

THE FINAL ROUND BEFORE LONDON

NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP
ROUND 6

MATCH PREVIEWS & PREDICTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2026

Six Tests, three kickoff windows and the race for the Grand Final

Kickoff times in ET, PT, GMT and CET

2026 EDITION / NORTHERN SERIES

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WEEKEND REVIEW / NOVEMBER 13-15

ROUND 5 RESULTS

Five wins for the North and defeats for both South contenders

DATE	MATCHUP	FINAL	TRIES
13 NOV	France vs South Africa	**21-19**	3-3
14 NOV	Italy vs Argentina	**14-19**	2-3
14 NOV	Wales vs New Zealand	**35-28**	5-4
14 NOV	England vs Japan	**78-15**	13-2
14 NOV	Ireland vs Fiji	**43-15**	7-2
15 NOV	Scotland vs Australia	**15-12**	2-2

Scores and tries: select a row for its official match report.

5-1
NORTH WINS THIS ROUND

314
POINTS ACROSS SIX TESTS

+63
ENGLAND WIN MARGIN

WHAT CHANGED

France held off South Africa 21-19. Wales beat New Zealand 35-28, but the All Blacks still earned two bonus points: one for four tries and one for losing by seven. Those points moved New Zealand one clear of the Springboks.

England and Ireland both collected five table points in home wins and remain one behind France. Scotland kept fourth in the North with a third win, while Argentina took third in the South from Australia.

AFTER FIVE ROUNDS / NOVEMBER 16 SNAPSHOT

POOL STANDINGS

Competition points determine each pool rank and the London pairings.

NORTH POOL

RK	TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	PD	TB	LB	PTS
1	**France**	4	1	191	111	+80	4	1	**21**
2	**England**	4	1	248	114	+134	4	0	**20**
3	**Ireland**	4	1	175	118	+57	4	0	**20**
4	**Scotland**	3	2	144	152	-8	3	0	**15**
5	**Wales**	3	2	123	151	-28	3	0	**15**
6	**Italy**	0	5	58	216	-158	0	1	**1**

SOUTH POOL

RK	TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	PD	TB	LB	PTS
1	**New Zealand**	4	1	192	126	+66	5	1	**22**
2	**South Africa**	4	1	215	77	+138	4	1	**21**
3	**Argentina**	2	3	128	155	-27	2	1	**11**
4	**Australia**	1	4	148	145	+3	3	2	**9**
5	**Japan**	1	4	98	194	-96	0	1	**5**
6	**Fiji**	0	5	81	242	-161	0	0	**0**

PF/PA: points for and against. PD: points difference. TB/LB: try and losing bonus points. No draws through Round 5. Japan and Fiji compete in the South pool.

Win = 4 table points; draw = 2. Add 1 for at least four tries and 1 for a loss by seven or fewer. At equal table points, wins rank first, then points difference.

Official tables

Standings with scoring totals

SATURDAY / NOVEMBER 21

KICKOFF PLANNER

Six Tests in three simultaneous pairs. All times use the 24-hour clock.

WINDOW 01

U.S. EASTERN / ET	U.S. PACIFIC / PT	U.K. & IRELAND / GMT	CENTRAL EUROPE / CET
09:10	06:10	14:10	15:10

England vs New Zealand	Allianz Stadium, Twickenham | London
Scotland vs Japan	Scottish Gas Murrayfield | Edinburgh

WINDOW 02

U.S. EASTERN / ET	U.S. PACIFIC / PT	U.K. & IRELAND / GMT	CENTRAL EUROPE / CET
11:40	08:40	16:40	17:40

Ireland vs South Africa	Aviva Stadium | Dublin
Italy vs Fiji	Bluenergy Stadium | Udine

WINDOW 03

U.S. EASTERN / ET	U.S. PACIFIC / PT	U.K. & IRELAND / GMT	CENTRAL EUROPE / CET
15:10	12:10	20:10	21:10

France vs Argentina	Stade de France | Saint-Denis
Wales vs Australia	Principality Stadium | Cardiff

PLAN YOUR SATURDAY

London and Edinburgh start together. Dublin and Udine come next. Saint-Denis and Cardiff share the final slot.

Official kickoff schedule



ROUND 6 / MATCH 01 / THE EARLY TITLE TEST

ENGLAND VS NEW ZEALAND

SAT 21 NOV | LONDON

Allianz Stadium, Twickenham

U.S. EASTERN / ET	U.S. PACIFIC / PT	U.K. & IRELAND / GMT	CENTRAL EUROPE / CET
09:10	06:10	14:10	15:10

ENGLAND / 4-1 / 20 PTS

49.6 scored / 22.8 allowed per game

Round 5: W 78-15 vs Japan

NEW ZEALAND / 4-1 / 22 PTS

38.4 scored / 25.2 allowed per game

Round 5: L 28-35 vs Wales

MATCH PREVIEW

England have scored 123 points in two November home wins, but the 78-15 against Japan came after an early red card and is a poor predictor of margin here. New Zealand scored four tries in Cardiff despite losing 35-28 and still lead the South by one point. England get the narrow edge for home territory and the ability to keep pressure on after their own kicks. If the All Blacks get clean return ball without losing ground, that edge can disappear on one broken phase.

EDITORIAL PICK

England

28-27

PROJECTED SCORE / HOME-AWAY

CONFIDENCE

Low

Official match centre

Tactical keys >

MATCH 01 / TACTICAL BREAKDOWN

MATCH KEYS

England vs New Zealand

ROUND 5 INDICATORS

Each column shows that team's previous fixture.

METRIC	ENGLAND	NEW ZEALAND
Opponent	**Japan**	**Wales**
Points scored - allowed	**78-15**	**28-35**
Tries scored	**13**	**4**
Second-half points scored	**29**	**7**

England: Round 5 report

New Zealand: Round 5 report

01

HOW ENGLAND CAN WIN

Kick where the chase can arrive with the ball. If the first contest pins New Zealand behind their 22, repeat the pressure from the return kick rather than forcing an attack from halfway.

02

HOW NEW ZEALAND CAN WIN

Find grass behind a compact chase, then attack on the next phase. A clean return and a second pass away from the first tackle give the backline room before England can reset.

03

WHAT TO WATCH EARLY

Track where the first three New Zealand clearances land and where England start the next possession. If the hosts repeatedly begin around halfway, their forward pressure is more likely to turn into points.

WHAT COULD CHANGE THE PICK

A clean New Zealand exit from each early restart, or an uncontested return near halfway, makes a one-point England projection fragile.

< Match preview

All six predictions >



ROUND 6 / MATCH 02 / MAKE JAPAN PLAY FROM DEEP

SCOTLAND VS JAPAN

SAT 21 NOV | EDINBURGH

Scottish Gas Murrayfield

U.S. EASTERN / ET	U.S. PACIFIC / PT	U.K. & IRELAND / GMT	CENTRAL EUROPE / CET
09:10	06:10	14:10	15:10

SCOTLAND / 3-2 / 15 PTS

28.8 scored / 30.4 allowed per game

Round 5: W 15-12 vs Australia

JAPAN / 1-4 / 5 PTS

19.6 scored / 38.8 allowed per game

Round 5: L 15-78 vs England

MATCH PREVIEW

Scotland beat Australia 15-12 with two tries and a seven-point halftime lead. Japan's 78-15 loss at Twickenham began with an early red card, so the margin gives an incomplete picture. The better contrast is Scotland's ability to protect a lead at Murrayfield versus Japan's need to launch from the right part of the pitch. If Scotland win the exit battle and enter Japan's 22 often enough, the home side should separate after halftime.

EDITORIAL PICK

Scotland

34-17

PROJECTED SCORE / HOME-AWAY

CONFIDENCE

Moderate

Official match centre

Tactical keys >

MATCH 02 / TACTICAL BREAKDOWN

MATCH KEYS

Scotland vs Japan

ROUND 5 INDICATORS

Each column shows that team's previous fixture.

METRIC	SCOTLAND	JAPAN
Opponent	**Australia**	**England**
Points scored - allowed	**15-12**	**15-78**
Tries scored	**2**	**2**
Second-half points scored	**3**	**5**

Scotland: Round 5 report

Japan: Round 5 report

01

HOW SCOTLAND CAN WIN

Prioritize clean touch-finders and contest Japan's next lineout. On attack, let the first carry set the defense before moving the ball quickly to the far edge.

02

HOW JAPAN CAN WIN

Turn clean scrum and lineout ball into short, quick phase sequences. Change direction when Scotland's guards fold around the ruck, especially on a platform beyond halfway.

03

WHAT TO WATCH EARLY

Compare Scotland's first two attacking lineouts with Japan's first two own-22 exits. If Japan get past halfway without conceding territory and avoid an early card, the predicted gap should narrow.

WHAT COULD CHANGE THE PICK

If Japan cut off Scotland's supply of attacking lineouts and run off clean first-phase ball, expect a closer game than the projected 17-point margin.

< Match preview

All six predictions >



ROUND 6 / MATCH 03 / THE FORWARD BATTLE

IRELAND VS SOUTH AFRICA

SAT 21 NOV | DUBLIN

Aviva Stadium

U.S. EASTERN / ET	U.S. PACIFIC / PT	U.K. & IRELAND / GMT	CENTRAL EUROPE / CET
11:40	08:40	16:40	17:40

IRELAND / 4-1 / 20 PTS

35.0 scored / 23.6 allowed per game

Round 5: W 43-15 vs Fiji

SOUTH AFRICA / 4-1 / 21 PTS

43.0 scored / 15.4 allowed per game

Round 5: L 19-21 vs France

MATCH PREVIEW

Ireland scored 26 unanswered points after halftime against Fiji and have two November wins in Dublin. South Africa's 21-19 loss in Paris was their first defeat, but they conceded only 77 points over five games, the best defensive total in either pool. The Springboks are a narrow lean if scrum pressure turns into repeat lineouts or kickable penalties. Ireland can reverse it by making the first pass available quickly and moving the point of contact before the defense is set.

EDITORIAL PICK

South Africa

23-26

PROJECTED SCORE / HOME-AWAY

CONFIDENCE

Low

Official match centre

Tactical keys >

MATCH 03 / TACTICAL BREAKDOWN

MATCH KEYS

Ireland vs South Africa

ROUND 5 INDICATORS

Each column shows that team's previous fixture.

METRIC	IRELAND	SOUTH AFRICA
Opponent	**Fiji**	**France**
Points scored - allowed	**43-15**	**19-21**
Tries scored	**7**	**3**
Second-half points scored	**26**	**12**

Ireland: Round 5 report

South Africa: Round 5 report

01

HOW IRELAND CAN WIN

Keep the first receiver close enough to threaten the line. Use a second distributor on the next phase to move away from the Springboks' set defenders, and finish early visits rather than giving the ball back.

02

HOW SOUTH AFRICA CAN WIN

Use the scrum to improve field position, then retain both lineout options: maul or quick ball off the top. A short field reduces the need for riskier attacks from depth.

03

WHAT TO WATCH EARLY

Count which side has to defend the first three lineouts inside its 22 and how those entries were created. A steady run of South African entries from penalties would validate the away lean.

WHAT COULD CHANGE THE PICK

If Ireland's scrum holds and their first visits to the 22 produce tries, the projected three-point away margin can flip quickly.

< Match preview

All six predictions >



ROUND 6 / MATCH 04 / THE FIRST WIN IS ON OFFER

ITALY VS FIJI

SAT 21 NOV | UDINE

Bluenergy Stadium

U.S. EASTERN / ET	U.S. PACIFIC / PT	U.K. & IRELAND / GMT	CENTRAL EUROPE / CET
11:40	08:40	16:40	17:40

ITALY / 0-5 / 1 PTS

11.6 scored / 43.2 allowed per game

Round 5: L 14-19 vs Argentina

FIJI / 0-5 / 0 PTS

16.2 scored / 48.4 allowed per game

Round 5: L 15-43 vs Ireland

MATCH PREVIEW

Neither side has won in the competition. Italy earned their first table point in a 19-14 loss to Argentina, while Fiji were only two points behind Ireland at halftime before a 43-15 defeat. Italy have the slight home edge if they play in Fiji's half and make the game a series of set plays. Fiji's route is the opposite: turn an untidy clearance or a slow Italian support line into a short-field chance before the defense reorganizes.

EDITORIAL PICK	PROJECTED SCORE / HOME-AWAY	CONFIDENCE
Italy	24-21	Low

Official match centre

Tactical keys >

MATCH 04 / TACTICAL BREAKDOWN

MATCH KEYS

Italy vs Fiji

ROUND 5 INDICATORS

Each column shows that team's previous fixture.

METRIC	ITALY	FIJI
Opponent	**Argentina**	**Ireland**
Points scored - allowed	**14-19**	**15-43**
Tries scored	**2**	**2**
Second-half points scored	**7**	**0**

Italy: Round 5 report

Fiji: Round 5 report

01

HOW ITALY CAN WIN

Let the scrum and lineout create repeat visits inside the 22. After taking the lead, keep a support player close to the ball carrier so a routine carry does not become a turnover.

02

HOW FIJI CAN WIN

Attack before Italy have their defensive line set. A secure first offload can bring the next runner onto the ball at speed; when the support is missing, recycle and play the next phase.

03

WHAT TO WATCH EARLY

Note whether Italy's early possessions finish in touch deep in Fiji's half or hand Fiji open-field returns. Both teams can score from broken play, but a tight exchange of exits favors the home side.

WHAT COULD CHANGE THE PICK

Fiji scoring first from a turnover would force Italy to attack from deeper and open more of the transition space the visitors want.

< Match preview

All six predictions >



ROUND 6 / MATCH 05 / FRANCE CONTROL THEIR OWN ROUTE

FRANCE VS ARGENTINA

SAT 21 NOV | SAINT-DENIS

Stade de France

U.S. EASTERN / ET	U.S. PACIFIC / PT	U.K. & IRELAND / GMT	CENTRAL EUROPE / CET
15:10	12:10	20:10	21:10

FRANCE / 4-1 / 21 PTS

38.2 scored / 22.2 allowed per game

Round 5: W 21-19 vs South Africa

ARGENTINA / 2-3 / 11 PTS

25.6 scored / 31.0 allowed per game

Round 5: W 19-14 vs Italy

MATCH PREVIEW

France scored three converted tries before halftime in their 21-19 win over South Africa. Argentina got back to winning ways in Genoa, turning a 7-7 interval into a 19-14 win. France start a point clear at the top of the North and a four-try win guarantees first place. The home attack has a wider set of scoring routes if it secures clean ball, but Argentina can make the final hour awkward by keeping good field position and forcing France to restart attacks from deep.

EDITORIAL PICK

France

30-20

PROJECTED SCORE / HOME-AWAY

CONFIDENCE

Moderate

Official match centre

Tactical keys >

MATCH 05 / TACTICAL BREAKDOWN

MATCH KEYS

France vs Argentina

ROUND 5 INDICATORS

Each column shows that team's previous fixture.

METRIC	FRANCE	ARGENTINA
Opponent	**South Africa**	**Italy**
Points scored - allowed	**21-19**	**19-14**
Tries scored	**3**	**3**
Second-half points scored	**0**	**12**

France: Round 5 report **Argentina: Round 5 report**

01

HOW FRANCE CAN WIN

Use a strong first carry to hold the inside cover, then bring in the backs on the following phase. Build a lead before chasing a fourth try; an early narrow scoreline gives Argentina room to manage tempo.

02

HOW ARGENTINA CAN WIN

Stay connected around the breakdown and avoid cheap penalties after a French break. Keep clearances deep enough to make France defend or kick again instead of immediately launching in the attacking half.

03

WHAT TO WATCH EARLY

Separate France's visits inside the 22 from the number they convert into points. Three visits without a try would keep Argentina in range and make bonus-point decisions harder late.

WHAT COULD CHANGE THE PICK

A tight second half with France short of four tries puts a premium on the scoreboard from England and Ireland, even if France remain ahead on the field.

< Match preview All six predictions >



ROUND 6 / MATCH 06 / CARDIFF'S SECOND BIG TEST

WALES VS AUSTRALIA

SAT 21 NOV | CARDIFF

Principality Stadium

U.S. EASTERN / ET	U.S. PACIFIC / PT	U.K. & IRELAND / GMT	CENTRAL EUROPE / CET
15:10	12:10	20:10	21:10

WALES / 3-2 / 15 PTS

24.6 scored / 30.2 allowed per game

Round 5: W 35-28 vs New Zealand

AUSTRALIA / 1-4 / 9 PTS

29.6 scored / 29.0 allowed per game

Round 5: L 12-15 vs Scotland

MATCH PREVIEW

Wales scored five converted tries to beat New Zealand 35-28 after a 21-21 first half. Australia earned a losing bonus point at Murrayfield, but their late try was not enough to overturn a 15-5 deficit. Wales get a narrow home lean on recent finishing and the ability to keep pressure on after the break. Australia can punish a looser game: the quicker they can move the ball from a midfield turnover, the less Wales can rely on their set defense.

EDITORIAL PICK

Wales

26-23

PROJECTED SCORE / HOME-AWAY

CONFIDENCE

Low

Official match centre

Tactical keys >

MATCH 06 / TACTICAL BREAKDOWN

MATCH KEYS

Wales vs Australia

ROUND 5 INDICATORS

Each column shows that team's previous fixture.

METRIC	WALES	AUSTRALIA
Opponent	**New Zealand**	**Scotland**
Points scored - allowed	**35-28**	**12-15**
Tries scored	**5**	**2**
Second-half points scored	**14**	**7**

Wales: Round 5 report

Australia: Round 5 report

01

HOW WALES CAN WIN

Make Australia start deep and keep a connected chase after scoring. If Wales regularly get the first attacking touch in each exchange, they can create the short fields that helped them in Round 5.

02

HOW AUSTRALIA CAN WIN

Look for transition chances before Wales have reset. Where no clear counterattack is on, secure possession and shift the next phase away from the same defending forwards.

03

WHAT TO WATCH EARLY

Watch the ball after the first two turnovers between the 22s. If Australia find a second receiver with room to move, Wales may have to trade tries instead of controlling the middle of the pitch.

WHAT COULD CHANGE THE PICK

Australia finishing their first short-field chance could force Wales away from the kick-and-chase rhythm that underpins the home pick.

< Match preview

All six predictions >

THE LAST ROUND / NOVEMBER 21

THE FINALS RACE

How Round 6 sets the November 27-29 matchups at Allianz Stadium

NORTH / FRANCE LEAD ON 21

A five-point win takes France to 26 and guarantees first place. A four-point win leaves them on 25. England and Ireland, both on 20, can reach 25 with a bonus-point win. In that tie all would have five wins, so points difference matters. England start at +134, France at +80 and Ireland at +57.

SOUTH / NEW ZEALAND LEAD ON 22

A five-point New Zealand win seals first place on 27. If they take four and South Africa take five, both would have 26 points and five wins. The Springboks start with the better points difference (+138 to +66). A South African win is enough if New Zealand lose.

FINALS WEEKEND / ALL SIX FIXTURES IN LONDON

Pool position decides the opponent.

DATE	PLACEMENT	ET	PT	GMT	CET
FRI 27 NOV	North 6 vs South 6	11:40	08:40	16:40	17:40
FRI 27 NOV	North 3 vs South 3	15:10	12:10	20:10	21:10
SAT 28 NOV	North 5 vs South 5	08:10	05:10	13:10	14:10
SAT 28 NOV	North 2 vs South 2	11:40	08:40	16:40	17:40
SUN 29 NOV	North 4 vs South 4	08:10	05:10	13:10	14:10
SUN 29 NOV	**North 1 vs South 1**	**11:40**	**08:40**	**16:40**	**17:40**

Official Finals Weekend schedule

ALL TWELVE TEAMS PLAY

The first-place teams meet for the title on Sunday, November 29. The other five fixtures match teams in the same position. Each placement win is worth one Hemisphere Challenge point; the Grand Final winner earns two.

Back to pool standings

SATURDAY / NOVEMBER 21

PREDICTIONS AT A GLANCE

Projected scores in home-away order. Select any row to read its preview.

MATCHUP	SCORE	PICK	CONFIDENCE
England vs New Zealand	28-27	England	Low
Scotland vs Japan	34-17	Scotland	Moderate
Ireland vs South Africa	23-26	South Africa	Low
Italy vs Fiji	24-21	Italy	Low
France vs Argentina	30-20	France	Moderate
Wales vs Australia	26-23	Wales	Low

THE CLOSEST CALL

England vs New Zealand

A single conversion or a stronger kick return could flip the one-point England lean. If New Zealand claim four table points, South Africa need five to draw level.

THE STRONGER LEANS

Scotland and France

Scotland project to build territory against Japan. France have a home edge through attacking variety, with a fourth try worth more than the margin alone.

READING THE PICKS

Low means one major matchup swing could change the winner. Moderate reflects a clearer matchup edge. Score projections are editorial estimates, and a score alone does not show which side earns a try bonus.

EDITORIAL NOTES / NOVEMBER 16

SOURCES & DISCLAIMER

Fixture details and Round 5 data checked on November 16, 2026

Nations Championship | Official results and schedule — nationschampionshiprugby.com/en
All six Round 5 scores, Round 6 matchups, host cities and venues.

Nations Championship | Round 6 Match Centre — nationschampionshiprugby.com
Official kickoff slots in UTC and venue-local time.

Nations Championship | Hemisphere tables — nationschampionshiprugby.com
Official standings, wins, points difference and bonus totals.

RugbyPass | Conference standings — rugbypass.com
Five-match standings for both pools, checked against the results.

FloRugby | Points and tiebreakers — florugby.com
Competition points, bonus points and the order of tiebreakers.

Nations Championship | Finals Weekend — nationschampionshiprugby.com
Placement matches, London kickoff times and the Hemisphere Challenge.

HOW WE MADE THE PICKS

We compare five-round scoring records, the latest match against its game context, venue and tactical matchups. The score and confidence are editorial judgments. They are not model probabilities and do not assume any specific starting lineup.

DISCLAIMER

Digital World Pulse is an independent publication. This guide is for information and entertainment and does not constitute betting advice. Schedules and selections can change; consult the official Match Centre before making plans. Rugby artwork is illustrative and does not depict the actual Round 6 fixtures.