



## 2021/22 Heineken Champions Cup Pool Draw

The draw for the 2021/22 Heineken Champions Cup pools will take place in Lausanne on Wednesday 21 July at 12.00 UK/Irish time and will be live-streamed on [HeinekenChampionsCup.com](https://www.heinekenchampionscup.com)

The following are the key principles and key steps integral to the draw:

- The 24 clubs which have qualified on merit from the Gallagher Premiership, the PRO14 and the TOP 14 will compete in the 2021/22 Heineken Champions Cup in two pools of 12 - Pool A and Pool B.
- The clubs are divided into four tiers based on their performances in the knockout phases of their respective leagues, and/or on their qualifying positions in their respective league tables, or on other qualification criteria, as follows:

Tier 1 (6 clubs): 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked clubs from each league

Tier 2 (6 clubs): 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> ranked clubs from each league

Tier 3 (6 clubs): 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> ranked clubs from each league

Tier 4 (6 clubs): 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> ranked clubs from each league

- Each pool will contain four clubs from each league – one from Tier 1, one from Tier 2, one from Tier 3 and one from Tier 4.
- Clubs in the same tier from the same league cannot be in the same pool. Therefore, clubs in the same tier from the same league are either drawn into one of the two pools, or allocated to the remaining pool, so that this key principle will apply.
- For the purposes of creating the fixtures, clubs from the same league cannot play against one another during the pool stage, and clubs will only play against other clubs in the same pool.
- The Tier 1 clubs and the Tier 4 clubs which have been drawn in the same pool, but which are not from the same league, will play one another home and away over four pool stage rounds.
- The Tier 2 clubs and the Tier 3 clubs which have been drawn in the same pool, but which are not from the same league, will play one another home and away over four pool stage rounds.
- The fixture schedule with dates, venues, kick-off times and TV coverage will be announced as soon as possible.

## Heineken Champions Cup qualification

*For the purposes of creating the tiers, the TOP 14, Premiership and PRO14 clubs are ranked based on league performances and on knockout phase performances in their respective competitions. For clubs which did not qualify for the knockout phase, or which were eliminated at the same stage of the knockout phase, rankings are decided by league table finishing positions and/or by other official qualification criteria.*

| TOP 14   | Gallagher Premiership  | PRO14   |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Stade Toulousain<br>2 Stade Rochelais<br>3 Racing 92<br>4 Union Bordeaux-Bègles<br>5 ASM Clermont Auvergne<br>6 Stade Français Paris<br>7 Castres Olympique<br>8 Montpellier Hérault Rugby | 1 Harlequins<br>2 Exeter Chiefs<br>3 Bristol Bears<br>4 Sale Sharks<br>5 Northampton Saints<br>6 Leicester Tigers<br>7 Bath Rugby<br>8 Wasps | 1 Leinster Rugby<br>2 Munster Rugby<br>3 Ulster Rugby<br>4 Connacht Rugby<br>5 Scarlets<br>6 Ospreys<br>7 Cardiff Rugby<br>8 Glasgow Warriors |

| TIER 1           | TIER 2                | TIER 3                | TIER 4                    |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Stade Toulousain | Racing 92             | ASM Clermont Auvergne | Castres Olympique         |
| Stade Rochelais  | Union Bordeaux-Bègles | Stade Français Paris  | Montpellier Hérault Rugby |
| Harlequins       | Bristol Bears         | Northampton Saints    | Bath Rugby                |
| Exeter Chiefs    | Sale Sharks           | Leicester Tigers      | Wasps                     |
| Leinster Rugby   | Ulster Rugby          | Scarlets              | Cardiff Rugby             |
| Munster Rugby    | Connacht Rugby        | Ospreys               | Glasgow Warriors          |

## How the draw works

### STEP 1

The Tier 1 clubs are the first to be drawn as follows:

The balls for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked TOP 14 clubs are put into the club drum and one club ball is drawn.

The Pool A and Pool B balls are put in into the pool drum and a pool ball is drawn.

The other TOP 14 club in Tier 1 then automatically goes into the remaining pool to ensure the key principles apply.

The process is repeated for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked Premiership and PRO14 clubs in Tier 1.

#### Tier 1 clubs

Stade Toulousain  
Stade Rochelais  
Harlequins  
Exeter Chiefs  
Leinster Rugby  
Munster Rugby

### STEP 2

The Tier 4 clubs are next to be drawn.

The balls for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> ranked TOP 14 clubs in Tier 4 are put into the club drum and one club ball is drawn.

The Pool A and Pool B balls are put in into the pool drum and a pool ball is drawn.

The other TOP 14 club in Tier 4 then automatically goes into the remaining pool to ensure the key principles apply.

The process is repeated for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> ranked Premiership and PRO14 clubs in Tier 4.

#### Tier 4 clubs

Castres Olympique  
Montpellier Hérault Rugby  
Bath Rugby  
Wasps  
Cardiff Rugby  
Glasgow Warriors

### STEP 3

The Tier 2 clubs are next to be drawn.

The balls for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> ranked TOP 14 clubs in Tier 2 are put into the club drum and one club ball is drawn.

The Pool A and Pool B balls are put in into the pool drum and a pool ball is drawn.

The other TOP 14 club in Tier 2 then automatically goes into the remaining pool to ensure the key principles apply.

The process is repeated for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> ranked Premiership and PRO14 clubs in Tier 2.

#### Tier 2 clubs

Racing 92

Union Bordeaux-Bègles

Bristol Bears

Sale Sharks

Ulster Rugby

Connacht Rugby

#### STEP 4

The Tier 3 clubs are the last to be drawn.

The balls for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> ranked TOP 14 clubs in Tier 3 are put into the club drum and one club ball is drawn.

The Pool A and Pool B balls are put in into the pool drum and a pool ball is drawn.

The other TOP 14 club in Tier 3 then automatically goes into the remaining pool to ensure the key principles apply.

The process is repeated for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> ranked Premiership and PRO14 clubs in Tier 3.

#### Tier 3 clubs

ASM Clermont Auvergne

Stade Français Paris

Northampton Saints

Leicester Tigers

Scarlets

Ospreys