

Introducing the first World University Rugby Cup

This September, the first ever World University Rugby Cup (WURC) will be held in England. The inaugural tournament will be hosted by Oxford University Rugby Football Club (OURFC), one of the world's oldest university rugby club, and involve eight universities from leading rugby nations competing for the University World Champion title.

The World University Rugby Cup 2015 will involve:

- University of Oxford (England);
- Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)
- University of Cape Town (South Africa);
- New Zealand Universities (collective university team) (New Zealand);
- Waseda University (Japan);
- University of British Columbia (Canada);
- Stanford University (USA);
- Siberian Federal University (Russia).

Teams will be split into two pools and play each other once. Group stages will take place at St Edward's School, on Tuesday the 15th and Friday the 18th of September.

After the group stages, the teams will progress to the knock-out rounds which will take place at the Iffley Road rugby ground, the home of Oxford University RFC, on Friday the 18th, Saturday the 19th, Sunday the 20th and Monday the 21st of September.

At the closing ceremony the 'baton', will be handed over to Waseda University as part of Japan 2019, the next hosts of the World University Rugby Cup.

Each university commented on the World University Rugby Cup:

"I am hugely excited to be welcoming some of the top academic and sporting universities from around the world to Oxford this September. We hope that this is the beginning of a special tournament that will be played in line with the Rugby World Cup for many years to come."

George Messum, Captain, Oxford University RFC

"The opportunity to compete on the field, and build relationships off the field, with seven other teams, from seven different cultures around the globe is a once in a lifetime opportunity. To have this take place during the hosting of the Rugby World Cup is the icing on the cake."

Matt Sherman, Director of Rugby, Stanford University

"To be in England during the Rugby World Cup will be such a great opportunity for everyone in our touring party. It will be good to play rugby against friends, old and new."

Tony Smeeth, Director of Rugby, Trinity College Dublin

"To our hosts, OURFC — we look forward to thanking you profusely — September cannot come quickly enough."

Dugald Macdonald, President, University of Cape Town

"I will follow with great pleasure the course of this world universities tournament. Rugby is a very spectacular game in itself, and this time not only countries, but continents, will meet on the field. I wish the supporters of our opponent's bright, fair and fascinating play."

Eugene A. Vaganov, Rector, Siberian Federal University

"Best wishes to all teams participating in the World University Rugby Cup, which I am sure will be a great success with exciting attacking rugby being played by all teams in the best traditions of university rugby."

Roger Drummond, President, New Zealand Universities

"The coaching staff and the players are looking forward to competing against some of the best university teams and players from across the world as well as experiencing the unique atmosphere of Oxford University"

Dave Brown, Manager, University of British Columbia Rugby

"We are extremely honoured to participate in this great tournament. Participating in this tournament will definitely be an important milestone for our history. We very much appreciate Oxford University's offer for this opportunity."

Youichi Shimada, Senior Executive Vice President, Waseda University

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