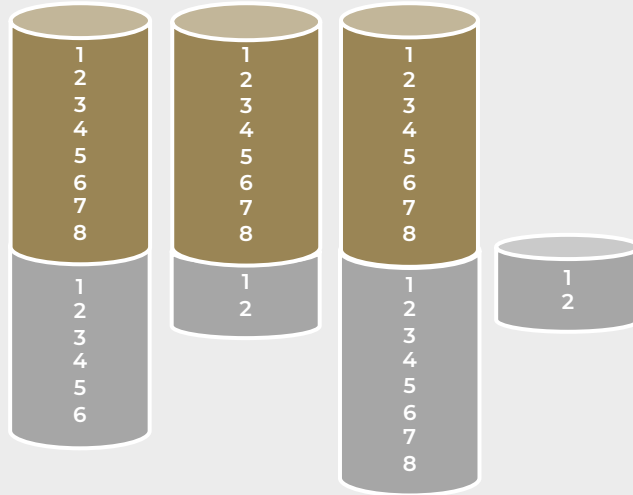
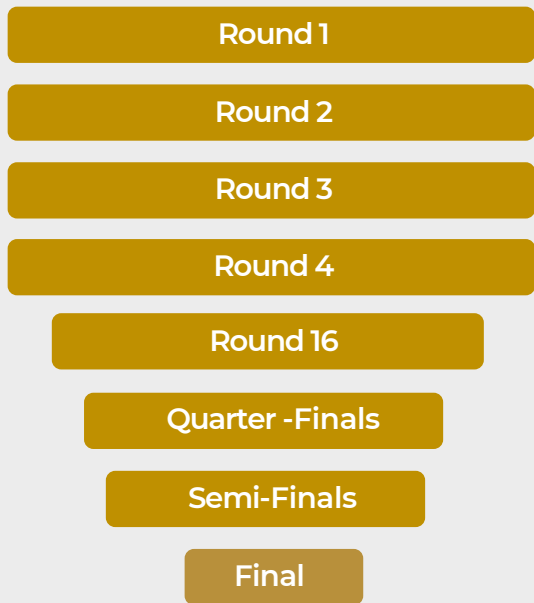
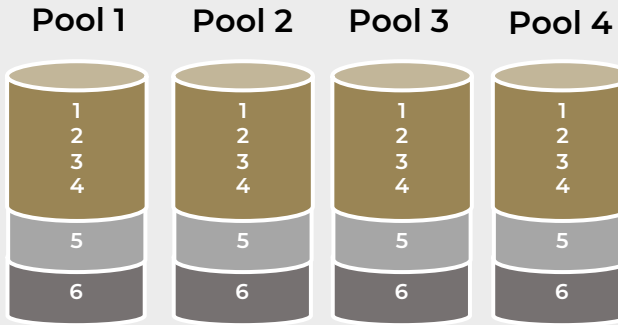




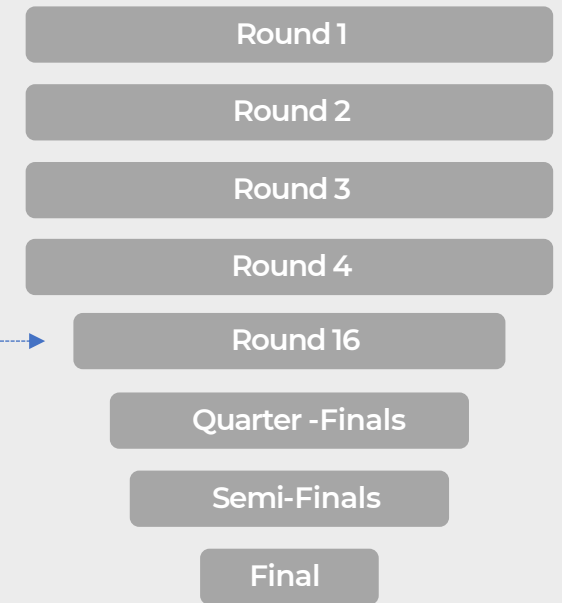
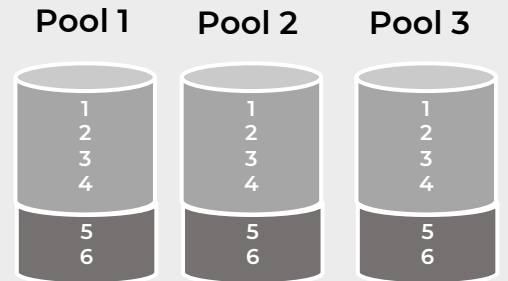
Season 2023/24 Formats

“Back to Pools”

Season 2023/24 Formats: "Back to Pools"



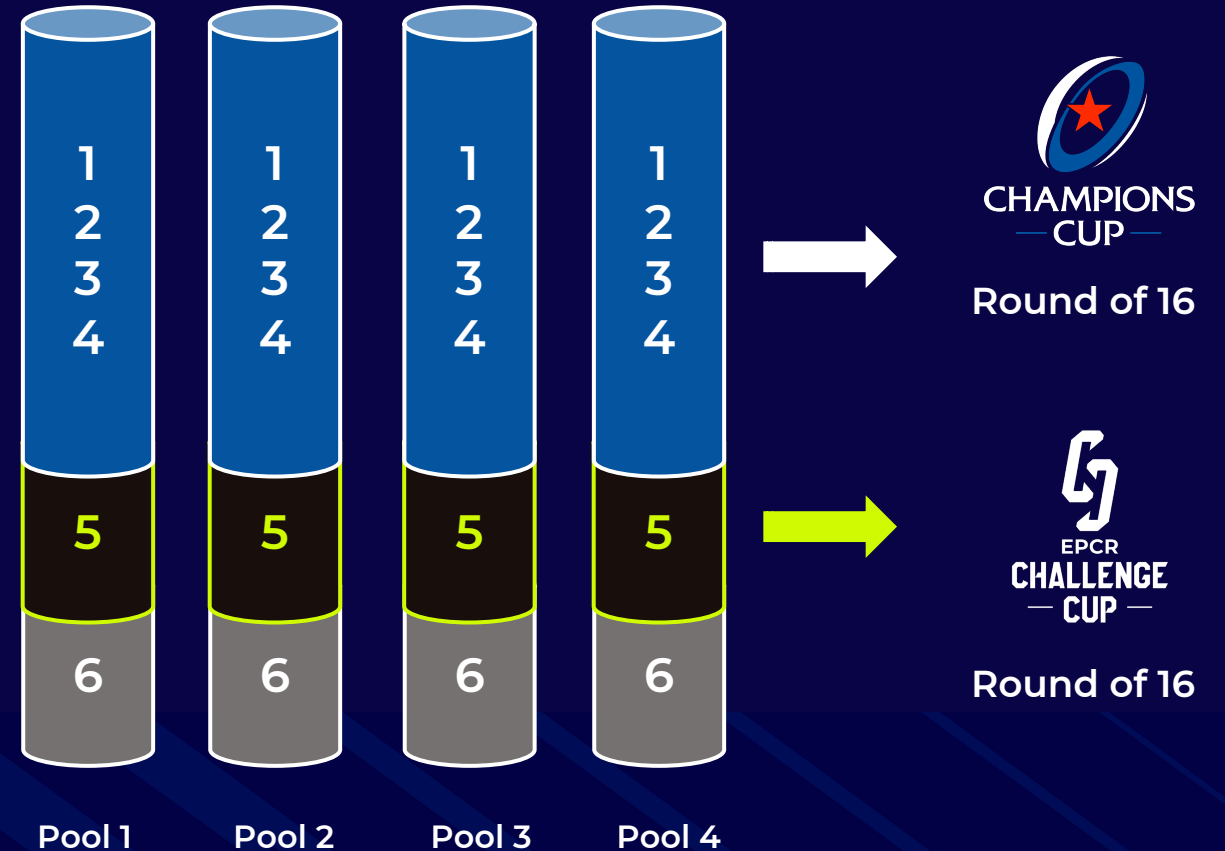
14t 10t 16t 2 invt.



COMPETITION FORMAT 2023/24

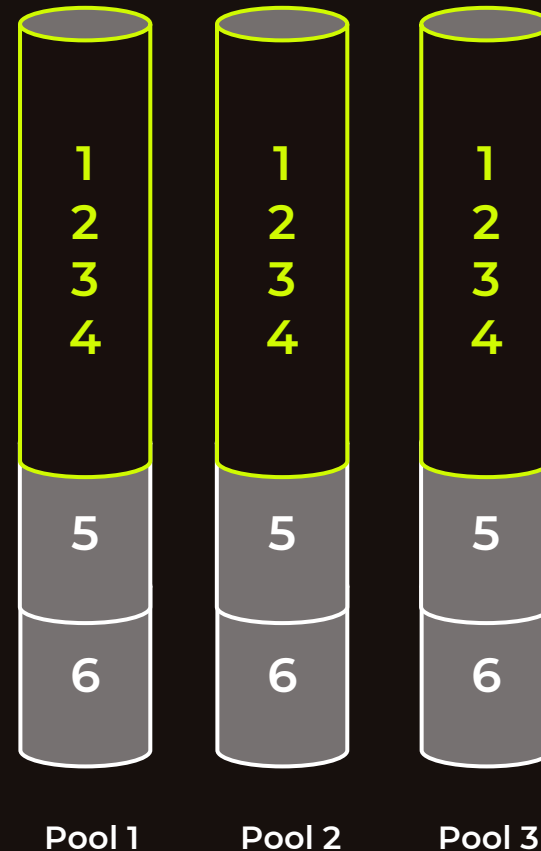


- The 24 clubs are divided into four Pools of six
- The Tournament is played over 8 match weekends.
- This is split into 4 pool stage & 4 knock-out stage matches.
- 24 clubs (eight from each league) are divided into two tiers. Tier 1 consists of 4 clubs - League winners and Champions Cup winner. All other clubs (20) in tier 2 drawn or allocated into each Pool according to Pool Draw principles.
- There are no intra-league games in the pool stage.
- Clubs drawn in the same pool, but not in the same league, play one another home OR away. Fixture allocation determined using algorithm taking into consideration the pool draw, domestic calendar restrictions, local calendar restrictions and broadcaster requirements.
- Full Pool Draw Explainers and details to follow.
- The four highest-ranked clubs from each of the Pools will qualify for the knock-out stage.
- The clubs ranked 5 in each of the Pools will qualify for the knock-out stage EPCR Challenge Cup.
- The clubs ranked 6 in each of the Pools will be eliminated.
- 16 clubs progressing to the knock-out stage and 4 clubs dropping down to the EPCR Challenge Cup knock-out stage.



COMPETITION FORMAT 2023/24

- The format mirrors Champions Cup competition.
- Tournament played over 8 match weekends.
- This is split into 4 pool stage & 4 knock-out stage matches.
- 18 clubs (8 from URC, 6 from LNR and 2 from PRL + 2 Invitational club) – there are no tiers in the EPCR Challenge Cup draw.
- Intra-league games are unavoidable between URC teams due to their higher representation (one of the reasons for geographical/shield splits to avoid fixture repetition).
- Clubs which have been drawn in the same pool, which are not in the same league (with the exception of URC), play one another home OR away (allocation of fixtures to be determined using algorithm taking into consideration the pool draw, domestic calendar restrictions, local calendar restrictions and broadcaster requirements).
- Full Pool Draw Explainers and details to follow.
- The four highest-ranked clubs from each of the Pools will qualify for the knock-out stage.
- The clubs ranked 5 & 6 in each of the Pools will be eliminated.
- 12 clubs progressing to the knock-out stage will be joined by 4 clubs dropping down to the EPCR Challenge Cup knock-out stage from the Champions Cup.



EPCR  **CHALLENGE CUP**


EPCR
**CHALLENGE
CUP**
—
**Knock-out
Rounds**