



PRESS RELEASE

Six Nations Rugby Set to Stage Under-20 Summer Series in Italy

- **The Six Nations Under-20 Summer Series will take place from 24th June –**
- **12th July 2022 Hosted by the Federazione Italiana de Rugby (FIR), across Verona and Treviso, in Italy, all Six Nations Rugby unions as well as South Africa and Georgia will participate in the 2022 Summer Series**
- **Alongside the Oceania Rugby U20 Championship, the Under-20 Summer Series will provide a regional alternative to the postponed World Rugby U20 Championship that will return in 2023**

For Immediate Release

1st June 2022 – London, United Kingdom

Six Nations Rugby has today announced that it will be staging an Under-20 Summer Series, hosted by the FIR, staged in Italy, and split across venues in Verona and Treviso.

Before the World Rugby U20 Championship returns in 2023, Six Nations Rugby has confirmed its commitment to support the rugby pathway for the next generation of rugby talent, by staging the event this summer.

Supported by World Rugby, and involving each of the Six Nations Rugby unions, South Africa, and Georgia, the Under-20 Summer Series will be made up of two pools, three rounds and will end with cross pool matches.

Pool A will include England, South Africa, France, and Ireland, with their matches held at the Payanini Center in Verona. Pool B will be made up of Scotland, Wales, Georgia, and hosts Italy, with all games played at Stadio Di Monigo, in Treviso.

Every game of the Under 20-Summer Series will be streamed via Six Nations Rugby U20 YouTube channel, meaning fans around the world will have the opportunity to watch some of the best teams and brightest rugby stars take to the pitch. French, Italian and Georgian commentary options will also be available when these sides are playing.

Commenting on the announcement, Julie Paterson, Director of Rugby at Six Nations Rugby said:

"Six Nations Rugby is committed to providing the best possible rugby pathway to allow unions, nations, players, and coaches to develop, and the chance to stage an Under-20 Summer Series is an exciting opportunity to support this commitment.

The absence of a World Rugby U20 Championship this year, means South Africa and Georgia will also be competing in the Series, which will provide added opportunities for teams to test themselves against new opposition.

Italy as a host nation for the Series is testament to the Federation's vision to grow rugby at all levels in the country, which is showing rewards on the International and domestic stage.

It has been a huge collaborative effort to offer a Summer Series to the teams and Unions and huge thanks needs to go to the clubs and leagues for their support to give players the opportunity to represent their countries this summer."

Commenting on the announcement, Sir Bill Beaumont, World Rugby Chairman said: "U20 tournaments have proven to be a successful pathway for young talents in our unions to flourish, gain international experience and prepare for test rugby. Before the global World Rugby U20 Championship and Trophy return next year, we are delighted to support our unions and Six Nations Rugby in delivering the Under-20 Summer Series, a fantastic opportunity for promising rugby players to compete at the highest level."

FIR President, Marzio Innocenti added: "Italy's such a great place for hosting elite sports events and everybody at FIR is thrilled to host the Six Nations Under-20 Summer Series.

Alongside Six Nations Rugby, we chose the Veneto Region, one of the cradles of Italian rugby, to offer fans sixteen matches, showcasing the very best of international youth rugby, in Europe and beyond.

Future international stars will get a unique stage in Treviso and Verona and put their hands up ahead of Rugby World Cup in 2023.

For every Italian who loves the Game, and there are many, the Summer Series is an occasion not to be missed.

For traveling fans, this is a great chance to combine rugby and tourism; visiting some of the most iconic places that our country has to offer, from the Arena to Piazza San Marco, passing through Piazza dei Signori. I would like to thank Verona Rugby and Benetton Rugby for passionately welcoming our proposal to host the Six Nations Under-20 Summer Series, an event that will put Italy, for two weeks, at the core of the rugby world."

Six Nations Rugby Under 20 Summer Series Pools and Fixtures: (Kick off times are local time)

| Pool A | |
|--------|--------------|
| 1 | France |
| 2 | Ireland |
| 3 | England |
| 4 | South Africa |

| Pool B | |
|--------|----------|
| 1 | Scotland |
| 2 | Wales |
| 3 | Italy |
| 4 | Georgia |

| Round | Pool A Fixtures | Dates | Kick Off | Venue |
|-----------|------------------------------------|----------|------------|------------------|
| Round 1 | England vs SA France vs Ireland | Fri 24/6 | 5pm 8pm | Payanini Center |
| Round 2 | France vs England Ireland vs SA | Wed 29/6 | 5pm 8pm | Payanini Center |
| Round 3 | France vs SA Ireland vs England | Tue 5/7 | 5pm 8pm | Payanini Center |
| Play Offs | Cross Pool match | Tue 12/7 | TBC | Stadio Di Monigo |

| Round | Pool B Fixtures | Dates | Kick Off | Venue |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|------------------|
| Round 1 | Scotland vs Wales Italy vs Georgia | Sat 25/6 | 5pm 8pm | Stadio Di Monigo |
| Round 2 | Wales vs Georgia Scotland vs Italy | Thu 30/6 | 5pm 8pm | Stadio Di Monigo |
| Round 3 | Scotland vs Georgia Wales vs Italy | Wed 6/7 | 5pm 8pm | Stadio Di Monigo |
| Play Offs | Cross Pool match | Tue 12/7 | TBC | Stadio Di Monigo |

In terms of the cross pool matches, the proposed KO times are as below.

- Match 1 (4th Pool A vs 4th Pool B) – 12.30pm
- Match 2 (3rd Pool A vs 3rd Pool B) – 3pm
- Match 3 (2nd Pool A vs 2nd Pool B) – 5.30pm
- Match 4 (1st Pool A vs 1st Pool B) – 8pm

B) – 8pm Ends

For more information, contact:

Michael White, Head of PR and Communications, Six Nations Rugby E: michael.white@sixnationsrugby.com
M: +44 (0) 79292 06878

About Six Nations Rugby

Six Nations Rugby is the official organising body of the annual Six Nations Championships and Autumn Nations Series.

Working in partnership with its member unions and federations in England (RFU), France (FFR), Ireland (IRFU), Italy (FIR), Scotland (SRU) and Wales (WRU), Six Nations Rugby has responsibility for the promotion and operation of the renowned Six Nations Championships, Autumn Nations Series and pathways competitions, as well as the negotiation and management of their centralised commercial rights.

The Six Nations Championship is the oldest international rugby tournament in the world, dating back to its original incarnation in 1883 and expanding to its current

format of six teams in 2000. It consists of three highly competitive annual tournaments across men's, women's and U20s rugby.

In its day-to-day operations, Six Nations Rugby is guided by the core values of courage, solidarity, inclusion, integrity, and creativity. Together with its unions and federations, Six Nations Rugby is committed to the development of rugby at all levels, as well as working with other governing and representative bodies around the world to ensure the best possible future for the game, its players and its fans.

For further information about Six Nations Rugby please visit:

www.sixnationsrugby.com