



EUROPEAN RUGBY
CHALLENGE
— CUP —

UPDATE

Challenge Cup 2014/15

Pool stage – Round 2 Preview



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Round 2 fixtures

Date	Time	Pool	Home	Away	Venue
23/10/2014	19:45	P4	London Welsh	Bordeaux-Begles	Kassam Stadium
24/10/2014	19:30	P1	Grenoble	London Irish	Stade Lesdiguières
24/10/2014	19:30	P2	La Rochelle	Bayonne	Stade Marcel Deflandre
24/10/2014	19:30	P3	Newport Gwent Dragons	Newcastle Falcons	Rodney Parade
24/10/2014	19:30	P5	Brive	Zebre	Stade Amédée-Domenech
24/10/2014	19:45	P4	Edinburgh Rugby	Lyon	BT Murrayfield Stadium
25/10/2014	15:00	P1	Femi-CZ Rugby Rovigo	Cardiff Blues	Stadio Mario Battaglini
25/10/2014	15:00	P2	Exeter Chiefs	Connacht Rugby	Sandy Park Stadium
25/10/2014	15:00	P3	Bucharest Wolves	Stade Francais Paris	Stadium Arcul de Triumf
25/10/2014	20:45	P5	Oyonnax	Gloucester Rugby	Stade Charles Mathon



Tables

Pool 1

Rank	Team	Pl	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	London Irish	1	1	0	0	70	14	56	10	2	1	0	5
2	Cardiff Blues	1	1	0	0	37	14	23	5	1	1	0	5
3	Femi-CZ Rugby Rovigo	1	0	0	1	14	70	-56	2	10	0	0	0
4	Grenoble	1	0	0	1	14	37	-23	1	5	0	0	0

Pool 2

Rank	Team	Pl	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Connacht Rugby	1	1	0	0	48	12	36	7	2	1	0	5
2	Bayonne	1	1	0	0	30	24	6	3	2	0	0	4
3	Exeter Chiefs	1	0	0	1	24	30	-6	2	3	0	1	1
4	La Rochelle	1	0	0	1	12	48	-36	2	7	0	0	0

Pool 3

Rank	Team	Pl	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Newcastle Falcons	1	1	0	0	43	19	24	7	3	1	0	5
2	Newport Gwent Dragons	1	1	0	0	38	22	16	4	1	1	0	5
3	Bucharest Wolves	1	0	0	1	19	43	-24	3	7	0	0	0
4	Stade Francais Paris	1	0	0	1	22	38	-16	1	4	0	0	0

Pool 4

Rank	Team	Pl	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Lyon	1	1	0	0	28	18	10	4	2	1	0	5
2	Edinburgh Rugby	1	1	0	0	15	13	2	2	1	0	0	4
3	Bordeaux-Begles	1	0	0	1	13	15	-2	1	2	0	1	1
4	London Welsh	1	0	0	1	18	28	-10	2	4	0	0	0

Pool 5

Rank	Team	Pl	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	TF	TA	TB	LB	Pts
1	Gloucester Rugby	1	1	0	0	55	0	55	7	0	1	0	5
2	Oyonnax	1	1	0	0	33	24	9	3	2	0	0	4
3	Zebre	1	0	0	1	24	33	-9	2	3	0	0	0
4	Brive	1	0	0	1	0	55	-55	0	7	0	0	0



Pool 4: London Welsh v Bordeaux-Bègles

Thursday, 23 October Kick-off: 19:45, Kassam Stadium, Referee: Andrew McMenemy (Sco), Assistant Ref: Peter Allan (Sco), Assistant Ref: Bob Nevins (Sco), TMO: Jim Yuille (Sco), Citing Commissioner: Achille Reali (Ita)

Match facts

- This will be the first meeting between these two clubs in European competition.
- London Welsh have lost four of their five games against French opposition in the Challenge Cup.
- Bordeaux-Bègles have now lost two games in a row in the Challenge Cup after winning three of their previous four.
- Bordeaux-Bègles have lost their last 14 games against opposition from England.

Team comparison (Challenge Cup record)

	London Welsh	Bordeaux-Bègles
Played	7	53
Wins	3	23
Draws	0	1
Losses	4	29
Total Points For	189	1422
Total Points Against	198	1215
Total Tries For	22	179
Total Tries Against	28	124

2014/15 Points Scorers

London Welsh:

Player	Points
Tristan Roberts	8
Chris Elder	5
James Lewis	5

Bordeaux-Bègles:

Player	Points
Lionel Beauxis	8
Baptiste Serin	5

Head to Head record

First meeting in Europe



Pool 1: Grenoble v London Irish

Friday, 24 October Kick-off: 19:30, Stade Lesdiguières, Referee: Peter Fitzgibbon (Ire), Assistant Ref: David Wilkinson (Ire), Assistant Ref: Barrie O'Connell (Ire)

Match facts

- London Irish lost their last game against French opposition but won their previous five before that.
- Grenoble have won just one of their last five games in the competition (L3 D1) and have never won at home against English opposition in six attempts (D1).
- The Exiles' 70 points against Rovigo last weekend came from 10 converted tries.
- These two clubs have never faced each other in the Challenge Cup before.

Team comparison (Challenge Cup record)

	Grenoble	London Irish
Played	37	70
Wins	13	49
Draws	2	1
Losses	22	20
Total Points For	781	2517
Total Points Against	887	1363
Total Tries For	86	308
Total Tries Against	88	157

2014/15 Points Scorers

Grenoble:

Player	Points
James Hart	9
Louis Marrou	5

London Irish:

Player	Points
Myles Dorrian	25
Topsy Ojo	15
6 Players	5

Head to Head record

First meeting in Europe



Pool 2: La Rochelle v Bayonne

Friday, 24 October Kick-off: 19:30, Stade Marcel Deflandre, Referee: Leighton Hodges (Wal), Assistant Ref: Sean Brickell (Wal), Assistant Ref: Chris Williams (Wal), TMO: Paul Adams (Wal)
Citing Commissioner: Gordon Black (Ire)

Match facts

- This will be the first meeting between the two Top 14 clubs in Europe.
- La Rochelle have won two and lost five of their seven Challenge Cup fixtures against French clubs, but their two wins came in their last three games.
- Bayonne lost their last Challenge Cup game against French opposition but won seven in a row before that.
- Bayonne are just two tries away from scoring their 200th try in the tournament.

Team comparison (Challenge Cup record)

	La Rochelle	Bayonne
Played	26	58
Wins	14	29
Draws	1	1
Losses	11	28
Total Points For	688	1542
Total Points Against	601	1206
Total Tries For	82	198
Total Tries Against	59	131

2014/15 Points Scorers

La Rochelle:

Player	Points
Damien Cler	5
Charles Boulloire	5
Jules Lebill	2

Bayonne:

Player	Points
Christophe Loustaot	15
3 Players	5

Head to Head record

First meeting in Europe



Pool 3: Newport Gwent Dragons v Newcastle Falcons

Friday, 24 October Kick-off: 19:30, Rodney Parade, Referee: Alexandre Ruiz (Fra), Assistant Ref: Patrick Pechambert (Fra), Assistant Ref: Arnaud Blondel (Fra)

Match facts

- Dragons have lost their last six Challenge Cup games against English opposition.
- Newcastle Falcons have won four of their last five Challenge Cup games.
- The Falcons have won four of their five fixtures against Welsh opponents in the Challenge Cup.
- Newcastle scored their 350th try and 250th conversion in the competition during last weekend's win against Bucharest Wolves.

Team comparison (Challenge Cup record)

	Newport Gwent Dragons	Newcastle Falcons
Played	27	88
Wins	15	61
Draws	0	0
Losses	12	27
Total Points For	787	2769
Total Points Against	504	1420
Total Tries For	97	350
Total Tries Against	50	142

2014/15 Points Scorers

Newport Gwent Dragons:

Player	Points
Angus O'Brien	18
4 Players	5

Newcastle Falcons:

Player	Points
Tom Penny	10
Lee Smith	7
Rory Clegg	6

Head to Head record

First meeting in Europe



Pool 5: Brive v Zebre

Friday, 24 October Kick-off: 19:30, Stade Amédée-Domenech, Referee: Neil Hennessy (Wal), Assistant Ref: Martyn Lewis (Wal), Assistant Ref: Andrew Davies (Wal)

Match facts

- Brive suffered their record loss in the tournament (0-55) in their Round 1 game against Gloucester Rugby.
- Brive have lost two of their 18 games against Italian opposition in the Challenge Cup, with both of these defeats coming in Italy.
- Brive's defeat by Gloucester meant they lost their opening game in the tournament for the first time since 2008/09; they have never lost their opening two games.
- Zebre scored their 10th European try last weekend against Oyonnax.

Team comparison (Challenge Cup record)

	Brive	Zebre
Played	86	1
Wins	57	0
Draws	1	0
Losses	28	1
Total Points For	2686	24
Total Points Against	1739	33
Total Tries For	341	2
Total Tries Against	179	3

2014/15 Points Scorers

Brive:

Player	Points
-	-

Zebre:

Player	Points
Edoardo Padovani	9
3 Players	5

Head to Head record

First meeting in Europe



Pool 4: Edinburgh Rugby v Lyon

Friday, 24 October Kick-off: 19:45, BT Murrayfield Stadium, Referee: Matthew Carley (Eng), Assistant Ref: Ian Tempest (Eng), Assistant Ref: Ashley Rowden (Eng)

Match facts

- Lyon ran up a total of 37 defenders beaten last weekend - more than any other club in the tournament.
- Lyon also made the most passes in the tournament in Round 1 (169).
- Edinburgh's three wins in the tournament have all been by three points or less.
- Lyon's Franck Romanet and Waisele Seru Sukanaveita (7) beat more defenders than any other players in the opening round of fixtures.

Team comparison (Challenge Cup record)

	Edinburgh Rugby	Lyon
Played	7	7
Wins	3	4
Draws	0	0
Losses	4	3
Total Points For	129	171
Total Points Against	218	132
Total Tries For	11	20
Total Tries Against	30	13

2014/15 Points Scorers

Edinburgh Rugby:

Player	Points
Dougie Fife	5
Nick McLennan	3
Tom Heathcote	2

Lyon:

Player	Points
Jerome Porical	8
4 Players	5

Head to Head record

First meeting in Europe



Pool 1: Femi-CZ Rugby Rovigo v Cardiff Blues

Saturday, 25 October Kick-off: 15:00, Stadio Mario Battaglini, Referee: Laurent Cardona (Fra), Assistant Ref: Christophe Berdos (Fra), Assistant Ref: Laurent Amic (Fra)

Match facts

- The two clubs have not met before in European competition.
- Femi-CZ Rugby Rovigo have lost their last 29 matches in the competition.
- Cardiff Blues beat Grenoble 37-14 in Round 1 to maintain their 100% win ratio in the tournament (4/4).
- Rovigo have not faced Welsh opposition since the 2001/02 season and have lost five of their six games clubs from Wales.

Team comparison (Challenge Cup record)

	Femi-CZ Rugby Rovigo	Cardiff Blues
Played	55	4
Wins	3	4
Draws	0	0
Losses	52	0
Total Points For	660	138
Total Points Against	2485	70
Total Tries For	66	17
Total Tries Against	353	5

2014/15 Points Scorers

Femi-CZ Rugby Rovigo:

Player	Points
Luke Mahoney	5
Andrea De Marchi	5
2 Players	2

Cardiff Blues:

Player	Points
Rhys Patchell	17
4 Players	5

Head to Head record

First meeting in Europe



Pool 2: Exeter Chiefs v Connacht Rugby

Saturday, 25 October Kick-off: 15:00, Sandy Park Stadium, Referee: Pascal Gauzere (Fra), Assistant Ref: Sebastien Minery (Fra), Assistant Ref: Stephane Boyer (Fra)

Match facts

- Exeter and Connacht have never met in Europe.
- Exeter have never faced Irish opposition in the tournament but Connacht have faced clubs from England on 26 occasions (W8, L18).
- Connacht have won just twice on English soil in the Challenge Cup.
- This will be Connacht Rugby's 100th game in the tournament.

Team comparison (Challenge Cup record)

	Exeter Chiefs	Connacht Rugby
Played	14	99
Wins	8	51
Draws	0	0
Losses	6	48
Total Points For	397	2365
Total Points Against	229	2120
Total Tries For	41	262
Total Tries Against	19	236

2014/15 Points Scorers

Exeter Chiefs:

Player	Points
Ceri Sweeney	11
Adam Hughes	5
Carl Rimmer	5

Connacht Rugby:

Player	Points
Craig Ronaldson	11
Robbie Henshaw	10
5 Players	5

Head to Head record

First meeting in Europe



Pool 3: Bucharest Wolves v Stade Francais Paris

Saturday, 25 October Kick-off: 15:00, Stadium Arcul de Triumf, Referee: Neil Paterson (Sco), Assistant Ref: David Changleng (Sco), Assistant Ref: Stephen Ward (Sco)

Match facts

- These two clubs have met each other four times in the Challenge Cup - during the pool stages of the 2010/11 and 2011/12 seasons the French triumphing in each game.
- Stade Francais' average winning margin in those four games was 26 points.
- Stade's defeat by Newport Gwent Dragons last week meant they have lost consecutive games in the Challenge Cup for the first time since 2002/03.
- Bucharest Wolves' Luke Samoa made two try assists in the Round 1 defeat by Newcastle Falcons.

Team comparison (Challenge Cup record)

	Bucharest Wolves	Stade Francais Paris
Played	55	48
Wins	13	37
Draws	1	0
Losses	41	11
Total Points For	839	1743
Total Points Against	1684	847
Total Tries For	81	216
Total Tries Against	226	78

2014/15 Points Scorers

Bucharest Wolves:

Player	Points
Ionut Botezatu	10
Florin Ionita	5
Luke Samoa	4

Stade Francais Paris:

Player	Points
Vincent Mallet	15
Herman Meyer Bosman	5

Head to Head record

Bucharest Wolves	Team	Stade Francais Paris
4	Played	4
0	Wins	4
4	Losses	0
0	Draws	0

Date	Home	Score	Away
16/12/2010	Stade Francais Paris	35-7	Bucharest Wolves
18/11/2011	Stade Francais Paris	49-3	Bucharest Wolves
14/01/2012	Bucharest Wolves	13-34	Stade Francais Paris



Pool 5: Oyonnax v Gloucester Rugby

Saturday, 25 October Kick-off: 20:45, Stade Charles Mathon, Referee: Giuseppe Vivarini (Ita), Assistant Ref: Elia Rizzo (Ita), Assistant Ref: Andrea Spadoni (Ita), TMO: Mauro Dordolo (Ita)
Citing Commissioner: Richard McGhee (Sco)

Match facts

- These two clubs have never met in the Challenge Cup.
- After beating Zebre last weekend, Oyonnax are looking to win consecutive games in the tournament for the first time.
- Oyonnax have won just one of their four games against English opposition in the competition (D1, L2).
- Gloucester's 55-0 win against Brive last weekend was their third largest winning margin against a French club in the Challenge Cup.

Team comparison (Challenge Cup record)

	Oyonnax	Gloucester Rugby
Played	7	51
Wins	3	38
Draws	1	1
Losses	3	12
Total Points For	119	1978
Total Points Against	166	906
Total Tries For	12	251
Total Tries Against	19	102

2014/15 Points Scorers

Oyonnax:

Player	Points
Regis Lespinas	18
3 Players	5

Gloucester Rugby:

Player	Points
Charlie Sharples	15
Greig Laidlaw	12
James Hook	7

Head to Head record

First meeting in Europe



2014/15 European Rugby Challenge Cup - Leading scorers

Tries

Rank	Player	Club	Matches	Tries
1	Topsy Ojo	London Irish	1	3
1	Charlie Sharples	Gloucester Rugby	1	3
2	Ionut Botezatu	Bucharest Wolves	1	2
2	Robbie Henshaw	Connacht Rugby	1	2
2	Tom Penny	Newcastle Falcons	1	2

Points

Rank	Player	Club	Matches	Points
1	Myles Dorrian	London Irish	1	25
2	Regis Lespinas	Oyonnax	1	18
2	Angus O'Brien	Newport Gwent Dragons	1	18
4	Rhys Patchell	Cardiff Blues	1	17
5	Christophe Loustalot	Bayonne	1	15
5	Vincent Mallet	Stade Francais Paris	1	15
5	Topsy Ojo	London Irish	1	15
5	Charlie Sharples	Gloucester Rugby	1	15
9	Greig Laidlaw	Gloucester Rugby	1	12
10	Craig Ronaldson	Connacht Rugby	1	11
10	Ceri Sweeney	Exeter Chiefs	1	11