

England

2019 finish – Runners up.

England enter this year's competition as the bookies favourites with many others expecting a grand slam. On review of their world cup performance, it is easy to see why. Although ultimately coming up short against South Africa in the final, the decimation of the All Blacks in the semi-final shows that on their day England are nearly unplayable.

What's new

It is expected that Eddie Jones will not differ too much from the players that brought England to the brink of world cup glory. He has however included eight uncapped players in the full squad including the much-touted Saracens flanker Ben Earl and Northampton full back George Furbank. One man who is not included due to injury is the powerful number eight Billy Vunipola whose loss will certainly be felt with him constantly attracting attention of several defenders leaving space for others in the process.

Player to watch

Kyle Sinckler

It seems a strange choice to select a tighthead prop as a player to keep an eye out for, however an exception can be made here with the Harlequins man now a mainstay in Eddie Jones team. Sinckler was concussed just minutes into the world cup final with South Africa going on to decimate the English scrum. One can only imagine how the scrum and the match would have panned out had Sinckler avoided the early blow.

Predicted Finish

England carry the tag as favourites heading in to this year's competition and for good reason. Eddie Jones has selected the core of the group that brought them all the way to a world cup final. With home fixtures against fellow title challengers Wales and Ireland, a **title win** is predicted and maybe even a grand slam. If any team is to stop the English it may be the mercurial French team who host England on the opening weekend of the tournament.