

Kenya Rugby Historical Highlights:

1. 1909, first rugby match played
2. 1923, Rugby Football Union of Kenya (RFU-K) formed
3. 1923, Nairobi Rugby Club split into Harlequins (not Kenya Harlequin FC) and Nondescripts
4. 1924, first office bearers of RFU-K elected: President, P. Whetham; Secretary/Treasurer, G. Wedderburn
5. 1925, first Treasurer elected - J.L. Worlledge
6. 1925, first formal competition organized - Nairobi District Championship (under Rugby Football Union, Kenya Central Province)
7. 1925, first Nairobi District Championship won by Harlequins
8. 1928, Enterprise Cup donated by sailors on HMS Enterprise
9. 1930, first Enterprise Cup competition won by Nairobi
10. 1940-46, No competitions held due to World War II
11. 1952, RFUEA Grounds constructed
12. 1954, Tanganyika Rugby Football Union formed
13. 1955, Uganda Rugby Football Union formed
14. 1955, RFUEA Provincial Championships begin
15. 1955, The British Lions tour Kenya
16. 1955, First RFUEA Provincial Championships won by Coast Province
17. 1956, RFU-K dissolved, and provincial unions of RFUEA take charge of regional rugby
18. 1961, the South African Springboks tour Kenya
19. 1969, the last Nairobi District Championship held
20. 1969, the last Nairobi District Championship won by Kenya Harlequin FC
21. 1969, Nondescripts RUFC had won the most NDC titles (19) by end of the NDC championships
22. 1970, The Kenya Rugby Football Union (KRFU) formed
23. 1970, the Kenya Cup inaugurated
24. 1970, the first Kenya Cup won by Impala RFC
25. 1972, KRFU assumes control of all of Kenya Rugby activity
26. 1972, the last RFUEA Provincial Championships held
27. 1972, the last RFUEA Provincial Championships won by Kenya Clubs
28. 1974, the KRFU registered as a Society under the Societies Act of Kenya
29. 1977, the first all African Club - Mean Machine, formed
30. 1982, a school side, Lenana School, wins the Eric Shirley Shield
31. 1987, no Enterprise Cup held due to the hosting of All African Games where Rugby was a demonstration sport
32. 1990, KRFU is admitted into the International Rugby Board (IRB)
33. 1990, Rugby 15s admitted as formal sport in secondary schools
34. 1996, Safari Sevens International tournament inaugurated
35. 1999, the National Sevens Circuit is inaugurated
36. 1999, Kenya is invited to the first IRB Sevens World Series
37. 2000, Kenya qualifies for the first time to a Rugby 7s World Cup and upsets France, a Tier 1 Rugby Nation
38. 2001, Kenya appears for the first time at a Rugby World Cup 7s: Mar del Plata, Argentina
39. 2003, Kenya beats Zimbabwe for the first time, in Kenya Airways Challenge Cup. Score 32-24
40. 2003, the Rugby Super Series is inaugurated
41. 2004, Rugby 7s admitted as a formal sport in secondary schools
42. 2004, Kenya qualifies for the 2nd time to a Rugby World Cup
43. 2005, Kenya appears at a Rugby World Cup 7s, in Hong Kong
44. 2005, Kenya beats Tunisia for the first time, in the Confederation of Africa Rugby (CAR) Africa Cup. Score: 37-15
45. 2006, Kenya beats Namibia for the first time, in the Rugby World Cup Qualifiers. Score: 30-26
46. 2006, Kenya beats Morocco for the first time, in the Confederation of Africa Rugby (CAR) Africa Cup. Score: 23-16
47. 2008, Kenya qualifies for the 3rd to a Rugby World Cup
48. 2008, Rugby is admitted as a formal sport in public primary schools
49. 2009, Kenya appears for the third time in a Rugby 7s World Cup and historically reaches the Semi Final of the tournament
50. 2009, Kenya earns automatic qualification for the 4th time to a Rugby World Cup 7s by reaching the quarterfinals. This is national record for qualifications to any World Cup

Compiled by Fred Ollows