

## Men's internationals – 14-15 March

### World Rugby Men's Rankings highlights:

- Scotland can equal their best-ever ranking of fifth if they win by more than 15 points
- Wales will climb one place to fifth if victorious
- Portugal could jump to their highest position for nearly 14 years
- Romania could drop out of the top 20 for the first time
- The Netherlands can climb to their highest ever ranking of 22nd

### SIX NATIONS

#### **WALES (6) 82.64 v SCOTLAND (8) 80.68 (Saturday)**

Wales win by 15 points or less – Wales 83.14, Scotland 80.18  
Wales win by more than 15 points – Wales 83.39, Scotland 79.93  
Draw – Wales 82.14, Scotland 81.18  
Scotland win by 15 points or less – Wales 81.14, Scotland 82.18  
Scotland win by more than 15 points – Wales 80.39, Scotland 82.93

#### Head-to-head

Played: 125 – Wales leads 73-49 with three draws  
Points for: Wales 1,697 / Scotland 1,291  
Average score: Wales 13-10 Scotland

First meeting: 8 January, 1883 – Scotland 0-0 Wales\* – Raeburn Place, Edinburgh

Last meeting: 9 March, 2019 – Wales 18-11 Scotland – Murrayfield, Edinburgh

\* Wales won by three goals to one

- Victory for Scotland would be their 50th in the head-to-head with Wales
- Wales have won the last three meetings and 11 in a row on Welsh soil
- Scotland's last win on Welsh soil was 18 years ago, 27-22 in April 2002
- Wales will climb above France into fifth place with victory
- Scotland cannot fall out of the second band of seeds for RWC 2023 even if beaten by more than 15 points in Cardiff
- Scotland and Wales will swap places if the visitors win in Cardiff
- Fifth place will be Scotland's if they win by more than 15 points, overtaking France
- Wales can fall no lower than eighth this weekend

### RUGBY EUROPE CHAMPIONSHIP

#### **ROMANIA (19) 65.36 v BELGIUM (27) 57.19 (Saturday)**

Romania win by 15 points or less – Romania 65.36, Belgium 57.19 (No change)  
Romania win by more than 15 points – Romania 65.36, Belgium 57.19 (No change)  
Draw – Romania 64.36, Belgium 58.19  
Belgium win by 15 points or less – Romania 63.36, Belgium 59.19  
Belgium win by more than 15 points – Romania 62.36, Belgium 60.19



#### Head-to-head

Played: 8 – Romania leads 8-0

Points for: Romania 401 / Belgium 94

Average score: Romania 50-11 Belgium

First meeting: 12 December, 1957 – Romania 36-6 Belgium – Brussels

Last meeting: 17 March, 2019 – Romania 43-17 Belgium – Petit Heysel, Brussels

- The closest Belgium have come to victory over Romania is a 16-point loss in 2017
- Romania's lowest points tally against Belgium is 29, their highest 83 on two occasions
- Romania cannot improve their rating with victory due to the points difference between the teams before home weighting is factored in
- The Oaks will climb above Spain if they beat Belgium and Los Leones lose to Portugal
- Belgium will climb above Brazil with victory but can go no higher unless the Netherlands lose to lower ranked Switzerland in the Rugby Europe Trophy
- Romania can slip from 19th if they lose and Russia beat Georgia for the first time since 1993, or if they lose by more than 15 points and Portugal triumph away from home
- It is possible for Romania to drop out of the top 20 for the first time since the rankings were introduced in October 2003

#### **GEORGIA (12) 72.88 v RUSSIA (20) 62.13 (Saturday)**

Georgia win by 15 points or less – Georgia 72.88, Russia 62.13 (No change)

Georgia win by more than 15 points – Georgia 72.88, Russia 62.13 (No change)

Draw – Georgia 71.88, Russia 63.13

Russia win by 15 points or less – Georgia 70.88, Russia 65.13

Russia win by more than 15 points – Georgia 69.88, Russia 66.13

#### Head-to-head

Played: 23 – Georgia leads 21-1 with one draw

Points for: Georgia 579 / Russia 260

Average score: Georgia 25-11 Russia

First meeting: 25 May, 1993 – Russia 15-9 Georgia – Ogniwo, Sopot, Poland

Last meeting: 17 March, 2019 – Georgia 22-6 Russia – Kuban Stadium, Krasnodar

- Georgia have won their last 18 meetings with Russia and are unbeaten in 22 matches since Russia were victorious in their first encounter in 1993
  - Georgia cannot improve their rating or position due to a near 10-point difference between the teams before home weighting is factored in
  - A losing Russia will fall one place if Portugal win away from home in Spain
  - Georgia will fall two or three places with defeat, depending on the margin
  - The most Russia can climb is two places, but it would take a win by more than 15 points combined with a similar defeat for Spain and a draw or a loss for Romania
  - If Romania and Spain both win, then even an emphatic victory for Russia will not be enough to improve their current ranking of 20th
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## **SPAIN (18) 67.14 v PORTUGAL (21) 61.27 (Sunday)**

Spain win by 15 points or less – Spain 67.25, Portugal 61.16  
Spain win by more than 15 points – Spain 67.31, Portugal 61.10  
Draw – Spain 66.25, Portugal 62.16  
Portugal win by 15 points or less – Spain 65.25, Portugal 63.16  
Portugal win by more than 15 points – Spain 64.31, Portugal 64.10

### Head-to-head

Played: 36 – Spain leads 24-10 with two draws  
Points for: Spain 769 / Portugal 524  
Average score: Spain 21-14 Portugal

First meeting: 13 April, 1935 – Spain 6-5 Portugal – Campo das Amoreiras, Lisbon  
Last meeting: 12 March, 2016 -Spain 39-7 Portugal – Estadio Nacional Universidad Complutense, Madrid

- This is the first meeting between the sides since 12 March, 2016
- Portugal's last win on Spanish soil was 10 years ago, 33-15 on 13 March, 2010 at the same venue in Madrid
- Spain have won the last three meetings, with Portugal's last win a 23-17 triumph in March 2012
- Portugal will fall one or two places depending on the margin of defeat – three if they lose by more than 15 points and the Netherlands beat Switzerland by the same margin
- Spain cannot improve on 18th place but could close to a tenth of Uruguay with victory by more than 15 points
- Portugal will climb above a losing Russia with victory
- Spain will remain the higher ranked of the Iberian countries, but potentially only by two tenths if Portugal win by more than 15 points
- Portugal can climb as high as 19th – equalling their best-ever ranking, last held in May 2006 – if that happens and other results go their way

## **RUGBY EUROPE TROPHY**

### **SWITZERLAND (28) 54.11 v NETHERLANDS (25) 60.08 (Saturday)**

Switzerland win by 15 points or less – Switzerland 55.40, Netherlands 58.78  
Switzerland win by more than 15 points – Switzerland 56.05, Netherlands 58.13  
Draw – Switzerland 54.40, Netherlands 59.78  
Netherlands win by 15 points or less – Switzerland 53.40, Netherlands 60.78  
Netherlands win by more than 15 points – Switzerland 53.05, Netherlands 61.13

### Head-to-head

Played: 6 – Netherlands lead 5-0 with one draw  
Points for: Switzerland 106 / Netherlands 197  
Average score: Switzerland 17-32 Netherlands

First meeting: 3 November, 2007 – Netherlands 49-12 Switzerland – Amsterdam  
Last meeting: 24 November, 2018 – Netherlands 36-15 Switzerland – De Eendracht, Amsterdam

- Switzerland earned a 20-20 draw when the sides first met on Swiss soil in November 2013
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- The Swiss reached their highest ever ranking of 28th after beating Germany earlier this month, but cannot climb any higher even with victory
- Switzerland will fall one place with a narrow defeat but three – and out of the top 30 – if they lose by more than 15 points, with Chile, Germany and Korea the beneficiaries
- The Netherlands will match their highest ever position of 23rd if they win by more than 15 points – but climb another place if Portugal lose by the same margin to Spain
- The Netherlands will drop below Brazil in defeat and also Belgium if they beat Romania

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

