Men’s internationals – 22-23 February

World Rugby Men’s Rankings highlights:

- Ireland will replace England in third if they win at Twickenham
- England cannot improve their position of third even with an emphatic win
- Wales can return to the top band of seeds for RWC 2023
- France will climb above Wales if they keep their Grand Slam hopes alive
- A victorious Italy will regain 12th place from Georgia and condemn Scotland to their lowest ranking (10th) for four years
- It is possible for Spain to climb to their highest ever position of 15th
- Romania will make their worst-ever start to a Rugby Europe Championship campaign if they lose to Spain

SIX NATIONS

ITALY (13) 72.04 v SCOTLAND (9) 78.58 (Saturday)
Italy win by 15 points or less – Italy 73.40, Scotland 77.23
Italy win by more than 15 points – Italy 74.07, Scotland 76.55
Draw – Italy 72.40, Scotland 78.23
Scotland win by 15 points or less – Italy 71.40, Scotland 79.23
Scotland win by more than 15 points – Italy 71.07, Scotland 79.55

Head-to-head
Played: 30 – Scotland leads 22-8
Points for: Italy 515 / Scotland 749
Average score: Italy 17-24 Scotland

First meeting: 14 December, 1996 – Scotland 29-22 Italy – Murrayfield
Last meeting: 2 February, 2019 – Scotland 33-20 Italy – Murrayfield

- Scotland have won the last seven meetings since Italy’s 22-19 win at Murrayfield in February 2015
- Italy will fall below Tonga with a home defeat but can drop no lower than 14th
- The Azzurri will return to 12th place – at Georgia’s expense – if they win
- Scotland must win by more than 15 points to climb above Japan into eighth place
- Anything but a win will see Scotland drop below Argentina to occupy their lowest position since February 2016

WALES (5) 84.28 v FRANCE (6) 82.37 (Saturday)
Wales win by 15 points or less – Wales 84.79, France 81.86
Wales win by more than 15 points – Wales 85.04, France 81.61
Draw – Wales 83.79, France 82.86
France win by 15 points or less – Wales 82.79, France 83.86
France win by more than 15 points – Wales 82.04, France 84.61

Head-to-head
Played: 98 – Wales leads 51-44 with three draws
Points for: Wales 1,479 / France 1,419
Average score: Wales 15-14 France

First meeting: 2 March, 1908 – Wales 36-4 France – Cardiff Arms Park
Last meeting: 20 October, 2019 – RWC 2019 – Wales 20-19 France – Oita Stadium, Japan
France have won only one of their last nine meetings with Wales, 20-18 at Stade de France in 2017.
Their last victory on Welsh soil was 26-20 on 26 February, 2010.
France will drop below Australia in defeat.
Wales will return to the top band of seeds for the RWC 2023 pool draw if they win by more than 15 points and Ireland lose at Twickenham.
A smaller margin of victory will see the same outcome if Ireland lose by more than 15 points at Twickenham.
France will be the higher-ranked of the two teams if they win.
France will close to within a fraction under a tenth of a point of the top band of seeds if they win by more than 15 points and Ireland lose by the same margin.

**ENGLAND (3) 87.80 v IRELAND (4) 85.36 (Sunday)**
England win by 15 points or less – England 88.25, Ireland 84.91
England win by more than 15 points – England 88.48, Ireland 84.68
Draw – England 87.25, Ireland 85.91
Ireland win by 15 points or less – England 86.25, Ireland 86.91
Ireland win by more than 15 points – England 85.48, Ireland 87.68

**Head-to-head**
Played: 135 – England leads 78-49 with eight draws
Points for: England 1,639 / Ireland 1,151
Average score: England 12-8 Ireland

First meeting: 15 February, 1875 – England* 0-0 Ireland – Kennington Oval, London
Last meeting: 24 August, 2019 – England 57-15 Ireland – Twickenham
* England won on goals

- Victory for Ireland would be their 50th test win over England
- England cannot climb any higher than third because they will still trail New Zealand by 3.63 rating points even with an emphatic victory
- Ireland will be the higher ranked of the nations in victory
- England can fall no lower than fourth, even if they lose by more than 15 points and Wales beat France by the same margin

**RUGBY EUROPE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**ROMANIA (19) 65.11 v SPAIN (16) 68.28 (Saturday)**
Romania win by 15 points or less – Romania 66.13, Spain 67.26
Romania win by more than 15 points – Romania 66.64, Spain 66.75
Draw – Romania 65.13, Spain 68.26
Spain win by 15 points or less – Romania 64.13, Spain 69.26
Spain win by more than 15 points – Romania 63.64, Spain 69.75

**Head-to-head**
Played: 37 – Romania leads 33-4
Points for: Romania 1,057 / Spain 375
Average score: Romania 28-10 Spain

First meeting: 1 May, 1958 – Romania 14-12 Spain – Liege, Belgium
Last meeting: 3 March, 2019 – Spain 21-18 Romania – Estadio Nacional Universidad Complutense, Madrid

- Spain have won the last two meetings between the sides with three of their four victories coming in the last eight years
- Spain will slip below USA and Uruguay in defeat
- Spain could climb to a new high of 15th but this would require Los Leones to win by more than 15 points and Georgia to lose by the same margin to Belgium
- Romania cannot improve their position but a victory by more than 15 points would leave them just 11 hundredths behind Spain
- Romania can only fall from 19th if they lose by more than 15 points and Portugal beat Russia by a similar margin, in which case the teams would trade places

GEORGIA (12) 72.70 v BELGIUM (27) 57.57 (Saturday)
Georgia to win by 15 points or less – Georgia 72.70, Belgium 57.57 (No change)
Georgia to win by more than 15 points – Georgia 72.70, Belgium 57.57 (No change)
Draw – Georgia 71.70, Belgium 58.57
Belgium to win by 15 points or less – Georgia 70.70, Belgium 59.57
Belgium to win by more than 15 points – Georgia 69.70, Belgium 60.57

Head-to-head
Played: 5 – Georgia leads 5-0
Points for: Georgia 176 / Belgium 25
Average score: Georgia 35-5 Belgium

First meeting: 2 February, 2013 – Georgia 17-13 Belgium – Stade Roi Baudouin, Brussels
Last meeting: 2 March, 2019 – Georgia 46-6 Belgium – Petit Heysel, Brussels

- Georgia have scored 30 or more points in their last four meetings with Belgium
- Georgia cannot improve their rating as a result of the 15.13 points difference to Belgium before home weighting is factored in
- Georgia could win and still drop below Italy, if the Azzurri avoid defeat at home against Scotland
- A first ever defeat for Georgia at the hands of Belgium would see them fall three places – four if they lose by more than 15 points and Spain win by the same margin
- Belgium will remain 27th in defeat but will climb at least one place in victory

RUSSIA (25) 59.90 v PORTUGAL (20) 62.40 (Saturday)
Russia to win by 15 points or less – Russia 60.85, Portugal 61.45
Russia to win by more than 15 points – Russia 61.32, Portugal 60.97
Draw – Russia 59.85, Portugal 62.45
Portugal to win by 15 points or less – Russia 58.85, Portugal 63.45
Portugal to win by more than 15 points – Russia 58.32, Portugal 63.97

Head-to-head
Played: 19 – Russia leads 13-5 with one draw
Points for: Russia 518 / Portugal 362
Average score: Russia 27-19 Portugal

First meeting: 7 April, 2001 – Russia 45-27 Portugal – Dynamo Stadium, Krasnodar
Last meeting: 19 March, 2016 – Russia 53-21 Portugal – Estadio Universitario, Lisbon
Russia have won the last six meetings between the sides, dating back to Portugal’s 21-19 win in Sochi in February 2011

Russia will fall below Brazil in defeat – equalling their lowest ever ranking of 26th which they last occupied in November 2005

The Bears will drop to a new low of 27th if that defeat is combined with a first Belgium victory over Georgia

Portugal can only improve their rating if they win by more than 15 points and Romania lose by the same margin

Russia will climb one place with victory and could regain all five of the places they lost after a heavy loss to Belgium if they win by more than 15 points

Portugal will retain 20th place in defeat provided it is by 15 points or less. A greater margin will see Os Lobos drop four places to 24th

The World Rugby Men’s Rankings update every Monday at 12:00 GMT