



EUROPEAN RUGBY
CHALLENGE
— CUP —

2018/19 SEASON

ROUND 6 PREVIEW



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Pools Update

Pool 1

Clermont have already done the business by winning the pool and securing a home quarter-final, and are looking set to be No 1 seeds going into the knockout stage. There is the possibility of emulating Ospreys' record from the 2016/17 season of a maximum 30 match points in the pool stage when they visit the Dragons on Friday evening. A home win with a bonus point against Timisoara Saracens will guarantee Northampton Saints a place in the last eight as a best runner-up.

Pool 2

Worcester Warriors have won the pool and a victory over Stade Francais Paris at Sixways on Saturday would put them right in the mix for a home quarter-final. Ospreys will almost certainly need a bonus point win in Pau to give themselves any chance of qualifying as a best runner-up on 17 points.

Pool 3

This is going right down to the wire with Sale Sharks and Connacht both on 17 points. Advantage Sale with a home tie against Perpignan while Connacht travel to Bordeaux-Bègles. Two wins would in all probability see both clubs through to the quarter-finals and if they happen to finish level on points, Sale will top the pool on the basis of a superior record in the head-to-head matches.

Pool 4

La Rochelle on 20 points travel to Zebre on Saturday knowing a win will guarantee them a home quarter-final. If Bristol Bears manage a bonus point success against Enisei-STM at Ashton Gate, then they are certain to qualify either as a pool winner or a best runner-up depending on the Zebre v La Rochelle result. Zebre still have an outside chance of qualification, but need to beat La Rochelle and for Bristol to lose to Enisei.

Pool 5

Another pool with high stakes for the top two with Harlequins on 16 points and Benetton Rugby on 15. Quins, who take on Agen at Stade Armandie on Friday evening, simply need to finish ahead of Benetton who go to Grenoble aiming to become the first Italian club to qualify for the knockout stage of a major European tournament.

Pools

Pool 1

Pos	Team	Pl	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Q ASM Clermont Auvergne	5	5	0	0	255	110	145	37	15	5	0	25
2	Northampton Saints	5	3	0	2	171	124	47	25	18	4	0	16
3	Dragons	5	2	0	3	172	152	20	25	22	2	0	10
4	Timisoara Saracens	5	0	0	5	46	258	-212	6	38	0	0	0

Pool 2

Pos	Team	Pl	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Q Worcester Warriors	5	4	0	1	114	94	20	13	12	1	0	17
2	Ospreys	5	2	0	3	120	79	41	15	8	2	2	12
3	Stade Francais Paris	5	2	0	3	109	127	-18	12	15	1	1	10
4	Pau	5	2	0	3	63	106	-43	8	13	0	0	8

Pool 3

Pos	Team	Pl	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Sale Sharks	5	3	0	2	157	98	59	22	10	3	2	17
2	Connacht Rugby	5	4	0	1	113	93	20	14	11	1	0	17
3	Bordeaux-Bègles	5	2	1	2	110	138	-28	14	18	1	0	11
4	Perpignan	5	0	1	4	107	158	-51	11	22	0	1	3

Pool 4

Pos	Team	Pl	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	La Rochelle	5	4	0	1	216	94	122	31	14	4	0	20
2	Bristol Bears	5	3	0	2	160	89	71	25	10	3	1	16
3	Zebre Rugby Club	5	3	0	2	143	120	23	20	17	2	0	14
4	Enisei-STM	5	0	0	5	84	300	-216	11	46	1	0	1

Pool 5

Pos	Team	Pl	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Harlequins	5	3	0	2	146	96	50	18	10	2	2	16
2	Benetton Rugby	5	3	0	2	132	99	33	18	11	2	1	15
3	Grenoble	5	2	0	3	85	120	-35	10	16	0	1	9
4	Agen	5	2	0	3	95	143	-48	12	21	0	1	9



Fixtures

Round 6

Date	Time	Pool	Home	Away	Venue
18/01/2019	19:45	5	Agen	Harlequins	Stade Armandie
18/01/2019	19:45	5	Grenoble	Benetton Rugby	Stade des Alpes
18/01/2019	19:45	1	Dragons	ASM Clermont Auvergne	Rodney Parade
18/01/2019	19:45	1	Northampton Saints	Timisoara Saracens	Franklin's Gardens
19/01/2019	13:00	2	Worcester Warriors	Stade Français Paris	Sixways
19/01/2019	14:00	2	Pau	Ospreys	Stade du Hameau
19/01/2019	15:00	3	Sale Sharks	Perpignan	AJ Bell Stadium
19/01/2019	15:00	4	Bristol Bears	Enisei-STM	Ashton Gate
19/01/2019	16:00	3	Bordeaux-Bègles	Connacht Rugby	Stade Chaban-Delmas
19/01/2019	16:00	4	Zebre Rugby Club	La Rochelle	Stadio Lanfranchi

EPCR weekends and 2019 finals

Round 6: 18/19/20 January

Quarter-finals: 29/30/31 March

Semi-finals: 19/20/21 April

2019 Newcastle finals

Challenge Cup final – St James' Park; Friday, 10 May (19.45)

Heineken Champions Cup final – St James' Park; Saturday, 11 May (17.00)

2020 Finals – Stade de Marseille (22/23 May 2020)

How they stand pre-Round 6

Ranking	Pool	Club	Position in pool	Match points	Points difference	Tries
1 - Q	1	Clermont	1	25	145	37
2 - Q	2	Worcester Warriors	1	17	20	13
3	4	La Rochelle	1	20	122	31
4	3	Sale Sharks	1	17	59	22
5	5	Harlequins	1	16	50	18
6	3	Connacht Rugby	2	17	20	14
7	4	Bristol Bears	2	16	71	25
8	1	Northampton	2	16	47	25
9	5	Benetton Rugby	2	15	33	18
10	2	Ospreys	2	12	41	15
11	4	Zebre Rugby Club	3	14	23	20
12	3	Bordeaux-Bègles	3	11	-28	14
13	1	Dragons	3	10	20	25
14	2	Stade Francais	3	10	-18	12
15	5	Grenoble	3	9	-35	10
16	5	Agen	4	9	-48	12
17	2	Pau	4	8	-43	8
18	3	Perpignan	4	3	-51	11
19	4	Enisei-STM	4	1	-216	11
20	1	Timisoara Saracens	4	0	-212	6

Best runners-up

See below the points totals of the best runners-up since the revised Challenge Cup format was introduced in the 2014/15 season:

Season	Club	Wins	Bonus pts	Points
2014/15	Cardiff Blues	5	4 (T4)	24
	Newcastle Falcons	4	5 (T4, L1)	21
	Connacht Rugby	4	4 (T4)	20
2015/16	Montpellier	4	4 (T4)	20
	Newport Gwent Dragons	4	4 (T3, L1)	20
	London Irish	3	5 (T3, L2)	17
2016/17	La Rochelle	5	4 (T4)	24
	Cardiff Blues	5	2 (T2)	22
	Stade Francais Paris	4	4 (T3, L1)	20
2017/18	Gloucester Rugby	4	5 (T4, L1)	21
	Brive	3	5 (T4, L1)	17
	Stade Francais Paris	3	5 (T3, L2)	17

T = Try bonus point L = Losing bonus point

Knockout stage appearances

The knockout stage appearances of the clubs competing this season are as follows:

- 9 – Connacht Rugby
- 8 – Stade Francais Paris
- 7 – ASM Clermont Auvergne
- 6 – Harlequins
- 5 – Agen, Pau, Sale Sharks
- 4 – Northampton Saints
- 3 – Bristol Bears, Dragons, Perpignan
- 2 – Grenoble, La Rochelle, Worcester Warriors
- 1 – Bordeaux-Bègles, Ospreys
- 0 – Benetton Rugby, Enisei-STM, Timisoara Saracens, Zebre Rugby Club

(Tournament winners in bold)

Qualification for the knockout stage

The five pool winners and the three best-placed runners-up qualify for the quarter-finals, and will be decided as follows:

(a) The pool winner will be the club with the highest number of match points in each pool. The best-placed runners-up will be the three clubs with the highest number of match points out of the five clubs that finish second in their respective pools. For the quarter-finals, the pool winners will be ranked 1 to 5 and the best-placed runners-up ranked 6th, 7th and 8th by the number of match points earned.

(b) If two clubs in the same pool are equal on match points at the end of the pool stage, then their ranking will be determined by the results of the two matches played between the relevant clubs as follows:

- (i) the club with the greater number of match points from the two matches; or
- (ii) if equal, the club with the best aggregate points difference from the two matches; or
- (iii) if equal, the club that scored the most tries in the two matches.

(c) If ranking remains unresolved and/or if clubs have not played each other previously in the pool stage, qualification/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 under Disciplinary Rules in the pool stage; or
- (iv) if unresolved, by drawing lots.

The clubs ranked 1 to 4 will have home advantage in the quarter-finals as follows:

QF 1: Club 1 v Club 8 QF 2: Club 4 v Club 5
QF 3: Club 3 v Club 6 QF 4: Club 2 v Club 7

Semi-finals

Semi-final 1: winner QF 1 v winner QF 2
Semi-final 2: winner QF 3 v winner QF 4

The following clubs will have home stadium advantage in their respective semi-final matches:

(a) For Semi-final 1

If the clubs ranked 1 and 4 win their QFs, the club ranked 1 will have home advantage
If the clubs ranked 1 and 5 win their QFs, the club ranked 1 will have home advantage
If the clubs ranked 8 and 4 win their QFs, the club ranked 4 will have home advantage
If the clubs ranked 8 and 5 win their QFs, the club ranked 5 will have home advantage

(b) For Semi-final 2

If the clubs ranked 3 and 2 win their QFs, the club ranked 2 will have home advantage
If the clubs ranked 3 and 7 win their QFs, the club ranked 3 will have home advantage
If the clubs ranked 6 and 2 win their QFs, the club ranked 2 will have home advantage
If the clubs ranked 6 and 7 win their QFs, the club ranked 6 will have home advantage



Pool 5: Agen v Harlequins

Friday, 18 January, Kick-off: 19:45, Stade Armandie

Referee: Ian Davies (Wal), Assistant Ref: Ben Whitehouse (Wal), Assistant Ref: Simon Mills (Wal), Citing

Commissioner: Richard McGhee (Sco)

Match facts

- The only previous meeting between Agen and Harlequins come earlier this season when the Gallagher Premiership side registered a 54-22 win in Round 1.
- Agen are aiming to win all three of their home games in a Challenge Cup campaign for the first time since 2004/05.
- Harlequins have lost their last three away games in the Challenge Cup, their joint-worst ever such run.
- Harlequins' lineout success rate of 70% is the lowest this season.
- No one has won more turnovers this season than Harlequins' Alex Dombrandt (6).

Club comparison (tournament record)

	Agen	Harlequins
Played	90	60
Wins	51	43
Draws	0	0
Losses	39	17
Total Points For	2600	1859
Total Points Against	2059	1101
Biggest Win	77 (v Caerphilly, 13/1/2001)	72 (v Timisoara Saracens, 17/12/2016)
Heaviest Defeat	-53 (@ Gloucester Rugby, 20/1/2011)	-33 (@ Montpellier, 22/1/2016)

Head-to-head record

Agen		Harlequins	Date	Home	Score	Away
1	Played	1	13/10/2018	Harlequins	54-22	Agen
0	Wins	1				
1	Losses	0				
0	Draws	0				

2018/19 Points Scorers

Agen	Points	Harlequins	Points
Leo Berdeu	16	Marcus Smith	41
Fouad Yaha	10	Alex Dombrandt	15
Jake McIntyre	10	James Lang	14
Loris Tolot	10		



Pool 5: Grenoble v Benetton Rugby

Friday, 18 January, Kick-off: 19:45, Stade des Alpes

Referee: Christophe Ridley (Eng), Assistant Ref: Luke Pearce (Eng), Assistant Ref: Wayne Falla (Eng), TMO: David Grashoff (Eng), Citing Commissioner: Beth Dickens (Sco)

Match facts

- The only previous meeting between Grenoble and Benetton came in Round 1 when the Italian side secured a 40-14 victory.
- Grenoble have won all four of their home games against Italian opposition, those wins coming by an average margin of 46 points.
- Benetton have won just one of their last 33 away games in Europe across both the Heineken Champions Cup and Challenge Cup (L32), a 28-15 success at Bayonne in December 2016.
- Grenoble are one of just three sides yet to be shown a card this season (also Clermont and Worcester).
- Only Bordeaux-Bègles' Cameron Woki (6) has stolen more lineouts than either Benetton's Dean Budd (4) or Grenoble's Clement Ancely (4).

Club comparison (tournament record)

	Grenoble	Benetton Rugby
Played	61	21
Wins	24	13
Draws	2	0
Losses	35	8
Total Points For	1313	451
Total Points Against	1639	447
Biggest Win	58 (v Femi-CZ VEA Rovigo, 5/12/2014)	28 (v Cross Keys, 28/10/2000)
Heaviest Defeat	-68 (@ Ospreys, 17/12/2016)	-41 (v Gloucester Rugby, 14/1/2017)

Head-to-head record

Grenoble	Benetton Rugby	Date	Home	Score	Away
1	Played	13/10/2018	Benetton Rugby	40-14	Grenoble
0	Wins				
1	Losses				
0	Draws				

2018/19 Points Scorers

Grenoble	Points	Benetton Rugby	Points
Corentin Glenat	11	Ian McKinley	28
Alexandre Dardet	10	Tommaso Allan	22
Gervais Cordin	10	Iliesa Ratuva	15
		Tito Tebaldi	15



Pool 1: Dragons v ASM Clermont Auvergne

Friday, 18 January, Kick-off: 19:45, Rodney Parade

Referee: Ian Tempest (Eng), Assistant Ref: George Selwood (Eng), Assistant Ref: Rob Warburton (Eng), TM0: Geoff Warren (Eng), Citing Commissioner: Alberto Recaldini (Ita)

Match facts

- Clermont have won both of their two previous games against Dragons, the 2007 semi-final and their Round 4 clash earlier this season.
- Both games between the Dragons and Clermont have seen an aggregate of 70+ points scored with the TOP 14 side scoring 13 tries and the Welsh region eight.
- Clermont lost on their last Challenge Cup trip to Wales, a 35-30 defeat to Neath, but they had won their previous two such matches in 1996 and 1997.
- Clermont have won 94% of their own lineouts, the best rate of any side in the competition.
- Clermont's Peter Betham has made more metres (415) and breaks (14) than any other player and he is also joint top try scorer (6, with Chris Ashton of Sale Sharks).

Club comparison (tournament record)

	Dragons	ASM Clermont Auvergne
Played	59	59
Wins	33	46
Draws	0	0
Losses	26	13
Total Points For	1684	2170
Total Points Against	1260	1025
Biggest Win	56 (v Timisoara Saracens, 11/1/2019)	84 (v Aberavon, 7/10/1998)
Heaviest Defeat	-34 (@ Northampton Saints, 8/12/2018)	-19 (@ Beziers, 14/10/2000)

Head-to-head record

Dragons	ASM Clermont Auvergne	Date	Home	Score	Away
2	Played	21/04/2007	ASM Clermont Auvergne	46-29	Dragons
0	Wins	15/12/2018	ASM Clermont Auvergne	49-24	Dragons
2	Losses				
0	Draws				

2018/19 Points Scorers

Dragons	Points	ASM Clermont Auvergne	Points
Josh Lewis	29	Peter Betham	30
Elliot Dee	20	Greig Laidlaw	27
Rhodri Davies	15	Apisai Naqalevu	25
		Peceli Yato	25



Pool 1: Northampton Saints v Timisoara Saracens

Friday, 18 January, Kick-off: 19:45, Franklin's Gardens

Referee: Joy Neville (Ire), Assistant Ref: Jonny Erskine (Ire), Assistant Ref: Richard Kerr (Ire), Citing Commissioner: Patrice Frantschi (Fra)

Match facts

- The only previous scheduled meeting in Round 4 between Northampton and Timisoara was cancelled due to heavy snowfall with Saints awarded a 28-0 bonus point victory.
- Northampton have won 11 of their 13 home pool stage games in the Challenge Cup, only suffering defeats to Connacht in 1997/98 and Clermont earlier this season.
- Timisoara are still searching for their first win in the Challenge Cup, they have lost all 11 of their games so far, those losses coming by an average margin of 42 points.
- Saints and Timisoara have both conceded an average of 14 penalties per game this season, more than any other sides in the Challenge Cup.

Club comparison (tournament record)

	Northampton Saints	Timisoara Saracens
Played	36	11
Wins	28	0
Draws	0	0
Losses	8	11
Total Points For	1207	72
Total Points Against	619	538
Biggest Win	63 (v Bristol Bears, 6/12/2008)	-
Heaviest Defeat	-30 (@ Connacht Rugby, 9/9/1997)	-72 (@ Harlequins, 17/12/2016)

Head-to-head record

Northampton Saints			Timisoara Saracens			Date	Home	Score	Away
1	Played	1	15/12/2018	Timisoara Saracens	0-28	Northampton Saints			
1	Wins	0							
0	Losses	1							
0	Draws	0							

2018/19 Points Scorers

Northampton Saints		Points	Timisoara Saracens		Points
Dan Biggar		20	Luke Samoa		17
James Grayson		16	5 Players		5
Alex Mitchell		15			
Teimana Harrison		15			



Pool 2: Worcester Warriors v Stade Français Paris

Saturday, 19 January, Kick-off: 13:00, Sixways

Referee: Sean Gallagher (Ire), Assistant Ref: Mark Patton (Ire), Assistant Ref: Jonathan Peak (Ire), Citing

Commissioner: Paul Thomas (Wal)

Match facts

- This will be the fourth meeting between Worcester and Stade Francais. The TOP 14 side won both pool stage meetings in 2011/12 but Worcester recorded an impressive 38-27 away win in Round 1 this season.
- Worcester are unbeaten in seven home games in the Challenge Cup (W6, D1), a run which includes three wins against TOP 14 opposition.
- Stade have lost their last four away games in the Challenge Cup, however, their last victory on the road did come in England, a 26-20 win against London Irish in December 2017.
- Stade Francais are one of just two sides to still have a 100% scrum success rate after five rounds (also La Rochelle).
- Andrew Kitchener (Worcester) has made 46/46 tackles in the Challenge Cup this season, no player has made more without missing at least one.

Club comparison (tournament record)

	Worcester Warriors	Stade Français Paris
Played	80	74
Wins	46	52
Draws	2	0
Losses	32	22
Total Points For	2289	2393
Total Points Against	1434	1436
Biggest Win	87 (v Femi-CZ VEA Rovigo, 20/10/2012)	73 (v Farul Constanta, 13/9/1997)
Heaviest Defeat	-30 (@ Brive, 30/10/2004)	-37 (v London Irish, 21/10/2017)

Head-to-head record

Worcester Warriors	Stade Français Paris	Date	Home	Score	Away
3	Played	10/11/2011	Worcester Warriors	14-23	Stade Francais Paris
1	Wins	21/01/2012	Stade Francais Paris	33-10	Worcester Warriors
2	Losses	13/10/2018	Stade Francais Paris	27-38	Worcester Warriors
0	Draws				

2018/19 Points Scorers

Worcester Warriors	Points	Stade Français Paris	Points
Jamie Shillcock	27	Morné Steyn	25
Duncan Weir	13	Jules Plisson	17
Jono Lance	13	Nicolas Sanchez	12



Pool 2: Pau v Ospreys

Saturday, 19 January, Kick-off: 14:00, Stade du Hameau

Referee: Frank Murphy (Ire), Assistant Ref: Eddie Hogan O'Connell (Ire), Assistant Ref: Shane Kierans (Ire), TM0: Leo Colgan (Ire), Citing Commissioner: Danae Zamboulis (Eng)

Match facts

- Pau and the Ospreys have met just once before with Ospreys winning 27-0 in Round 1.
- Pau are on a six-game winning run at home in the Challenge Cup, their best such run since winning seven in a row between 2002 and 2005.
- Ospreys have won two of their three away games against TOP 14 opposition in the Challenge Cup, although they did lose on their most recent such trip against Stade Francais in Round 4 this season.
- Pau have averaged more time in possession than any other side this season, 21 minutes and 9 seconds on average per game.
- No one has won more turnovers this season than Pau's Julien Blanc (6).

Club comparison (tournament record)

	Pau	Ospreys
Played	69	12
Wins	38	8
Draws	0	0
Losses	31	4
Total Points For	1699	420
Total Points Against	1504	155
Biggest Win	78 (v Portugal, 31/10/1998)	68 (v Grenoble, 17/12/2016)
Heaviest Defeat	-63 (@ London Irish, 21/1/2006)	-9 (@ Stade Francais Paris, 14/12/2018)

Head-to-head record

Pau		Ospreys	Date	Home	Score	Away
1	Played	1	13/10/2018	Ospreys	27-0	Pau
0	Wins	1				
1	Losses	0				
0	Draws	0				

2018/19 Points Scorers

Pau	Points	Ospreys	Points
Colin Slade	21	Cory Allen	20
Antoine Hastoy	13	Sam Davies	20
Julien Blanc	10	James Hook	19



Pool 3: Sale Sharks v Perpignan

Saturday, 19 January, Kick-off: 15:00, AJ Bell Stadium

Referee: Craig Evans (Wal), Assistant Ref: Simon Rees (Wal), Assistant Ref: Gareth Newman (Wal), Citing

Commissioner: Maurizio Vancini (Ita)

Match facts

- This will be the fourth clash between Sale and Perpignan. The TOP 14 side have won two of their previous three meetings but Sale recorded a win at Stade Aimé Giral in Round 1.
- Sale lost their last home game against Bordeaux-Bègles, however, they've never lost consecutive home games in the Challenge Cup.
- Perpignan's last victory in England came in January 2001 against Rotherham Titans, since when they have lost 12 of 13 pool games on English soil (D1) in the Champions Cup and Challenge Cup combined.
- Perpignan have been shown more yellow cards (6) than any other side this season.
- Sale's Chris Ashton is the joint top try scorer with 6 (also Peter Betham of Clermont).

Club comparison (tournament record)

	Sale Sharks	Perpignan
Played	86	39
Wins	58	21
Draws	2	1
Losses	26	17
Total Points For	2758	1147
Total Points Against	1503	827
Biggest Win	93 (v Rugby Roma, 29/9/2001)	78 (v Bizkaia Gernika RT, 20/10/2012)
Heaviest Defeat	-35 (@ Agen, 21/10/2000)	-57 (@ Newcastle Falcons, 14/9/1997)

Head-to-head record

Sale Sharks			Perpignan	
3	Played	3		
1	Wins	2		
2	Losses	1		
0	Draws	0		

Date	Home	Score	Away
20/11/1999	Sale Sharks	16-28	Perpignan
15/01/2000	Perpignan	46-23	Sale Sharks
12/10/2018	Perpignan	24-41	Sale Sharks

2018/19 Points Scorers

Sale Sharks	Points
Faf de Klerk	36
Chris Ashton	30
Byron McGuigan	15
Will Cliff	15

Perpignan	Points
Paddy Jackson	24
Jonathan Bousquet	19
Shahn Eru	15



Pool 4: Bristol Bears v Enisei-STM

Saturday, 19 January, Kick-off: 15:00, Ashton Gate

Referee: Thomas Charabas (Fra), Assistant Ref: Tual Trainini (Fra), Assistant Ref: Arnaud Blondel (Fra), Citing

Commissioner: Gabriele Pezzano (Ita)

Match facts

- Bristol have alternated between victory and defeat across their last eight home games in the Challenge Cup, losing their most recent such game. Only once before have they lost consecutive home matches (1996).
- Enisei have lost all 11 of their away games in the Challenge Cup, those defeats coming by an average margin of 34 points.
- Bristol's goalkicking success rate of 57% is the lowest this season.
- Bristol's Callum Sheedy has made six try assists, more than any other player in the competition.
- Enisei's Mikheil Gachechiladze has made 105 tackles so far in this campaign, the most in the competition, and he has also made 10 more carries (63) than any other player.

Club comparison (tournament record)

	Bristol Bears	Enisei-STM
Played	62	23
Wins	33	4
Draws	1	0
Losses	28	19
Total Points For	1696	345
Total Points Against	1450	915
Biggest Win	84 (v Viadana, 18/12/2005)	20 (v Dragons, 22/10/2016)
Heaviest Defeat	-63 (@ Northampton Saints, 6/12/2008)	-61 (v La Rochelle, 13/10/2018)

Head-to-head record

Bristol Bears			Enisei-STM			
1	Played	1	12/01/2019	Enisei-STM	9-65	Bristol Bears
1	Wins	0				
0	Losses	1				
0	Draws	0				

2018/19 Points Scorers

Bristol Bears	Points	Enisei-STM	Points
Callum Sheedy	33	Uldis Saulite	15
Tom Pincus	20	Yury Kushnarev	14
Nic Fenton-Wells	15	Nikita Churashov	11



Pool 3: Bordeaux-Bègles v Connacht Rugby

Saturday, 19 January, Kick-off: 16:00, Stade Chaban-Delmas

Referee: Craig Maxwell-Keys (Eng), Assistant Ref: Adam Leal (Eng), Assistant Ref: Paul Dix (Eng), Citing

Commissioner: Buster White (Eng)

Match facts

- This will be the fourth clash between Bordeaux-Bègles and Connacht. The Irish province have won all three to date including the Round 1 match.
- Connacht have won eight of their last 10 away games against TOP 14 opposition in the Challenge Cup, including each of their last three such fixtures.
- Bordeaux have won their last two matches, and they've not enjoyed a longer winning streak in the Challenge Cup since a four-game run in 2001/02.
- Connacht are aiming to reach the quarter-finals for the fourth time in succession and the 10th time in all.
- Bordeaux's Cameron Woki has won more lineouts (36) than anyone else this season, including a competition-high 6 steals.

Club comparison (tournament record)

	Bordeaux-Bègles	Connacht Rugby
Played	69	124
Wins	31	67
Draws	2	1
Losses	36	56
Total Points For	1880	3050
Total Points Against	1633	2598
Biggest Win	86 (v Ebbw Vale, 2/11/1996)	76 (v I Cavalieri Prato, 22/1/2011)
Heaviest Defeat	-41 (@ Bath Rugby, 16/1/2014)	-70 (@ London Irish, 17/1/2009)

Head-to-head record

Bordeaux-Bègles	Connacht Rugby	Date	Home	Score	Away
3	Played	20/09/1997	Bordeaux-Bègles	9-15	Connacht Rugby
0	Wins	04/10/1997	Connacht Rugby	22-15	Bordeaux-Bègles
3	Losses	13/10/2018	Connacht Rugby	22-10	Bordeaux-Bègles
0	Draws				

2018/19 Points Scorers

Bordeaux-Bègles	Points	Connacht Rugby	Points
Lucas Meret	26	Kyle Godwin	20
Afaesetiti Amosa	15	Jack Carty	18
Baptiste Serin	12	Conor Fitzgerald	15



Pool 4: Zebre Rugby Club v La Rochelle

Saturday, 19 January, Kick-off: 16:00, Stadio Lanfranchi

Referee: Tom Foley (Eng), Assistant Ref: Dean Richards (Eng), Assistant Ref: Steve Lee (Eng), TMO: Stuart Terhegge (Eng), Citing Commissioner: Wayne Sheridan (Ire)

Match facts

- Zebre have won their last three home games in the Challenge Cup, as many such victories as they had recorded in their previous 17 games at Stadio Lanfranchi.
- La Rochelle have won their last four away games in the Challenge Cup, all of those victories coming by double digit margins.
- La Rochelle are one of just two sides to still have a 100% scrum success rate after five rounds (also Stade Francais Paris).
- La Rochelle's Romaric Camou has beaten more defenders (25) than anyone else this season.
- Zebre's Carlo Canna is the tournament's leading scorer with 54 points from four tries, 11 conversions and four penalties.

Club comparison (tournament record)

	Zebre Rugby Club	La Rochelle
Played	23	50
Wins	9	27
Draws	0	1
Losses	14	22
Total Points For	492	1315
Total Points Against	623	1088
Biggest Win	44 (v Enisei-STM, 15/12/2018)	61 (@ Enisei-STM, 13/10/2018)
Heaviest Defeat	-57 (@ Gloucester Rugby, 16/12/2017)	-36 (@ Connacht Rugby, 18/10/2014)

Head-to-head record

Zebre Rugby Club			La Rochelle		Date	Home	Score	Away
3	Played	3	11/12/2015	La Rochelle	27-19	Zebre Rugby Club		
1	Wins	2	19/12/2015	Zebre Rugby Club	25-5	La Rochelle		
2	Losses	1	11/01/2019	La Rochelle	32-12	Zebre Rugby Club		
0	Draws	0						

2018/19 Points Scorers

Zebre Rugby Club	Points	La Rochelle	Points
Carlo Canna	54	Maxime Lafage	49
Guglielmo Palazzani	12	Ihaia West	19
Paula Balekana	10	Gregory Alldritt	15
		Paul Jordaan	15
		Romaric Camou	15

2018/19 Challenge Cup - Leading Scorers

Points

Rank			Matches	Points	Penalties	Conversions	Drop Goals	Tries
1	Carlo Canna	Zebre Rugby Club	5	54	4	11	0	4
2	Maxime Lafage	La Rochelle	4	49	0	22	0	1
3	Marcus Smith	Harlequins	5	41	6	9	0	1
4	Faf de Klerk	Sale Sharks	4	36	5	8	0	1
5	Callum Sheedy	Bristol Bears	5	33	3	12	0	0
6	Chris Ashton	Sale Sharks	4	30	0	0	0	6
6	Peter Betham	ASM Clermont Auvergne	5	30	0	0	0	6
8	Josh Lewis	Dragons	4	29	1	13	0	0
9	Jamie Shillcock	Worcester Warriors	3	28	4	3	0	2
9	Ian McKinley	Benetton Rugby	3	28	6	5	0	0

Tries

Rank			Matches	Tries
1	Chris Ashton	Sale Sharks	4	6
1	Peter Betham	ASM Clermont Auvergne	5	6
3	Apisai Naqalevu	ASM Clermont Auvergne	4	5
3	Peceli Yato	ASM Clermont Auvergne	3	5
5	Carlo Canna	Zebre Rugby Club	5	4
5	Cory Allen	Ospreys	5	4
5	Elliot Dee	Dragons	3	4
5	Kyle Godwin	Connacht Rugby	5	4
5	Tom Pincus	Bristol Bears	5	4
10	17 Players			3

Goalkicking %

Rank			Matches	Penalties	Conversions	Attempts*	%
1	Baptiste Serin	Bordeaux Bègles	2	2	3	5	100%
1	Duncan Weir	Worcester	1	3	2	5	100%
1	James Grayson	Northampton	3	0	8	8	100%
1	Jonathan Bousquet	Perpignan	3	5	2	7	100%
1	Patricio Fernandez	Clermont Auvergne	4	0	10	10	100%
1	Sam Davies	Ospreys	3	4	4	8	100%
7	Marcus Smith	Harlequins	5	6	9	16	94%
8	Josh Lewis	Dragons	4	1	13	15	93%
9	Morné Steyn	Stade Francais	4	2	7	10	90%
10	Maxime Lafage	La Rochelle	4	0	22	25	88%

* 5+ attempts

2018/19 Challenge Cup - Top Performers

Carries

Rank			Matches	Carries
1	Mikheil Gachechiladze	Enisei-STM	5	63
2	Olly Cracknell	Ospreys	5	53
2	Peter Betham	ASM Clermont Auvergne	5	53
4	Piers O'Connor	Bristol Bears	4	52
5	Teimana Harrison	Northampton Saints	4	51
6	Tom Pincus	Bristol Bears	5	48
6	Tommaso Castello	Zebre Rugby Club	4	48
8	Gregory Alldritt	La Rochelle	4	46
9	Apisai Naqalevu	ASM Clermont Auvergne	4	44
10	Cory Allen	Ospreys	5	43

Metres

Rank			Matches	Metres
1	Peter Betham	ASM Clermont Auvergne	5	415
2	Romarc Camou	La Rochelle	2	359
3	Paula Balekana	Zebre Rugby Club	4	331
4	Alivereti Raka	ASM Clermont Auvergne	2	329
5	Tom Pincus	Bristol Bears	5	295
6	Chris Ashton	Sale Sharks	4	291
7	Jordan Williams	Dragons	5	282
8	Renato Giammarioli	Zebre Rugby Club	3	280
9	Dan Evans	Ospreys	3	277
10	Apisai Naqalevu	ASM Clermont Auvergne	4	274

Breaks

Rank			Matches	Breaks
1	Peter Betham	ASM Clermont Auvergne	5	14
2	Tom Pincus	Bristol Bears	5	12
3	Paula Balekana	Zebre Rugby Club	4	10
3	Renato Giammarioli	Zebre Rugby Club	3	10
3	Romarc Camou	La Rochelle	2	10
6	Carlo Canna	Zebre Rugby Club	5	8
6	Hallam Amos	Dragons	3	8
6	Jean Victor Goillot	La Rochelle	3	8
9	Apisai Naqalevu	ASM Clermont Auvergne	4	7
9	Chris Ashton	Sale Sharks	4	7
9	Joe Marchant	Harlequins	4	7
9	Mikheil Gachechiladze	Enisei-STM	5	7
9	Piers O'Connor	Bristol Bears	4	7

Defenders Beaten

Rank			Matches	Defenders Beaten
1	Romarc Camou	La Rochelle	2	25
2	Renato Giammarioli	Zebre Rugby Club	3	24
3	Paula Balekana	Zebre Rugby Club	4	22
4	Alivereti Raka	ASM Clermont Auvergne	2	21
5	Lester Etien	Stade Français Paris	5	20
6	Peter Betham	ASM Clermont Auvergne	5	19
7	George Moala	ASM Clermont Auvergne	3	18
7	Julien Delbouis	Stade Français Paris	4	18
9	Antoine Hastoy	Pau	5	17
9	Apisai Naqalevu	ASM Clermont Auvergne	4	17
9	Pierre Lucas	Perpignan	4	17

Offloads

Rank			Matches	Offloads
1	Facundo Bosch	Agen	4	10
2	Loris Tolot	Agen	3	8
2	Tommaso Castello	Zebre Rugby Club	4	8
4	Antoine Miquel	Agen	3	7
4	Chris Ashton	Sale Sharks	4	7
4	Francis Saili	Harlequins	4	7
4	Gregory Alldritt	La Rochelle	4	7
4	Jake Heenan	Bristol Bears	5	7
4	Tommaso Boni	Zebre Rugby Club	5	7
10	Sam Bedlow	Bristol Bears	5	6
10	Taqele Naiyaravoro	Northampton Saints	3	6
10	Timilai Rokoduru	Agen	3	6
10	Tom Collins	Northampton Saints	3	6

Tackles

Rank			Matches	Tackles	Missed Tackles
1	Mikheil Gachechiladze	Enisei-STM	5	105	7
2	Olly Cracknell	Ospreys	5	72	3
3	Jessy Jegerlhener	Agen	4	59	7
3	Ted Hill	Worcester Warriors	4	59	5
5	Francois Uys	Grenoble	4	57	2
6	Dmitrii Gerasimov	Enisei-STM	5	56	18
7	James Connolly	Connacht Rugby	5	54	1
8	Matt Williams	Worcester Warriors	3	50	6
9	George Biagi	Zebre Rugby Club	4	49	2
9	Jake Heenan	Bristol Bears	5	49	6
9	Kevin Gourdon	La Rochelle	5	49	4
9	Vitalii Orlov	Enisei-STM	5	49	5

Lineouts

Rank			Matches	Lineouts Won (inc. steals)	Lineout Steals
1	Cameron Woki	Bordeaux-Bègles	5	36	6
2	Francois Uys	Grenoble	4	24	3
3	Bryn Evans	Sale Sharks	4	23	1
3	Clement Ancely	Grenoble	4	23	4
3	Lewis Evans	Dragons	3	23	0
6	Arthur Iturria	ASM Clermont Auvergne	4	21	2
6	Josh Beaumont	Sale Sharks	3	21	1
8	James King	Ospreys	4	20	2
9	George Biagi	Zebre Rugby Club	4	18	1
10	David Ribbans	Northampton Saints	4	16	3
10	Matthew Screech	Dragons	5	16	2

Turnovers

Rank			Matches	Turnovers Won
1	Alex Dombrandt	Harlequins	3	6
1	Julien Blanc	Pau	5	6
3	Cobus Reinach	Northampton Saints	3	5
3	Dave Ward	Harlequins	3	5
3	Hendre Stassen	Stade Français Paris	2	5
3	Piers O'Connor	Bristol Bears	4	5
3	Thierry Paiva	Bordeaux-Bègles	4	5
3	Victor Vito	La Rochelle	3	5
9	Aaron Wainwright	Dragons	2	4
9	Antonin Berruyer	Grenoble	3	4
9	Apisai Naqalevu	ASM Clermont Auvergne	4	4
9	Etienne Falgoux	ASM Clermont Auvergne	3	4
9	Julien Delbouis	Stade Français Paris	4	4
9	Justin Tipuric	Ospreys	3	4
9	Karl Chateau	Perpignan	3	4
9	Marco Mama	Worcester Warriors	2	4
9	Ollie Lawrence	Worcester Warriors	5	4
9	Shaun Malton	Bristol Bears	3	4
9	Tom Curry	Sale Sharks	4	4

Disciplinary Update

Yellow Cards

Agen

- Alban Conduche (37) v Harlequins Rd 1
- Fouad Yaha (61) v Harlequins Rd 1
- Sam Vaka (21) v Benetton Rugby Rd 5

Benetton Rugby

- Sebastian Negri (70) v Harlequins Rd 3
- Marco Fuser (68) v Agen Rd 5

Bordeaux-Bègles

- Cyril Cazeaux (70) v Perpignan Rd 2
- Eto Nabuli (27) v Sale Sharks Rd 3
- Maxime Lamothe (45) v Sale Sharks Rd 3
- Simon Desaubies (80) v Sale Sharks Rd 4
- Nicolas Plazy (73) v Perpignan Rd 5

Bristol Bears

- Callum Sheedy (60) v Zebre Rugby Club Rd 1
- Jake Woolmore (76) v La Rochelle Rd 4

Connacht Rugby

- Robin Copeland (51) v Bordeaux-Bègles Rd 1
- Paul Boyle (59) v Sale Sharks Rd 2

Dragons

- Lewis Evans (31) v Northampton Saints Rd 2
- Adam Warren (32) v Northampton Saints Rd 2

Enisei-STM

- Viktor Kononov (78) v Zebre Rugby Club Rd 3
- Maxim Gargalic (43) v Zebre Rugby Club Rd 4
- Denis Simplikevich (68) v Zebre Rugby Club Rd 4
- Denis Simplikevich (8) v Bristol Bears Rd 5
- Uldis Saulite (69) v Bristol Bears Rd 5

Harlequins

- Dave Ward (73) v Grenoble Rd 5

La Rochelle

- Jone Qovu Nailiko (79) v Enisei-STM Rd 2
- Ryan Lamb (14) v Bristol Bears Rd 4

Northampton Saints

- Cobus Reinach (80+1) v Dragons Rd 2
- Taquele Naiyaravoro (33) v Dragons Rd 3

Ospreys

- John-Ben Kotze (69) v Stade Français Paris Rd 4
- George North (54) v Worcester Warriors Rd 5

Pau

- Watisoni Votu (28) v Stade Français Paris Rd 2

Perpignan

- Alban Roussel (62) v Sale Sharks Rd 1
- Yohan Vivalda (37) v Connacht Rugby Rd 3
- Manu Leiataua (70) v Connacht Rugby Rd 3
- Tima Faingaanuku (28) v Connacht Rugby Rd 4
- Alivereti Duguivalu (24) v Bordeaux-Bègles Rd 5
- Nicolas Lemaire (62) v Bordeaux-Bègles Rd 5

Sale Sharks

- Faf de Klerk (1) v Connacht Rugby Rd 2
- Denny Solomona (79) v Bordeaux-Bègles Rd 3
- Will Cliff (80) v Bordeaux-Bègles Rd 3
- Alexandru Tarus (40) v Bordeaux-Bègles Rd 4

Stade Français Paris

- Tony Ensor (35) v Pau Rd 2
- Mali Hingano (40+3) v Ospreys Rd 3
- Stephane Clement (66) v Ospreys Rd 3
- Siegfried Fisi'ihoi (40) v Pau Rd 5

Timisoara Saracens

- Valentin Poparlan (66) v Dragons Rd 1
- Jody Rose (40) v ASM Clermont Auvergne Rd 2
- Marius Simionescu (54) v ASM Clermont Auvergne Rd 3

Zebre Rugby Club

- Giovanbattista Venditti (17) v Bristol Bears Rd 1
- Luhandre Luus (75) v Bristol Bears Rd 2
- David Sisi (24) v Enisei-STM Rd 4



Red Cards

Bordeaux-Bègles

- Cyril Cazeaux (37) v Sale Sharks Rd 3 – 2 week suspension for striking with the knee

Enisei-STM

- Maxim Gargalic (26) v La Rochelle Rd 2 – 4 week suspension for dangerous tackling

Perpignan

- Manu Leiataua (19) v Sale Sharks Rd 1 – 3 week suspension for striking with the arm
- Adrea Cocagi (58) v Connacht Rugby Rd 4 – 9 week suspension for striking with the shoulder

Sale Sharks

- Andrei Ostrikov (67) v Bordeaux-Bègles Rd 3 – 4 week suspension for striking with the arm
- Andrei Ostrikov appeal – refused
- Tom Bristow (44) v Bordeaux-Bègles Rd 4 – red card decision dismissed

Citings

Grenoble

- Lilian Saseras v Agen Rd 4 – complaint dismissed
- Teiva Jacquelain v Agen Rd 4 – complaint dismissed

Pau

- Julien Fumat v Stade Francais Paris Rd 2 – complaint dismissed
- Watisoni Votu v Stade Francais Paris Rd 2 – complaint dismissed