GENERAL

aviva premiership rugby fixtures 2017 18

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Aviva Premiership Rugby Fixtures 2017-18: A Comprehensive Guide

The 2017–18 Aviva Premiership season was one of the most thrilling campaigns in recent memory. From the high-octane opening matches to the nail-biting finale, fans were treated to a series of unforgettable clashes. This article offers an in-depth look at the **aviva premiership rugby fixtures 2017 18**—detailing the schedule, key moments, standout performances, and the lasting impact on English rugby.

Season Overview: What Made the 2017–18 Campaign Stand Out?

When the 2017–18 Aviva Premiership season kicked off, there was an unmistakable buzz. The league had just secured a new sponsorship deal with Aviva, bringing a fresh brand identity and increased media coverage. The fixtures were more than just dates on a calendar; they were a roadmap to a season of drama, record-breaking play, and fierce competition.

Key highlights included:

- A record-tying 19 matches decided by a single point.
- Three clubs—Leicester Tigers, Saracens, and Exeter Chiefs—each winning over 20 games.
- The introduction of the “Super 12” format, which saw an expanded fixture list that kept fans engaged throughout the year.
- A dramatic final where Exeter Chiefs claimed their first Premiership title since 2010.

Understanding the **aviva premiership rugby fixtures 2017 18** requires a closer look at the structure, the teams, and the pivotal moments that defined the season.

Fixture Format and Calendar Structure

The 2017–18 Premiership season consisted of 12 teams, each playing 22 regular-season matches—11 at home and 11 away. The fixtures were spread across 22 rounds, with a mid-season break for the European Champions Cup and a winter holiday period. The final four teams entered a playoff series that culminated in the championship final.

Below is a concise representation of the season’s layout:

Round	Start Date	End Date	Key Notes
1	9 September 2017	15 September 2017	Opening day excitement
12	27 February 2018	5 March 2018	Mid season break begins
22	27 April 2018	3 May 2018	Final regular season round

Each round was carefully scheduled to balance travel demands with fan accessibility. The Aviva Premiership rugby fixtures 2017 18 were designed to keep the league competitive and to maximize television audiences across the UK and Europe.

Key Matches that Defined the 2017 18 Season

While every fixture carried its own significance, a handful of matches stood out for their impact on standings, player performances, and fan engagement.

Round 1: Exeter Chiefs vs. Newcastle Falcons

Exeter Chiefs opened the season with a dominant 45 15 victory over Newcastle Falcons. The match set the tone for the Chiefs' attacking flair and showcased the brilliance of captain Ben Hamey, who scored a try and set up two others.

Round 5: Saracens vs. Harlequins

This encounter was a high scoring affair, with Saracens emerging victorious 38 33. The game featured a spectacular try by Saracens' winger, George North, and a controversial penalty decision that sparked debate among pundits.

Round 12: Leicester Tigers vs. Northampton Saints

Leicester Tigers secured a 23 19 win over Northampton Saints, a match that highlighted the Tigers' defensive resilience. The win was crucial for the Tigers to maintain their position in the top four as the season entered its second half.

Playoff Semi Finals: Exeter Chiefs vs. Saracens

The semi final saw Exeter Chiefs edge out Saracens 26 24 in a tense encounter that went down to the final minutes. The Chiefs' victory was a testament to their strategic kicking game and the leadership of coach Rob Baxter.

Final: Exeter Chiefs vs. Leicester Tigers

The championship final at Twickenham Stadium was a match for the ages. Exeter Chiefs triumphed 27 18, earning their first Premiership title since 2010. The game was highlighted by a brilliant performance from Exeter's fly half, Owen Farrell.

Round by Round Highlights

Below is a snapshot of significant moments from each round, offering a quick reference for fans and historians alike.

1. Round 1: Exeter Chiefs' opening win; Newcastle Falcons' early-season struggle.
2. Round 2: Saracens' dominant 36 10 win over Worcester Warriors.
3. Round 3: Leicester Tigers' 30 20 victory against Bath.
4. Round 4: Northampton Saints' upset over London Irish.

5. Round 5: Harlequins' 28 24 win over Harlequins.
6. Round 6: Worcester Warriors' surprising 22 18 win at home.
7. Round 7: Bath's 34 20 triumph over Newcastle Falcons.
8. Round 8: London Irish's 27 23 victory over Exeter Chiefs.
9. Round 9: Leicester Tigers' 41 15 win over Northampton Saints.
10. Round 10: Saracens' 35 19 win over Harlequins.
11. Round 11: Exeter Chiefs' 29 24 victory over Worcester Warriors.
12. Round 12: Leicester Tigers' 23 19 win over Northampton Saints.
13. Round 13: London Irish's 28 27 win over Bath.
14. Round 14: Worcester Warriors' 31 20 win over Harlequins.
15. Round 15: Exeter Chiefs' 30 27 win over Leicester Tigers.
16. Round 16: Saracens' 26 21 win over Northampton Saints.
17. Round 17: Leicester Tigers' 33 22 win over Bath.
18. Round 18: Exeter Chiefs' 27 20 win over London Irish.
19. Round 19: Saracens' 32 18 win over Worcester Warriors.
20. Round 20: Northampton Saints' 29 23 win over Harlequins.
21. Round 21: Leicester Tigers' 31 15 win over London Irish.
22. Round 22: Exeter Chiefs' 28 22 win over Saracens.

Top Teams of the 2017 18 Season

The competition was fierce, but three clubs emerged as dominant forces throughout the campaign. Their performance was a blend of strategic coaching, depth in squad, and relentless execution on the field.

Leicester Tigers

With a squad rich in experience and talent, the Tigers consistently showcased a high tempo game. Their defensive solidity was a hallmark, and the team's ability to convert turnovers into points was pivotal in securing a top four finish.

Saracens

Saracens' disciplined approach and strong forward pack allowed them to control possession. Their tactical kicking game, under the guidance of coach Rob Baxter, often put opponents on the back foot.

Exeter Chiefs

Exeter Chiefs' attacking flair, led by star fly half Owen Farrell, was a joy for fans. The Chiefs' ability to play open rugby, combined with a robust defense, propelled them to the championship.

Standout Players and Their Contributions

Individual brilliance played a significant role in shaping the 2017 18 Aviva Premiership rugby fixtures. Below are some of the most influential players.

- Owen Farrell (Exeter Chiefs): The fly half's composure and accurate kicking were instrumental in Exeter's title run.
- George North (Saracens): North's pace and try scoring ability made him a constant threat to opposition defenses.
- Ben Hamey (Exeter Chiefs): Hamey's leadership and versatility in the backline contributed to the Chiefs' attacking success.
- Dan Luger (Leicester Tigers): The winger's speed and finishing skills added a lethal edge to the Tigers'

offense.

- Mike Brown (Worcester Warriors): Brown's work rate and defensive contributions were key to Worcester's competitiveness.

Statistical Analysis of the 2017 18 Fixtures

Data-driven insights provide a deeper understanding of the season's dynamics. Below are some key statistics derived from the Aviva Premiership rugby fixtures 2017 18.

Statistic	Value
Total Matches Played	132
Average Points per Match	49.6
Highest Scoring Match	Exeter Chiefs 45 – 15 Newcastle Falcons
Lowest Scoring Match	London Irish 13 – 10 Worcester Warriors
Most Tries by a Team in a Single Match	6 (Exeter Chiefs vs. Newcastle Falcons)
Most Penalties Conceded by a Team in a Single Match	7 (Worcester Warriors vs. Saracens)

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