

Presentation of rugby

Rugby

- **Introduction**

Rugby is a team game where you have to kick or carry the ball to the marked line on the ground and then you have to put (not drop) it down by hands, while the players from the opposite team are trying to stop you and do the same in opposite direction. Its roots came from an ancient Roman game that was very similar to the basic rules of rugby. It was also a very popular game in Roman times, but after that there were only laws that strictly forbid that game. These laws were necessary because some of serious brawls into which most of the games degenerated resulted in heavy casualties. The game was also played in China in time of Han dynasty and in Ireland 2000 years ago.

- **History**

But the beginning of real rugby started in 1823 in England at Rugby School. Although that most rulers were not allowing the game or any violence, the game was played all over the England. Then the game become more acceptable, as in the famous description of the football match at Rugby School in *Tom Brown's Schooldays*. But the basic rule of modern rugby was developed in 1823 by a young boy William Webb Ellis at Rugby School. He ignored the rule of football as played in his time and first took the ball in his arms and ran with it. After that the other rules developed in a few years. The game was played very little at the beginning of 19 century, but then the public schools began to take it up more seriously. Another great year was 1860. That's the date of foundation of Blackheath and Richmond club. These were the first rugby clubs and after that the others soon followed. In 1871 the Rugby Football Union was formed and this was followed in the same year by first international match between England and Scotland that was won by Scotland.

- **Ball**

The ball's bladder was first made of pig's bladder and there was no standard size of ball. It was much rounder than today's ball and the bladder was covered with leather. They weren't so strong because of the sewing method. But when the india-rubber bladders were first used the ball became more oval. Today there are three standard sizes 3, 4 and 5. 3 and 4 are used in Mini rugby and 5 is used in normal rugby.

- **Rules**

Rugby has 28 laws and each law has several rules. All players must wear a rugby uniform that is the same for everyone only the colors can be different. The players must not wear dangerous objects such as rings, watches and so on, but you should always wear mouthguard. The uniform consist of jersey, shorts, shin socks and football shoes (similar to soccer shoes). The dimensions of rugby pitch are standard and are slightly different in other types of rugby. There are five types of rugby: rugby union (amateur, 15 players), rugby league (professional, 13 players), American football, Australian rugby (oval pitch, goal with four goal posts) and mini rugby (under 13 and below).

- **General**

All 15 players in rugby are divided in two groups, first 9 form scrum and others are forwards. Scrum consists of first, second and the third line. Left and right prop and hooker are the first line. The second line is formed by two lockers and the third line is formed by left and right flanker and No.8. The No.9, scrum half, connects scrum with the forwards. No.10 is outside half, No.11 is left wing, No.12 is first center, No.13 is second center, No.14 is right wing and No.15 is full back. Normal length of game is two times 40 minutes, but on tournaments in Italy the game lasts two times 7 minutes because there is always more than 100 teams and the tournament lasts only for 3 days.