – Uruguay 18-3 Morocco – Montevideo, Uruguay

01/05/1999 – Morocco 21-18 Uruguay – Casablanca, Morocco

Uruguay won 36-24 on aggregate to qualify for first Rugby World Cup

16/04/1999 – Tonga 58-26 Korea – Nuku'alofa, Tonga

04/05/1999 – Korea 15-82 Tonga – Seoul, Korea

Tonga won 140-41 on aggregate to qualify for RWC 1999



RWC 2003

Teams involved: Korea, Spain, Tonga, Tunisia, USA

Round 1:

15/03/2003 – Tunisia 16-33 Spain

Round 2:

12/04/2003 – Spain 13-62 USA – Madrid, Spain

27/04/2003 – USA 58-13 Spain – Fort Lauderdale, USA

USA won 120-26 on aggregate to qualify for RWC 2003

15/03/2003 – Korea 0-75 Tonga – Seoul, Korea

21/03/2003 – Tonga 119-0 Korea – Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Tonga won 194-0 on aggregate to qualify for RWC 2003

RWC 2007

Teams involved: Korea, Morocco, Portugal, Tonga, Uruguay

Repechage 1:

Round 1:

20/01/2007 – Morocco 5-10 Portugal – Casablanca, Morocco

27/01/2007 – Portugal 16-15 Morocco – Lisbon, Portugal

Round 2:

10/03/2007 – Portugal 12-5 Uruguay – Lisbon, Portugal

24/03/2007 – Uruguay 18-12 Portugal – Montevideo, Uruguay

Portugal win 24-23 on aggregate to qualify for their first Rugby World Cup

Repechage 2:

10/02/2007 – Tonga 83-3 Korea – Auckland, New Zealand

Tonga qualify for RWC 2007



RWC 2011

Teams involved: Kazakhstan, Romania, Tunisia, Uruguay

Round 1:

17/07/2010 – Romania 56-13 Tunisia – Buzac, Romania

17/07/2010 – Uruguay 44-7 Kazakhstan – Montevideo, Uruguay

Round 2:

13/11/2010 – Uruguay 21-21 Romania – Montevideo, Uruguay

27/11/2010 – Romania 39-12 Uruguay – Bucharest, Romania

Romania won 60-33 on aggregate to qualify for New Zealand 2011 as Repechage Winner

RWC 2015

Teams involved: Hong Kong, Russia, Uruguay, Zimbabwe

Round 1:

02/08/2014 – Uruguay 28-3 Hong Kong – Montevideo, Uruguay

02/08/2014 – Russia 23-15 Zimbabwe – Krasnoyarsk, Russia

Round 2:

27/09/2014 – Russia 22-21 Uruguay – Krasnoyarsk, Russia

11/10/2014 – Uruguay 36-27 Russia – Montevideo, Uruguay

Uruguay won 57-49 on aggregate to qualify for England 2015 as Repechage Winner

Rankings at completion of the pool phase

At the completion of the pool phase, the teams are ranked one through four based on their cumulative match points, and identified respectively as winner, runner-up, third and fourth.

If at the completion of the pool phase two or more teams are level on match points, then the following criteria shall be in the following order until one of the teams can be determined as the higher ranked:

1. The winner of the match in which the two tied teams have played each other shall be the higher ranked
2. The team which has the best difference between points scored for and points scored against in all its pool matches shall be the higher ranked
3. The team which has the best difference between tries scored for and tries scored against in all its pool matches shall be the higher ranked
4. The team which has scored the most points in all its pool matches shall be the higher ranked
5. The team which has scored the most tries in all its pool matches shall be the higher ranked
6. Should the tie be unresolved at the conclusion of steps one through five, the rankings as per the updated official World Rugby Rankings on 20 August, 2018 will determine the higher ranked team.

For clarification, in the case of a tie between three or more teams at the end of the pool phase, once the highest ranked team has been determined following the above criteria, to determine the next higher ranked team the process would repeat starting at criterion one.



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