



Heineken[®]
CHAMPIONS
— CUP —

2020/21 SEASON

ROUND 1 PREVIEW

Fixtures

Round 1

Date	Time	Pool	Home	Away	Venue
11/12/2020	17:30	A	Northampton Saints	Bordeaux-Bègles	Franklin's Gardens
11/12/2020	20:00	B	Ulster Rugby	Toulouse	Kingspan Stadium
12/12/2020	13:00	B	Bristol Bears	ASM Clermont Auvergne	Ashton Gate
12/12/2020	15:15	A	Bath Rugby	Scarlets	Recreation Ground
12/12/2020	15:15	A	RC Toulon	Sale Sharks	Stade Félix Mayol
12/12/2020	17:30	A	Montpellier	Leinster Rugby	GGL Stadium
12/12/2020	17:30	A	Dragons	Wasps	Rodney Parade
12/12/2020	20:00	A	Edinburgh Rugby	La Rochelle	BT Murrayfield
13/12/2020	13:00	B	Lyon	Gloucester Rugby	Matmut Stadium de Gerland
13/12/2020	15:15	B	Racing 92	Connacht Rugby	Paris La Défense Arena
13/12/2020	15:15	B	Exeter Chiefs	Glasgow Warriors	Sandy Park
13/12/2020	17:30	B	Munster Rugby	Harlequins	Thomond Park

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
Northampton Saints v Bordeaux-Bègles	Ben Whitehouse (Wal)	Ian Tempest (Eng)	Rob Warburton (Eng)	David Grashoff (Eng)	Tim Lowry (Ire)
Ulster Rugby v Toulouse	Matthew Carley (Eng)	Sean Gallagher (Ire)	Rob O'Sullivan (Ire)	Joy Neville (Ire)	Jeff Mark (Wal)
Bristol Bears v ASM Clermont Auvergne	Andrew Brace (Ire)	Craig Maxwell-Keys (Eng)	Paul Dix (Eng)	Trevor Fisher (Eng)	John Montgomery (Sco)
Bath Rugby v Scarlets	Alexandre Ruiz (Fra)	Christophe Ridley (Eng)	Sara Cox (Eng)	Ian Tempest (Eng)	Peter Ferguson (Ire)
RC Toulon v Sale Sharks	Frank Murphy (Ire)	Thomas Charabas (Fra)	Vincent Blasco (Fra)	Pierre Brousset (Fra)	Stefano Marrama (Ita)
Dragons v Wasps	Romain Poite (Fra)	Dan Jones (Wal)	Gwyn Morris (Wal)	Nigel Owens (Wal)	Eugene Ryan (Ire)
Montpellier v Leinster Rugby	Karl Dickson (Eng)	Tual Trainini (Fra)	Cedric Marchat (Fra)	Eric Briquet-Campin (Fra)	Chris Catling (Eng)
Edinburgh Rugby v La Rochelle	Luke Pearce (Eng)	Sam Grove-White (Sco)	Hollie Davidson (Sco)	Andrew McMenemy (Sco)	Ed Kenny (Ire)
Lyon v Gloucester Rugby	Mike Adamson (Sco)	Pierre Brousset (Fra)	Pierre Nuchy (Fra)	Philippe Bonhoure (Fra)	Beth Dickens (Sco)
Exeter Chiefs v Glasgow Warriors	Mathieu Raynal (Fra)	Adam Leal (Eng)	Anthony Woodthorpe (Eng)	Stuart Terheege (Eng)	Francesco Grillo (Ita)
Racing 92 v Connacht Rugby	Wayne Barnes (Eng)	Maxime Chalon (Fra)	Jonathan Dufort (Fra)	Eric Gauzins (Fra)	Shaun Gallagher (Eng)
Munster Rugby v Harlequins	Pascal Gauzere (Fra)	Sean Gallagher (Ire)	Paul Haycock (Ire)	Brian MacNeice (Ire)	Patrice Frantschi (Fra)

2019/20 Heineken Champions Cup - Team Averages

Overall

	Points	Tries	Lineout %	Scrum %	Tackling %	Goalkicking %
Bath Rugby	17.0	2.0	82%	97%	85%	77%
Benetton Rugby	16.0	2.0	89%	89%	82%	75%
ASM Clermont Auvergne	33.1	4.0	91%	92%	85%	80%
Connacht Rugby	19.7	2.5	86%	95%	86%	77%
Exeter Chiefs	31.2	4.2	88%	86%	85%	93%
Glasgow Warriors	23.5	2.8	94%	86%	86%	92%
Gloucester Rugby	23.3	3.2	82%	95%	86%	80%
Harlequins	19.0	2.2	88%	90%	85%	87%
La Rochelle	17.5	2.3	83%	100%	87%	58%
Leinster Rugby	30.9	4.3	94%	97%	87%	81%
Lyon	18.0	2.3	82%	85%	83%	80%
Montpellier	19.7	2.0	90%	93%	86%	88%
Munster Rugby	20.7	2.2	86%	93%	87%	82%
Northampton Saints	25.9	3.0	87%	95%	82%	86%
Ospreys	13.8	1.8	82%	93%	86%	58%
Racing 92	30.4	3.7	88%	95%	86%	76%
Sale Sharks	15.0	1.8	84%	90%	85%	74%
Saracens	19.9	1.8	84%	93%	86%	77%
Toulouse	27.0	3.3	88%	95%	84%	80%
Ulster Rugby	19.6	2.4	86%	88%	84%	75%

Attack

	Carries	Rank	Metres	Rank	Clean Breaks	Rank	Defenders Beaten	Rank
Bath Rugby	119.5	10	313.8	17	5.8	18	23.7	13
Benetton Rugby	116.0	12	275.3	20	5.8	18	20.3	17
ASM Clermont Auvergne	108.7	17	409.7	6	10.1	7	24.1	12
Connacht Rugby	127.7	7	352.3	12	6.5	15	21.2	16
Exeter Chiefs	121.8	9	367.6	10	9.4	10	24.7	8
Glasgow Warriors	130.7	4	378.2	8	9.8	8	24.2	11
Gloucester Rugby	127.8	6	474.7	2	12.7	1	25.3	6
Harlequins	105.3	19	345.8	14	7.7	13	20.3	17
La Rochelle	112.2	15	364.0	11	9.3	11	24.5	10
Leinster Rugby	136.3	3	439.6	3	12.3	2	28.1	4
Lyon	114.5	13	373.7	9	10.2	6	28.8	2
Montpellier	109.7	16	299.5	18	6.5	15	24.8	7
Munster Rugby	146.0	1	348.2	13	5.8	18	22.8	15
Northampton Saints	128.0	5	386.6	7	10.4	5	29.9	1
Ospreys	107.0	18	320.8	15	6.3	17	18.3	19
Racing 92	117.2	11	438.2	4	11.6	4	28.6	3
Sale Sharks	112.7	14	315.2	16	8.0	12	24.7	8
Saracens	93.3	20	284.8	19	6.6	14	15.4	20
Toulouse	143.8	2	481.8	1	11.9	3	26.5	5
Ulster Rugby	127.1	8	419.9	5	9.6	9	23.1	14

Defence

	Tackles	Rank	Tackling Success %	Rank	Turnovers Won	Rank
Bath Rugby	121.0	19	85%	11	5.3	15
Benetton Rugby	158.0	2	82%	19	4.5	20
ASM Clermont Auvergne	123.1	18	85%	11	7.9	1
Connacht Rugby	160.2	1	86%	4	6.2	5
Exeter Chiefs	142.2	10	85%	11	5.4	14
Glasgow Warriors	134.3	12	86%	4	5.3	15
Gloucester Rugby	152.2	5	86%	4	6.2	5
Harlequins	136.8	11	85%	11	6.2	5
La Rochelle	142.8	9	87%	1	4.8	18
Leinster Rugby	145.7	7	87%	1	5.6	13
Lyon	123.8	16	83%	18	5.7	11
Montpellier	145.7	7	86%	4	7.3	2
Munster Rugby	131.5	13	87%	1	4.7	19
Northampton Saints	128.9	14	82%	19	5.7	11
Ospreys	153.2	4	86%	4	6.3	4
Racing 92	123.4	17	86%	4	5.9	9
Sale Sharks	156.7	3	85%	11	6.2	5
Saracens	145.9	6	86%	4	5.8	10
Toulouse	107.6	20	84%	16	7.3	2
Ulster Rugby	126.4	15	84%	16	4.9	17

Discipline

	Penalties Conceded	Rank	Yellow Cards	Rank	Red Cards	Rank
Bath Rugby	8.8	4	0.3	4	0.2	13
Benetton Rugby	9.8	11	0.8	18	0.0	1
ASM Clermont Auvergne	9.1	5	0.4	6	0.0	1
Connacht Rugby	7.7	1	0.7	11	0.0	1
Exeter Chiefs	10.3	14	0.4	6	0.0	1
Glasgow Warriors	10.3	14	0.7	11	0.2	13
Gloucester Rugby	12.3	20	1.0	20	0.0	1
Harlequins	10.0	12	0.2	3	0.0	1
La Rochelle	12.0	18	0.8	18	0.2	13
Leinster Rugby	11.4	17	0.4	6	0.0	1
Lyon	12.2	19	0.7	11	0.0	1
Montpellier	9.5	10	0.7	11	0.2	13
Munster Rugby	9.3	7	0.0	1	0.2	13
Northampton Saints	9.1	5	0.7	11	0.0	1
Ospreys	7.8	2	0.5	10	0.2	13
Racing 92	9.3	7	0.7	11	0.0	1
Sale Sharks	10.3	14	0.7	11	0.2	13
Saracens	8.1	3	0.3	4	0.3	20
Toulouse	9.4	9	0.4	6	0.1	12
Ulster Rugby	10.1	13	0.0	1	0.0	1

2019/20 Heineken Champions Cup - Leading Scorers

Points

Rank			Matches	Points	Penalties	Conversions	Drop Goals	Tries
1	Joe Simmonds	Exeter Chiefs	9	95	7	32	0	2
2	Thomas Ramos	Toulouse	8	85	12	22	0	1
3	John Cooney	Ulster Rugby	7	79	9	11	0	6
4	Dan Biggar	Northampton Saints	6	73	14	13	0	1
5	Teddy Iribaren	Racing 92	7	57	15	6	0	0
6	Adam Hastings	Glasgow Warriors	6	56	8	16	0	0
7	Morgan Parra	ASM Clermont Auvergne	7	53	9	13	0	0
8	Maxime Machenaud	Racing 92	8	48	6	15	0	0
9	JJ Hanrahan	Munster Rugby	5	47	11	7	0	0
10	Sam Simmonds	Exeter Chiefs	8	40	0	0	0	8
10	Ross Byrne	Leinster Rugby	7	40	3	13	0	1

Tries

Rank			Matches	Tries
1	Sam Simmonds	Exeter Chiefs	8	8
2	Garry Ringrose	Leinster Rugby	7	6
2	John Cooney	Ulster Rugby	7	6
2	Juan Imhoff	Racing 92	9	6
2	Teddy Thomas	Racing 92	5	6
6	Alivereti Raka	ASM Clermont Auvergne	5	5
6	George Moala	ASM Clermont Auvergne	5	5
6	Romain Ntamack	Toulouse	8	5
9	Epalahame Faiva	Benetton Rugby	6	4
9	Virimi Vakatawa	Racing 92	9	4

Goalkicking %

Rank			Matches	Penalties	Conversions	Attempts*	%
1	Joe Simmonds	Exeter Chiefs	9	7	32	41	95%
2	Adam Hastings	Glasgow Warriors	6	8	16	26	92%
2	Benoit Paillaugue	Montpellier	4	7	5	13	92%
4	Marcus Smith	Harlequins	4	5	6	12	92%
5	Alex Goode	Saracens	2	9	1	11	91%
6	Conor Fitzgerald	Connacht Rugby	5	3	6	10	90%
7	Dan Biggar	Northampton Saints	6	14	13	31	87%
8	Greig Laidlaw	ASM Clermont Auvergne	6	5	7	14	86%
9	Manu Vunipola	Saracens	7	6	4	12	83%
10	JJ Hanrahan	Munster Rugby	5	11	7	22	82%
10	Tommaso Allan	Benetton Rugby	3	4	5	11	82%

* 10+ attempts

2019/20 Heineken Champions Cup – Top Performers

Carries

Rank			Matches	Carries
1	CJ Stander	Munster Rugby	6	120
2	Thomas Ramos	Toulouse	8	106
3	Sam Simmonds	Exeter Chiefs	8	103
4	Luke Cowan-Dickie	Exeter Chiefs	9	99
5	Marcell Coetzee	Ulster Rugby	6	96
6	Virimi Vakatawa	Racing 92	9	93
7	James Ryan	Leinster Rugby	6	83
8	Lewis Ludlam	Northampton Saints	7	81
9	Jack Nowell	Exeter Chiefs	9	78
10	Jonny Gray	Glasgow Warriors	7	77
10	Stuart McCloskey	Ulster Rugby	7	77

Metres

Rank			Matches	Metres
1	Thomas Ramos	Toulouse	8	651
2	Virimi Vakatawa	Racing 92	9	597
3	Ollie Thorley	Gloucester Rugby	5	564
4	Juan Imhoff	Racing 92	9	507
5	Jacob Stockdale	Ulster Rugby	7	434
6	Stuart Hogg	Exeter Chiefs	9	426
7	Jordan Larmour	Leinster Rugby	7	425
8	Mike Haley	Munster Rugby	6	400
9	Sofiane Guitoune	Toulouse	8	389
10	Louis Rees-Zammit	Gloucester Rugby	6	374

Breaks

Rank			Matches	Clean Breaks
1	Juan Imhoff	Racing 92	9	19
2	Virimi Vakatawa	Racing 92	9	17
3	Teddy Thomas	Racing 92	5	15
4	Ollie Thorley	Gloucester Rugby	5	14
5	Louis Rees-Zammit	Gloucester Rugby	6	13
6	Cheslin Kolbe	Toulouse	6	12
6	Henry Slade	Exeter Chiefs	7	12
8	Finn Russell	Racing 92	9	11
8	George Moala	ASM Clermont Auvergne	5	11
8	James Lowe	Leinster Rugby	7	11
8	John Cooney	Ulster Rugby	7	11
8	Jordan Larmour	Leinster Rugby	7	11

Defenders Beaten

Rank			Matches	Defenders Beaten
1	Virimi Vakatawa	Racing 92	9	53
2	Jack Nowell	Exeter Chiefs	9	31
3	Jordan Larmour	Leinster Rugby	7	29
3	Lewis Ludlam	Northampton Saints	7	29
5	Taqele Naiyaravoro	Northampton Saints	5	28
6	George Moala	ASM Clermont Auvergne	5	27
6	Sam Simmonds	Exeter Chiefs	8	27
8	Garry Ringrose	Leinster Rugby	7	26
9	Luke Morgan	Ospreys	4	25
9	Stuart Hogg	Exeter Chiefs	9	25
9	Teddy Thomas	Racing 92	5	25

Offloads

Rank			Matches	Offloads
1	Sofiane Guitoune	Toulouse	8	17
2	Virimi Vakatawa	Racing 92	9	14
3	Joe Tekori	Toulouse	8	13
3	Taqele Naiyaravoro	Northampton Saints	5	13
5	Antoine Dupont	Toulouse	4	12
6	Finn Russell	Racing 92	9	9
6	Thomas Ramos	Toulouse	8	9
8	Cyril Baille	Toulouse	7	8
8	Damian Penaud	ASM Clermont Auvergne	4	8
8	Jason Woodward	Gloucester Rugby	3	8
8	Jonny Gray	Glasgow Warriors	7	8

Tackles

Rank			Matches	Tackles	Missed Tackles
1	Dave Ewers	Exeter Chiefs	9	134	9
2	Jonny Gray	Glasgow Warriors	7	124	3
3	Josh van der Flier	Leinster Rugby	7	105	5
4	Wenceslas Laurent	Racing 92	8	99	8
5	Jacques Vermeulen	Exeter Chiefs	8	95	16
6	CJ Stander	Munster Rugby	6	90	8
6	James Ryan	Leinster Rugby	6	90	4
8	Jonny Hill	Exeter Chiefs	8	88	13
9	Jerome Kaino	Toulouse	8	85	6
10	Ben Curry	Sale Sharks	6	82	11
10	Rob Herring	Ulster Rugby	7	82	10

Lineouts

Rank			Matches	Lineouts Won (inc. steals)	Lineout Steals
1	Jonny Hill	Exeter Chiefs	8	52	4
2	Gerbrandt Grobler	Gloucester Rugby	6	36	5
3	Nick Isiekwe	Saracens	6	34	3
4	Scott Cummings	Glasgow Warriors	6	26	5
5	Arthur Iturria	ASM Clermont Auvergne	6	25	2
6	Tevita Cavubati	Harlequins	6	23	1
7	James Ryan	Leinster Rugby	6	22	4
8	Eli Snyman	Benetton Rugby	5	21	1
8	George Kruis	Saracens	4	21	3
10	Baptiste Chouzenoux	Racing 92	6	20	3
10	Nicolaas Janse van Rensburg	Montpellier	4	20	1
10	Rory Arnold	Toulouse	7	20	1
10	Virgile Bruni	Lyon	4	20	1

Turnovers

Rank			Matches	Turnovers Won
1	Julien Marchand	Toulouse	8	11
2	Virimi Vakatawa	Racing 92	9	9
3	Dave Ewers	Exeter Chiefs	9	8
3	Fritz Lee	ASM Clermont Auvergne	6	8
3	Jerome Kaino	Toulouse	8	8
3	Joe Tekori	Toulouse	8	8
7	Ben Curry	Sale Sharks	6	7
7	Bundee Aki	Connacht Rugby	5	7
7	Iain Henderson	Ulster Rugby	7	7
7	Josh van der Flier	Leinster Rugby	7	7
7	Marcell Coetzee	Ulster Rugby	6	7

Key Tournament Rules

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

1 FORMAT

Pool Draw

1.1 The 24 clubs (eight from each league) were divided into four tiers based on their performances in the knockout phases of their respective leagues, and/or on their qualifying positions in their respective league tables as follows:

Tier 1 (6 clubs): 1st and 2nd ranked clubs from each league

Tier 2 (6 clubs): 3rd and 4th ranked clubs from each league

Tier 3 (6 clubs): 5th and 6th ranked clubs from each league

Tier 4 (6 clubs): 7th and 8th ranked clubs from each league

1.2 The clubs were drawn and/or allocated from the four tiers into two pools of 12 – Pool A and Pool B. Clubs from the same league in the same tier **could not** be in the same pool.

1.3 For the purposes of creating the fixtures, clubs from the same league **cannot** play against one another, and clubs will only play against other clubs in the **same** pool.

The Tier 1 clubs and the Tier 4 clubs which were drawn in the same pool, but which are not in the same league, play one another home and away.

The Tier 2 clubs and the Tier 3 clubs which were drawn in the same pool, but which are not in the same league, play one another home and away.

Pool Stage

1.4 Each club will play four matches during the pool stage, two at home and two away.

1.5 Four match points for a win, two match 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.

If two or more clubs in the same pool are equal on match points, their ranking will be determined as follows:

(i) the best aggregate points difference from the pool stage; or

(ii) if equal, the number of tries scored in the pool stage; or

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

(iv) if equal, by drawing lots.

Quarter-finals

1.6 The four highest-ranked clubs in Pool A and the four highest-ranked clubs in Pool B will qualify for the quarter-final matches which will be played over two legs on a home and away basis as follows:

QF1: Number 1-ranked club in Pool A v Number 4-ranked club in Pool B

QF2: Number 2-ranked club in Pool B v Number 3-ranked club in Pool A

QF3: Number 2-ranked club in Pool A v Number 3-ranked club in Pool B

QF4: Number 1-ranked club in Pool B v Number 4-ranked club in Pool A

NB The clubs ranked numbers 1 and 2 from Pool A and Pool B will play the second leg of their quarter-finals at home.

1.7 The clubs ranked 5 to 8 in Pool A and 5 to 8 in Pool B will qualify for the round of 16 of the Challenge Cup.

Semi-finals

1.8 Semi-finals, played over one match, will be staged at venues designated by EPCR and the highest-ranked clubs from the pool stage will have home country advantage.

Winner QF1 v Winner QF2

Winner QF3 v Winner QF4

Final

1.9 The 2021 final will be played in Marseille.

NB In the event of drawn matches or equal aggregate scores at the end of normal time during the knockout stage, extra-time will be played with the exception of the first legs of the quarter-final matches. If the scores remain tied at the end of extra time, the winner will be determined as follows:

- (a) the club that has scored the most tries in the match or matches (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 pool 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 pool 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.