



RWC 2007 Stats from Sportal NZ (with IRB Sources)  
Added notes from Frederick Claro

New Zealand may have suffered its worst performance at a Rugby World Cup last month when eliminated in the quarter-finals, but it still cast a significant shadow over tournament statistics.

Its quarter-final game with France resulted in the highest amount of time that the ball was in play in a game at 57 percent (personal note: 57% was the second half by my analysis whereas the total AGT (Actual Game Time) for that game was 54% by my account... It is nonetheless a record for an international match), which equated to 45 minutes 34 seconds, compared to the tournament average of 44 percent (personal note: Average AGT in RWC 2003: 42% - IRB source 2004 - representing an increase in AGT of 5% from 2003 to 2007).

New Zealand dominated the passing averages for the tournament with 159 passes per pool game, and 190 passes in the quarter-final. Wales was second with 153 in the pool phase while France, in the quarter-final, made only 67 passes.

Kicking during the tournament was at an average of 56 per game was greater than the 52 in the 2003 World Cup. New Zealand was the team that kicked least with an average of 19 during the pool round but 38 in its quarter-final.

For all the concern about the All Blacks lineout before the tournament, it ended up having the most successful record of receiving from its own throw with 93 percent.

Australia had a 92 percent record while it proved most successful at winning 35 percent possession from opposition throws. New Zealand may have suffered its worst performance at a Rugby World Cup last month when eliminated in the quarter-finals, but it still cast a significant shadow over tournament statistics.

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The report also made a comparison between the last tournament of the amateur era in 1995 and the 2007 tournament as a measure of the shape of the game.

Significant changes were that the ball was in play by more than a third at the 2007 tournament at 44 percent of the time.

The ball was passed 25 percent more with 224 passes in a game (but this figure was down on the 241 passes at the 2003 World Cup).

Rucks and mauls were up by 107 percent from 1995 with an average of 144 per game while kicks in play were down by a quarter at 56 per game. The number of scrums set was down by a third to 19 per game and lineouts were reduced by 16 percent.

Penalties were also reduced, by 22 percent. However, the number of points scored per game at pool stages was the same at 56.

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