

10 RUGBY FACTS YOU MIGHT NOT ALREADY KNOW



In honour of the upcoming Rugby World Cup, Team Colours thought it would be a good idea to give our readers some extra rugby education. Prince Harry and Jonny Wilkinson recently launched the 100-day countdown until the much anticipated event. The Webb Ellis Cup will now begin to make its way around the country as part of a UK tour.

If the cup is coming to a high street near you, read these top facts as great conversation starters.

- Rugby is reported to have originated back in 1823 at the Rugby School in Warwickshire. It's said that whilst playing football, William Webb decided to pick up the ball and run towards the opposing goal. There isn't much hard evidence to support this story, but the first Rugby rules were drafted around twenty years later in 1845.
- Have you wondered why rugby balls have their unique shape? The first ever rugby balls were made from pigs' bladders by Richard Lindon. Apparently, pigs' bladders naturally take on the oval shape when inflated.
- Despite the fact that The All Blacks, New Zealand's Rugby team, are considered the best rugby team in the world, America's team are still in fact the reigning Olympic Rugby champions. The sport was discontinued at Olympic level in 1924.

- Unlike most sports, no single team who has won the Rugby World Cup has managed to keep it two tournaments in a row. This certainly makes for an exciting World Cup tournament.
- It was actually a rugby coach that created basketball. He wanted to create a form of indoor sporting activity to keep his rugby players fit in between seasons.
- Tries are unique to rugby due to the fact that originally a player wouldn't receive any points for crossing the line. Instead they would get an opportunity to try to kick at the goal.
- The first ever Rugby game took place between Scotland and England. Scotland won.
- The player with the highest number of international tries is Daisuke Ohata of Japan with a total of 69 tries over 58 matches. Rugby was said to be introduced in Japan by a Cambridge University instructor who taught the sport as an extra-curricular activity.

- South Africa is one of the most successful Rugby nations in the world. The sport was initially introduced to the country by British troops who were stationed in Cape Town.
- The All Blacks are one of the most famous teams in the world, not only for their skill, but for the cultural Maori war dance that is performed by the players before a game. The Haka is traditionally performed by tribes and cultural groups across New Zealand.



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