

RWC 2019 warm-up matches – 17 August

World Rugby Rankings stats:

- Four teams could end the weekend as the number one ranked side (New Zealand, Wales, Ireland and England)
- New Zealand have been number one since 16 November, 2009 and 88.39 per cent of the time since rankings began in October 2003
- Wales and Ireland have never been number one, England were last there in June 2004
- For Ireland, this would need Australia to win or draw, in tandem with a draw in Cardiff
- Australia could climb as high as third for first time since June 2018

New Zealand's record since returning to top of the rankings:

Played: 126 – Won: 111 / Drawn: 4 / Lost: 12

Points for/against: 4,477 / 2,254

Tries for/against: 664 / 190

NEW ZEALAND (1) 89.04 v AUSTRALIA (6) 84.41

New Zealand win by 15 points or less – New Zealand 89.28, Australia 84.17

New Zealand win by over 15 points – New Zealand 89.40, Australia 84.05

Draw – New Zealand 88.28, Australia 85.17

Australia win by 15 points or less – New Zealand 87.28, Australia 86.17

Australia win by more than 15 points – New Zealand 86.40, Australia 87.05

Head to head:

Played 165 – New Zealand leads 114-44 with seven draws

Points for: Australia 2,365 / New Zealand 3,516

Average score: Australia 14-21 New Zealand

First met: 15 August, 1903 – New Zealand 22-3 Australia – Sydney

Last met: 10 August, 2019 – Australia 47-26 New Zealand – Perth

- New Zealand will lose the number one spot if Wales beat England
- The same applies if England win by more than 15 points, even if the All Blacks also do
- A draw in Auckland will see New Zealand drop below Ireland into third with England or Wales taking over top spot with victory
- New Zealand have only been third for one week, back in November 2003 after losing to Australia in the RWC 2003 semi-finals
- New Zealand could drop as low as sixth if they lose by more than 15 points again and other results go against them
- Australia will swap places with South Africa if they draw and the Springboks lose
- This can also happen even if Australia lose by more than 15 points, providing South Africa lose as emphatically
- Australia could climb as high as third if they win by more than 15 points and England or Wales lose by the same margin
- The Wallabies cannot drop any lower than their present position of sixth in defeat

WALES (2) 88.89 v ENGLAND (4) 87.34



Wales win by 15 points or less – Wales 89.43, England 86.79
Wales win by over 15 points – Wales 89.71, England 86.52
Draw – Wales 88.43, England 87.79
England win by 15 points or less – Wales 87.43, England 88.79
England win by more than 15 points – Wales 86.71, England 89.52

Head to head:

Played 133 – England leads 63-58 with 12 draws
Points for: England 1,752 / Wales 1,580
Average score: England 13-11 Wales

First met: 16 February, 1881 – England 0-0 Wales - Blackheath
Last met: 11 August , 2019 – England 33-19 Wales – Twickenham

- Wales will top rankings for the first time if they win, regardless of New Zealand result
- England will also top the rankings for first time in 15 years if win by more than 15 points
- A draw in Cardiff would see Wales drop below Ireland
- Wales and England will swap places if the latter wins, unless in tandem with a draw or defeat for New Zealand which would see England go to number one
- Wales could also slip to fifth if they lose by more than 15 points and Australia and South Africa win as emphatically
- England will swap places with South Africa if they lose and the Springboks win

SOUTH AFRICA (5) 86.83 v ARGENTINA (11) 76.29

South Africa win by 15 points or less – South Africa 86.83, Argentina 76.29 (No change)
South Africa win by over 15 points – South Africa 86.83, Argentina 76.29 (No change)
Draw – South Africa 85.83, Argentina 77.29
Argentina win by 15 points or less – South Africa 84.43, Argentina 78.29
Argentina win by more than 15 points – South Africa 83.43, Argentina 79.29

Head to head:

Played 29 – South Africa leads 25-3 with one draw
Points for: Argentina 576 / South Africa 1,034
Average score: Argentina 19-35 South Africa

First met: 6 November, 1993 – South Africa 29-23 Argentina – Buenos Aires
Last met: 10 August, 2019 – Argentina 13-46 South Africa – Salta

- South Africa will reclaim fourth place if they win and England lose
- They will also climb to fourth if they win and Wales lose by more than 15 points
- Argentina will return to ninth in victory, having fallen out of the top 10 last weekend
- If France also lose to Scotland they will climb to eighth – the same applies if Scotland lose by more than 15 points and Argentina win by the same margin

ITALY (13) 72.04 v RUSSIA (20) 64.81

Italy win by 15 points or less – Italy 72.04, Russia 64.81 (No change)
Italy win by over 15 points – Italy 72.04, Russia 64.81 (No change)
Draw – Italy 71.04, Russia 65.81
Russia win by 15 points or less – Italy 70.04, Russia 66.81
Russia win by more than 15 points – Italy 69.04, Russia 67.81

Head to head:

Played 4 – Italy leads 4-0

Points for: Italy 198 / Russia 61

Average score: Italy 49-15 Russia

First met: 6 November, 1993 – Italy 30-19 Russia

Last met: 20 September, 2011 – RWC 2015 – Italy 53-17 Russia – Nelson, New Zealand

- An Italy victory will have no impact on the rankings
- A draw will see Italy fall two to 15th and Russia climb above Uruguay
- Russia will climb two places with a first ever victory over the Azzurri with Italy falling two or three places depending on the margin
- Italy will fall to their lowest ever ranking of 16th if lose by more than 15 points
- This is Russia's first match with a tier one union outside of a Rugby World Cup or RWC qualifying process

FRANCE (8) 79.42 v SCOTLAND (7) 80.17

France win by 15 points or less – France 80.19, Scotland 79.40

France win by over 15 points – France 80.58, Scotland 79.01

Draw – France 79.19, Scotland 80.40

Scotland win by 15 points or less – France 78.19, Scotland 81.40

Scotland win by more than 15 points – France 77.58, Scotland 82.01

Head to head:

Played 93 – France leads 54-36 with three draws

Points for: France 1,355 / Scotland 1,160

Average score: France 14-12 Scotland

First met: 22 January, 1910 – Scotland 27-0 France – Inverleith, Edinburgh

Last met: 23 February, 2019 – France 27-10 Scotland – St Denis

- France and Scotland will swap places if Les Bleus win
- France will fall to ninth if they lose and Argentina beat South Africa
- Scotland could also drop to ninth if they lose by more than 15 points and Argentina win by the same margin
- Scotland cannot climb any higher than their present position of seventh

The World Rugby Rankings will update at 12:00 Dublin time on Monday
