2019/20 Heineken Champions Cup Pool Draw

The Pool Draw for the 2019/20 Heineken Champions Cup will take place in Lausanne, Switzerland on Wednesday 19 June at 1.20pm approx (UK and Irish time) following the draw for the Challenge Cup pools.

The key principles and key steps integral to the Draw are explained below.

Key principles

- The 20 clubs which have qualified on merit from Gallagher Premiership Rugby, the Guinness PRO14 and the TOP 14 will compete in the 2019/20 Heineken Champions Cup in five pools of four.

- The clubs are divided into four tiers based on their performances in the knockout phases, and/or on their qualification positions in their league tables. This will be done by a draw in advance of the main pool draw.

- The 2019 Heineken Champions Cup winners go automatically into Tier 1.

- Each pool will have at least one club from each of the three leagues.

- Each of the five pools will have one club from each of the four tiers.

- There will be no more than two clubs from the same league in a pool.

- No pool will contain two PRO14 clubs from the same country.

- Clubs from the same league will be kept apart until the allocation of the Tier 4 clubs.

Heineken Champions Cup qualification

For the purposes of creating the tiers, the Premiership, PRO14 and TOP 14 clubs are ranked based on their league performances and on their performances in the knockout phases. For clubs which did not qualify for the knockout phases of their leagues, or which were eliminated at the same stage of the knockout phase, rankings are decided by league table finishing positions and/or by other official qualification criteria.

Gallagher Premiership Rugby	Guinness PRO14	TOP 14
1 Saracens 2 Exeter Chiefs 3 Gloucester Rugby 4 Northampton Saints 5 Harlequins 6 Bath Rugby 7 Sale Sharks	1 Leinster Rugby 2 Glasgow Warriors 3 Munster Rugby 4 Ulster Rugby 5 Connacht Rugby 6 Benetton Rugby 7 Ospreys	1 Toulouse 2 ASM Clermont Auvergne 3 Lyon 4 La Rochelle 5 Racing 92 6 Montpellier

TIER 1

Tier 1 will include the **three** championship winners from the Premiership, the PRO14 and the TOP 14.

Tier 1 will also include **two** of the three clubs which are ranked second from the Premiership, the PRO14 and the TOP 14. The two clubs will be decided by a draw in advance of the draw for the pools.

TIER 2

Tier 2 will include the **three** clubs which are ranked third from the Premiership, the PRO14 and the TOP 14.

Tier 2 will also include the second-ranked club which was **not** drawn into Tier 1, and the club which is ranked **fourth** from the same league as the club which was **not** drawn into Tier 1.

Heineken Champions Cup
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European Professional Club Rugby, Boulevard de Grancy 39, Lausanne, 1006, Switzerland

TIER 3

Tier 3 will include the **two fourth-ranked** clubs which are not in Tier 2. Tier 3 will also include the **three** clubs which are ranked fifth from each league.

TIER 4

Tier 4 will include the **three** clubs which are ranked sixth in the leagues, as well as Sale Sharks, a losing Challenge Cup semi-finalist, and the Ospreys, the seventh-ranked club from the PRO14.

TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3	TIER 4
Saracens	Gloucester Rugby	Harlequins	Bath Rugby
Leinster Rugby	Munster Rugby	Connacht Rugby	Benetton Rugby
Toulouse	Lyon	Racing 92	Montpellier
			Sale Sharks
			Ospreys

2nd Ranked: Exeter Chiefs, Glasgow Warriors, ASM Clermont Auvergne
4th Ranked: Northampton Saints, Ulster Rugby, La Rochelle

How the draw works

Upon direction from the event MCs, Sarra Elgan (BT Sport) and Matthieu Lartot (France Télévisions), Dimitri Yachvili (beIN SPORTS) will draw the club balls and Bryan Habana (Channel 4) will draw the pool balls.

STEP 1

At this point, only the Tier 4 clubs are confirmed. A draw has to be made to establish the five Tier 1 clubs, and once Tier 1 is confirmed, Tiers 2 and 3 fall into place as per the key principles above.

The draw takes place to determine which **two** clubs from the three clubs ranked number two in the leagues will join the three championship winners in Tier 1.

The three championship runners-up balls – Exeter Chiefs, Glasgow Warriors and ASM Clermont Auvergne - are placed in the drum, and two clubs are then drawn into Tier 1.

Tier 1 clubs
Saracens (Heineken Champions Cup and Premiership winners)
Leinster Rugby (PRO14 winners)
Toulouse (TOP 14 winners)
XXXXXXX
XXXXXXX

STEP 2

Once the Tier 1 clubs are established, the five Tier 2 clubs can be confirmed as follows: the three third-ranked clubs in the leagues – Gloucester Rugby, Munster Rugby and Lyon – will be joined by XXXXXXX who were not drawn into Tier 1, and by the fourth-ranked club from the same league as the club which was not drawn into Tier 1.

Tier 2 clubs
Gloucester Rugby
Munster Rugby
Lyon
XXXXXXX
XXXXXXX

STEP 3

Once the Tier 2 clubs are established, the five Tier 3 clubs can be confirmed as follows: the two remaining fourth-ranked clubs, XXXXXXX and XXXXXXX, and the three fifth-ranked clubs, Harlequins, Connacht Rugby and Racing 92.

Tier 3 clubs
XXXXXXX
XXXXXXX
Harlequins
Connacht Rugby
Racing 92

The clubs in Tier 4 are already confirmed as follows:

Tier 4 clubs
Bath Rugby
Benetton Rugby
Montpellier
Sale Sharks
Ospreys

STEP 4

Each of the five Tier 1 clubs are drawn, followed by a pool number for that club.

STEP 5

Draw for the five Tier 2 clubs. As each club ball is selected, a draw is then made to allocate the club a pool from the available pools based on the key principles above. Some clubs may have to be placed directly into a pool in order to ensure the key principles apply.

STEP 6

Draw for the five Tier 3 clubs. As each club ball is selected, a draw is then made to allocate the club a pool from the available pools based on the key principles above. Some clubs may have to be placed directly into a pool in order to ensure the key principles apply.

STEP 7

Draw for the five Tier 4 clubs. Again, as each club ball is selected, a draw is then made to allocate the club a pool from the available pools based on the key principles above. Some clubs may have to be placed directly into a pool in order to ensure the key principles apply.