
Competitions 2027/2028 Youth

Final Format | Belgium Rugby |

Intro

To start our work, we first analysed the figures for the matches played in the different categories and divisions. We looked at the number of scheduled matches, the number of forfeited matches and the number of matches without development (a gap of more than 30 points)

We then sent out a questionnaire to gather the needs and expectations of participants regarding competition

*all data is attached to the categories concerned

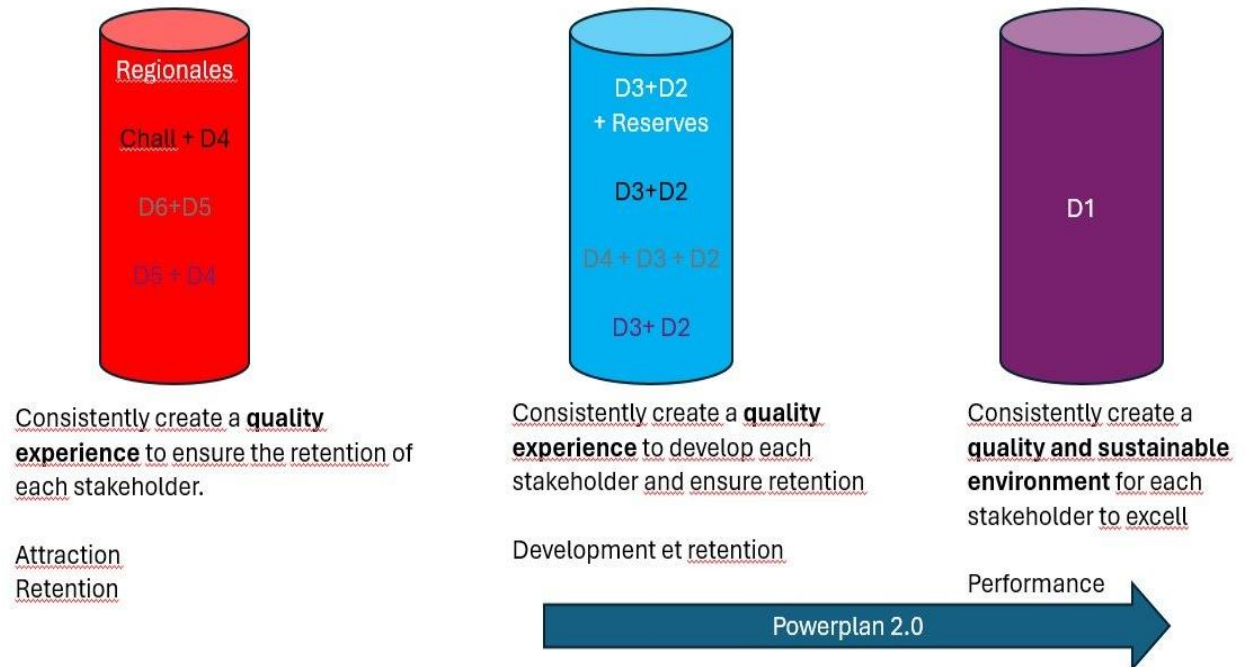


Division breakdown

For the lower divisions (red pillar), the aim is to attract players and keep them in rugby

For the middle divisions (blue pillar), the aim is to retain players and also to support their development.

For the top divisions (purple pillar), the aim is to focus on performance



Our approach

The competition reform was developed in collaboration with our rugby community. To make sure different points of view were taken into account, we set up a working group with representatives of clubs and divisions from across the country.

We started by asking players, coaches, committee members and other stakeholders what, in their view, makes a successful competition. Based on their feedback, we developed several competition formats and shared them with all clubs through a second survey.

Finally, we held two online meetings to discuss the proposals, answer questions and collect final feedback. The model presented in this document is the result of that collaborative process.

Working group members:

- Bernard Steuve
- Christian Cornet
- Didier Vanderhaegen
- Ruben Gooskens

In-person working group meeting:

- 1 in-person meeting (17 February 2026)

Online working group meetings:

- 18 December 2026
- 13 January 2026
- 03 February 2026
- 05 March 2026
- 2 April 2026
- 23 April 2026
- 4 May 2026
- 9 and 11 June 2026
- 23 June 2026

Meetings with the clubs:

- 17 and 18 June
- 1 and 2 July

Questionnaires sent:

- For each pillar there were 3 questionnaires (coach, player, Board). That makes 9 questionnaires in total

BENECUP

Attention!!

- For all categories taking part in a competition with the Netherlands: the exact format of these competitions still has to be confirmed with the Netherlands. If there are any changes, the clubs will be consulted.



U14

The objectives

Following the first presentation to the clubs, in which it was stated that no changes had been taken into account, we looked into improvements for the U14

The working group's objectives for this category were:

- Limit the number of matches without development
- Encourage movement between divisions during the season, to ease the transition from youth tournaments to XV-a-side rugby

On the following pages you will find the figures on competitive balance in the current structure



Some figures

Season 2024-2025

- In the first phase of the championship, we recorded between 0 and 4% forfeited matches across all divisions and between 40 and 82% matches without development.
- In the second phase, we recorded between 0 and 7% forfeited matches, except in D4 and D7 with 13% and 19% respectively. For matches without development, the figure ranges between 37 and 63%, except in D6, where it was 30%

Season 2025-2026

- In the first phase of the championship, we recorded between 0 and 2% forfeited matches across all divisions and between 40 and 54% matches without development.
- In the second phase, we recorded between 0 and 6% forfeited matches, except in D5 (17%). For matches without development, the figure ranges between 30 and 67%, except in D3 and D4, where it was 23%

Format 2027 - 2028

- From 10 teams to 8 teams per division
- 3 competition phases during the season (7 matches per phase)
- At the end of each phase, the top 2 teams move up a division and the bottom 2 move down. No promotion/relegation after the final phase
- Maximum 2 phases in which a team plays more away matches than home matches

Fase 1 - Round Robin (one way)				Fase 2 - Round Robin (one way)				Fase 3 - Round Robin (one way)			
DIV	RANKING	TEAM		DIV	RANKING	TEAM		DIV	RANKING	TEAM	
D1 U14	1			D1 U14	1			D1 U14	1		
D1 U14	2			D1 U14	2			D1 U14	2		
D1 U14	3			D1 U14	3			D1 U14	3		
D1 U14	4			D1 U14	4			D1 U14	4		
D1 U14	5			D1 U14	5			D1 U14	5		
D1 U14	6			D1 U14	6			D1 U14	6		
D1 U14	7			D1 U14	7			D1 U14	7		
D1 U14	8			D1 U14	8			D1 U14	8		
D2 U14	1			D2 U14	1			D2 U14	1		
D2 U14	2			D2 U14	2			D2 U14	2		
D2 U14	3			D2 U14	3			D2 U14	3		
D2 U14	4			D2 U14	4			D2 U14	4		
D2 U14	5			D2 U14	5			D2 U14	5		
D2 U14	6			D2 U14	6			D2 U14	6		
D2 U14	7			D2 U14	7			D2 U14	7		
D2 U14	8			D2 U14	8			D2 U14	8		
D3 U14	1			D3 U14	1			D3 U14	1		
D3 U14	2			D3 U14	2			D3 U14	2		
D3 U14	3			D3 U14	3			D3 U14	3		
D3 U14	4			D3 U14	4			D3 U14	4		
D3 U14	5			D3 U14	5			D3 U14	5		
D3 U14	6			D3 U14	6			D3 U14	6		
D3 U14	7			D3 U14	7			D3 U14	7		
D3 U14	8			D3 U14	8			D3 U14	8		

*This format will be implemented in all U14 divisions

U16 – U18

The objectives

The working group's objectives for this category were:

- Limit the number of matches without development
- Limit travel for the lower levels

Working criteria based on the survey:

- Start in September and finish at the end of May
- No matches during exams and holidays
- Play between 17 and 21 matches, in blocks of 3 to 4 matches

On the following pages you will find the figures on competitive balance in the current structure



Some figures U16

Season 2024-2025

- In the first phase of the championship, we recorded between 0 and 14% forfeited matches across all divisions and between 27 and 44% matches without development.
- In the second phase, we recorded between 3 and 7% forfeited matches, except in D2 and D5 with 13% and 20% respectively. For matches without development, the figure ranges between 23 and 38%, except in D1, where it was 9%

Season 2025-2026

- In the first phase of the championship, we recorded between 0 and 5% forfeited matches across all divisions, except in Q4 (28%), and between 28 and 44% matches without development.
- In the second phase, we recorded between 3 and 10% forfeited matches. For matches without development, the figure ranges between 17 and 43%, except in D6, where it was 63%

Some figures U18

Season 2024-2025

- In the first phase of the championship, we recorded between 5 and 20% forfeited matches across all divisions, except in Q4 (43%), and between 22 and 52% matches without development.
- In the second phase, we recorded between 20 and 63% forfeited matches, except in D1 with 6%. For matches without development, the figure ranges between 7 and 20%, except in D4, where it was 37%

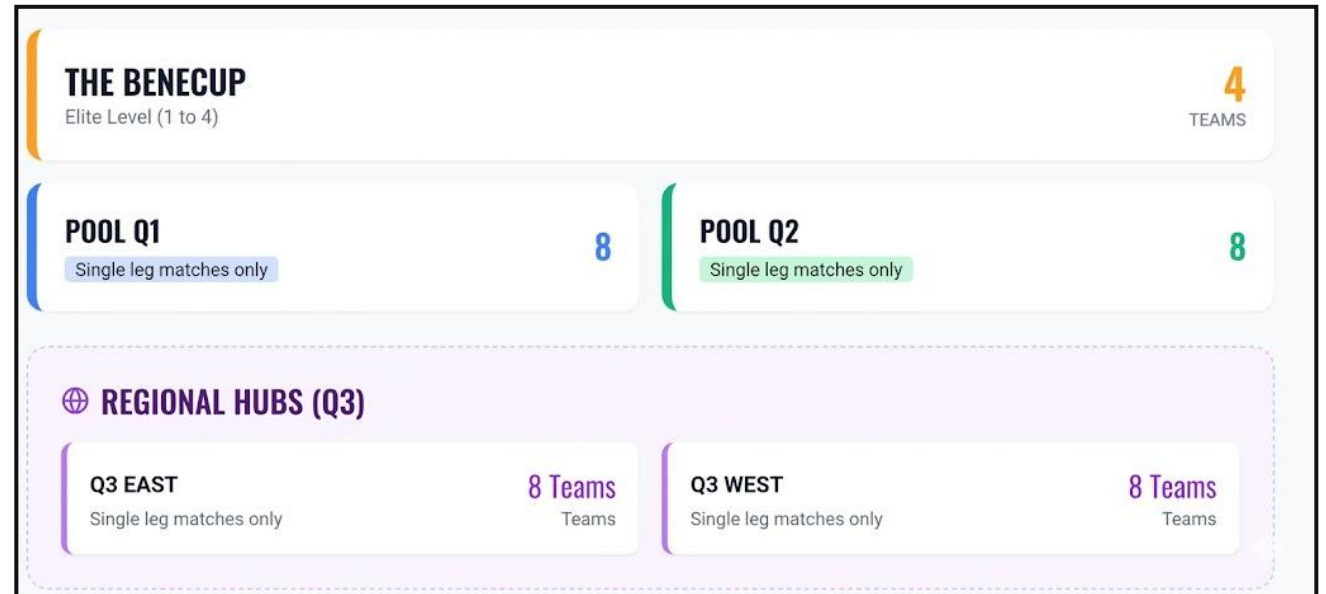
Season 2025-2026

- In the first phase of the championship, we recorded between 2 and 16% forfeited matches across all divisions and between 40 and 52% matches without development.
- In the second phase, we recorded between 0 and 17% forfeited matches, except in D5 (49%). For matches without development, the figure ranges between 23 and 40%, except in D3, where it was 13%

Format 2027/2028

Phase 1

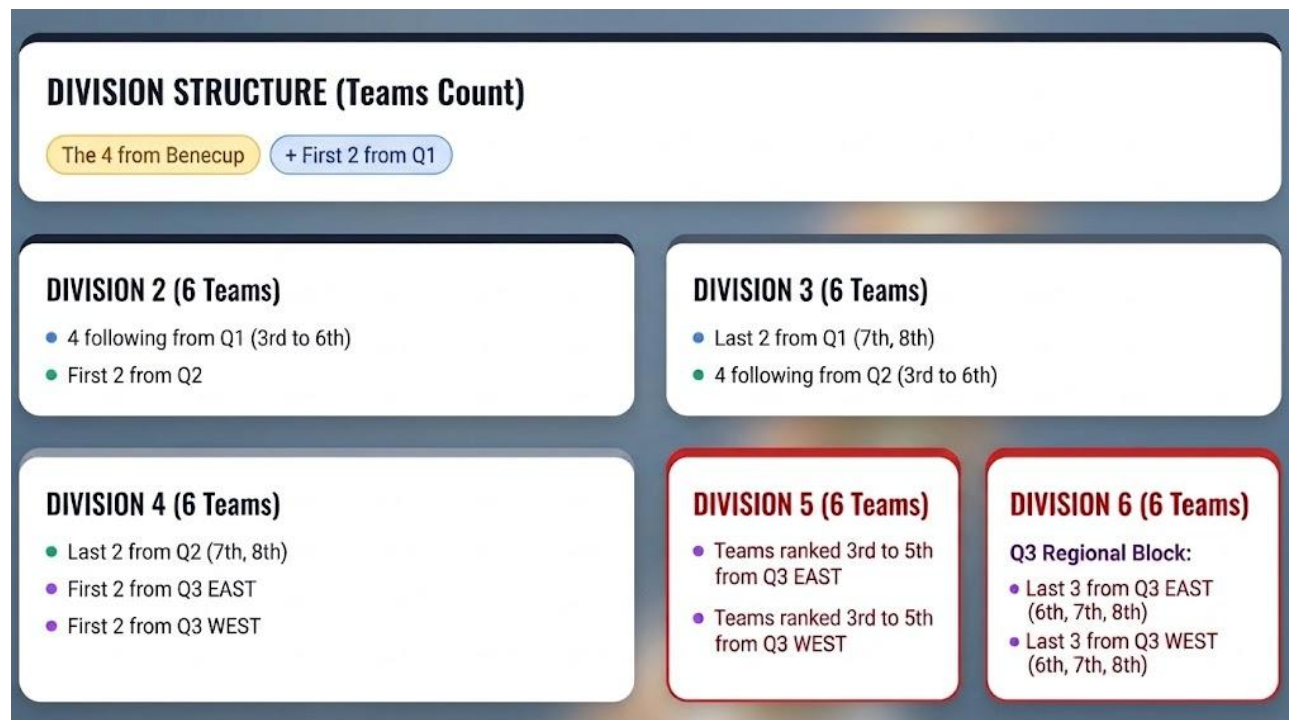
- The top 4 of the previous season play the Benecup against the top 4 of the Netherlands
- Q1 and Q2 form a national competition
- Q3 is regionalised with an East pool and a West pool (Belgium is split vertically in two)
- Introduction of a new calculation to determine the teams' ranking at the end of the season



Format 2027/2028

Phase 2

- No more regional split



Ranking system

The ranking system

The purpose of this calculation system is to reduce the number of matches without development in the first phase of the competition, by taking into account the difference between generations (e.g. weak U14 but strong U16) as well as the number of players based on licences at the end of the season

A good competitive balance allows better attraction and retention of players. It also enables better development

This system will reward clubs that invest in all generations

- $(\text{U14 ranking} \times (\text{U14 2nd year in season } n-1 / \text{U16 season } n^*)) + 1.2 \times (\text{U16 ranking} \times (\text{U16 1st year in season } n-1 / \text{U16 season } n^*))$
- *n is the season that is about to start
- Example 1: strong U14 - less strong U16
- $(10 \times (10/20)) + 1.2 \times (25 \times (10/20)) = 20$
- Example 2: less strong U14 - strong U16
- $(9 \times (22/35)) + 1.2 \times (3 \times (13/35)) = 6.99$
- For partnerships that are not identical across 2 categories, the average of all teams taking part in the partnership will be used to determine the previous season's ranking.
- **Introduction of the calculation system for all qualifications below Q1 (Q2, Q3 East, Q3 West) in 2027-2028**
***Introduction of the calculation system for Q1 in the 2028-2029 season, after evaluation**
- Coefficient for U16 = 1,2
- Coefficient for U18 = 1,4

U16

Overview of the ranking calculation system based on the 2025-2026 season

U16	
Without Ranking System	
BENE	Royal Kituro Schaerbeek Rugby Club U16 1
BENE	Rugby Club Soignies U16 1
BENE	Boitsfort Rugby Club U16 1
BENE	Rugby Club Frameries U16 1
Q1	ASUB Rugby Waterloo U16 1
Q1	Rugby Club Luxembourg U16 1
Q1	Rugby Ottignies Club U16 1
Q1	Gent Rugby Football Club VZW U16 1
Q1	Royal Football Club Liégeois Rugby U16 1
Q1	CSCE Luxembourg U16 1
Q1	Entente Coq Mosan/Visé U16 1
Q1	Dendermonde Rugby Club U16 1
Q2	Entente BUC/Kibubu U16 1
Q2	Entente Namur/Hesby U16 1
Q2	Rugbyclub Leuven U16 1
Q2	Standard Chaudfontaine Rugby Club U16 1
Q2	Antwerp Rugby Club U16 1
Q2	BBRFC Celtic U16 1
Q2	RUSH U16 1
Q2	Royal Sporting Club Anderlechtois Rugby U16 1
Q3 West	Dendermonde Rugby Club U16 2
Q3 West	Entente Curtrycke/Tournai U16 1
Q3 West	Entente Binche/Nivelles U16 1
Q3 West	Rugbyclub Pajot U16 1
Q3 West	Rhinos Rugby Oudenaarde U16 1
Q3 West	Entente Collines/Saint-Ghislain/Mons U16 1
Q3 West	Rugby Black Star Charleroi U16 1
Q3 West	Entente Waereghem/Roeselare U16 1
Q3 West	Boitsfort Rugby Club U16 2
Q3 East	Royal Kituro Schaerbeek Rugby Club U16 2
Q3 East	Entente Hesby/Namur U16 1
Q3 East	Rugby Club La Hulpe U16 1
Q3 East	Rugby Mechelen U16 1
Q3 East	Entente Laakdal/Arendonk U16 1
Q3 East	Brussels Citizens Rugby Auderghem U16 1
Q3 East	Rugby B.W. Est U16 1
Q3 East	Rugbyclub Diabolos Schilde U16 1
Q3 East	Entente Walferdange/Ardenne/RC Luxembourg 2 U16 1

U16	
With Ranking System	
BENE	Royal Kituro Schaerbeek Rugby Club U16 1
BENE	Rugby Club Soignies U16 1
BENE	Boitsfort Rugby Club U16 1
BENE	Rugby Club Frameries U16 1
Q1	ASUB Rugby Waterloo U16 1
Q1	Rugby Club Luxembourg U16 1
Q1	Rugby Ottignies Club U16 1
Q1	Gent Rugby Football Club VZW U16 1
Q1	Royal Football Club Liégeois Rugby U16 1
Q1	CSCE Luxembourg U16 1
Q1	Entente Coq Mosan/Visé U16 1
Q1	Dendermonde Rugby Club U16 1
Q2	Entente Coq Mosan/Visé U16 1
Q2	Entente Namur/Hesby U16 1
Q2	BBRFC Celtic U16 1
Q2	Rugbyclub Pajot U16 1
Q2	Standard Chaudfontaine Rugby Club U16 1
Q2	Rugbyclub Leuven U16 1
Q2	Antwerp Rugby Club U16 1
Q2	Royal Sporting Club Anderlechtois Rugby U16 1
Q3 West	Entente Curtrycke/Tournai U16 1
Q3 West	RUSH U16 1
Q3 West	Entente Collines/Saint-Ghislain/Mons U16 1
Q3 West	Entente Binche/Nivelles U16 1
Q3 West	Rugby Black Star Charleroi U16 1
Q3 West	Entente Waereghem/Roeselare U16 1
Q3 West	Rhinos Rugby Oudenaarde U16 1
Q3 West	Dendermonde Rugby Club U16 2
Q3 West	Boitsfort Rugby Club U16 2
Q3 East	Rugby Club La Hulpe U16 1
Q3 East	Brussels Citizens Rugby Auderghem U16 1
Q3 East	Rugbyclub Diabolos Schilde U16 1
Q3 East	Royal Kituro Schaerbeek Rugby Club U16 2
Q3 East	Entente Laakdal/Arendonk U16 1
Q3 East	Entente Walferdange/Ardenne/RC Luxembourg 2 U16 1
Q3 East	Rugby Mechelen U16 1
Q3 East	Rugby B.W. Est U16 1
Q3 East	Entente Hesby/Namur U16 1

U18

Overview of the ranking calculation system based on the 2025-2026 season

U18	
Without calcul system	
1	Boitsfort Rugby Club U18 1
2	Rugby Club Frameries U18 1
3	Royal Kituro Schaerbeek Rugby Club U18 1
4	Royal Football Club Liégeois Rugby U18 1
5	Rugby Club Soignies U18 1
6	Royal Sporting Club Anderlechtois Rugby U18 1
7	Gent Rugby Football Club VZW U18 1
8	ASUB Rugby Waterloo U18 1
9	Rugby Ottignies Club U18 1
10	Dendermonde Rugby Club U18 1
11	Rugby Club Luxembourg U18 1
12	Royal Rugby Namur U18 1
13	Antwerp Rugby Club U18 1
14	Rugbyclub Leuven U18 1
15	CSCE Luxembourg U18 1
16	Entente Visé/Coq Mosan U18 1
17	Boitsfort Rugby Club U18 2
18	Entente Oudenaarde/Collines/Saint-Ghislain U18 1
19	Rugby Mechelen U18 1
20	Rugbyclub Pajot U18 1
Q3 West	Entente RUSH/Binche/Black Star U18 1
Q3 West	Rugby Club Mons U18 1
Q3 West	Entente Curtrycke/Tournai U18 1
Q3 West	Entente Waereghem/Roeselare/Brugsche/Beernem/Oostende U18 1
Q3 West	Le Stade Nivellois Rugby Club U18 1
Q3 West	Brussels Citizens Rugby Auderghem U18 1
Q3 East	BUC Rugby Saint-Josse U18 1
Q3 East	Entente La Hulpe/Celtic U18 1
Q3 East	Entente Limburg U18 1
Q3 East	Standard Chaudfontaine Rugby Club U18 1
Q3 East	Rugbyclub Diabolos Schilde U18 1
Q3 East	Rugby Club Racing Jet Bruxelles U18 1

U18	
With calculation model	
1	Boitsfort Rugby Club U18 1
2	Rugby Club Frameries U18 1
3	Royal Kituro Schaerbeek Rugby Club U18 1
4	Royal Football Club Liégeois Rugby U18 1
5	Rugby Club Soignies U18 1
6	Royal Sporting Club Anderlechtois Rugby U18 1
7	Gent Rugby Football Club VZW U18 1
8	ASUB Rugby Waterloo U18 1
9	Rugby Ottignies Club U18 1
10	Dendermonde Rugby Club U18 1
11	Rugby Club Luxembourg U18 1
12	Royal Rugby Namur U18 1
13	CSCE Luxembourg U18 1
14	Rugbyclub Leuven U18 1
15	Entente Visé/Coq Mosan U18 1
16	Antwerp Rugby Club U18 1
17	BUC Rugby Saint-Josse U18 1
18	Boitsfort Rugby Club U18 2
19	Standard Chaudfontaine Rugby Club U18 1
20	Entente Curtrycke/Tournai U18 1
Q3 West	Rugbyclub Pajot U18 1
Q3 West	Entente Oudenaarde/Collines/Saint-Ghislain U18 1
Q3 West	Entente RUSH/Binche/Black Star U18 1
Q3 West	Rugby Club Mons U18 1
Q3 West	Le Stade Nivellois Rugby Club U18 1
Q3 West	Entente Waereghem/Roeselare/Brugsche/Beernem/Oostende U18 1
Q3 East	Rugby Mechelen U18 1
Q3 East	Entente Limburg U18 1
Q3 East	Entente La Hulpe/Celtic U18 1
Q3 East	Brussels Citizens Rugby Auderghem U18 1
Q3 East	Rugbyclub Diabolos Schilde U18 1
Q3 East	Rugby Club Racing Jet Bruxelles U18 1