



EUROPEAN RUGBY  
CHALLENGE  
— CUP —

2020/21 SEASON

ROUND 1 PREVIEW

## Fixtures

### Round 1

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
11/12/2020	17:30	Stade Français Paris	Benetton Rugby	Stade Jean Bouin
11/12/2020	19:45	Leicester Tigers	Brive	Mattioli Woods Welford Road
11/12/2020	20:00	Newcastle Falcons	Cardiff Blues	Kingston Park
12/12/2020	13:00	Zebre Rugby Club	Bayonne	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi
12/12/2020	14:00	Agen	London Irish	Stade Armandie
12/12/2020	20:00	Pau	Worcester Warriors	Stade du Hameau
12/12/2020	20:00	Ospreys	Castres Olympique	Liberty Stadium

### 2020/21 season weekends

Round 1 - 11/12/13 December 2020

Round 2 - 18/19/20 December 2020

Round 3 - 15/16/17 January 2021

Round 4 - 22/23/24 January 2021

Heineken Champions Cup quarter-finals, 1st leg - 2/3/4 April 2021

Challenge Cup Round of 16 - 2/3/4 April 2021

Heineken Champions Cup quarter-finals, 2nd leg - 9/10/11 April 2021

Challenge Cup quarter-finals - 9/10/11 April 2021

Semi-finals - 30 April – 1/2 May 2021

### Marseille 2021 finals

Challenge Cup final - Friday 21 May, Stade Vélodrome

Heineken Champions Cup final - Saturday 22 May, Stade Vélodrome

### Match Officials

	Referee	Assistant Referee	Assistant Referee	TMO	Citing Commissioner
Stade Français Paris v Benetton Rugby	Ben Blain (Sco)	Laurent Cardona (Fra)	Sebastien Minery (Fra)	Eric Gauzins (Fra)	Stuart Scott (Wal)
Leicester Tigers v Brive	Nika Amashukeli (Geo)	Andrew Jackson (Eng)	Simon McConnell (Eng)	-	Ciaran Scally (Ire)
Newcastle Falcons v Cardiff Blues	Ludovic Cayre (Fra)	Hamish Smales (Eng)	John Meredith (Eng)	Graham Hughes (Eng)	Sébastien Lorant-Raze (Fra)
Zebre Rugby Club v Bayonne	Adam Jones (Wal)	Manuel Bottino (Ita)	Clara Munarini (Ita)	Marius Mitrea (Ita)	Jay Curts (Mex)
Agen v London Irish	Chris Busby (Ire)	Adrien Descottes (Fra)	Luc Ramos (Fra)	-	Maurizio Vancini (Ita)
Pau v Worcester Warriors	Tom Foley (Eng)	Craig Evans (Wal)	Simon Rees (Wal)	Sean Brickell (Wal)	Dana Teagarden (Ger)
Ospreys v Castres Olympique	Andrea Piardi (Ita)	Julien Castaignede (Fra)	Vivien Praderie (Fra)	Cyril Lafon (Fra)	Alan Lewis (Ire)

## 2019/20 Challenge Cup - Team Averages

### Overall

	Points	Tries	Lineout %	Scrum %	Tackling %	Goalkicking %
Agen	9.5	1.0	72%	84%	83%	92%
Bayonne	15.5	2.0	84%	90%	83%	62%
Bordeaux-Bègles	33.0	4.0	86%	98%	87%	81%
Bristol Bears	37.1	4.4	87%	95%	87%	92%
Brive	18.2	2.3	87%	87%	83%	89%
Rugby Calvisano	11.3	1.2	74%	94%	79%	93%
Cardiff Blues	36.0	5.0	87%	94%	87%	81%
Castres Olympique	26.5	3.7	89%	95%	86%	76%
Dragons	30.1	3.7	83%	92%	84%	90%
Edinburgh Rugby	22.0	2.4	90%	98%	85%	85%
Leicester Tigers	28.6	3.6	88%	84%	87%	78%
London Irish	20.3	2.7	90%	94%	86%	78%
Pau	34.7	4.8	93%	88%	81%	85%
Enisei-STM	12.2	1.7	83%	93%	78%	77%
Scarlets	21.9	2.4	93%	93%	87%	87%
Stade Français Paris	17.3	1.8	86%	89%	84%	66%
RC Toulon	26.8	3.4	77%	89%	89%	66%
Wasps	23.5	3.0	79%	88%	86%	88%
Worcester Warriors	34.8	4.5	88%	91%	85%	84%
Zebre Rugby Club	17.0	2.5	81%	82%	86%	63%

### Attack

	Carries	Rank	Metres	Rank	Clean Breaks	Rank	Defenders Beaten	Rank
Agen	106.5	13	264.0	19	5.5	19	15.3	19
Bayonne	107.8	12	329.0	12	6.3	14	17.8	16
Bordeaux-Bègles	137.4	2	455.1	3	9.8	5	27.5	4
Bristol Bears	145.7	1	547.7	1	17.4	1	30.6	1
Brive	109.0	11	311.2	16	5.7	18	17.7	17
Rugby Calvisano	95.8	17	242.5	20	3.8	20	17.0	18
Cardiff Blues	122.8	3	503.0	2	15.7	2	28.8	2
Castres Olympique	119.5	5	424.0	5	9.5	8	27.8	3
Dragons	88.7	19	326.3	13	6.7	12	18.0	15
Edinburgh Rugby	121.0	4	393.0	7	8.1	10	26.4	5
Leicester Tigers	92.4	18	376.4	8	11.3	3	19.9	12
London Irish	115.7	8	277.0	18	6.2	16	21.2	10
Pau	115.2	9	443.7	4	9.7	6	22.3	8
Enisei-STM	104.8	14	313.7	14	6.3	14	19.2	13
Scarlets	103.9	15	312.3	15	6.7	12	14.6	20
Stade Français Paris	116.8	6	308.8	17	6.2	16	20.2	11
RC Toulon	88.7	19	348.7	11	8.6	9	19.2	13
Wasps	116.0	7	371.8	9	9.7	6	23.8	7
Worcester Warriors	103.3	16	411.5	6	11.0	4	25.0	6
Zebre Rugby Club	110.8	10	360.2	10	7.3	11	22.2	9

## Defence

	Tackles	Rank	Tackling Success %	Rank	Turnovers Won	Rank
Agen	154.7	2	83%	15	3.8	18
Bayonne	112.7	14	83%	15	6.3	9
Bordeaux-Bègles	126.9	8	87%	2	5.8	11
Bristol Bears	128.8	7	87%	2	6.8	5
Brive	123.0	10	83%	15	5.5	13
Rugby Calvisano	114.8	12	79%	19	4.0	17
Cardiff Blues	100.2	20	87%	2	6.8	5
Castres Olympique	104.2	18	86%	7	4.7	16
Dragons	129.1	6	84%	13	6.0	10
Edinburgh Rugby	133.6	4	85%	11	7.0	3
Leicester Tigers	131.3	5	87%	2	5.0	15
London Irish	114.7	13	86%	7	7.2	2
Pau	100.7	19	81%	18	3.7	20
Enisei-STM	111.5	15	78%	20	7.0	3
Scarlets	108.0	16	87%	2	6.4	8
Stade Français Paris	120.8	11	84%	13	6.8	5
RC Toulon	123.4	9	89%	1	7.3	1
Wasps	143.5	3	86%	7	5.3	14
Worcester Warriors	106.3	17	85%	11	5.8	11
Zebre Rugby Club	156.8	1	86%	7	3.8	18

## Discipline

	Penalties Conceded	Rank	Yellow Cards	Rank	Red Cards	Rank
Agen	10.0	10	0.5	8	0.0	1
Bayonne	10.3	16	0.7	13	0.0	1
Bordeaux-Bègles	9.4	5	0.3	3	0.0	1
Bristol Bears	9.9	9	0.4	7	0.0	1
Brive	10.5	17	0.5	8	0.0	1
Rugby Calvisano	11.0	18	0.3	3	0.3	20
Cardiff Blues	8.2	2	0.3	3	0.0	1
Castres Olympique	9.8	8	0.8	16	0.0	1
Dragons	11.9	19	0.6	12	0.1	14
Edinburgh Rugby	7.7	1	0.0	1	0.0	1
Leicester Tigers	10.1	12	0.7	13	0.0	1
London Irish	10.0	10	0.8	16	0.2	17
Pau	10.2	15	0.8	16	0.0	1
Enisei-STM	12.8	20	1.3	20	0.0	1
Scarlets	10.1	12	0.0	1	0.1	14
Stade Français Paris	9.7	6	0.8	16	0.0	1
RC Toulon	10.1	12	0.3	3	0.1	14
Wasps	9.7	6	0.7	13	0.0	1
Worcester Warriors	8.3	3	0.5	8	0.2	17
Zebre Rugby Club	9.3	4	0.5	8	0.2	17

## 2019/20 Challenge Cup - Leading Scorers

### Points

Rank			Matches	Points	Penalties	Conversions	Drop Goals	Tries
1	Callum Sheedy	Bristol Bears	8	100	16	26	0	0
2	Matthieu Jalibert	Bordeaux-Bègles	7	83	13	17	0	2
3	Jamie Shillcock	Worcester Warriors	5	67	2	18	0	5
3	Sam Davies	Dragons	6	67	11	17	0	0
5	Leigh Halfpenny	Scarlets	5	52	9	10	0	1
6	Louis Carbonel	RC Toulon	9	46	8	11	0	0
7	Jarrod Evans	Cardiff Blues	4	43	3	12	0	2
7	Clovis Lebail	Pau	5	43	1	15	0	2
7	George Ford	Leicester Tigers	4	43	5	11	2	0
10	Anthony Belleau	RC Toulon	4	40	8	8	0	0

### Tries

Rank			Matches	Tries
1	Jamie Shillcock	Worcester Warriors	5	5
2	Albert Tuisue	London Irish	3	4
2	Darcy Graham	Edinburgh Rugby	5	4
2	Duhan van der Merwe	Edinburgh Rugby	4	4
2	Jonah Holmes	Leicester Tigers	3	4
2	Josh Adams	Cardiff Blues	3	4
2	Max Malins	Bristol Bears	3	4
2	Ollie Lawrence	Worcester Warriors	5	4
2	Owen Lane	Cardiff Blues	3	4
2	Piers O'Connor	Bristol Bears	8	4
2	Vasil Lobzhanidze	Brive	5	4
2	Vincent Pinto	Pau	6	4
2	Will Capon	Bristol Bears	7	4

### Goalkicking %

Rank			Matches	Penalties	Conversions	Attempts*	%
1	Ioan Lloyd	Bristol	6	1	9	10	100%
2	Tedo Abzhandadze	Brive	6	5	10	16	94%
3	Simon Hickey	Edinburgh	5	3	11	15	93%
4	Duncan Weir	Worcester	3	8	4	13	92%
5	Paolo Pescetto	Calvisano	5	5	5	11	91%
6	Stephen Myler	London Irish	3	4	5	10	90%
7	Callum Sheedy	Bristol	8	16	26	47	89%
8	Jarrod Evans	Cardiff Blues	4	3	12	17	88%
9	Sam Davies	Dragons	6	11	17	32	88%
10	Clovis Lebail	Pau	5	1	15	19	84%
10	George Ford	Leicester	4	5	11	19	84%

\* 10+ attempts

## 2019/20 Challenge Cup - Top Performers

### Carries

Rank			Matches	Carries
1	Mikheil Gachechiladze	Enisei-STM	6	86
2	Semi Radradra	Bristol Bears	7	82
3	Harry Thacker	Bristol Bears	9	79
4	Luke Morahan	Bristol Bears	9	74
5	Uzair Cassiem	Scarlets	6	69
6	Alex Tulou	Castres Olympique	5	66
7	George Taylor	Edinburgh Rugby	6	64
7	Nathan Hughes	Bristol Bears	5	64
9	Luke Hamilton	Bristol Bears	6	63
10	Nans Ducuing	Bordeaux-Bègles	5	61

### Metres

Rank			Matches	Metres
1	Luke Morahan	Bristol Bears	9	542
2	Duhan van der Merwe	Edinburgh Rugby	4	469
3	Semi Radradra	Bristol Bears	7	440
4	Matt Protheroe	Bristol Bears	4	394
5	Matthew Morgan	Cardiff Blues	5	371
6	Masivesi Dakuwaqa	RC Toulon	8	356
7	Gabin Villiere	RC Toulon	4	333
8	Rey Lee-Lo	Cardiff Blues	6	326
9	Nans Ducuing	Bordeaux-Bègles	5	320
10	Bryce Heem	RC Toulon	8	317

### Breaks

Rank			Matches	Breaks
1	Luke Morahan	Bristol Bears	9	22
2	Matt Protheroe	Bristol Bears	4	12
3	Duhan van der Merwe	Edinburgh Rugby	4	11
3	Gabin Villiere	RC Toulon	4	11
5	Alapati Leiua	Bristol Bears	7	10
6	Bjorn Basson	Enisei-STM	6	9
6	Harry Randall	Bristol Bears	8	9
6	Josh Bassett	Wasps	5	9
6	Masivesi Dakuwaqa	RC Toulon	8	9
6	Santiago Cordero	Bordeaux-Bègles	6	9
6	Semi Radradra	Bristol Bears	7	9

## Defenders Beaten

Rank			Matches	Defenders Beaten
1	Santiago Cordero	Bordeaux-Bègles	6	29
2	Duhan van der Merwe	Edinburgh Rugby	4	28
3	Luke Morahan	Bristol Bears	9	27
4	Matt Protheroe	Bristol Bears	4	26
5	Rey Lee-Lo	Cardiff Blues	6	24
6	Semi Radradra	Bristol Bears	7	23
7	Davit Meskhi	Enisei-STM	6	22
8	George Taylor	Edinburgh Rugby	6	21
9	Alapati Leiua	Bristol Bears	7	20
9	Darcy Graham	Edinburgh Rugby	5	20
9	Jarrood Evans	Cardiff Blues	4	20
9	Matthieu Jalibert	Bordeaux-Bègles	7	20
9	Mikheil Gachechiladze	Enisei-STM	6	20

## Offloads

Rank			Matches	Offloads
1	Steff Evans	Scarlets	7	13
2	Mikheil Gachechiladze	Enisei-STM	6	11
3	Santiago Cordero	Bordeaux-Bègles	6	9
4	Charles Piutau	Bristol Bears	3	8
4	Luke Morahan	Bristol Bears	9	8
4	Semi Radradra	Bristol Bears	7	8
7	Alofa Alofa	Bayonne	3	7
7	Callum Sheedy	Bristol Bears	8	7
7	Charly Malie	Pau	3	7
7	Joe Joyce	Bristol Bears	8	7
7	Johnny McNicholl	Scarlets	5	7
7	Nans Ducuing	Bordeaux-Bègles	5	7
7	Vincent Pinto	Pau	6	7

## Tackles

Rank			Matches	Tackles	Missed Tackles
1	Harry Thacker	Bristol Bears	9	92	10
1	Mikheil Gachechiladze	Enisei-STM	6	92	9
3	Victor Lebas	Brive	6	73	12
4	Matthew Screech	Dragons	7	69	10
5	Daniel Thomas	Bristol Bears	6	68	7
6	Pierce Phillips	Agen	6	67	7
7	Swan Rebbadj	RC Toulon	8	66	8
8	Jessy Jegerlehner	Agen	3	64	7
8	Joe Joyce	Bristol Bears	8	64	2
8	Steven Luatua	Bristol Bears	6	64	3



## Lineouts

Rank			Matches	Lineouts Won (inc. steals)	Lineout Steals
1	Camille Gerondeau	Castres Olympique	6	45	8
2	Joe Joyce	Bristol Bears	8	28	0
2	Matthew Screech	Dragons	7	28	1
4	Chris Vui	Bristol Bears	6	27	2
4	Grant Gilchrist	Edinburgh Rugby	5	27	1
6	Swan Rebbadj	RC Toulon	8	26	1
7	Ben Toolis	Edinburgh Rugby	5	23	4
7	Charles Ollivon	RC Toulon	7	23	3
9	Shane Lewis-Hughes	Cardiff Blues	6	22	0
9	Steven Luatua	Bristol Bears	6	22	2

## Turnovers

Rank			Matches	Turnovers
1	Gabin Villiere	RC Toulon	4	10
1	Jack Willis	Wasps	4	10
3	Beka Gigashvili	RC Toulon	9	8
3	Josh Macleod	Scarlets	6	8
5	Shane Lewis-Hughes	Cardiff Blues	6	7
6	Daniel Thomas	Bristol Bears	6	6
6	Jandr� Marais	Bordeaux-B�gles	8	6
6	Nikoloz Sukhashvili	Enisei-STM	2	6
6	Will Boyde	Cardiff Blues	5	6
10	Baptiste Serin	RC Toulon	8	5
10	Ben Earl	Bristol Bears	3	5
10	Eben Etzebeth	RC Toulon	4	5
10	Guy Thompson	Leicester Tigers	4	5
10	Harrison Keddie	Dragons	4	5
10	Luke Hamilton	Bristol Bears	6	5
10	Mathew Luamanu	Bayonne	2	5
10	Tommy Reffell	Leicester Tigers	4	5

## Key Tournament Rules

The following is a summary of the rules of the 2020/21 Challenge Cup tournament:

### 1 FORMAT

#### Preliminary Stage

**1.1** Fourteen clubs – six from the TOP 14, four from the Gallagher Premiership and four from the Guinness PRO14 – will compete in a preliminary stage of four rounds of matches.

**1.2** During this stage, each club will play two matches at home and two away.

**1.3** In order to create the fixtures, the clubs were divided into two tiers based on their qualifying positions in their respective league tables, or on other qualification criteria, as follows:

#### TIER 1 (7 clubs)

TOP 14 clubs ranked 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

Premiership clubs ranked 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

PRO14 clubs ranked 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

#### TIER 2 (7 clubs)

TOP 14 clubs ranked 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

Premiership clubs ranked 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

PRO14 clubs ranked 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

**1.4** The higher-ranked clubs in Tier 1 will only play against clubs in Tier 2.

**1.5** Clubs in the same tier will **not** play against one another and clubs from the same league will **not** play against one another.

**1.6** One Premiership club and one PRO14 club will play against TOP 14 opposition only.

**1.7** Four points for a win, two points for a draw. A bonus point will be awarded to a club scoring four or more tries and to a club losing by seven points or fewer.

**1.8** The eight highest-ranked clubs from the preliminary stage will qualify for the Round of 16 and if two or more clubs are equal on match points, the ranking will be decided as follows:

(i) the best aggregate points difference, or

(ii) if equal, the number of tries scored, or

(iii) if equal, the club with the fewest number of players suspended for disciplinary incidents, or

(iv) if equal, by drawing lots.

**1.9** Eight clubs from the Heineken Champions Cup pool stage (clubs ranked 5 to 8 from Pool A and 5 to 8 from Pool B) will also qualify for the Round of 16

#### Knockout Stage - Round of 16

**1.10** The ranking of the clubs which qualify for the Round of 16 will be as follows:

(i) the top four Challenge Cup clubs will be ranked 1 to 4

(ii) the eight Heineken Champions Cup clubs will be ranked 5 to 12 based on the usual criteria of match points, aggregate points difference, tries scored etc

(iii) the four remaining Challenge Cup clubs will be ranked 13 to 16

**1.11** The four highest-ranked Challenge Cup qualifiers and the four highest-ranked Heineken Champions Cup qualifiers will have home advantage in the Round of 16 as follows:

**CC 1** (ranked 1) v **HCC 8** (ranked 12)

**CC 2** (ranked 2) v **HCC 7** (ranked 11)

**CC 3** (ranked 3) v **HCC 6** (ranked 10)

**CC 4** (ranked 4) v **HCC 5** (ranked 9)

**HCC 4** (ranked 8) v **CC 5** (ranked 13)

**HCC 3** (ranked 7) v **CC 6** (ranked 14)

**HCC 2** (ranked 6) v **CC 7** (ranked 15)

**HCC 1** (ranked 5) v **CC 8** (ranked 16)

### Quarter-finals

**1.12** The quarter-final matches, with home venue advantage awarded to the highest-ranked clubs, will be as follows:

**QF1: winner CC 1-HCC 8 v winner HCC 4-CC 5**

**QF2: winner CC 3-HCC 6 v winner HCC 2-CC 7**

**QF3: winner CC 2-HCC 7 v winner HCC 3-CC 6**

**QF4: winner CC4-HCC 5 v winner HCC 1-CC 8**

### Semi-finals

**1.13** The semi-final matches, with home venue advantage awarded to the highest-ranked clubs, will be as follows:

**Semi-final 1: winner QF1 v winner QF2**

**Semi-final 2: winner QF3 v winner QF4**

### Final

**1.14** The 2021 final will be played in Marseille.

**NB** In the event of a tie at full-time in the Round of 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals or final, extra time of 10 minutes each way will be played. If the scores remain tied, the winner will be determined as follows:

(a) the club that scored the most tries in the match (including extra time) or

(b) if equal, by a place kick competition.

## 2 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

**2.1** Each club must nominate a squad, however, there is no limit on the number of players nominated at first registration of the season. A minimum of 10 of the players nominated by the club must be capable of playing in front row forward positions. The First Registration deadline was midday (GMT) on **Thursday 19 November 2020** and all players must be fully and properly registered with their club and Union.

**2.2** A club must nominate a squad of between 19 and 23 players for each match.

**2.3** A minimum of six front row players must be included in each match day squad such that on the first occasion that a replacement is required in each position, a replacement can be made. Where uncontested scrums are ordered due to the departure of a front row player and there is no suitable replacement, the player whose departure caused the uncontested scrums may not be replaced (i.e. the club will be required to play with 14 players).

**2.4** Each club may register up to five Additional Players during the Preliminary Stage but none during the knockout stage, each to replace a player previously registered. A minimum of three Additional Players must be front row players, one Additional Player can be from any position and one Additional Player must be a medical replacement. Players must have a three-month contract with the club and must not have played for another club in the same tournament. Additional Player registrations must be submitted by 12 noon (GMT) on the Wednesday before the match. De-registered players may be re-registered (in place of the relevant Additional Players) during the Preliminary Stage.

**2.5** For Second Registration, clubs can add up to three players to supplement their squads and one of the players must be a front row player. The deadline for Second Registration is midday (GMT) on 25 March 2021.

**2.6** Each club is permitted an unlimited number of 'non-European players' in each match day squad for the 2020/21 season.

### **3 ABANDONMENT**

**3.1** Where a match is abandoned after 60 minutes or more, the result will stand.

**3.2** Where a match is abandoned after fewer than 60 minutes, (a) if both clubs and the EPCR Board agree, the result will stand, or (b) the match will be replayed in full no earlier than 48 hours after kick-off of the abandoned match (unless both clubs and EPCR agree otherwise), with both clubs entitled to select new match day squads.

### **4 MEDIA REGULATION – Match Day Squad announcements**

**4.1** Each club must announce its match day squad by midday (GMT) on the Thursday before a Friday match and by midday (GMT) on the Friday before a weekend match. The match day squad announced must not differ from the squad that plays save in exceptional circumstances. Breaches of match day squad regulations may result in fines being imposed by the Board of EPCR.