



## **Suggested International Calendar 2022-2029**



# The Benefits To This Calendar

- Change is not required every four years. The cream will naturally rise to the top. Every nation has a route to the top whereby every game matters.
- Fixtures are scheduled years in advance allowing for adequate time to plan, prepare and resource.
- Developing nations have access to elite players in set rounds allowing a fine balance of domestic and heritage reliance.
- Creation of events for everybody - the spreading out of 'hosts' for events like the 4 Nations, British Test, Mediterranean Cup etc allows rugby league to truly be seen on the world stage.
- There is no 'last-minute panic' or excuses for poor attendances/preparation - on January 1st 2022, Malta are aware that they're hosting the Mediterranean Test in April 2029.
- Fans are put first - for the first time ever, supporters of all nations have awareness of who their team is playing, what they're playing for and when it is happening. Holidays can be booked, flights sorted and time-off work granted.
- For the top teams, 7 games annually. 28 games over four-years. That's how international legends are made, that's how a young kid born in Sydney sticks with Italy for life.
- In the current format 90% of representative opportunities happen post-season, which is prime-time for surgeries. No matter how willing, many players can go years without representing their country due to injury and surgery. Not anymore - two extra windows offer further opportunity.

# Overview of International Windows

## Elite

### Professional Players released

	Year One (2022 & 2026)	Year Two (2023 & 2027)	Year Three (2024 & 2028)	Year Four (2024 & 2029)
<b>April (one weekend)</b>	Regional Test	Regional Test	Regional Test	Regional Test
<b>June (three weekends)</b>	Continental	Continental	Continental	Continental
<b>October/ November (three weekends)</b>	4 Nations Federation Shield Federation Bowl	4 Nations Federation Shield Federation Bowl	4 Nations Federation Shield Federation Bowl	World Cup

## Developing













### Professional players not released in March or August

	Year One (2022 & 2026)	Year Two (2023 & 2027)	Year Three (2024 & 2028)	Year Four (2024 & 2029)
<b>March (one weekend)</b>	Continental Round 1	Continental Round 1	Continental Round 1	Continental Round 1
<b>June (one weekend)</b>	Continental Round 2	Continental Round 2	Continental Round 2	Continental Round 2
<b>August (one weekend)</b>	Continental Round 3	Continental Round 3	Continental Round 3	Continental Round 3
<b>October (two weekends)</b>	World Cup Qualifiers Round 1	World Cup Qualifiers Round 2		World Cup













# Regional Tests

Based on regional rivalries and held as double-headers to create marketable events. Two levels to each test (cup and shield) with trophies, promotion and relegation on the line.













## British Test

Year	Host	Cup	Shield
2022	Leeds 	 vs 	 vs 
2023	Cardiff 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2024	Edinburgh 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2025	Dublin 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2026	Leeds 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2027	Cardiff 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2028	Edinburgh 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2029	Dublin 	? vs ?	? vs ?

























## Atlantic Test

Year	Host	Cup	Shield
2022	Ottawa 	 vs 	 vs 
2023	Toulouse 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2024	Kingston 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2025	New York 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2026	Ottawa 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2027	Toulouse 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2028	Kingston 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2029	New York 	? vs ?	? vs ?

## Mediterranean Test

Year	Host	Cup	Shield
2022	Sydney 	 vs 	 vs 
2023	Athens 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2024	Melbourne 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2025	Rome 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2026	Sydney 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2027	Beirut 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2028	Melbourne 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2029	Valletta 	? vs ?	? vs ?































## ANZAC Test

Year	Host	Cup
2022	Brisbane 	 vs 
2023	Auckland 	 vs 
2024	Perth 	 vs 
2025	Wellington 	 vs 
2026	Melbourne 	 vs 
2027	Auckland 	 vs 
2028	Sydney 	 vs 
2029	Christchurch 	 vs 

## Polynesian Test

Year	Host	Cup	Shield
2022	Apia 	 vs 	 vs 
2023	Sydney 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2024	Nuku'alofa 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2025	Sydney 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2026	Rarotonga 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2027	Sydney 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2028	Apia 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2029	Sydney 	? vs ?	? vs ?






## Melanesian Test

Year	Host	Cup	Shield
2022	Port Moresby 	 vs 	 vs 
2023	Suva 	 vs 	 vs 
2024	Port Vila 	 vs 	 vs 
2025	Townsville 	 vs 	 vs 
2026	Port Moresby 	 vs 	 vs 
2027	Suva 	 vs 	 vs 
2028	Honiara 	 vs 	 vs 
2029	Townsville 	 vs 	 vs 

## African Test

Year	Host	Cup	Shield
2022	Pretoria 	 vs 	 vs 
2023	Lagos 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2024	Rabat 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2025	Accra 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2026	Johannesburg 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2027	Lagos 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2028	Rabat 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2029	Accra 	? vs ?	? vs ?

## Eastern Test

Year	Host	Cup	Shield
2022	Belgrade 	 vs 	 vs 
2023	Ankara 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2024	Moscow 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2025	Kiev 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2026	Belgrade 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2027	Istanbul 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2028	Moscow 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2029	Kharkiv 	? vs ?	? vs ?

# Western Test

Year	Host	Cup	Shield
2022	Amsterdam 	 vs 	 vs 
2023	Valencia 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2024	Oslo 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2025	Heidelberg 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2026	Rotterdam 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2027	Barcelona 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2028	Lillestrøm 	? vs ?	? vs ?
2029	Cologne 	? vs ?	? vs ?



















# Elite Continentals

Fixtures played on a round-robin basis, home/away. Title awarded at the end of each year.

Annual fixtures held across three consecutive weekends in June with results accumulated over a 4 year period to decide promotion and relegation for the next four year cycle (the reason for this is to allow fixtures to be known years in advance to aid planning, preparation, travel and sponsorship).

















## European Cup

Year	Team	Team	Team	Team
2022				
2023				
2024				
2025				

















## European Shield

Year	Team	Team	Team	Team
2022				
2023				
2024				
2025				

















# Asia-Pacific Cup

Year	Team	Team	Team	Team
2022				
2023				
2024				
2025				

# Asia-Pacific Shield

Year	Team	Team	Team	Team
2022				
2023				
2024				
2025				

# Americas Cup

Year	Team	Team	Team	Team
2022				
2023				
2024				
2025				

# Developing Continentals

Fixtures played on a round-robin basis, home/away. Title awarded at the end of each year.

Annual fixtures held across March, June, August with results accumulated over a 4 year period to decide promotion and relegation for the next four year cycle (the reason for this is to allow fixtures to be known years in advance to aid planning, preparation, travel and sponsorship).

## European Bowl

Year	Team	Team	Team	Team
2022				
2023				
2024				
2025				













## European Plate

Year	Team	Team	Team	Team
2022				
2023				
2024				
2025				













# Asia-Pacific Bowl

Year	Team	Team	Team
2022			
2023			
2024			
2025			













# Asia-Pacific Plate

Year	Team	Team	Team
2022			
2023			
2024			
2025			













# Middle East-Africa Cup

Year	Team	Team	Team
2022			
2023			
2024			
2025			

# Middle East-Africa Shield

Year	Team	Team	Team
2022			
2023			
2024			
2025			

Middle East-Africa Bowl

Year	Team	Team	Team
2022			
2023			
2024			
2025			

Americas Shield

Year	Team	Team	Team	Team
2022				
2023				
2024				
2025				

# Elite Finals













Fixtures played on a round-robin basis with a new nation hosting annually.

**4 Nations: World Cup Semi-Finalists**

**Federation Shield: World Cup losing Quarter-Finalists**

**Federation Bowl: World Cup 3rd place in Group**

The example below is based on a hypothetical situation.

Tournament	2022	2023	2024
<b>4 Nations</b> 	Hosted by 	Hosted by 	Hosted by 
<b>Federation Shield</b> 	Hosted by 	Hosted by 	Hosted by 
<b>Federation Bowl</b> 	Hosted by 	Hosted by 	Hosted by 

# World Cup Qualifiers

Quarter finalists and third placed in each group from the previous World Cup automatically qualify for the next. This puts emphasis on not only getting out of each group but also finishing third and not last. These 12 nations go into the 4 Nations, Federation Shield and Federation Bowl respectively.

The bottom teams from each World Cup group will face the following qualification process

The example follows the hypothetical situation of:

(   and  finishing 4th in their RLWC21 groups)

## World Cup Qualification

Year	Europe	Asia-Pacific	Americas	Middle East/Africa
Oct 2022	Euro 8th vs Euro 9th	Asia-Pacific 8th vs Asia-Pacific 9th	Americas 2nd vs Americas 3rd	MEA 1st vs MEA 2nd
Oct 2023	Winner vs  (leg 1)	Winner vs  (leg 1)	Winner vs  (leg 1)	Winner vs  (leg 1)
Oct 2023	 vs Winner (leg 2)	 vs Winner (leg 2)	 vs Winner (leg 2)	 vs Winner (leg 2)
		2025	World Cup	
Oct 2026	Euro 8th vs Euro 9th	Asia-Pacific 8th vs Asia-Pacific 9th	Americas 2nd vs Americas 3rd	MEA 1st vs MEA 2nd
Oct 2027	Winner vs RLWC 13th (leg 1)	Winner vs RLWC 14th (leg 1)	Winner vs RLWC 15th (leg 1)	Winner vs RLWC 16th (leg 1)
Oct 2027	RLWC 13th vs Winner (leg 2)	Winner vs RLWC 14th (leg 2)	Winner vs RLWC 15th (leg 2)	Winner vs RLWC 16th (leg 2)