



EUROPEAN RUGBY
CHALLENGE
— CUP —

2020/21 SEASON

ROUND 2 PREVIEW

Fixtures

Round 2

Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
18/12/2020	17:30	Castres Olympique	Newcastle Falcons	Stade Pierre Fabre
18/12/2020	20:00	Brive	Zebre Rugby Club	Stade Amédée-Doménech
19/12/2020	13:00	Benetton Rugby	Agen	Stadio Comunale di Monigo
19/12/2020	20:00	Worcester Warriors	Ospreys	Sixways
19/12/2020	20:00	Bayonne	Leicester Tigers	Stade Jean Dauger
20/12/2020	15:00	London Irish	Pau	Brentford Community Stadium
20/12/2020	17:30	Cardiff Blues	Stade Français Paris	Rodney Parade

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
Castres Olympique v Newcastle Falcons	Craig Evans (Wal)	Vincent Blasco (Fra)	Adrien Descottes (Fra)	Ludovic Cayre (Fra)	Gary Gordon (Sco)
Brive v Zebre Rugby Club	Adam Leal (Eng)	Laurent Cardona (Fra)	Vivien Praderie (Fra)	-	Stuart Scott (Wal)
Benetton Rugby v Agen	Same Grove-White (Sco)	Marius Mitrea (Ita)	Francesco Russo (Ita)	Stefano Penne (Ita)	Chris Sharp (Eng)
Worcester Warriors v Ospreys	Nika Amashukeli (Geo)	Andrew Jackson (Eng)	Jonathan Healy (Eng)	Keith Lewis (Eng)	Adrien Menez (Fra)
Bayonne v Leicester Tigers	Chris Busby (Ire)	Pierre Nuchy (Fra)	Julien Castaignede (Fra)	Cyril Lafon (Fra)	Gabriele Pezzano (Ita)
London Irish v Pau	Gianluca Gnechi (Ita)	Michael Hudson (Eng)	Roy Maybank (Eng)	-	Eddie Walsh (Ire)
Cardiff Blues v Stade Français Paris	Craig Maxwell-Keys (Eng)	Dan Jones (Wal)	Elgan Williams (Wal)	Jon Mason (Wal)	Dana Teagarden (Ger)

Standings

Rank		Pl	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	London Irish	1	1	0	0	34	8	26	5	1	1	0	5
2	Benetton Rugby	1	1	0	0	44	20	24	7	3	1	0	5
3	Ospreys	1	1	0	0	39	15	24	5	2	1	0	5
4	Leicester Tigers	1	1	0	0	39	17	22	4	1	1	0	5
5	Cardiff Blues	1	1	0	0	33	20	13	3	2	0	0	4
6	Pau	1	1	0	0	24	20	4	3	2	0	0	4
7	Bayonne	1	0	1	0	25	25	0	3	3	0	0	2
8	Zebre Rugby Club	1	0	1	0	25	25	0	3	3	0	0	2
9	Worcester Warriors	1	0	0	1	20	24	-4	2	3	0	1	1
10	Newcastle Falcons	1	0	0	1	20	33	-13	2	3	0	0	0
11	Brive	1	0	0	1	17	39	-22	1	4	0	0	0
12	Stade Français Paris	1	0	0	1	20	44	-24	3	7	0	0	0
13	Castres Olympique	1	0	0	1	15	39	-24	2	5	0	0	0
14	Agen	1	0	0	1	8	34	-26	1	5	0	0	0

2020/21 Challenge Cup - Team Averages

Overall

	Points	Tries	Lineout %	Scrum %	Tackling %	Goalkicking %
Agen	8.0	1.0	100%	40%	87%	50%
Bayonne	25.0	3.0	75%	71%	79%	80%
Benetton Rugby	44.0	7.0	76%	100%	85%	50%
Brive	17.0	1.0	90%	83%	85%	80%
Cardiff Blues	31.0	3.0	87%	100%	87%	100%
Castres Olympique	15.0	2.0	100%	100%	88%	67%
Leicester Tigers	39.0	4.0	90%	100%	97%	70%
London Irish	34.0	5.0	64%	90%	90%	67%
Newcastle Falcons	20.0	2.0	82%	100%	91%	100%
Ospreys	39.0	5.0	100%	100%	95%	86%
Pau	24.0	3.0	100%	100%	91%	80%
Stade Français Paris	20.0	3.0	90%	67%	88%	50%
Worcester Warriors	23.0	3.0	100%	60%	92%	75%
Zebre Rugby Club	25.0	3.0	82%	100%	88%	67%

Attack

	Carries	Rank	Metres	Rank	Clean Breaks	Rank	Defenders Beaten	Rank
Agen	76.0	11	259.0	12	2.0	14	11.0	9
Bayonne	79.0	10	416.0	3	5.0	7	11.0	9
Benetton Rugby	132.0	2	463.0	1	17.0	1	19.0	1
Brive	76.0	11	179.0	14	3.0	13	3.0	14
Cardiff Blues	120.0	3	276.0	11	9.0	2	11.0	9
Castres Olympique	116.0	4	313.0	8	8.0	3	8.0	12
Leicester Tigers	89.0	9	373.0	6	7.0	5	17.0	3
London Irish	95.0	6	395.0	4	8.0	3	14.0	5
Newcastle Falcons	107.0	5	377.0	5	4.0	9	16.0	4
Ospreys	94.0	7	292.0	10	5.0	7	13.0	7
Pau	145.0	1	418.0	2	4.0	9	14.0	5
Stade Français Paris	90.0	8	303.0	9	4.0	9	19.0	1
Worcester Warriors	70.0	13	244.0	13	4.0	9	8.0	12
Zebre Rugby Club	52.0	14	315.0	7	6.0	6	12.0	8

Defence

	Tackles	Rank	Tackling Success %	Rank	Turnovers Won	Rank
Agen	95.0	10	87%	10	5.0	3
Bayonne	46.0	14	79%	14	3.0	8
Benetton Rugby	112.0	5	85%	12	5.0	3
Brive	99.0	7	85%	12	4.0	5
Cardiff Blues	107.0	6	87%	10	3.0	8
Castres Olympique	92.0	11	88%	7	3.0	8
Leicester Tigers	97.0	8	97%	1	3.0	8
London Irish	97.0	8	90%	6	8.0	2
Newcastle Falcons	114.0	4	91%	4	3.0	8
Ospreys	145.0	2	95%	2	12.0	1
Pau	82.0	13	91%	4	2.0	13
Stade Français Paris	139.0	3	88%	7	2.0	13
Worcester Warriors	155.0	1	92%	3	4.0	5
Zebre Rugby Club	83.0	12	88%	7	4.0	5

Discipline

	Penalties Conceded	Rank	Yellow Cards	Rank	Red Cards	Rank
Agen	17.0	14	0.0	1	0.0	1
Bayonne	12.0	8	1.0	8	0.0	1
Benetton Rugby	6.0	1	0.0	1	1.0	13
Brive	11.0	7	0.0	1	0.0	1
Cardiff Blues	6.0	1	0.0	1	0.0	1
Castres Olympique	15.0	12	1.0	8	0.0	1
Leicester Tigers	10.0	5	0.0	1	0.0	1
London Irish	9.0	3	0.0	1	0.0	1
Newcastle Falcons	14.0	11	1.0	8	0.0	1
Ospreys	10.0	5	0.0	1	0.0	1
Pau	12.0	8	2.0	14	0.0	1
Stade Français Paris	12.0	8	1.0	8	1.0	13
Worcester Warriors	15.0	12	1.0	8	0.0	1
Zebre Rugby Club	9.0	3	1.0	8	0.0	1

2020/21 Challenge Cup - Leading Scorers

Points

Rank			Matches	Points	Penalties	Conversions	Drop Goals	Tries
1	Jarrold Evans	Cardiff Blues	1	16	4	2	0	0
2	Antonio Rizzi	Zebre Rugby Club	1	15	2	2	0	1
3	Tommaso Allan	Benetton Rugby	1	14	1	3	0	1
3	Stephen Myler	Ospreys	1	14	2	4	0	0
5	Enzo Herve	Brive	1	12	4	0	0	0
6	Albert Tuisue	London Irish	1	10	0	0	0	2
6	Sam Parry	Ospreys	1	10	0	0	0	2
6	George Ford	Leicester Tigers	1	10	2	2	0	0
6	Joel Hodgson	Newcastle Falcons	1	10	2	2	0	0
6	Manuel Ordas	Bayonne	1	10	2	2	0	0

Goalkicking %

Rank			Matches	Penalties	Conversions	Attempts	%
1	Jarrold Evans	Cardiff Blues	1	4	2	6	100%
1	Joel Hodgson	Newcastle Falcons	1	2	2	4	100%
1	Samuel Marques	Pau	1	1	2	3	100%
1	Jacob Atkins	London Irish	1	1	1	2	100%
1	Thomas Fortunel	Castres	1	1	1	2	100%
6	Stephen Myler	Ospreys	1	2	4	7	86%
7	Enzo Herve	Brive	1	4	0	5	80%
7	Manuel Ordas	Bayonne	1	2	2	5	80%
9	Jamie Shillcock	Worcester	1	2	1	4	75%
9	Joaquin Diaz Bonilla	Leicester	1	3	0	4	75%

Tries

Rank			Matches	Tries
1	Albert Tuisue	London Irish	1	2
1	Sam Parry	Ospreys	1	2
3	Adrien Amans	Castres Olympique	1	1
3	Adrien Lapegue	Stade Français Paris	1	1
3	Alberto Sgarbi	Benetton Rugby	1	1
3	Antoine Erbani	Pau	1	1
3	Antonio Rizzi	Zebre Rugby Club	1	1
3	Ben Youngs	Leicester Tigers	1	1
3	Charlie Francoz	Stade Français Paris	1	1
3	Cyle Brink	Leicester Tigers	1	1
3	Dan Evans	Ospreys	1	1
3	Dewaldt Duvenage	Benetton Rugby	1	1
3	Eoghan Barrett	Pau	1	1
3	Federico Ruzza	Benetton Rugby	1	1
3	Gareth Simpson	Worcester Warriors	1	1
3	George Wacocecoke	Newcastle Falcons	1	1
3	Hallam Amos	Cardiff Blues	1	1
3	Jayden Hayward	Benetton Rugby	1	1
3	Kevin Kornath	Castres Olympique	1	1
3	Laloifi Junior Laloifi	Zebre Rugby Club	1	1
3	Laurent Panis	Stade Français Paris	1	1
3	Leonardo Sarto	Benetton Rugby	1	1
3	Luke Morgan	Ospreys	1	1
3	Matteo Nocera	Zebre Rugby Club	1	1
3	Maxime Delonca	Bayonne	1	1
3	Michael Ruru	Bayonne	1	1
3	Nemani Nadolo	Leicester Tigers	1	1
3	Nicolas Corato	Pau	1	1
3	Ollie Hassell-Collins	London Irish	1	1
3	Phil Cokanasiga	London Irish	1	1
3	Remy Baget	Bayonne	1	1
3	Sam Stuart	Newcastle Falcons	1	1
3	Shaun Venter	Ospreys	1	1
3	Steve Mafi	London Irish	1	1
3	Tevita Railevu	Agen	1	1
3	Toa Halafih	Benetton Rugby	1	1
3	Tom Youngs	Leicester Tigers	1	1
3	Tommaso Allan	Benetton Rugby	1	1
3	Tomos Williams	Cardiff Blues	1	1
3	Wesley Douglas	Brive	1	1

2020/21 Challenge Cup – Top Performers

Carries

Rank			Matches	Carries
1	Lekima Tagitagivalu	Pau	1	18
2	Mathieu Ugena	Pau	1	14
2	Monty Ioane	Benetton Rugby	1	14
2	Stéphane Onambele Mbarga	Castres Olympique	1	14
2	Toa Halafihi	Benetton Rugby	1	14
6	Clement Clavieres	Castres Olympique	1	13
6	Jasper Wiese	Leicester Tigers	1	13
6	Morgan Morris	Ospreys	1	13
6	Thibault Debaes	Pau	1	13
6	Watisoni Votu	Pau	1	13

Metres

Rank			Matches	Metres
1	Remy Baget	Bayonne	1	122
2	Brandon Fajardo	Bayonne	1	108
3	Ed Fidow	Worcester Warriors	1	97
4	Clement Clavieres	Castres Olympique	1	93
5	Jayden Hayward	Benetton Rugby	1	90
6	Ollie Hassell-Collins	London Irish	1	79
6	Tom Parton	London Irish	1	79
8	Alex Tait	Newcastle Falcons	1	75
9	Jasper Wiese	Leicester Tigers	1	66
9	Laloifi Junior Laloifi	Zebre Rugby Club	1	66

Breaks

Rank			Matches	Clean Breaks
1	Jayden Hayward	Benetton Rugby	1	4
2	Hallam Amos	Cardiff Blues	1	3
2	Marco Barbini	Benetton Rugby	1	3
2	Remy Baget	Bayonne	1	3
5	Adrien Lapegue	Stade Français Paris	1	2
5	Bastien Guillemin	Castres Olympique	1	2
5	Ben Youngs	Leicester Tigers	1	2
5	Garyn Smith	Cardiff Blues	1	2
5	Jamie Blamire	Newcastle Falcons	1	2
5	Joaquin Riera	Benetton Rugby	1	2
5	Kevin Kornath	Castres Olympique	1	2
5	Ollie Hassell-Collins	London Irish	1	2
5	Toa Halafihi	Benetton Rugby	1	2
5	Will Griffiths	Ospreys	1	2

Defenders Beaten

Rank			Matches	Defenders Beaten
1	Jasper Wiese	Leicester Tigers	1	6
1	Monty Ioane	Benetton Rugby	1	6
3	Adrien Lapegue	Stade Français Paris	1	5
3	Bill Meakes	London Irish	1	5
3	Jamie Blamire	Newcastle Falcons	1	5
3	Thibault Debaes	Pau	1	5
7	Garyn Smith	Cardiff Blues	1	4
7	Matt Protheroe	Ospreys	1	4
7	Toa Halafih	Benetton Rugby	1	4
7	Waisea Nayacalevu	Stade Français Paris	1	4

Offloads

Rank			Matches	Offloads
1	Stéphane Onambe Mbarga	Castres Olympique	1	4
2	Jayden Hayward	Benetton Rugby	1	3
2	Thibault Debaes	Pau	1	3
4	Brandon Fajardo	Bayonne	1	2
4	Charlie Francoz	Stade Français Paris	1	2
4	Ellis Genge	Leicester Tigers	1	2
4	Federico Ruzza	Benetton Rugby	1	2
4	George North	Ospreys	1	2
4	Jacob Atkins	London Irish	1	2
4	Jessy Jegerlehner	Agen	1	2
4	Kevin Kornath	Castres Olympique	1	2
4	Marco Barbini	Benetton Rugby	1	2
4	Pierre Colonna	Castres Olympique	1	2
4	Waisea Nayacalevu	Stade Français Paris	1	2

Tackles

Rank			Matches	Tackles	Missed Tackles
1	Sam Lewis	Worcester Warriors	1	20	2
2	Rhys Davies	Ospreys	1	19	0
3	Justin Clegg	Worcester Warriors	1	18	0
4	Dan Lydiate	Ospreys	1	17	0
5	Sam Moore	Cardiff Blues	1	14	1
6	Jamie Shillcock	Worcester Warriors	1	13	0
6	Mark Tampin	Newcastle Falcons	1	13	0
6	Stéphane Onambe Mbarga	Castres Olympique	1	13	0
6	Tom Marshall	Newcastle Falcons	1	13	0
6	Will Griffiths	Ospreys	1	13	1

Lineouts

Rank			Matches	Lineouts Won (inc. steals)	Lineout Steals
1	Antoine Erbani	Pau	1	9	0
1	Baptiste Heguy	Bayonne	1	9	2
3	Cory Hill	Cardiff Blues	1	7	1
4	Federico Ruzza	Benetton Rugby	1	6	1
4	Harry Wells	Leicester Tigers	1	6	0
4	Joe Batley	Worcester Warriors	1	6	0
4	Justin Clegg	Worcester Warriors	1	6	0
4	Maxime Mbanda	Zebre Rugby Club	1	6	0
4	Rhys Davies	Ospreys	1	6	0
10	Camille Gerondeau	Agen	1	5	2
10	Chunya Munga	London Irish	1	5	0
10	Esteban Abadie	Brive	1	5	0
10	Lloyd Ashley	Ospreys	1	5	0

Turnovers

Rank			Matches	Turnovers
1	Dan Lydiate	Ospreys	1	2
1	George North	Ospreys	1	2
1	Josh Turnbull	Cardiff Blues	1	2
1	Ma'afu Fia	Ospreys	1	2
1	Sione Tui	Stade Français Paris	1	2
1	Tomas Baravalle	Benetton Rugby	1	2
7	49 Players	-	1	1

Disciplinary Update

Yellow Cards

Round	Name	Club	Opposition	Match Date
1	Mark Wilson	Newcastle Falcons	Cardiff Blues	11/12/2020
	Waisea Nayacalevu	Stade Français Paris	Benetton Rugby	11/12/2020
	Luc Mousset	Bayonne	Zebre Rugby Club	12/12/2020
	Armand Battle	Castres Olympique	Ospreys	12/12/2020
	Hubert Texier	Pau	Worcester Warriors	12/12/2020
	Charly Malie	Pau	Worcester Warriors	12/12/2020
	Caleb Montgomery	Worcester Warriors	Pau	12/12/2020
	Marco Manfredi	Zebre Rugby Club	Bayonne	12/12/2020

Red Cards

Round	Name	Club	Opposition	Match Date
1	Charlie Rorke	Stade Français Paris	Benetton Rugby	11/12/2020
	Leonardo Sarto	Benetton Rugby	Stade Français Paris	11/12/2020

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 9th, 10th and 11th

Premiership clubs ranked 9th and 10th

PRO14 clubs ranked 9th and 10th

TIER 2 (7 clubs)

TOP 14 clubs ranked 12th, 13th and 14th

Premiership clubs ranked 11th and 12th

PRO14 clubs ranked 11th and 12th

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.