SIX MATCHES. TWO TITLES. ONE STADIUM.

NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS WEEKEND

27-29 NOVEMBER 2026

ALLIANZ STADIUM / TWICKENHAM / LONDON



THE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

FRANCE v SOUTH AFRICA

Every match previewed. The tactics, the leans, the risks.

06	12	20
COMPLETE MATCH FILES	NATIONS IN ACTION	PAGES OF ANALYSIS

YOUR FINALS WEEKEND ROUTE MAP

THE LONDON MATCH FILE

All six confirmed pairings, with two pages for each match: the evidence behind the lean, then the tactical plan and the route to an upset.

6	MATCHES	3	DOUBLE-HEADERS	2	TROPHIES

03	The complete schedule / U.S. + Europe	
04	Two titles / format and extra-time rules	
05	The final conference order / recent form	
06	Italy v Fiji / preview + playbook	06-07
08	Ireland v Australia / preview + playbook	08-09
10	Wales v Japan / preview + playbook	10-11
12	England v New Zealand / preview + playbook	12-13
14	Scotland v Argentina / preview + playbook	14-15
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HOW TO READ THE FORECASTS

Score order: the first-listed team, then the second-listed team. **Forecast horizon:** 80 minutes. **Confidence:** qualitative, not a calculated probability. Official extra-time rules are explained on page 4.

Research: 23 November 2026, after Round 6 and including South Africa's final team announcement. Kickoffs use GMT, CET, U.S. Eastern and Pacific time. All matches are at Allianz Stadium, Twickenham.

THREE DAYS / THREE DOUBLE-HEADERS

THE SIX-GAME WEEKEND

All matches: Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, London. Each nation's final hemisphere position determines its opponent.

FRIDAY / 27 NOVEMBER

Italy v Fiji

6TH v 6TH

16:40 GMT / 17:40 CET / 11:40 ET / 08:40 PT

Ireland v Australia

3RD v 3RD

20:10 GMT / 21:10 CET / 15:10 ET / 12:10 PT

SATURDAY / 28 NOVEMBER

Wales v Japan

5TH v 5TH

13:10 GMT / 14:10 CET / 08:10 ET / 05:10 PT

England v New Zealand

2ND v 2ND

16:40 GMT / 17:40 CET / 11:40 ET / 08:40 PT

SUNDAY / 29 NOVEMBER

Scotland v Argentina

4TH v 4TH

13:10 GMT / 14:10 CET / 08:10 ET / 05:10 PT

France v South Africa

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

16:40 GMT / 17:40 CET / 11:40 ET / 08:40 PT

Time zones: GMT is local London time; CET is Central European time. U.S. ET and PT are on standard time in late November. All six kickoffs fall on the same calendar day in these four zones.

ONE NATIONAL CHAMPION / ONE HEMISPHERE WINNER

SIX GAMES. TWO TITLES.

Finals Weekend follows six group rounds across July and November. It pairs teams by their finishing position within the North and South groups.

THE PAIRING RULE

1st v 1st — THE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

2nd v 2nd / 3rd v 3rd / 4th v 4th / 5th v 5th / 6th v 6th

France v South Africa decides the national champion. The other five fixtures are ranking matches; England v New Zealand is the second-ranked pairing. These pairings form the weekend's full schedule.

THE HEMISPHERE CHALLENGE

1	2	4
POINT / EACH RANKING MATCH	POINTS / THE GRAND FINAL	POINTS / WINNING TARGET

Seven points are available in total. A useful example: if the first five matches split North 3, South 2, a South Africa win in the final would produce a 4-3 Southern Hemisphere victory. That is an illustration, not a result.

WHEN 80 MINUTES ARE NOT ENOUGH

Ranking matches: a tie after 80 minutes leads to a 10-minute golden-point period. If it remains tied, the match is a draw and its hemisphere point is shared.

Championship final: a tied match goes to two 10-minute periods with golden-point scoring. If still tied after that, a place-kicking competition decides the winner.

The score forecasts in this guide stop at 80 minutes. Use the official competition rules when reading the result of a drawn regulation-time match.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [19] [22]

RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

AFTER ROUND 6 / ALL SIX MATCHES PLAYED

HOW THEY ARRIVED

Final conference order, competition win-loss records and the latest result. These are tournament records, not world rankings or a whole-season Test record.

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

SEED	NATION	W-L	ROUND 6
1	**France**	5-1	W 45-17 ARG
2	**England**	5-1	W 37-12 NZL
3	**Ireland**	5-1	W 20-17 RSA
4	**Scotland**	4-2	W 67-5 JPN
5	**Wales**	3-3	L 26-29 AUS
6	**Italy**	0-6	L 16-21 FIJ

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

SEED	NATION	W-L	ROUND 6
1	**South Africa**	4-2	L 17-20 IRE
2	**New Zealand**	4-2	L 12-37 ENG
3	**Australia**	2-4	W 29-26 WAL
4	**Argentina**	2-4	L 17-45 FRA
5	**Japan**	1-5	L 5-67 SCO
6	**Fiji**	1-5	W 21-16 ITA

The form warning: Scotland's 67-5 win and England's 37-12 result are strong evidence of what happened in Round 6. They do not automatically forecast the next margin. Opponent quality, repeat-match adjustments and the final match-23 still matter.

LINKED SOURCES [03] [04] [05] [07] [21] RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

MATCH 01 / NORTH 6 v SOUTH 6

ITALY V FIJI

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2026

16:40 GMT / 17:40 CET / 11:40 ET / 08:40 PT



ITALY 0-6 FIJI 1-5

80-MINUTE WINNER LEAN	SCORE / LISTED ORDER	CONFIDENCE
Fiji	21 - 24	LOW

A REMATCH DECIDED IN THE TIGHT EXCHANGES

Fiji's 21-16 win in Udine was its first victory of this Nations Championship and left Italy without a group-stage win. The two meet again just six days later, now in London. A five-point margin gives the Fijians a slight evidence-based edge, while also showing why another close contest is more plausible than a comfortable repeat.

WHY THIS LEAN

Italy needs to improve how it converts territory into points and then protects the next possession. Fiji can make the stronger case through the contact area, combining patient forward carries with selective offloads once defenders compress. My 24-21 Fiji lean is deliberately narrow: neither side has built a dependable winning run.

NEXT / THE TACTICAL PLAYBOOK 07
Three game phases, the upset route and the latest availability checks.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [02] [04] [05] [12] [13]

RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

MATCH 01 / THE GAME PLAN

ITALY V FIJI

Three phases. Three matchups. The route that could change the pick.

01

OPENING 20 / ESTABLISH CONTROL

Italy should aim for a secure first lineout and an efficient exit, reducing the chance that Fiji receives broken-field possession immediately. Fiji can build through direct carries before looking outside. Early territory matters, but a forcing pass from a poor field position would undermine either side's plan. **Maul defense:** Fiji captain Tevita Ikanivere scored twice in the first meeting. Italy needs clean initial contact and legal maul organization, especially when defending close-range lineouts.

02

MIDDLE 40 / MANAGE THE RESTART

The useful test is what happens after a score. The side that wins a restart and exits cleanly can string pressure together; the side that immediately gives away a penalty lets the opponent reset. I expect repeated changes of territory rather than one team dominating possession for long stretches. **The second defender:** A controlled tackle is only the first job against an offloading attack. Italy's support defenders must close the next passing lane without abandoning their wider spacing.

03

FINAL 20 / KEEP THE DECISION SIMPLE

If the scores remain close, place-kicking range, a controlled lineout and the quality of the replacement front row become central. Fiji should resist turning every possession into an offload attempt. Italy can win by keeping pressure organized long enough to create one more reliable scoring chance. **Points or corner?:** A close rematch rewards judgment. Italy should weigh every kickable penalty against its current lineout execution, while Fiji must avoid conceding cheap shots at goal.

HOW THE OTHER SIDE CAN WIN

Italy's route to reversing the result is a disciplined, lower-error game: defend the first maul surge, take available points and force Fiji to attack from deep. A lead would let the Azzurri make the rematch about field position instead of chasing.

AVAILABILITY / VERIFIED CONTEXT

The November 21 lineup is the recent reference, not a confirmed Finals Weekend XV. Recheck front-row availability, the selected goal-kicker and any late changes to the midfield. This is a Saturday-to-Friday turnaround for both squads.

THE FINAL READ / 80 MINUTES

Fiji to edge it, 24-21. The recent head-to-head result supports the lean, but the margin and short turnaround keep confidence low. Italy is a credible upset contender if its defensive discipline and exits improve.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [02] [04] [05] [12] [13]

RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

MATCH 02 / NORTH 3 v SOUTH 3

IRELAND V AUSTRALIA

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2026

20:10 GMT / 21:10 CET / 15:10 ET / 12:10 PT



IRELAND 5-1 **AUSTRALIA 2-4**

80-MINUTE WINNER LEAN	SCORE / LISTED ORDER	CONFIDENCE
Ireland	30 - 21	MEDIUM

IRELAND'S CONTROL AGAINST AUSTRALIAN AMBITION

Ireland arrives after a 20-17 win over South Africa, completing three November victories. Australia recovered from defeats to England and Scotland by beating Wales 29-26. The Irish have the steadier recent platform, while the Wallabies' four tries in Cardiff show why the underdog cannot be treated as an opponent with limited attacking options.

WHY THIS LEAN

Ireland's best route is to control the pace of the contest through secure possession, repeat pressure and patient decisions in the attacking 22. Australia needs to move Ireland's defensive shape before committing to the outside channel. I favor Ireland's recent consistency, with enough Wallabies threat to make a two-score cushion hard-earned.

NEXT / THE TACTICAL PLAYBOOK 09
Three game phases, the upset route and the latest availability checks.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [02] [04] [05] [10] [21]

RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

MATCH 02 / THE GAME PLAN

IRELAND V AUSTRALIA

Three phases. Three matchups. The route that could change the pick.

01

OPENING 20 / KEEP THE BALL HONEST

Ireland should begin with direct, supported carries that reveal whether Australia's inside defenders are staying connected. The Wallabies need patient exits and enough early possession to avoid an extended defensive spell. A fast Irish start would increase the pressure on Australia's risk selection. **Phase speed:** Ireland can make consecutive carries useful by presenting quick, clean ball. Australia needs to slow that rhythm legally, then reset its defensive line before the next pass.

02

MIDDLE 40 / TURN PRESSURE INTO POINTS

Ireland should vary the point of contact rather than repeat slow carries into a settled line. Australia can counter by winning the collision and moving the ball before the next Irish defensive set is organized. The key distinction is between productive speed and hurried, isolated carries. **Wallaby width:** Australia scored four tries against Wales. Its danger rises when a carry holds the inside defense long enough to open a genuine passing advantage outside.

03

FINAL 20 / MAKE THE BENCH COUNT

Both teams played on November 21 and return on Friday, making replacement timing a practical issue. Ireland should aim to preserve structure as its forwards change. Australia needs fresh carrying and fast support if it is still chasing. An unforced error at a restart could decide the closing sequence. **Set-piece pressure:** Neither team can build a stable attacking plan on untidy first-phase possession. Watch scrum stability and the accuracy of the first receiver after lineouts.

HOW THE OTHER SIDE CAN WIN

Australia wins if it interrupts Ireland's multi-phase rhythm, keeps the scrum competitive and turns turnover ball into tries. A loose game with repeated transition attacks would be less comfortable for Ireland than a controlled contest built on long periods of pressure.

AVAILABILITY / VERIFIED CONTEXT

Refresh the announced match-23 rather than carrying the South Africa or Wales selections forward automatically. Check the front-row replacements, the 9-10 combination and the back-three cover. A reported training restriction is not automatically a match absence.

THE FINAL READ / 80 MINUTES

Ireland 30-21. The lean rests on a more consistent November campaign and a plausible route to possession control. Australia's attacking ceiling keeps the forecast below the guide's strongest confidence category.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [02] [04] [05] [10] [21]

RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

MATCH 03 / NORTH 5 v SOUTH 5

WALES V JAPAN

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2026

13:10 GMT / 14:10 CET / 08:10 ET / 05:10 PT



WALES 3-3 JAPAN 1-5

80-MINUTE WINNER LEAN	SCORE / LISTED ORDER	CONFIDENCE
Wales	33 - 20	HIGHER

A WELSH RESPONSE WITH A WARNING ATTACHED

Wales followed its victory over New Zealand with a 29-26 defeat to Australia, while Japan suffered a 67-5 loss in Scotland. That latest gap supports a Welsh lean, but the earlier meeting matters too: Wales beat Japan only 28-21 in Round 4. The favorites still need to execute; Japan has already shown it can keep this pairing close.

WHY THIS LEAN

Wales can make the stronger case through repeated direct pressure followed by well-timed width. Japan needs possession that creates movement, avoiding a sequence of slow exits and defensive resets. The 33-20 forecast assumes Wales stays patient enough to convert its opportunities rather than simply expecting the Scotland scoreline to repeat.

NEXT / THE TACTICAL PLAYBOOK 11
Three game phases, the upset route and the latest availability checks.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [02] [04] [05] [07] [10] [21]

RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

MATCH 03 / THE GAME PLAN

WALES V JAPAN

Three phases. Three matchups. The route that could change the pick.

01

OPENING 20 / DO NOT CHASE A MARGIN

Wales should treat the first quarter as a contest to control, not an invitation to reproduce Scotland's 67-point haul. Japan needs a settled opening with clean exits and some possession in the Welsh half. An early Japanese score would test whether Wales keeps its structure. **First-phase accuracy:** Japan cannot afford loose lineout possession or a rushed first pass. Secure ball gives its attack a chance to move before Wales can launch a coordinated defensive chase.

02

MIDDLE 40 / CHOOSE WHEN TO ACCELERATE

The favorite can build through carries that hold defenders, then accelerate when a genuine overlap appears. Japan needs quicker support around the ball and disciplined clearing work to preserve its attacking tempo. Repeated penalties would hand Wales the territorial platform for another pressure cycle. **Defending the edge:** Wales needs connected defensive spacing as much as physical contact. Japan's best openings may come from shifting the point of attack rather than winning repeated isolated collisions.

03

FINAL 20 / PROTECT THE ADVANTAGE

If Wales leads, the priority becomes a reliable exit after every score and careful replacement use. Japan should keep searching for space rather than reducing the game to hopeful contact carries. The earlier seven-point meeting is a reminder that an organized underdog can remain relevant late. **Try-line patience:** Wales should make close-range chances count without forcing a miracle pass. Recycled possession can create a better next opportunity than an immediate low-percentage offload.

HOW THE OTHER SIDE CAN WIN

Japan's route is to reproduce the competitive elements of Round 4: protect first-phase ball, keep the score within one try and move Wales before the defensive line is set. A low-error first half would make the favorite work for every point.

AVAILABILITY / VERIFIED CONTEXT

Confirm the selected half-backs, first-choice goal-kicker and replacement front rows. Japan's heavy defeat may prompt changes, but a revised lineup should be checked against an official announcement rather than assumed from the result.

THE FINAL READ / 80 MINUTES

Wales 33-20. This is a comparatively firmer winner lean, supported by the recent results and the earlier head-to-head win. Higher confidence is a qualitative label; Japan's Round 4 resistance argues against treating the margin as assured.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [02] [04] [05] [07] [10] [21]

RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

MATCH 04 / NORTH 2 v SOUTH 2

ENGLAND V NEW ZEALAND

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2026

16:40 GMT / 17:40 CET / 11:40 ET / 08:40 PT



ENGLAND 5-1 **NEW ZEALAND 4-2**

80-MINUTE WINNER LEAN	SCORE / LISTED ORDER	CONFIDENCE
England	27 - 22	MEDIUM

A WEEK TO REWRITE A HEAVY DEFEAT

England's 37-12 victory on November 21 was its largest winning margin against New Zealand and a fifth successive win in the competition. The All Blacks now get an immediate rematch at the same stadium. That evidence favors England, but a repeat opponent has a clear incentive and a full week to address what failed.

WHY THIS LEAN

England can build its argument around pressure that earns territory and avoids giving New Zealand easy transition possession. The All Blacks need better exits and more useful first-phase attacking ball. My 27-22 forecast keeps England in front while allowing a sharper New Zealand response than the previous 25-point defeat.

NEXT / THE TACTICAL PLAYBOOK 13
Three game phases, the upset route and the latest availability checks.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [02] [04] [05] [06] RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

MATCH 04 / THE GAME PLAN

ENGLAND V NEW ZEALAND

Three phases. Three matchups. The route that could change the pick.

01

OPENING 20 / TEST THE ADJUSTMENT

England should ask the same difficult questions through pressure and field position, then watch how New Zealand changes its response. The All Blacks need early evidence that their first receiver and support lines are connected. Emotional intensity helps only if it produces more accurate execution. **Exit pressure:** A good attacking kick also needs a connected chase. England should make New Zealand work for clean exits without leaving a broken defensive shape behind the first chaser.

02

MIDDLE 40 / AVOID THE EASY COUNTER

England should continue creating pressure without confusing ambition with a forced pass. New Zealand becomes more dangerous when an opponent's support players are ahead of a turnover. A smart kick with a coordinated chase may offer more control than another exposed carry in a poor position. **The first attacking ruck:** New Zealand's response starts with secure support after contact. Faster, protected ball makes it harder for England to dictate the shape of the next phase.

03

FINAL 20 / EXPECT A CLOSER SCORE

My projection has New Zealand still in range late. England therefore needs calm exit decisions and a functioning replacement set piece. The All Blacks should look for a repeatable scoring platform before chasing an exceptional play. One conceded penalty within range could outweigh several phases of attacking promise. **Aerial decisions:** Both sides need clear calls under high kicks. Clean receipt is valuable; the next decision, especially the exit or counterattack that follows, determines whether it becomes useful territory.

HOW THE OTHER SIDE CAN WIN

New Zealand can reverse the result by securing its exits, reducing turnover opportunities and forcing England to defend longer sequences. A much better scoreboard start would also stop England from controlling the rematch through territory and pressure alone.

AVAILABILITY / VERIFIED CONTEXT

Recheck both match-23s, especially the front-row bench and the selected kicking options. England's familiarity with Twickenham is relevant, but it is a venue factor rather than a substitute for the final lineup or an actual performance.

THE FINAL READ / 80 MINUTES

England 27-22. The latest head-to-head evidence and overall form support the pick. I expect a narrower contest because a same-opponent rematch can change quickly when the losing side improves its first-phase accuracy and exits.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [02] [04] [05] [06]

RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

MATCH 05 / NORTH 4 v SOUTH 4

SCOTLAND V ARGENTINA

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2026

13:10 GMT / 14:10 CET / 08:10 ET / 05:10 PT



80-MINUTE WINNER LEAN	SCORE / LISTED ORDER	CONFIDENCE
Scotland	29 - 24	LOW

SCOTLAND'S MOMENTUM MEETS A HARDER TEST

Scotland's 67-5 win over Japan was emphatic, while Argentina lost 45-17 in France. The wider group records also favor Scotland, four wins to two. However, the Pumas present a different physical and tactical challenge from the one Scotland just solved. The 29-24 lean respects the Scots' momentum without treating the latest margins as directly comparable.

WHY THIS LEAN

Scotland should look to produce quick ball from a secure platform and bring its outside runners into space before Argentina's line can settle. The Pumas need a more controlled, disciplined defensive performance and enough territory to make their forwards central to the contest. I expect a closer match than the two Round 6 scores imply.

NEXT / THE TACTICAL PLAYBOOK 15
Three game phases, the upset route and the latest availability checks.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [02] [04] [05] [07] [08] [09] [11] [20]

RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

MATCH 05 / THE GAME PLAN

SCOTLAND V ARGENTINA

Three phases. Three matchups. The route that could change the pick.

01

OPENING 20 / RESPECT THE OPPOSITION

Scotland should begin by securing lineout ball and earning the right to move it. Argentina needs early field position and a clean first scrum to make the game feel different from Paris. The Scots' recent attacking volume is encouraging, but this match demands a stronger contact platform. **Lineout quality:** Clean first-phase possession gives Scotland access to its wider attack. Argentina can reduce that threat by pressuring the launch point and keeping the next defensive connection intact.

02

MIDDLE 40 / KEEP WIDTH CONNECTED

Scotland can threaten space outside only if the next support player arrives when the carrier is tackled. Argentina should seek to slow that supply legally and turn the contest into repeated territorial exchanges. The key is useful possession rather than simply having the ball for long periods. **Inside defensive links:** Scotland needs accurate spacing between its midfield and back row. Argentina can create useful pressure by carrying directly before testing whether those connections survive a quick change of direction.

03

FINAL 20 / CLOSE WITHOUT OVERREACHING

A five-point forecast leaves both sides one converted try from changing the result. Scotland needs a reliable bench and careful exit decisions if ahead. Argentina can stay live through patient pressure, but cannot afford penalties that repeatedly relieve the Scots. A clean attacking lineout may be the best late scoring opportunity. **Discipline under pressure:** Argentina's match in France included a red card for Mayco Vivas. A new numerical disadvantage would make another already demanding defensive assignment much harder.

HOW THE OTHER SIDE CAN WIN

Argentina's upset route is to win enough territory and set-piece pressure to take Scotland out of its preferred rhythm. If the Pumas avoid costly cards and turn pressure into points, the gap suggested by the group records becomes much less decisive.

AVAILABILITY / VERIFIED CONTEXT

Scottish Rugby's November 17 update sent Sione Tuipulotu, Ben White and others back to their clubs through injury. Recheck the current squad. Also confirm any disciplinary outcome affecting Vivas after his red card; a final availability ruling is not assumed here.

THE FINAL READ / 80 MINUTES

Scotland 29-24, low confidence. The Scots' results support a modest lean, but injuries, Argentina's physical challenge and the change in opposition quality all argue for caution about a comfortable win.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [02] [04] [05] [07] [08] [09] [11] [20]

RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

MATCH 06 / CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

FRANCE V SOUTH AFRICA

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2026

16:40 GMT / 17:40 CET / 11:40 ET / 08:40 PT



FRANCE 5-1 **SOUTH AFRICA 4-2**

80-MINUTE WINNER LEAN	SCORE / LISTED ORDER	CONFIDENCE
France	26 - 23	LOW

ONE FINAL. NO ROOM FOR LOOSE DECISIONS.

France reached the final with a 45-17 win over Argentina and already beat South Africa 21-19 in Paris on November 13. The Springboks also lost 20-17 in Ireland, but still topped the southern group. Those recent results give France the narrow lean; two tight defeats do not remove South Africa's capacity to win a one-off final.

WHY THIS LEAN

France should make the contest about efficient territory, support after contact and careful use of its attacking opportunities. South Africa can reverse the picture through scrum pressure, field position and the impact of its forward replacements. The London venue removes France's Paris home setting, keeping my 26-23 forecast deliberately close.

NEXT / THE TACTICAL PLAYBOOK 17
Three game phases, the upset route and the latest availability checks.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [02] [04] [05] [11] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [20]

RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

MATCH 06 / THE GAME PLAN

FRANCE V SOUTH AFRICA

Three phases. Three matchups. The route that could change the pick.

01

OPENING 20 / MAKE THE FIRST EXIT COUNT

France should secure its initial lineout and avoid giving the Springboks an immediate attacking scrum or maul opportunity. South Africa can use its revised half-back combination to test the French backfield. Neither side needs to force a spectacular play before establishing what the defense is offering. **A changed playmaking axis:** South Africa's November 23 selection puts Manie Libbok at fly-half, with Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu at full-back for the injured Damian Willemse. That changes the distribution of decision-making.

02

MIDDLE 40 / ATTACK THE RIGHT SPACE

France needs support close enough to preserve quick ball after a line break. South Africa can ask different questions through carries, contestable kicks and well-timed distribution from its playmakers. The useful indicator is whether a team is creating organized next phases rather than simply moving the ball further sideways. **The forward finish:** The Springbok bench has a six-forwards, two-backs split. France must maintain its set-piece accuracy when fresh opposition forwards arrive, while South Africa still needs a platform before its replacements can matter.

03

FINAL 20 / MANAGE THE FINISHERS

South Africa's forward-heavy bench offers a clear late-game lever, while France needs enough continuity to keep exits and lineout calls precise. My forecast stays within one penalty. A poor kick return, an avoidable breakdown infringement or a missed goal can therefore change the title without any broader shift in dominance. **Discipline and goal range:** A three-point projection puts extra value on every penalty in kicking range. Both teams need to distinguish aggressive defensive pressure from an infringement that hands the opponent an easy score.

HOW THE OTHER SIDE CAN WIN

South Africa wins if its set piece and kicking game turn France into a side repeatedly defending its own 22. The revised selection can improve the response, and the loss of France's home crowd removes one advantage from the earlier meeting.

AVAILABILITY / VERIFIED CONTEXT

France's injury backdrop includes Romain Ntamack's shoulder problem; Matthieu Jalibert returned against Argentina. South Africa announced seven starting changes on November 23. World Rugby announced a six-international suspension for Rassie Erasmus on November 17; check any subsequent ruling and final match-day updates.

THE FINAL READ / 80 MINUTES

France 26-23. The earlier win and current results support a small French edge, while the Springboks' set piece, revised selection and replacement options make this a low-confidence final pick. The projected score covers 80 minutes; official tie-breaking rules are on page 4.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [02] [04] [05] [11] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [20] RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

THE EDITORIAL PICK BOARD

THE WEEKEND IN SIX CALLS

Scores are 80-minute forecasts in listed-team order. Confidence compares the editorial strength of the leans; it is not a statistical win probability.

MATCHUP	LEAN	SCORE	CONF.
Italy v Fiji RANKING MATCH / 1 HEMISPHERE POINT	**Fiji**	21-24	LOW
Ireland v Australia RANKING MATCH / 1 HEMISPHERE POINT	**Ireland**	30-21	MEDIUM
Wales v Japan RANKING MATCH / 1 HEMISPHERE POINT	**Wales**	33-20	HIGHER
England v New Zealand RANKING MATCH / 1 HEMISPHERE POINT	**England**	27-22	MEDIUM
Scotland v Argentina RANKING MATCH / 1 HEMISPHERE POINT	**Scotland**	29-24	LOW
France v South Africa FINAL / 2 HEMISPHERE POINTS	**France**	26-23	LOW

IF ALL SIX WINNER LEANS LAND

NORTH 6 SOUTH 1



This is arithmetic from the six editorial picks: Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland would supply four northern points, France another two, and Fiji one southern point. It is a hypothetical 6-1 scenario, not a model output or a result.

WHERE THE BOARD IS MOST FRAGILE

Italy-Fiji and France-South Africa are projected three-point games. Scotland-Argentina also carries low confidence. A changed lineup, a card or a different kicking outcome can reverse any of these close calls.

LINKED SOURCES [01] [19] RESEARCH / 23 NOV 2026

THE PUBLIC RECORD BEHIND THE PREVIEWS

SOURCES YOU CAN OPEN

Primary competition, union and governing-body material leads the research. Linked reporting supplies additional injury, selection and match detail.

[01] **Finals Weekend: format and venue**
nationschampionshiprugby.com

[02] **Official Finals Weekend fixtures**
nationschampionshiprugby.com

[03] **SANZAAR: all six pairings confirmed**
super.rugby

[04] **Official tournament results**
nationschampionshiprugby.com

[05] **After Round 6: records and tables**
wetalkrugby.com

[06] **Six Nations: England beat All Blacks**
sixnationsrugby.com

[07] **Scotland: 67-5 win over Japan**
scottishrugby.org

[08] **Scotland: the road to London**
scottishrugby.org

[09] **Scotland: 17 November injury update**
scottishrugby.org

[10] **Rugby AU: Wales 26-29 Australia**
rugby.com.au

[11] **Rugby AU: France 45-17 Argentina**
rugby.com.au

[12] **Rugby AU: Italy 16-21 Fiji**
rugby.com.au

[13] **Reuters: Fiji's first tournament win**
reuters.com

[14] **Reuters: France's injury backdrop**
reuters.com

[15] **World Rugby: Erasmus suspension**
world.rugby

[16] **SA Rugby: final team announcement**
springboks.rugby

[17] **Reuters: Springboks' final changes**
reuters.com

[18] **Rugby365: Springbok match-23 detail**
rugby365.com

[19] **Official FAQ: points and extra time**
nationschampionship.zendesk.com

[20] **Sky Sports: France and Vivas card**
skysports.com

[21] **RTE: recent tournament results**
rte.ie

[22] **Official championship structure**
nationschampionshiprugby.com

THE FINAL CHECKLIST

Selections: confirm every announced match-23 and the designated kicking options. The South Africa analysis includes its 23 November team announcement.

Availability: refresh France's playmaker situation, Scotland's injuries and any disciplinary decision involving Argentina's Mayco Vivas.

Match-day context: check late withdrawals, the London weather, referee information and any fixture update. This edition does not assume those future updates.

BEFORE THE FINAL WHISTLE

DISCLAIMER

THE ANALYSIS IS A VIEW, NOT A GUARANTEE.

INDEPENDENT EDITORIAL OPINION

Winner leans, score forecasts and qualitative confidence labels are original editorial judgments. They are not promises, calculated probabilities or a validated predictive model. The tactical plans describe plausible ways a match could develop; they are inferences, not statements from the teams.

WHAT THE FORECAST COVERS

Every projected score covers 80 minutes and lists the first-named team before the second. Actual Finals Weekend matches follow the competition's extra-time rules, summarized on page 4. A forecast cannot account for every card, substitution, injury, refereeing decision or change in conditions.

THE RESEARCH SNAPSHOT

Prepared on 23 November 2026 after the November 21 results, including South Africa's 23 November final selection. Public records and identified news reports support the factual context. Future lineup announcements, medical updates, disciplinary rulings, weather and kickoff changes must be checked again.

RESPONSIBLE USE

This guide provides no quoted odds, staking plan or guaranteed betting return. Betting can cause financial loss. Follow the legal age and rules where you live, set your own limits and make independent decisions. Reading or enjoying the rugby requires no wager.

SOURCES, IMAGES AND AFFILIATION

The clickable index is on page 19. The seven original AI-generated rugby scenes are illustrations of anonymous athletes, not photographs of the listed teams, players or matches. Digital World Pulse is independent and is not affiliated with Nations Championship, World Rugby, SANZAAR or the participating unions.

WATCH THE GAME. KEEP YOUR JUDGMENT.