



WORLD RUGBY™
HSBC 
SEVENS SERIES

2015-16 Series

Game Analysis Report

World Rugby Game Analysis

COMMENTARY

The 2015-16 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series was high-scoring and competitive with Fiji retaining the title after winning it in 2014-15 for the first time since 2005-06, finishing ahead of runners-up South Africa and New Zealand. In a tight race to the series crown, the cup titles were shared among the top three teams in the first seven rounds of the series. However, in the last three rounds in Singapore, Paris and London, Kenya and Scotland won their first-ever titles while Samoa secured their first since 2011-12. Portugal were relegated for the first time since becoming a core team in 2012-13, with Japan replacing them after winning the qualifier in Hong Kong.

Fiji continued to exhibit their unique style of play to retain the series title in 2015-16:

- They continued to avoid taking possession into contact, averaging a ruck or maul just once every 47.9 seconds of possession with 80 per cent of their tries scored with no ruck or maul in the build-up play
- They were the most likely team to complete five or more passes within a phase of play, average five or more passes once every 4.4 phases
- When contesting their opposition's tackle or ruck situations, they turned over possession in 23 per cent of breakdowns, the highest on the series
- Despite the high level of competitiveness at the breakdown, they were the least likely to be penalised, conceding an average of just 1.5 penalties at tackles or rucks per match

It is these minor, but significant differences in Fiji's performance in 2015-16 that enabled consistent performances across the whole season to retain the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series title.

The core elements of rugby sevens differ very little from year to year, as seen in the series statistical comparison from 2011-12 to 2015-16 within this report. However, some small variations were witnessed in the 2015-16 series:

- The average number of points scored per game has progressively increased to 36.6 points since the 2011-12 series
- The frequency of tries scored with no ruck or maul in the build-up play has decreased from 70 per cent of all tries scored in 2011-12 to 62 per cent in 2015-16
- Ball in play percentage time dropped to 49 per cent, the lowest since 2011-12
- Activity in open play has steadily decreased year-on-year, with the average number of passes per game (64), rucks and mauls per game (16.4) and kicks per game (2) at their lowest since 2011-12
- The scrum and lineout were less contested than in previous series with possession being retained at 96 per cent of scrums and 80 per cent of lineouts

The following report is a quantitative review of the 2015-16 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series. It brings together the relevant data relating to each round as well as the relevant data relating to each team's performance across them.

The report has several objectives:

- Provide a profile of how the game of sevens was played at international level in the 2015-16 series

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- Provide a profile of each participating team's performance in all rounds of the 2015-16 series
- Provide an instrument to compare the development of the game from series to series.
- Present the relative performance of each participating team in all aspects of the game, enabling the comparison in performance between rounds and between teams
- Identify alternative strategies in performance adopted in certain areas of game play by various teams

In summary, the report comprises an analysis of all aspects of play together with the approach and performance of all the participating teams.

For questions concerning any of the 2015-16 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series Game Analysis Report, please contact:

Rhys Jones (World Rugby Game Analysis Manager) – rhys.jones@worldrugby.org

Phil Dunne (World Rugby Sevens Game Analyst) – phil.dunne@worldrugby.org

OVERALL STANDINGS

	TEAM	DUB	RSA	NZL	AUS	USA	CAN	HKG	SIN	FRA	ENG	POINTS
1	FIJI	22	13	17	17	22	15	22	19	19	15	181
2	SOUTH AFRICA	13	22	19	15	17	19	17	17	13	19	171
3	NEW ZEALAND	15	10	22	22	13	22	19	12	10	13	158
4	AUSTRALIA	12	10	13	19	19	17	15	10	12	7	134
5	ARGENTINA	10	19	12	13	10	5	8	15	15	12	119
6	USA	17	12	10	10	15	12	12	7	5	17	117
7	KENYA	5	15	10	12	10	1	10	22	10	3	98
8	ENGLAND	19	7	15	10	1	5	13	5	7	10	92
9	SAMOA	10	3	8	7	3	13	5	13	22	5	89
10	SCOTLAND	7	8	7	5	5	10	7	8	8	22	87
11	FRANCE	8	17	3	1	7	7	5	10	17	10	85
12	WALES	5	5	1	3	8	10	10	2	2	8	54
13	CANADA	3	5	5	8	2	8	2	1	1	5	40
14	RUSSIA	1	2	2	2	5	3	3	3	5	2	28
15	JAPAN	2	-	5	1	12	-	-	1	-	-	21
-	PORTUGAL	1	1	1	5	1	2	1	5	3	1	21
17	BRAZIL	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	3
18	ZIMBABWE	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	SOUTH KOREA	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

2015-16 SERIES FACTS

Scoring

- An average of 36.6 points were scored per game across the whole series
- Seventy-nine per cent of the points scored came from tries with an average of 5.8 tries scored per match
- A try was scored every 71 seconds of possession
- The winning team scored the most tries in 397 or 88 per cent of matches
- Conversion success was 64 per cent and seven penalty goals were successfully kicked
- A third of tries came from penalty or free-kick possession, while a fifth of tries came from kick restart possession
- Sixty-two per cent of tries contained no ruck or maul in the build-up play, while 57 per cent contained three or fewer passes
- Sixth-five per cent of possessions that entered into the opposition's 22m area resulted in a try
- The referee video review (RVR) was used a total of 55 times with 42 per cent of referrals resulting in a try being awarded

Open play

- Ball in play time averaged 49 per cent or six minutes and 50 seconds per match
- A pass was made once every 6.5 seconds of possession resulting in an average of 64 passes being made per match
- Fourteen per cent of phases in play, or one every 7.3, contained five or more passes, while 28 per cent contained just one pass
- There was an average of 16.4 rucks and mauls per game with 80 per cent being retained
- Sixty-nine per cent of all rucks and mauls were located between both 22m lines
- An average of two kicks occurred per game

Set piece

- Seventy-three per cent of all restarts kicked were contestable
- Possession was retained in 36 per cent of contestable restart kicks
- Scrum success rate was 96 per cent
- Lineout success rate was 80 per cent

Discipline

- An average of 6.6 penalties and free-kicks were awarded per match
- Sixty-five per cent of all penalties were awarded at the breakdown
- Fifty-two per cent of penalties awarded at the breakdown were against the defending team
- A total of 150 yellow cards and four red cards were given
- Seventy per cent of cards shown were for foul play offences

SERIES STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND COMPARISON

	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
	SWS	SWS	SWS	SWS	SWS
MATCHES	450	405	405	392	392
SCORING					
POINTS (average per game)	36.6	36.4	33	33	34
TRIES (average per game)	5.8	5.8	5.2	5.4	5.4
TRY SCORING RATE (rate)	1 every 71s	1 every 73s	1 every 83s	1 every 80s	1 every 79s
CONVERSION SUCCESS (%)	64%	65%	65%	63%	62%
PENALTY / DROP GOALS (total)	7	10	7	18	11
MATCH WON by scoring most tries (%)	88%	87%	91%	85%	88%
SOURCE OF TRIES - pens/FKs (%)	33%	32%	34%	33%	33%
ORIGIN OF TRIES - own half (%)	43%	42%	40%	44%	44%
TRY BUILD UP – no rucks/mauls (%)	62%	64%	67%	62%	70%
TRY BUILD UP - 3 or fewer passes (%)	57%	57%	60%	57%	56%
ACTIVITY					
BALL IN PLAY (%)	49%	50%	51%	51%	51%
PASSES (average per game)	64	64.1	64	66	68
5+ PASSING MOVEMENTS (rate)	1 in 7.3	1 in 8	1 in 8	1 in 8	1 in 7.7
RUCKS/MAULS (average per game)	16.4	17.2	17	17	18
RUCK/MAUL RETENTION (%)	80%	80%	79%	81%	84%
KICKS (average per game)	2.0	2.3	2.8	2.6	2.4
SET PIECE					
CONTESTABLE RESTARTS (%)	73%	72%	70%	71%	70%
CONTESTABLE RESTARTS REGAINED (%)	36%	34%	36%	36%	33%
RESTART ERRORS (rate)	1 in 15	1 in 13.3	1 in 16	1 in 15	17
SCRUMS (average per game)	3.2	3.2	3.6	2.8	4
SCRUMS possession retained (%)	96%	96%	96%	94%	94%
LINEOUTS (average per game)	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.4	2
LINEOUTS possession retained (%)	80%	79%	79%	77%	74%
QUICK THROWS (rate)	1 in 19.8	1 in 17	1 in 13	1 in 9.5	1 in 13
PENALTIES/FREE-KICKS AND CARDS					
PENALTIES (average per game)	6.6	6.2	6.8	6.2	6
CARDS (YC + RC total)	150 + 4	142 + 2	113 + 3	119 + 4	93 + 4

SCORING AND CONCEDED

TRIES

The average number of points scored in a match was **36**. The average number of points scored/conceded by a team was **18** but, not surprisingly, there were major variations around this average. **Fiji** scored an average of 28 points and conceded an average of 13 points, whereas **Portugal** scored an average of nine points and conceded an average of 29 points.

Overall there was a try scored every **71 seconds of play**. Try-scoring rates show how **effective** each team was in **scoring points** in relation to the possession that they obtained, and try conceding rates show how **effective** each team was in **restricting points** in relation to the possession that their opponents obtained. The below tables give the relevant figures for each participating team. **South Africa** had the best try-scoring and conceding rate, scoring a try every **49** seconds of their own possession and conceding a try every **153** seconds of opposition possession.

	Avg points scored	Avg points conceded	Avg tries scored	Avg tries conceded		Try scoring rate		Try conceding rate	
FJI	28.4	13.2	4.4	2.2	RSA	49	RSA	153	
RSA	24.5	9.3	3.9	1.5	FJI	50	FJI	96	
NZL	21.4	13.6	3.4	2.2	NZL	63	NZL	96	
USA	20.3	17.2	3.2	2.7	SAM	63	ENG	92	
AUS	20.1	14.7	3.2	2.4	ARG	70	ARG	87	
FRA	19.2	18.9	3.0	3.0	AUS	70	AUS	83	
SAM	19.0	17.9	3.0	2.9	KEN	70	KEN	78	
AVG	18.3	18.3	2.9	2.9	USA	71	AVG	71	
KEN	17.9	16.6	2.9	2.6	AVG	71	SAM	70	
SCO	17.9	18.0	2.9	2.9	FRA	72	SCO	70	
CAN	17.5	20.3	2.9	3.2	WAL	72	FRA	66	
ARG	17.4	16.3	2.7	2.5	ENG	76	USA	64	
ENG	16.8	13.7	2.7	2.2	CAN	78	CAN	56	
WAL	16.4	23.7	2.6	3.8	SCO	84	RUS	55	
RUS	12.4	24.6	2.1	3.9	RUS	98	WAL	55	
POR	9.3	29.1	1.5	4.6	POR	120	POR	48	
non-core teams					non-core teams				
JPN	16.4	24.2	2.6	3.8	JPN	76	JPN	59	
KOR	7.0	40.4	1.0	6.4	KOR	128	BRA	56	
BRA	5.4	28.5	0.9	4.5	BRA	194	ZIM	44	
ZIM	3.4	31.8	0.6	5.0	ZIM	352	KOR	40	

CONVERSIONS

The overall conversion success rate was **63 per cent**.

There were noticeable variations in the percentage success rates as seen in the below table. Because of the relatively few tries scored by some teams, applying percentages can only be regarded as indicative. In addition, the location of the score can be a significant factor in achieving a successful conversion.

The below table shows the success rate of all participating teams, with **Fiji** having the highest conversion success rate with **71 per cent** and **Russia** the lowest with **56 per cent**.

There were **seven** penalty goals.

	Conversion Success (%)
FJI	71%
RSA	67%
ARG	67%
FRA	66%
USA	66%
ENG	66%
WAL	66%
AUS	64%
AVG	63%
SCO	63%
NZL	62%
SAM	62%
CAN	57%
POR	57%
KEN	56%
RUS	49%
non-core teams	
KOR	100%
JPN	66%
BRA	62%
ZIM	33%

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TRY SCORING

There were **2,617** tries scored, giving an average of **5.8** per match. **Fiji** scored an average of 4.4 tries per match and conceded an average of 2.2 tries. The average number of tries scored and conceded by all participating teams is shown on page seven. During the pool stages there were **1,429** tries scored, an average of six per match, and during the knockout stages there were **1,188** tries scored, an average of 5.6 per match.

IMPACT OF TRIES

With seven penalty goals and a conversion success rate of 63 per cent, it was inevitable that tries would determine the winning team in the vast majority of matches – and this proved to be the case. Of the 450 matches, **397** (or 88 per cent) were won by the team scoring the most tries, while in **53** (or 12 per cent) tries were equal. In those 53 matches, 41 were won by the team that scored the more conversions, while there were 12 draws.

SOURCE OF TRIES

Teams obtained possession of the ball prior to the scoring a try from a variety of sources which are presented in the table below. It can be seen that the most fruitful source of tries was penalties and free-kicks (33 per cent). The table shows the importance of restarts, with 20 per cent of all tries scored from possession originating at a restart. The following table shows the possession source of tries scored by each team. The team that scored the highest proportion of their tries from penalties/free-kicks was **Canada**, from turnovers **South Africa** and from restarts **Samoa**.

	Penalty & Free Kick	Lineout	Turnover	Kick Receipt	Scrum	Restart
CAN	43%	7%	13%	3%	8%	26%
SCO	38%	7%	16%	4%	12%	22%
NZL	38%	16%	20%	3%	10%	14%
POR	37%	12%	19%	0%	9%	23%
RUS	36%	12%	17%	2%	15%	19%
AUS	35%	16%	21%	3%	10%	16%
ENG	35%	16%	19%	2%	8%	19%
AVG	33%	11%	22%	2%	12%	20%
KEN	33%	10%	17%	0%	22%	19%
RSA	32%	10%	32%	2%	12%	12%
FRA	32%	13%	23%	2%	9%	21%
SAM	29%	7%	20%	2%	12%	29%
USA	29%	13%	17%	1%	13%	28%
FJI	29%	4%	30%	4%	8%	25%
ARG	28%	13%	28%	3%	13%	15%
WAL	23%	10%	26%	5%	14%	22%
non-core teams						
ZIM	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
KOR	60%	0%	20%	0%	20%	0%
JPN	36%	10%	9%	1%	23%	21%
BRA	31%	23%	31%	0%	0%	15%

ORIGIN OF TRIES

Of all the tries scored, **43 per cent** originated in the try scoring team's own half and **57 per cent** in the opposition half. The team that scored the highest proportion of tries from their own half was **Portugal**.

	Own Half	Halfway to 10m	10m to 22m	22m to Tryline
POR	54%	8%	23%	15%
RUS	51%	11%	25%	13%
FJI	50%	13%	29%	9%
SAM	49%	9%	31%	10%
WAL	49%	9%	24%	17%
ENG	47%	11%	24%	18%
SCO	46%	12%	24%	18%
USA	43%	11%	31%	15%
AVG	43%	12%	28%	17%
KEN	42%	16%	26%	16%
CAN	42%	13%	29%	17%
NZL	39%	11%	26%	24%
FRA	36%	16%	33%	15%
ARG	35%	16%	26%	23%
AUS	34%	15%	26%	25%
RSA	33%	11%	35%	21%
non-core teams				
ZIM	67%	33%	0%	0%
JPN	49%	11%	29%	11%
KOR	40%	0%	0%	60%
BRA	38%	15%	23%	23%

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BUILD-UP TO TRIES

The table below shows how many rucks/mauls and the total number of passes preceded each try scored in the series. The table shows that **62 per cent** of tries were preceded by no ruck or maul and that **57 per cent** of tries were preceded by three or fewer passes.

Ruck/maul in try build-up		
	%	Cumulative
None	62%	62%
1 ruck/maul	23%	85%
2+ rucks/mauls	15%	100%
Passes in try build-up		
	%	Cumulative
None	12%	12%
1-3 passes	45%	57%
4-6 passes	24%	81%
7+ passes	19%	100%

The percentage of tries both scored and conceded with no rucks in the build-up – and the percentage of tries scored with three or fewer passes – are in the table below. It shows, 80 per cent of tries scored by **Fiji** contained no rucks in the build-up, while 69 per cent of tries conceded by **Portugal and Australia** contained no rucks. It also shows that 71 per cent of tries scored by **South Africa** contained three or fewer passes in the build-up, compared with 42 per cent by **Scotland**.

% of tries with no ruck or maul				% of tries with < 3 passes			
	Tries scored		Tries conceded		Tries scored		Tries conceded
FJI	80%	RSA	53%	RSA	71%	SAM	48%
RSA	65%	SAM	54%	WAL	69%	NZL	50%
WAL	65%	NZL	55%	NZL	62%	ENG	51%
NZL	64%	ENG	56%	ARG	62%	FRA	55%
CAN	64%	FRA	57%	ENG	61%	KEN	56%
SAM	64%	ARG	59%	POR	61%	SCO	56%
ARG	63%	FJI	60%	SAM	60%	AVG	57%
AVG	62%	KEN	61%	FRA	58%	WAL	58%
RUS	62%	AVG	62%	FJI	58%	RSA	58%
USA	61%	USA	62%	AVG	57%	ARG	60%
FRA	60%	CAN	64%	AUS	55%	RUS	60%
POR	59%	WAL	65%	KEN	55%	AUS	62%
KEN	55%	SCO	66%	USA	51%	FJI	62%
ENG	55%	RUS	66%	RUS	49%	USA	63%
AUS	54%	POR	69%	CAN	48%	POR	63%
SCO	50%	AUS	69%	SCO	42%	CAN	65%
non-core teams							
ZIM	67%	ZIM	52%	KOR	80%	KOR	41%
KOR	60%	BRA	60%	BRA	46%	JPN	48%
JPN	56%	JPN	65%	JPN	41%	BRA	50%
BRA	54%	KOR	66%	ZIM	33%	ZIM	56%

ENTRY INTO OPPOSITION 22M AREA

Of all team possessions, an average of 4.5 possessions per match resulted in entering the opposition's 22m area. Of these entries, an average of **65 per cent** resulted in a try being scored from the possession. **Fiji and South Africa** had an average of 5.7 possessions per match that entered the opposition's 22m area, with 78 per cent of **Fiji's** entries resulting in a try being scored. **South Africa's** opposition had an average of 2.7 possessions that entered their 22m area, with 54 per cent of these entries resulting in a try being scored.

	Opposition 22m			Own 22m	
	Avg 22m Entries	Tries scored per entry (%)		Avg 22m Entries	Tries scored per entry (%)
RSA	5.7	67%	RSA	2.7	54%
FJI	5.7	78%	NZL	3.8	57%
AUS	5.4	60%	AUS	3.8	62%
NZL	5.0	68%	ARG	3.9	65%
USA	4.9	65%	ENG	4.0	56%
CAN	4.8	60%	USA	4.0	68%
SCO	4.5	63%	FJI	4.2	52%
ARG	4.5	60%	CAN	4.2	75%
AVG	4.5	65%	KEN	4.2	62%
FRA	4.3	70%	FRA	4.4	68%
KEN	4.3	68%	AVG	4.5	65%
WAL	4.2	61%	SCO	4.6	63%
SAM	4.0	75%	WAL	5.0	76%
ENG	4.0	67%	SAM	5.0	58%
RUS	3.2	64%	RUS	5.6	70%
POR	2.7	56%	POR	6.8	68%
non-core teams					
JPN	4.2	61%	JPN	4.4	87%
KOR	3.2	31%	BRA	6.1	75%
ZIM	3.2	19%	ZIM	6.4	78%
BRA	2.1	41%	KOR	7.0	91%

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REFEREE VIDEO REVIEW

On the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series, the referee video review (RVR) may be used if the referee and the assistants are unsure as to whether a try has been scored or not. The referee may only refer to the RVR in instances in the act of scoring such as ball grounding in-goal, touch in-goal or being made dead, a player in touch in the act of scoring and foul play in-goal in the act of scoring. In the 2015-16 series, the RVR was referred to on **55** occasions with a try being awarded in **42 per cent** of the referrals.

RVR total	Try	No try
55	23	32
	42%	58%

	RVR total	Try	No try
RSA	7	1	6
SCO	6	3	3
ENG	5	2	3
WAL	5	4	1
FJI	4	0	4
RUS	4	1	3
AUS	3	1	2
CAN	3	0	3
FRA	3	1	2
POR	3	2	1
SAM	3	3	0
AVG	2.9	1.2	1.7
ARG	2	1	1
NZL	2	1	1
USA	2	2	0
KEN	1	1	0
non-core teams			
JPN	1	0	1
KOR	1	0	1
BRA	0	0	0
ZIM	0	0	0

BALL IN PLAY AND POSSESSION

In 2015-16, the ball was in play for an average of 49 per cent of available time with each team averaging **3mins 25secs** possession per match. There was a considerable variation in the amount of possession achieved by the various teams. This is shown in the below table, which gives the average possession times and proportion of possession percentages achieved by each team and their opponents throughout the series. As seen in the table, there were some measurable differences. **Scotland** averaged the highest possession per match with 4m 02s, with **Portugal** only averaging 3m 03s. **USA** achieved the highest proportion of possession with 57 per cent and **Portugal** had the least proportion of possession with 45 per cent.

	Own avg possession time	%	Opp avg possession time	%
SCO	04:02	55%	03:20	45%
USA	03:49	57%	02:55	43%
AUS	03:44	53%	03:18	47%
CAN	03:42	55%	02:58	45%
FJI	03:41	52%	03:26	48%
FRA	03:39	52%	03:18	48%
NZL	03:35	51%	03:28	49%
AVG	03:25	49%	03:25	49%
RUS	03:22	48%	03:37	52%
ENG	03:21	49%	03:26	51%
KEN	03:21	49%	03:26	51%
ARG	03:11	46%	03:41	54%
SAM	03:11	48%	03:24	52%
RSA	03:08	46%	03:45	54%
WAL	03:07	47%	03:28	53%
POR	03:03	45%	03:42	55%
non-core teams				
ZIM	03:31	49%	03:41	51%
JPN	03:17	47%	03:44	53%
BRA	02:48	40%	04:12	60%
KOR	02:08	33%	04:18	67%

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PASSING

The average number of passes in a game was **64**. The average number of passes by a team was **32** but, not surprisingly, there were major variations around this average.

The next table shows major differences between the teams. Such differences can, however, partly be explained by the amount of possession obtained by each team – more possession typically means more passes. If possession is taken into account, therefore, the rate at which each country passed the ball can be far closer. **Scotland** had the highest passing rates (passes per minute of possession) and **South Africa** the lowest.

Passing activity can also be measured as the number of passes made per phase (or movement) of play. The frequency at which a team completes five or more passes in one phase or movement of play is reported in the table below. A 5+ passing movement occurs on average once every 7.3 phases of play. **Fiji** had the highest frequency of 5+ passing movements and **South Africa** had the lowest, completing a 5+ passing movement only once every 15.6 movements.

	Passing rate	Avg passes		Movements with 5+ passes
SCO	5.6	43.4	FJI	4.4
USA	5.7	40.4	SCO	4.8
CAN	6	37.2	USA	4.9
RUS	6.1	33.1	SAM	6.0
SAM	6.2	31	WAL	6.3
FJI	6.3	35	ENG	6.6
ENG	6.4	31.6	RUS	7.2
WAL	6.4	29	AVG	7.3
AVG	6.5	32	POR	8.3
POR	6.9	26.4	CAN	8.5
ARG	7	27.1	KEN	8.5
AUS	7	32.1	FRA	9.3
FRA	7	31.4	NZL	11.4
KEN	7.2	27.9	AUS	12.3
NZL	7.5	28.8	ARG	12.8
RSA	7.6	24.8	RSA	15.6
non-core teams				
ZIM	5	30.5	JPN	5.3
BRA	5.5	33.8	BRA	6.7
JPN	5.8	18	ZIM	7.3
KOR	7.1	42	KOR	21.0

RUCKS AND MAULS

The average number of rucks and mauls in a game was **16.4**. The average number of ruck and mauls by a team was **8.2** but, not surprisingly, there were major variations around this average.

The table below shows major differences in the average number of rucks created by each team. Some of this can be explained by the amount of possession obtained by each team. If this is taken into account, the rate at which each country rucked is far closer, as also shown in the table. This expresses rucks as 'rucks per minute possession'. **Australia** had the highest rucking rate and **Fiji** the lowest.

	Rucking rate	Avg rucks
AUS	19.1	11.8
FRA	22.9	9.6
KEN	23.2	8.7
ARG	23.4	8.1
POR	23.6	7.8
NZL	23.8	9.1
CAN	23.9	9.3
RUS	24.8	8.2
AVG	25.3	8.2
ENG	25.6	7.9
SCO	26	9.3
SAM	26.5	7.2
RSA	27.2	6.9
WAL	27.4	6.8
USA	27.6	8.3
FJI	47.9	4.6
non-core teams		
KOR	21.3	6
ZIM	21.5	9.8
BRA	25	6.7
JPN	27.3	7.2

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RUCK SUCCESS

At the breakdown, the team taking in the ball retained possession by either winning the ball or being awarded a penalty on **80 per cent** of occasions. The percentage success rate of each team in attack and defence is shown below. In attack **South Africa** had the highest success at their own rucks, **Wales** the least. In defence, six teams had the highest success at their opponents' rucks winning **23 per cent** of breakdowns, however **South Africa** won the highest average amount with an average of 2.4 rucks won per match. **Wales** were the least successful team at their opposition's breakdown.

	% Success own rucks	Avg own rucks won		% Success opp rucks	Avg opp rucks won
RSA	86%	5.9	FJI	23%	2.1
ARG	84%	6.9	AUS	23%	1.9
USA	83%	6.9	USA	23%	1.8
AUS	82%	9.7	NZL	23%	2.1
CAN	82%	7.6	KEN	23%	1.7
SCO	82%	7.6	CAN	23%	1.5
NZL	81%	7.4	RSA	21%	2.4
FRA	81%	7.8	ENG	20%	1.7
RUS	80%	6.5	RUS	20%	1.5
AVG	80%	6.5	ARG	20%	1.8
FJI	78%	3.6	AVG	20%	1.6
SAM	77%	5.6	SCO	20%	1.5
KEN	77%	6.7	SAM	19%	1.5
ENG	73%	5.8	FRA	18%	1.4
POR	73%	5.7	POR	15%	1.2
WAL	73%	5	WAL	14%	1
non-core teams					
ZIM	86%	8.4	ZIM	27%	2.2
JPN	81%	5.9	JPN	15%	1.1
KOR	73%	4.4	BRA	11%	1
BRA	72%	4.9	KOR	11%	0.8

RUCK LOCATION

The location where a ruck occurs was categorised into four areas of the pitch: from a team's own try line to their 22m, from a team's 22m to the halfway line, from the halfway line to the opposition's 22m and from the opposition's 22m to the try-line. The percentage of rucks within the categorised pitch areas in attack and defence for each team are presented in the table below. **Sixty-nine per cent** of all rucks occur between the 22m areas with **nine per cent** between a team's try line and 22m, and **22 per cent** between the opposition's 22m and try line. In attack, **South Africa** had the highest percentage of rucks inside the opposition's 22m, while **Russia** had the highest percentage of rucks between both 22m areas. In defence, **South Africa** had the lowest percentage of rucks inside their own 22m, while **Russia** had the lowest percentage between both 22m areas.

Attacking					
	Own Try-22m	22m-Halfway	Halfway-22m	22m-Opp Try	Total
AUS	10%	28%	35%	28%	683
FRA	10%	34%	35%	21%	535
SCO	9%	33%	37%	22%	529
NZL	10%	31%	34%	26%	525
CAN	7%	36%	35%	22%	511
USA	7%	36%	33%	23%	472
KEN	9%	32%	36%	23%	469
RUS	11%	42%	33%	14%	465
ARG	8%	34%	34%	24%	464
ENG	8%	36%	35%	21%	432
RSA	4%	29%	35%	32%	416
SAM	11%	41%	32%	15%	412
POR	13%	44%	29%	14%	404
AVG	9%	35%	34%	22%	7344
WAL	9%	35%	35%	22%	375
FJI	13%	32%	39%	15%	277
non-core teams					
JPN	11%	35%	31%	23%	195
BRA	9%	49%	26%	17%	101
ZIM	2%	37%	43%	18%	49
KOR	0%	30%	23%	47%	30

Defending					
	Own Try-22m	22m-Halfway	Halfway-22m	22m-Opp Try	Total
RSA	13%	27%	47%	13%	712
FJI	25%	35%	34%	6%	535
NZL	21%	31%	39%	10%	521
ARG	14%	33%	40%	13%	499
AUS	19%	32%	35%	14%	472
ENG	24%	37%	31%	8%	456
SAM	30%	40%	22%	8%	452
FRA	20%	38%	36%	5%	439
USA	21%	34%	37%	8%	434
RUS	34%	35%	24%	7%	427
SCO	25%	34%	35%	6%	417
POR	32%	36%	26%	5%	407
KEN	21%	35%	36%	8%	406
WAL	19%	30%	42%	9%	394
AVG	22%	34%	35%	9%	7344
CAN	19%	35%	36%	10%	356
non-core teams					
JPN	13%	36%	32%	19%	202
BRA	23%	48%	22%	7%	137
ZIM	32%	39%	24%	5%	41
KOR	22%	41%	19%	19%	37

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KICKING

Kicks comprises of all kicks made in general play including punts, chips, ground (i.e. football kick) and grubber kicks. The average number of kicks in a game was **two**. As can be seen in the table, **South Africa** were most likely to kick and **Canada** the least.

	Avg own kicks	%	Avg opp kicks	%
RSA	1.9	62	1.2	38
ARG	1.5	55	1.2	45
ENG	1.5	62	1	38
POR	1.3	67	0.7	33
WAL	1.1	48	1.2	52
AUS	1	45	1.2	55
FJI	1	47	1.2	53
SAM	1	60	0.6	40
AVG	1	50	1	50
FRA	0.9	56	0.7	44
KEN	0.9	49	0.9	51
NZL	0.9	40	1.3	60
USA	0.8	45	1	55
SCO	0.7	39	1.1	61
RUS	0.6	39	0.9	61
CAN	0.5	24	1.6	76
non-core teams				
BRA	1.7	71	0.7	29
JPN	0.8	50	0.8	50
KOR	0.8	36	1.4	64
ZIM	0.2	17	1	83

RESTARTS

Restarts are the most common set pieces in rugby sevens with an average of 6.8 restarts per match. Restarts have been classified into two types, contestable and non-contestable: **73 per cent** of restarts kicks were contestable (kicked short) and **27 per cent** were non-contestable (kicked long).

Retention rates reflect the number of times that possession was retained at contestable restarts. They varied considerably. Overall, of all contestable restarts, the kicking team regained **one in three** restarts. **Canada** kicked the highest percentage of contestable restarts and were the most successful in regaining their own short restarts. **New Zealand and South Africa** were most likely to kick a non-contestable restart and **South Africa** were the least likely to regain possession from their own short restarts. There was a restart error once in every **15** restarts. **Russia** made a restart error one in every nine.

	% Contestable restarts		% Restarts regained		Restart errors (rate)
CAN	90%	CAN	46%	RSA	41.5
SAM	88%	KEN	42%	SCO	26.6
FJI	87%	USA	39%	USA	23.7
USA	86%	FRA	39%	CAN	18.1
FRA	85%	FJI	38%	WAL	17.7
POR	83%	SAM	38%	FJI	15.5
KEN	81%	POR	37%	FRA	15.4
SCO	80%	ENG	36%	NZL	15.1
ENG	78%	AVG	36%	AVG	15.0
WAL	77%	SCO	36%	POR	14.8
AVG	73%	ARG	34%	KEN	14.7
RUS	66%	NZL	31%	SAM	13.7
ARG	66%	RUS	29%	AUS	11.4
AUS	56%	AUS	27%	ENG	9.7
RSA	53%	WAL	26%	ARG	9.2
NZL	53%	RSA	20%	RUS	9.0
non-core teams					
BRA	81%	JPN	36%	JPN	20.3
KOR	33%	BRA	32%	BRA	13.5
JPN	31%	KOR	0%	KOR	9.0
ZIM	29%	ZIM	0%	ZIM	0.0

SCRUMS AND LINEOUTS

Overall scrum success was **96 per cent** and lineout success was **80 per cent**. The following table shows the success rates for each team on their own put-in/throw-in. **South Africa, Australia** and **Argentina** won 99 per cent of their scrum put-ins. **Canada** won 95 per cent of their lineout throw-ins.

	Scrum success %		Lineout success %
RSA	99%	CAN	95%
AUS	99%	AUS	87%
ARG	99%	USA	87%
ENG	97%	NZL	84%
RUS	97%	FRA	83%
KEN	97%	ENG	83%
FJI	97%	ARG	82%
USA	96%	FJI	81%
SCO	96%	RSA	81%
CAN	96%	AVG	80%
AVG	96%	KEN	79%
WAL	94%	SCO	78%
SAM	94%	RUS	76%
FRA	92%	POR	71%
NZL	91%	WAL	69%
POR	90%	SAM	60%
non-core teams			
BRA	100%	JPN	84%
ZIM	100%	BRA	73%
JPN	93%	KOR	50%
KOR	80%	ZIM	50%

PENALTIES, FREE-KICKS AND CARDS

The average number of penalties and free-kicks per game was **6.6**. What needs to be noted that absolute statistics and averages do not necessarily reflect the true degree of discipline or ill-discipline of a particular team. The number of penalties can, for example, vary from match to match. Some referees penalise more than others. A better and probably more accurate indicator, therefore, is the proportion of penalties conceded by a team in all their matches compared with their opponents. Each team's proportion for and against can be seen in the below table, together with the totals. Of the core teams, **Canada** were penalised the least and **Argentina** the most.

Of all penalties awarded, **65 per cent** were awarded at the breakdown, with **52 per cent** of the penalties against the defending team and **48 per cent** against the attacking team. **Portugal** were the most penalised team at the breakdown, while **Fiji** were the least penalised.

	Avg Pen/FK against	Avg tackle/ruck Pen against	% PK against	% PK for	Cards
ARG	3.9	2.0	56%	44%	12
RSA	3.8	2.2	52%	48%	12
AUS	3.6	2.2	46%	54%	11
ENG	3.5	2.2	49%	51%	10
FJI	3.5	1.5	54%	46%	15
KEN	3.4	2	53%	47%	6
NZL	3.4	1.8	49%	51%	18
POR	3.4	2.5	51%	49%	6
AVG	3.3	1.9	50%	50%	9.1
SAM	3.2	1.9	52%	48%	7
RUS	3.1	1.8	51%	49%	10
WAL	3.1	1.9	53%	47%	9
FRA	3	1.6	48%	52%	8
SCO	3	2.1	46%	54%	12
USA	3	1.8	48%	53%	5
CAN	2.8	1.6	43%	57%	4
non-core teams					
BRA	3.9	2.1	57%	43%	4
KOR	3.4	1.8	57%	43%	3
ZIM	2.6	1.6	34%	66%	1
JPN	2.4	1.9	45%	55%	1