



RUGBY XV

U18 CHAMPIONSHIP
2026



RUGBY XV

U20 CHAMPIONSHIP
2026

TOURNAMENTS REGULATIONS

RUGBY EUROPE U18 XV CHAMPIONSHIP 2026
RUGBY EUROPE U20 XV CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

Prague, Czech Republic
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

Participation to the U18 and U20 XV Championships is subject to Unions' signature of a Participation Agreement. The Rugby Europe Participation Agreement, the Tournament regulations and all its associated appendices, and the Tournament Handbook form the full terms of Participation of this competition. They may be amended from time to time as required by Rugby Europe.

Rugby Europe bylaws, Disciplinary Rules and Code of Conduct must also be respected at any time.

In addition, Rugby Europe would like to remind all Unions that its competitions are regulated by the World Rugby Laws of the Game and World Rugby Regulations.

1.2. DEFINITIONS & INTERPRETATIONS

For **DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS**, please refer to the **Article 1.2** of the 2026-27 Rugby Europe International XV Championships Tournament Manual (Further – “2026-27 REIC Manual”)



2. TOURNAMENT DATES AND DEADLINES

2.1. Pre-Tournament Deadlines

Pre-Tournament	
No later than 4 weeks prior to the tournament	- Host Union to release Tournament's Handbook
1 month prior to the tournament	- Deadline to fix the <u>last details</u> of transport, visa (if relevant) and accommodation. - Deadline to confirm Team's activity schedule and team's training session to Host Union. - Participating Teams to create their panels of up to 50 players and officials on Sportlomo.
2 weeks prior to the tournament	- All the <u>players profiles must be completed on Sportlomo</u> and RE should be informed by Teams Management of any update.
2 weeks prior to the tournament	- The kit colours to be provided to rugbyxv@rugbyeurope.eu
One day prior to Day 1 of the Tournament, before 14.00 local time	- Deadline for arrival of the Team Delegations
One day prior to Day 1 of Tournament	- Team Entry Check (during the day) - mandatory - Managers meeting (20h00 tbc) - mandatory - Captains' Photo (place and time tbc) - mandatory
24 hours prior to KO of a relevant match	- Official Team Sheet <u>in hard copy and online on Sportlomo</u> to be delivered to the Rugby Europe Match Commissioner or staff on-site and to be sent to rugbyxv@rugbyeurope.eu

2.2. Tournaments' Dates

U18 and U20 Championships Dates	
Friday, November 06 th	U18 Last day of Teams Arrival, Entry Check, Team Managers Meeting, Captains' Photo
Saturday, November 07 th	• U20 Last day of Teams Arrival, Entry Check, Team Managers Meeting, Captain's Photo • U18 Round 1 – Quarterfinals
Sunday, November 08 th	U20 Round 1 – Quarterfinals
Tuesday, November 10 th	U18 Round 2 – Semifinals
Wednesday, November 11 th	• U20 Round 2 – Semifinals
Thursday, November 12 th	U18 and U20 - 2 nd Managers' Meeting (to be confirmed)
Saturday, November 14 th	U18 Round 3 - Finals
Sunday, November 15 th	• U20 Round 3 - Finals • U18 Teams' Departure
Monday, November 16 th	U20 Teams' Departure

3. PARTICIPATING TEAM

3.1. LONG LIST OF PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

The Participating Unions will be requested to register their players and team officials using the competition management tool Sportlomo. **A long list (panel) of maximum 50 players + team officials must be submitted directly on Sportlomo no later than 4 (four) weeks before the tournament. (by Friday October 09th)**

Participating Teams will be only able to use players from this panel for the tournament(s) they participate in this season.

Creation of a Panel for a Competition on Sportlomo :

To do so, access the “Team Sheet Panels” section and click on the Add+ tab.

Unions must then select the 2026/2027 season, create Panel for an Age Grade as **Under 20 or Under 18 Men**.

Unions will then be allowed to select their players and officials from their account’s database

For registering a new player, or completing existing profile, please make sure to:

Prepare player’s documents in digital format (pdf or picture format) and information for completing their individual Sportlomo member’s account:

- Passport or ID cards for all players (must show the place of birth)
- For Eligibility through parents or grandparents, an ID indicating the place of birth and a birth act showing the parental link (with an official translation upon request if necessary)
- For Eligibility through club affiliation, a summary of the player’s licence records in the country,
- Declaration of Eligibility signed by the player (Appendix 5)
- Any other forms relative to under age rugby (dispensation forms App6, + parental consent)

A short guide on how to use the platform is available in Appendix 8.

3.2. TEAM DELEGATION

3.2.1. Team Delegation Size

The official Team Delegation of a Union shall be limited to

- a minimum of 30 accredited Team Members, including 26 Players and 4 Team Officials.
- a maximum of 34 accredited Team Members, including 26 players and 8 team Officials.

The following team officials are mandatory members of the Team Delegation:

- Team Manager
- Coach (WR certified level 2)
- Physio/Team Doctor (WR certified level 2), and

The following Team Officials are recommended members of the Team Delegation:

- Assistant Coach
- Video Analyst.
- Social Media or Media Manager

All the delegation, between 30 and 34 persons, will be accommodated in the same hotel and will receive accreditations.

Rugby Europe will cover a percentage (%) of the travel expenses up to 30 persons. The financial support given by Rugby Europe has been summarized in a document sent to each Union with their Participation Agreement. All the costs inherent in additional participants will be payable by the Union.

3.2.2 Change in the Delegation of 26 During the Tournament

In the event of an injury for any of the 26 players of a team, it is possible to replace injured players during the Tournament by another player from the list of 50 players previously submitted. A procedure of the replacement shall be the following:

A request must be made to Tournament Director and rugbyxv@rugbyeurope.eu by email.

The request must contain the following:

1. Full name and date of birth of injured player.
2. A medical certificate that confirms the injury or other inability of the player to further participate in the tournament.
3. Full name and date of birth of the replacing player.

The Rugby Europe Tournament management may then confirm the replacement.

3.3. MATCH TEAM SHEET

As tournament organiser, Rugby Europe allows up to 26 Players listed on the team sheet for this competition, however as per the World Rugby Law 3.4, replacements are limited to a maximum of 8.

After the panel is created, up to 26 players and team officials of the Team Delegation must be selected from this panel and put onto the final Team Sheet of the relevant match. The Team Sheet must be submitted on Sportlomo, downloaded from Sportlomo, signed by Team Manager, sent to rugbyxv@rugbyeurope.eu no later than **24 hours days prior to KO time** of each relevant match and handed out to RE Match Commissioner upon arrival at the venue on matchday.

One copy of the downloaded Team Sheet must be printed and signed by the Union's President, (or any person authorised by the Union) + stamp of the Union. This signed and stamped Team Sheet must be handed to the Tournament Director or Rugby Europe administration representative at the Entry Check of the Tournament.

For more information on the **MATCH TEAM SHEET** please refer to **Article 3.6** of the 2026-27 REIC Manual.

3.4 TEAM KIT SPECIFICATIONS

Please refer to the **Article 3.7** of 2026-27 REIC Manual, with addition of the following on numbering:

Starting XV

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | - | Loosehead Prop |
| 2 | - | Hooker |
| 3 | - | Tighthead Prop |
| 4 | - | Left Lock |
| 5 | - | Right Lock |
| 6 | - | Blindside Loose Forward |
| 7 | - | Openside Loose Forward |
| 8 | - | Number Eight |
| 9 | - | Scrum Half |
| 10 | - | Fly Half |
| 11 | - | Left Wing |
| 12 | - | Inside Centre |
| 13 | - | Outside Centre |
| 14 | - | Right Wing |
| 15 | - | Fullback |

Replacements

- | | | |
|----------|---|----------------|
| 16 | - | Hooker |
| 17 | - | Loosehead Prop |
| 18 | - | Tighthead Prop |
| 19 | - | Forward |
| 20 | - | Forward |
| 21 | - | Scrum Half |
| 22 & 23 | - | Backs |
| 24 to 26 | - | Various |

The Unions must make sure the **9 cm minimum** high Rugby Europe logo is displayed on the upper RIGHT sleeve of each of their home and alternative playing jerseys as a minimum and on their training tops / tracksuits, where possible.

No other sponsor cannot be displayed in this area.

Example of good display of the RE logo on playing shirt:

RE logo will be sent to Unions on demand at communication@rugbyeurope.eu.

Logo is also available in the online folder [here](#).



4. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS

4.1. AGE CRITERIA ELIGIBILITY

Rugby Europe uses a reference document, the World Rugby Guidelines on Age Differential Playing that uses the calendar year to determine the eligible age window. Based on these guidelines, please Refer to the table below for the mandatory requirements for the players that will compete in

- 2026 RE U18 XV Championship:

FRONT ROW	
Age Dispensation Forms NOT REQUIRED to play	Date of birth (DOB) between 01/01/2008 and 31/12/2008
Age Dispensation Forms REQUIRED to play	DOB between 01/01/2009 and 31/12/2009
Not eligible to play	DOB after 01/01/2010
OTHER POSITIONS (Non-front row playing positions)	
Age Dispensation Forms NOT REQUIRED to play	DOB between 01/01/2008 and 31/12/2009
Age Dispensation Forms REQUIRED to play	DOB between 01/01/2010 and 31/12/2010
Not eligible to play	DOB after 01/01/2011

- 2026 RE U20 XV Championship:

FRONT ROW	
Age Dispensation Forms NOT REQUIRED to play	DOB between 01/01/2006 and Day and Month of the Event /2007
Age Dispensation Forms REQUIRED to play	DOB between Day and Month of the Event/2007 and Day and Month of the Event /2008
Not eligible to play	DOB after Day and Month of the Event /2008
OTHER POSITIONS (Non-front row playing positions)	
Age Dispensation Forms NOT REQUIRED to play	DOB between 01/01/2006 and Day and Month of the Event /2008
Age Dispensation Forms REQUIRED to play	DOB between Day and Month of the Event/2008 and Day and Month of the Event /2009
Not eligible to play	DOB after Day and Month of the Event/2009

Age Dispensation Forms (other title Age Criteria Eligibility Forms) comprise the following 5 forms:

1. Player Consent Form – filled and signed by the player concerned.
2. Parental Consent Form – filled and signed by a mother, father, or guardian of the player:
 - a. Either Parental Consent Form for Front Row Player, or
 - b. Parental Consent Form for all players under the age of 18 (minor)
3. Coach Confirmation – filled and signed by the coach of the player.
4. Medical Officer Agreement
5. Medical Practitioner Confirmation

More details on World Rugby directive and **AGE GUIDELINES** can be found following this link and the guidelines below:

<https://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/?documentid=115> and in the **Article 2.9** of the 26-27 REIC Manual.

Parental Consent Form for minor players and Age Dispensation Forms (available in the relevant Appendix 6 other title Age Category Eligibility Forms) must be uploaded to the respective player's Sportlomo profile at least **2 (two) weeks** prior to Day 1 of the competitions.

4.2. PLAYER'S ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate in the Tournament, Players must be eligible to play for the Union of the country with which the Player has a genuine, close, credible and established national link in accordance with WR Regulation 8.1.

Unions and Players should note the requirement for each Player to satisfy one or more of the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1 notwithstanding the fact that from January 1, 2018, Unions may no longer nominate their U20s team as the Union's next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team.

The full Regulation and Guidelines may be found on the World Rugby website <https://www.world.rugby/organisation/governance/regulations/reg-8>
It is a responsibility of each Participating Union to ensure its players are eligible in accordance with these Regulation.

Use the Eligibility Checker provided by World Rugby at:

<https://iris.world.rugby/player-eligibility/player-eligibility-guide/>

This checker will help you to understand if:

- Your players are eligible according to a correct interpretation of Regulation 8
- Your players have not been captured by another national team before joining yours.

Eligibility for the Rugby Europe competitions is monitored through the players profiles entered in the Sportlomo system.

4.2.1 Special Regulation for RE U18 Events

For U18 Competitions only, Rugby Europe, in agreement with World Rugby, has decided to apply **a minimum of 12 months of consecutive residency** immediately preceding the day 1 of

the Tournament, and not 60 months, as previously valid for any Senior tournament (including U20 tournaments). Based on the new World Rugby amendment to regulation 8.1.C changing the residence criteria to rugby affiliation, a playing license of the past season (2023-2024) of the union they wish to represent, delivered for the full season, can also be taken in account, to reflect the amendments of Regulation 8 made by World Rugby on August 1st, 2024.

All other provisions remain identical to Regulation 8.

It is important to underline, that, according to the Regulation, an **U18 player will NOT be CAPTURED** by the Union they represent at the Tournament by participating in the Tournament.

4.2.2 Documents to Confirm Eligibility

Documents that confirm the eligibility of the player must be uploaded onto the respective player's profile on Sportlomo. The Sportlomo User-Manual is available as Appendix 8.

The following documents are to be provided to the following player's profile sections:

I. In case a player was **born** in the country of the Union they represent (World Rugby Regulation 8.1 a):

1. Passport or another ID document that has the player's place of birth written on it in PDF or JPEG to the "ID Copy" section:
 - a. In case the passport/ID doesn't show the place of birth, please merge another document (for example, a birth certificate) that shows the place of birth with the passport/ID and upload them together.
2. Player Eligibility Declaration filled and signed by the respective player in PDF or JPEG to the "General Attachment" section (Available in Appendix 5)

II. In case the player's **parent/grandparent** was **born** in the country of the Union (World Rugby Regulation 8.1 b):

1. The player's passport or ID that demonstrates the player's place of birth in PDF or JPEG to the "ID Copy" section,
2.
 - a. A document that shows the player's parent's/grandparent's place of birth, together with
 - b. A document that proves that the person is indeed the parent/grandparent of the player,all in one merged PDF or JPEG file to "Eligibility Document" section.
For example:
 - the player's birth certificate + father's/mother's birth certificate (or passport with the place of birth), or
 - the player's birth certificate + father's/mother's birth certificate + grandparent's birth certificate (or passport with the place of birth).
3. Player Eligibility Declaration in PDF or JPEG to the "General Attachment" section.

III. In case the player has been registered exclusively with a Union or Rugby Body in the country for sixty months immediately preceding the time of playing (World Rugby Regulation 8.1 c):

1. The player's passport or ID that demonstrates the player's place of birth in PDF or JPEG to the "ID Copy" section,
2. *A proof of the five years registration with a rugby body (club, Union, etc) in the country. OR a playing licence delivered for the full past season 2024-2025 (for instance, a license delivered in March 2025 will not be considered as a full year license. The license, to be accepted as a proof will required, at minima, in November of the past season.
3. Player Eligibility Declaration in PDF or JPEG to the "General Attachment" section.

IV. In case the player completed at least **10 years of cumulative residency** in the country of your Union preceding the time of playing (World Rugby Regulation 8.1 d):

1. The player's passport or ID that demonstrates the place of birth in PDF or JPEG to the "ID Copy" section,
2. A proof of the 10 year-residency in one PDF or JPEG file to the "Eligibility Document" section.
3. Player Eligibility Declaration in PDF or JPEG to the "General Attachment" section.

The WR concept of residency may or may not be in line with the concept of residency of the country of the Union. The WR Residency requires that the player has not been leaving the country of the Union for more than 62 days in each year during the required period.

In case of either 60/12 months' consecutive or 10 years' cumulative Residency, the following documents must cover either

- a consecutive period of 60/12 months/1 Full season starting backwards from the Day 1 of the Tournament, or
- a period of 10 year before the day of submission of the documents.

- The player's playing license
 - The player's education certificates, admission certificates with dates,
 - Registrations at an address(es) of the player in the country of the Union for each required year,
 - Stamps in the player's passports, showing that the player hadn't been leaving the country of the Union for more than 62 days per year during the required period,
 - Any bills (electricity, water, shopping etc.) with the player's name and date on it,
 - Copies of abstracts of the player's work contracts with dates,
 - The player's tax payments or/and declarations,
 - Their service (civil, military) certificates with dates,
- Or other similar documents.

All the documents that are not in English or French must be translated into English or French. The translation may be done by the Union and must be certified by a signature of the Union's president or secretary general. The translation must be merged and uploaded together with the respective document.

When the documents have been duly uploaded and confirmed, there will be no check of Eligibility documents on site.

4.3. MINIMUM PARTICIPATION CRITERIA FOR TEAM OFFICIALS

Unions and each Staff member part of the Team Delegation must comply with the Minimum participation criteria voted during the General Assembly in December 2019 as follows for the season 2026-2027:

	Coaching	Strength & Conditioning	Medical
U20 Men XV	2 x Level 2 C	1 x Level 2 S&C	1 x L2 ICIR
U18 Men XV	2 x Level 2 C	1 x Level 2 S&C	1 x L2 ICIR

For more information regarding the Minimum Participation Criteria, please refer to the Article 3.5.2 of 2026-27 Rugby Europe International Championship Manual and contact Charlie Brown at rtm@rugbyeurope.eu



5. COMPETITION REGULATIONS

5.1 COMPETITION FORMAT

5.1.1 U18 XV Championship

The competition is comprised of 8 participating teams. The competition is run through a direct elimination system (knock-out matches) with classification matches. All teams will play 3 (three) matches during the competition.

5.1.2 U20 XV Championship

The competition is comprised of 8 participating teams. The competition is run through a direct elimination system (knock-out matches) with classification matches. All teams will play 3 (three) matches during the competition.

5.2 PARTICIPATING TEAMS AND SEEDING

5.2.1 U18 XV Championship

Rank	U18 CHAMPIONSHIP Teams
1	SPAIN
2	GEORGIA
3	NETHERLANDS
4	CZECH REPUBLIC
5	GERMANY
6	PORTUGAL
7	POLAND
8	BELGIUM

5.2.2 U20 XV Championship

Rank	U20 CHAMPIONSHIP Teams
1	PORTUGAL
2	NETHERLANDS
3	BELGIUM
4	CZECH REPUBLIC
5	ROMANIA
6	POLAND
7	SWITZERLAND
8	MOLDOVA

The seeding has been done based on the ranking of 2025 Rugby Europe U18 and U20 XV Championships, and the Qualification Matches, as follows in the Article 5.3.

5.3 QUALIFICATION PROCESS FOR 7TH AND 8TH PLACES

5.3.1 U18 Championship:

Team Belgium, who had finished last of the 2025 edition, qualified for the 2026 U18 XV Championship by winning the qualification match against Team Switzerland (challenger).

5.3.2 U20 Championship:

Rugby Europe received only one application from Moldova (challenger), and Switzerland who ranked 8th at the last U20 Championship. Team Germany withdrew from the U20 Competition, and as a direct consequence, there was no Qualification match held.

5.4 COMPETITIONS SCHEDULES

5.4.1 U18 XV Championship

Round 1 – QUARTER-FINALS, Sat Nov 07 th	Round 2 – SEMI-FINALS, Tue Nov 10 th	Round 3 – FINAL, Sat Nov 14 nd
M1: SPAIN (1) v BELGIUM (8)	M5: Loser M1 v Loser M4	M9: Loser M5 v Loser M6
M2: GEORGIA (2) v POLAND (7)	M6: Loser M2 v Loser M3	M10: Winner M5 v Winner M6
M3: NETHERLANDS (3) v PORTUGAL (6)	M7: Winner M1 v Winner M4	M11: Loser M7 v Loser M8
M4: CZECHIA (4) v GERMANY (5)	M8: Winner M2 v Winner M3	M12: Winner M7 v Winner M8

*Order of matches may be subject to changes according to final timings.

5.4.2 U20 XV Championship

Round 1 – QUARTER-FINALS, Sun Nov 08 th	Round 2 – SEMI-FINALS, Wed Nov 11 th	Round 3 – FINAL, Sun Nov 15 th
M1: PORTUGAL (1) v MOLDOVA (8)	M5: Loser M1 v Loser M4	M9: Loser M5 v Loser M6
M2: NETHERLANDS (2) v SWITZERLAND (7)	M6: Loser M2 v Loser M3	M10: Winner M5 v Winner M6
M3: BELGIUM (3) v POLAND (6)	M7: Winner M1 v Winner M4	M11: Loser M7 v Loser M8
M4: CZECHIA (4) v ROMANIA (5)	M8: Winner M2 v Winner M3	M12: Winner M7 v Winner M8

*Order of matches may be subject to changes according to final timings.

5.5 RANKING SYSTEM

At both U18 and U20 XV Championships, participating teams advance in the competition through three stages:

- Quarterfinals
- Semi-Finals
- Finals:

- Winner of Match 12 is ranked 1st and Tournament's Champion
- Loser of Match 12 is ranked 2nd
- Winner of Match 11 is ranked 3rd
- Loser of Match 11 is ranked 4th
- Winner of Match 10 is ranked 5th
- Loser of Match 10 is ranked 6th
- Winner of Match 9 is ranked 7th
- Loser of Match 9 is ranked 8th

5.6 QUALIFICATION TO 2027 EDITION

5.6.1 U18 XV Championship:

The teams ranked from 1st to 7th are automatically qualified for the next edition.
The team ranked 8th may have to play-off against a Challenger in Spring 2027.
Further details will be communicated in due course.

5.6.2 U20 XV Championship:

The teams ranked from 1st to 7th are automatically qualified for the next edition.
The team ranked 8th may have to play-off against a Challenger in Spring 2027.
Further details will be communicated in due course.

5.7 QUALIFICATION TO WORLD RUGBY UNDER 20 CHAMPIONSHIP 2027

As of today, the Rugby Europe U20 Championship will not qualify this year to any World Rugby event, according to the information received until now. We will provide updates on the matter would the situation change.

6. COMPETITION RULES AND MATCH OPERATIONS

6.1 WORLD RUGBY LAWS OF THE GAME

The games shall be played according to the current *World Rugby Laws of the Game 2026* and the *World Rugby Regulations Relating to the Game*: <https://www.world.rugby/the-game/laws/home>

As communicated to all Participating Unions in letter dated August 10, the new World Rugby Community Game tackle height law will be implemented on the U18 and U20 Championships 2026.

In line with the World Rugby recommendation, **the maximum legal tackle height will be the base of the sternum.**

To ensure that all players, coaches and team management are familiar with the law and its application, we invite all participating teams to watch the World Rugby webinar replay prior to the competition: Webinar replay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLRKLpkCtdI>

Further information on the new tackle height law is available here:

- <https://www.world.rugby/news/1044753/world-rugby-lowers-legal-tackle-height-in-community-rugby>
- <https://worldrugby.app.box.com/v/tackleheightmaterials>

6.2 IN THE EVENT OF A TIE

If the teams arrived at a tied game at the end of the full-time, the winner shall be determined through the following sequential criteria:

U18 XV Championship:

- a. The team which scores the biggest number of tries in that particular match is declared winner. If no winner can be declared then,
- b. The team which scores the biggest number of converted tries in that particular match is declared winner. If no winner can be declared then,
- c. Kicking Competition will be organised between the two Teams, following the procedure outlined below. The winner of that competition shall be declared the winner of the Match.

U20 XV Championship:

- a. Sudden Death / Extra Time: following an interval of 5 minutes, an extra time of 10 minutes each way (with an interval of 5 minutes) shall be played. During the extra time periods, the

first Team to score any points (a try, a successful penalty kick or a drop goal) shall be declared the winner.

- b. Kicking Competition: if, after the extra time periods, no winner can be declared, a kicking competition will be organized between the two Teams, following the procedure outlined below. The winner of that competition shall be declared the winner of the Match.

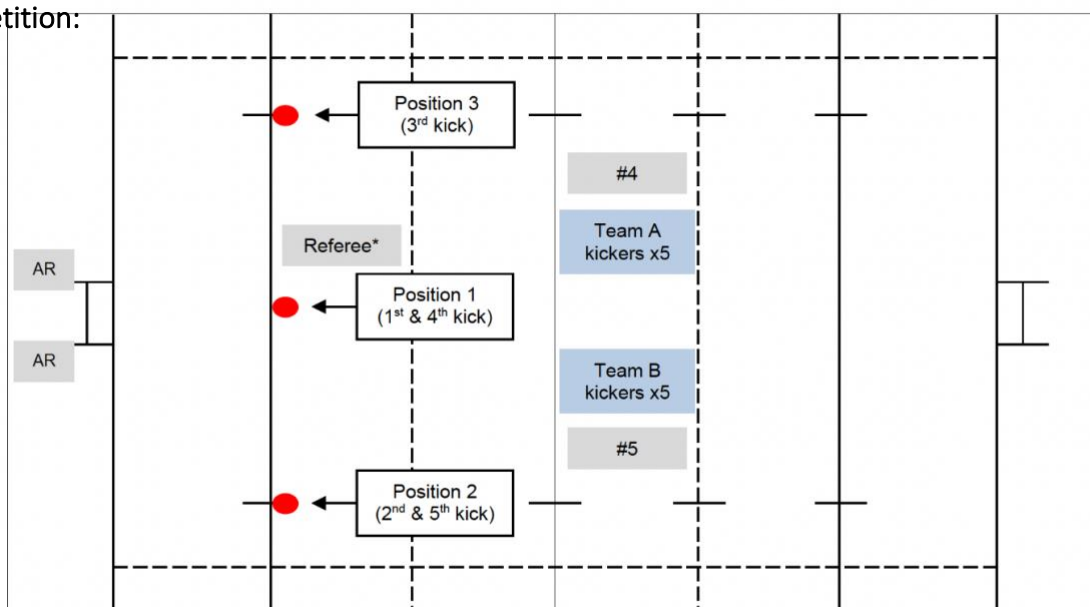
Procedure of Kicking Competition

- a. All players and Match Officials will remain on the playing enclosure. The referee will call the captains of the two Teams to the centre of the pitch and will conduct a coin toss. The winner of the coin toss then may either choose which Team kicks first (in which case the loser chooses the end at which all kicks will be taken) or choose the end at which all kicks will be taken (in which case the loser chooses which Team kicks first).
- b. Each team captain must nominate 5 players to participate in the kicking competition. Only the 5 players nominated by the captains and present on the playing enclosure at the time of the completion of the extra time may take part in the kicking competition. No injured, substituted or dismissed player may take part at any time. The order in which the players kick does not have to be predetermined.
- c. The Match Officials and Team Members will assemble on the halfway line. Team Members must remain behind the halfway line in the side of the playing area not used for the kicking competition. No one except the referee, two touch judges and two ball boys/girls are allowed in the part of the playing area being used for the competition.
- d. The five players from each Team will place kick from three different points, all on the 22-meter line, as follows:
 - First point: directly in front of the posts.
 - Second point: on the 15-meter line on the left-hand side facing the posts.
 - Third point: on the 15-meter line on the right-hand side facing the posts.
- e. The referee will start the competition by calling the first player selected from the Team kicking first to the first kicking point. Once the player has taken the kick, the referee calls a player from the opposing Team to kick from the same point.
- f. The next two players (one from each Team) will kick from the second point in turn. This will continue until all five players from each Team have kicked (the next players kicking respectively from the third point, first area and finally the second point), or until one Team is unable to equal the score of the other Team within the remaining number of kicks.
- g. If there are an equal number of successful kicks once each Team has completed its five kicks, the competition continues on a “sudden death” basis, following the same order of kickers used in the first five kicks.
- h. The competition will continue two kicks at a time (one from each side), going progressively through the three kicking areas stated above (and repeating the process if necessary) until one player succeeds with a kick and the player from the other side taking the same kick misses it. Once this occurs, the Team of the player who succeeded with the kick will be declared the winner. Each of these additional kicks shall be taken by the same 5 players in rotation.

Throughout the kicking competition:

- Once a player has been handed the ball by the referee on the kicking point, they must take the kick within one minute. Should they take longer, the referee shall declare the kick void and therefore a miss.
- After each kick, the referee records the number of the player and whether the attempt was successful. The Match Commissioner will record the same details in the official Match Report.
- Whether or not a goal is scored from each attempt is the sole decision of the referee, who may at their sole discretion rely on the assistance of their touch judges. The referee's decision shall be final and binding.
- Once a player has completed their kick, they shall return to stand with their Team behind the halfway line in the side of the playing area not used.

Please refer to the diagram below which demonstrates the operation of the Kicking competition:



* Location of the Referee is approximate (centrally located between the 22m and 10m lines)

6.3 MATCH OPERATIONS

For **MATCH OPERATIONS**, please refer to the **Article 4.8** of the 2026-27 REIC Manual, emphasizing the following:

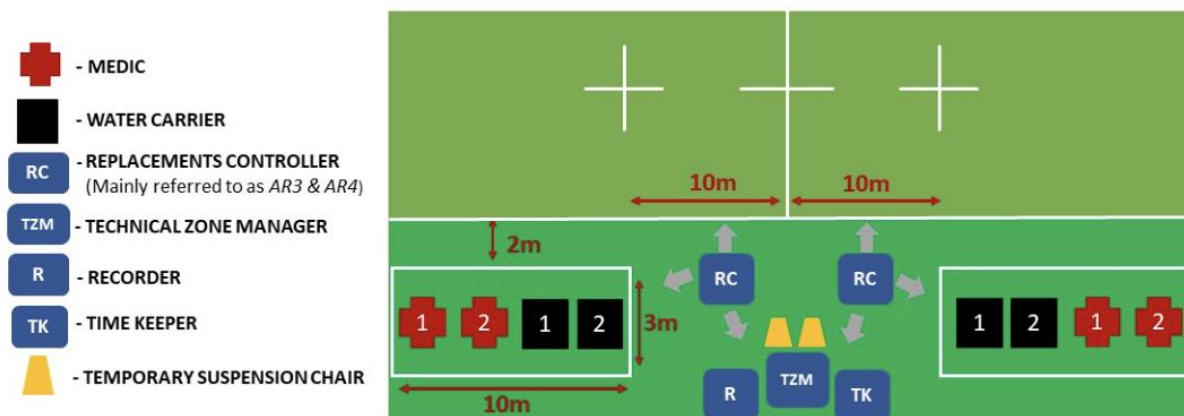
As per World Rugby regulations, the following are permitted in the marked Technical Zone as set in Law:

A total of 4 (four) per team are permitted.

The four must be made up of no more than:

- 2 (two) medically trained personnel and
- 2 (two) nominated water carriers (who can be assistant coaches but under no circumstances can the Head Coach be part of the nominated four).
- No other person or player should be permitted in the Technical Zones.

Medical Personnel and Water Carriers must wear Bibs throughout the match and leave the Bibs on the bench after their match.



One of the medically trained personnel permitted to operate from the technical zone may be positioned on the far side of the playing area on the touch line opposite the technical zone.

The second medically trained personnel permitted to operate from the technical zone may be positioned on the near side of the playing area on the touch line. The two medically trained personnel may not be together on one touch line.

Where practically possible the medical personnel must stay outside the advertising hoardings. The medical personnel may keep up with play but must pay due regard to the needs and rights of players, match officials, spectators, broadcasters, and commercial partners. Medical personnel must notably not stand in front of a camera. If the medical personnel must stay there for medical reasons, the medical personnel must bend the knee to be below the camera line.

The medical personnel may enter the field of play in accordance with Law at any time a player is injured. They must not obstruct, interfere, or aim comments at match officials.

6.4 POSTPONED, ABANDONED AND CANCELLED MATCHES

For Postponed, Abandoned and Cancelled Matches, please refer to the Article 2.7 of the 2026-27 REIC Manual, with the addition of the following:

- In the interests of the Teams, the commencement of Matches at the scheduled time shall be the first priority in all instances. However, in circumstances deemed necessary by Rugby Europe Tournament Director, Matches may need to be delayed, postponed, abandoned, or cancelled. All decisions in this regard shall be communicated to Teams / Referee by the Match Commissioner.
- If a Team has been expelled from the Tournament, for whatever reason, then:

- i. that Team shall be deemed to have lost all the Matches previously played,
- ii. for the purposes of determining final standings, that team will be ranked last of the competition.

6.5 MATCH STOPPED

In the event of a match being stopped, due to specific conditions, facilities (including but not limited to lighting problems, power cut, etc...) or inclement weather conditions (the decision can only be taken by the match referee World Rugby rule 5.10, cannot be discussed and has to be applied by the concerned Unions), The Rugby Europe Tournament Director will decide whether the match will be rescheduled or whether the recorded result is the score at the time of the match being stopped, following the criteria listed under point a below.

Apart from the wilful abandonment of a Match and subsequent expulsion under point 7.8.2, in the event of a Match having to be stopped after its commencement under the provisions of the Laws of the Game, the following procedure shall apply:

- a) Where a Match has been abandoned either at half-time or at any time in the second half, the result and any points and tries scored by each Team in the Match shall stand.
- b) In knock-out matches, if the Teams are drawn (or where the Match is cancelled or abandoned before or during the first half), the winner shall be determined in accordance with the following criteria, in the following order:
 - (i) the Team which has scored most tries during the Match is declared the winner;
 - (ii) the Team that has scored the most points during the Tournament to date is declared the winner;
 - (iii) the Team which has scored the most tries during the Tournament to is declared the winner;
 - (iv) the Team that has received fewer red cards during the Match is declared the winner;
 - (v) the Team that has received fewer yellow cards during the Match is declared the winner;
 - (vi) the Team that has received fewer red cards and citings during the Tournament is declared the winner;
 - (vii) the Team that has received fewer yellow cards and Citing Commissioner Warnings during the Tournament is declared winner;
 - (viii) if none of the above produce a result, then the winner will be determined with a toss of a coin.

6.6 MATCH OFFICIALS

Rugby Europe shall appoint or procure the appointment for the administration and implementation of the Tournament, the following International Technical Officials (ITOs):

- (a) Tournament Director / Technical Delegate
- (b) Match Commissioners
- (c) Referee Manager
- (d) Performance Reviewer

- (e) Citing Commissioner
- (f) International Referees
- (g) Television Match Officials
- (h) Judicial Officer
- (i) any further ITOs required according to the size of the Tournament

Rugby Europe shall appoint or procure, if deemed necessary, the appointment for the administration and implementation of the Tournament, the following Rugby Europe Staff:

- (a) Rugby Europe Representative Member(s)
- (b) Rugby Europe Media Manager
- (c) Rugby Europe Competition Manager
- (d) Rugby Europe Medical Delegate
- (e) such other persons or entities as the Rugby Europe may determine are reasonably required to organise a good competition

Host Union is responsible for the appointment of the following Officials:

- (a) Tournament Medical Doctor and Medical staff
- (b) Assistant Referees

6.7. TMO (TELEVISION MATCH OFFICIALS)

For the first time, the use of Television Match Official (TMO) will be implemented according to World Rugby Law 6.15 and 6.16, and the Revised TMO protocol applicable from January 1st 2025, on the U18 and U20 XV Championships 2026.

The implementation of TMO procedure and Referee Communication kit will be operated in coordination with the local video production company. The TMO will be positioned in the video-truck.

In order to not interfere with the work of the broadcast teams and the use of TMO, players warm-ups should take place further to the in goals cameras during the match

Further details will be circulated on the TMO application to the Participating Teams.

7. TOURNAMENT ARRANGEMENTS

7.1. TRAINING

For **TRAINING** please refer to the **Article 4.1.2** of 2026-27 REIC Manual, with exception of the following:

Host Union must make available a training pitch(es) for Participating Teams during the Tournaments.

The training schedule on the training pitch(es) is to be confirmed with the Teams by Host Union in advance of the Tournaments.

Captain's Run may not take place due to the structure of the Tournament and the availability of the match venue.

7.2. KEY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

7.2.1. Entry Check Meeting

Upon arrival of the team delegation, the Manager must enter the Rugby Europe tournament office and deliver the following documents:

1. Final Team Sheet signed by the President of the Union, or any person authorised by the President and stamped in hard copy,
2. Passports of the members of the delegation – original documents,
3. Team Delegation Consent Form, Appendix 2 to this Manual or Sportlomo PDF
4. Age Dispensation Forms if not previously confirmed on Sportlomo (when relevant), Appendix 6 to this Manual,
5. Parental Consent Form for minor players if not previously confirmed on Sportlomo
6. TUE (when relevant), Appendix 4 to this Manual,
7. Eligibility documents, if not previously confirmed on Sportlomo,
8. Host Union may also request specific documentation or payment confirmation (this will be confirmed event by event through each tournament Handbook).

Rugby Europe will provide Bibs for the competition. Loss of bibs will be sanctioned by a fine as per article 7.5 "Fines" of these Regulations.

The Tournament Director, Match Commissioners, and Rugby Europe Staff will confirm the players' entries upon receipt of the above-mentioned documents, verification of age and eligibility requirements.

7.2.2. Team Managers Meeting

Time and venue will be confirmed in the Tournament's Handbook. Rugby Europe Tournament Director & Match Commissioners will conduct the team managers Meeting the day prior the first match day of each Tournament. The Host Union will also provide a presentation on all local logistics relating to transport, accommodation, ice and water, training, and all other relevant aspects to the Tournament.

A second Meeting may be scheduled after the second match day of U20 for all sixteen Participating Team Managers, prior to the finals.

7.2.3. Medical Meeting

The Tournament Medical Officer will introduce the Medical Team structure, facilities, and equipment available and provided at the Tournament. They will detail how injuries will be managed during match days, the process for dealing with players transferred to hospital, payment for medical care and assistance offered for illness and injury outside of the match venue.

Times and locations of the above events are to be confirmed in the Team Managers Handbook provided by the Host Union and in accordance with any specific sanitary rules that must be applied.

7.2.4. Official Teams Photo

Participating Unions must arrange photographer for official team's photo, to be taken prior to arrival in Host Union. Photo usually includes subs and staff, and should be sent one week before the event to rugbyXV@rugbyeurope.eu

7.2.5. Captains' Photo

To be held on the evening preceding the first day of the tournament. Captains will be required to assemble as advised in full home playing kit including jersey, shorts, and socks along with running shoes (not studs).

7.2.6. Post-Tournament Banquet

The Host Union may organise a banquet and invite all players and staff. For the avoidance of doubt, the host Union shall bear the cost of this Banquet, within the limits of 30 people (26 players and 4 staff).

7.3. TROPHY

7.3.1. Trophy Terms & Conditions

Rugby Europe will present a Cup to the winners of each Championship.

Both U18 and U20 XV Championship Trophies are the property of Rugby Europe. Following the conclusion of the Final game, Rugby Europe may decide to entrust the winning Participating Union (the “Winner”) with the safekeeping and security of the Trophy for the following year.

The Winner shall be responsible for the safe return of the Trophy (undamaged) to Rugby Europe by appropriate means at the Winner’s expenses.

No sponsorship or branding or any engraving should be placed in or around the Trophy at any time without prior approval of Rugby Europe.

7.4. TRANSPORTATION

7.4.1. International Transportation Organisation

Teams must book their travels to arrive in Host Country by no later than 14:00 on the day prior to the Day 1 of the competitions.

The cost of International Transportation is the cost of the Participating Unions.

7.4.2. Local Transportation

A coach pick-up will be made available to teams at the Host Union cost to transport them from their arrival and departure airport to their designated accommodation site, excepted for the teams coming with their own bus.

Local Transportation cost to all official competition events or meetings from one day before to one day after the Match is Host Union cost. Transportation for optional activities required by the visiting teams are Visiting Union costs.

For other **MATCH OPERATIONS**, please refer to the **Section 4** of 2026-27 REIC Manual.

7.5. FINES AND PAYMENT

TYPE OF BREACH	Amount (in Euros) * Maximum fee claim
GENERAL	
Failure to attend official tournament function (including media related, per event/member)	500
Display of offensive, religious, racial, or political message either worn, in written or verbally by any of the team member	1'000
Any other(s) act(s) out of the pitch which are contrary to good sportsmanship or reflect an inappropriate behaviour from any team member; as defined by RE Code of Ethics	1'000

Any act or omission by a Federation, on or off the field of play, which breaches Rugby Europe regulations, directives or operational instructions and/or has not been duly authorised where prior approval is required	1'000
VENUES (MATCH & TRAINING)	
Failure to submit or late submission of Venue documentation (details (all) and maps for Championship division only)	500
Non-compliance with World Rugby regulation or absence of Venue dispensation Certificate	1'000
Non-compliance with Rugby Europe Commercial/Marketing requirements (per item)	1'000
Failure to guarantee Teams' / Players' / Officials' security	1'000
Damage to equipment / facilities (including out of stadium)*	1'000
Non-compliance with RE requirements in terms of Medical/player welfare (including timely responses to the Injury surveillance Programme Medical Delegates))	1'000
DOCUMENTATION/ INFORMATION	
Late Submission of Union Consent form and Participation Agreement (>1 month)	1'000
Late submission of Venue and KO time	100
Late submission of Players and Officials Long List	100
Late submission of kit for approval	200
Late submission of Eligibility document (per player)	100
Late (less than 24 hours before KO) or incorrect submission of Team Sheet	100
Non justified change on the Team sheet within 24 hours to KO	100
Non presentation of mandatory game documentation to the Commissioner upon request during Manager's meeting (per missing document)	100
Late submission of Team Member personal information (per item)	50
Non-compliance with squad photo specification (per item)	50
MATCH MANAGEMENT	
Non-compliance with specified Match timings (including last minute change in KO time)	1'000
Non-compliance with directions of Match Management Team in Match Venue:	500
Breach in Team Kit Specification:	1'000
- No number on jersey	500
- Inidentifiable number on jersey	200
- Non-respect of Kit and Bibs rules	200

- Use of non-compliant clothing and equipment in Match Venues (sanction applied per item) - Wrong jersey number on Player's list - Non-compliance with jersey numbering (WR reg 15)	200 100
Jersey colour conflict non-solvable	500
Loss or damage of a Bib (per one Bib)	100
COMMERCIAL / MARKETING RULES	
Non-respect of commercial/marketing rules and RE sponsors requirements (including balls, boards, logos, per item)	500
Promotion of non-compliant commercial marks during games (especially RE sponsors competitors)	1'000
Unapproved use of Rugby Europe Marks by participating Union and/or its commercial partner(s)	100
BROADCAST / LIVESTREAM	
Failure to set up or deliver a broadcast/livestream video feed of the game (for RE.TV or TV-partners)	1'000
Non-respect of RE broadcast/live-stream requirements (cameras, quality, graphics, ...)	500
Failure to provide a copy of the match to RE Match-officials after the game	200
Non-respect of Media-rights policy	1'000
MEDIA / COMMUNICATION	
Non-compliant use of Player images	1'000
Release of information before embargo lift from RE	1'000
Non-attendance of a specific team member to a post-match interview and/or Press Conference (per player)	200
Late cancellation or amendments of any previously agreed Team commitments e.g. media, open/closed training session, public engagements	200

*Reimbursement of broken items may be added to the fines payable to Rugby Europe.

Any financial sanctions shall become payable immediately by the Participating Union concerned. In cases of non-payment, the fines and financial penalties may be enforced through the withholding of any monies otherwise owed by the Rugby Europe to the Participating Union.

7.6. MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS

7.6.1. Concussion Management

Recognise and Remove protocol will be applied throughout the competitions at both U18 and U20 XV Championships.

Please refer to the following link to World Rugby to understand more about the management of Concussion and the need to 'Recognise and Remove':

<https://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/concussion>
<https://www.world.rugby/the-game/player-welfare/medical/concussion/recognise-and-remove>

7.6.2. Injury Surveillance Program and Medical research

The study is part of Rugby Europe's Injury Surveillance Study (ISS), which aims to monitor and assess injuries sustained by players during the tournament. The purpose of this study is to enhance player safety by gathering data that can be used to improve injury prevention strategies and ensure the well-being of all participants.

Information will be gathered through injury reports completed by the medical team, pre-tournament health questionnaires, and any follow-up medical assessments. The data collection process will follow international standards for injury surveillance to ensure accuracy and consistency.

Team must confirm their medics for the Tournament through following link : . [U18 & U20 Championship, Prague 2026 - Manager & Medical \(2\) – Fill in form](#)

If you have any questions regarding the study, please do not hesitate Roberto Murias Lozano: rmurias@ucjc.edu

For more information about the Tournaments' **MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS**, please refer to the **Article 6** of 2026-27 REIC Manual.



8. TABLE OF REFERENCES

FOR THE SUBJECTS NOT COVERED IN THE CURRENT REGULATIONS, PLEASE REFER TO THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES OF 2026-27 RUGBY EUROPE XV INTERNATIONALS MANUAL:

Subject	Article to refer to in the 2026-27 RE XV Internationals Manual	With addition to/exception of the following
Definitions and Interpretations	1.2	
TEAM AND PLAYERS		
Age Criteria Eligibility	2.9	Article 4.1 of these Regulations
Minimum Participation Criteria for Team Officials Members	3.5.2	Article 4.3 of these Regulations
Match Team Sheet	3.6	Article 3.3 of these Regulations
Team Kit Specification	3.7	Article 3.4 of these Regulations
MATCH DAY OPERATIONS		
Kicking Competition	2.4.3	
Postponed, Abandoned, Cancelled Matches	2.7	- In the interests of the Teams, the commencement of Matches at the scheduled time shall be the first priority in all instances. However, in circumstances deemed necessary <u>by Rugby Europe Tournament Director</u>, Matches may need to be delayed, postponed, abandoned, or cancelled. All decisions in this regard shall be communicated to Teams / Referee by the Match Commissioner. - If a Team has been expelled from the Tournament, for whatever reason, then: iii. that Team shall be deemed to have lost all the Matches previously played iv. for the purposes of determining final standings, that team will be ranked last of the competition

Tournament Balls	3.8	There will be three (3) balls available for each match. Each Team will be provided with three (3) Match balls upon arrival at the Managers' meeting. These balls will remain in the possession of the Team during all competition and after.
Pitches Obligations	3.3	
Pre-Match Protocol	4.8.5	
Training	4.1.2	
Dressing Rooms	4.1.6	
Match Day Run Sheet	4.2	
Warm-Up	4.8.1	
Coin Toss	4.8.2	The coin toss takes place 45 minutes before kick-off.
Match Commissioner	5.1	
Refereeing	5.2	
TECHNICAL OPERATIONS		
Security	4.1.8	
Accommodation and Meals	4.5	
Accreditation	4.6	Competition accreditation passes will be supplied by the Host Union to thirty (30) Team Members, plus up to 4 (four) additional members.
Ticketing	4.7	
OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS		
Medical Arrangements	6	Article 7.6 of these Regulations.
Media Rules	7	
Video Production and Broadcasting	8	
Commercial Rules	9	
Anti-Doping Programme	10	
Anti-Corruption and Betting Programme	11	
Disciplinary Regulations	12	Article 7.5 "Fines and Payment" of the current Regulations.

9. RUGBY EUROPE CONTACTS

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Chairman of Player Welfare Sub-Committee.
Contact

Antonio Ferreira (Chairman)
medical@rugbyeurope.eu

For all questions, the main contact email address is rugbyXV@rugbyeurope.eu

10. APPENDICES

The following table contains all the appendices mentioned in these Regulations:

App	Document	What to do with it
App	Parental Consent Form	To be completed and signed for all players under the age of 18 and uploaded on Sportlomo (hard copies to be handed to Tournament Director if not confirmed on Sportlomo).
App.2	Team Delegation Consent Information & Consent Form	To be signed by all players and management staff, including Teams Officials. Hard copies to be handed to the Rugby Europe Match Commissioner on the day before the first game to be eligible to play.
App.4	Therapeutic Use Exemption Form	To be completed by the Player and the Medical Practitioner, where applicable and sent to: antidoping@rugbyeurope.eu & tue@worldrugby.org before arrival to the Tournament with a hard copy for the Tournament Director at Managers Meeting.
App.5	Player Eligibility Declaration	To be completed and signed by Player uploaded on Sportlomo for eligible players with all proof documents (hard copies to be handed to Tournament Director if not confirmed on Sportlomo).
App.6	Forms for Player's Age Criteria Eligibility (Under 18 and U20)	To be completed and signed by all relevant people and uploaded on Sportlomo for eligible players, (hard copies to be handed to Tournament Director if not confirmed on Sportlomo).
App.8	Sportlomo User-Manual	To guide through the processes of submitting the team sheet and eligibility documents of the players.
X	Long List and Final Team Sheet of Players and Officials	Panel / long list of players and team officials must be set on Sportlomo no later than 4 weeks before Day 1 of the competition. Final Team Sheet (26 players + team officials) of each match to be submitted on Sportlomo 24 hours before the match . Its hard copy to be downloaded from Sportlomo, signed by Team Manager to be handed to the Rugby Europe Match Commissioner on the day before the game. Any modification within the 24h to KO must be communicated ASAP to Match Commissioner and to rugbyXV@rugbyeurope.eu

- These Regulations,
- 2026-27 Rugby Europe XV Internationals Tournament Manual, and
- All the required forms above-mentioned

are available online by the following link: [Folder for Teams with Appendices](#)