

EdRugby Online Educational Resource

LESSON: Beginnings

LEVEL

Upper primary

THEME: Game plan

DESCRIPTION:

Students are introduced to the game of Rugby. They explore the significance of the game and its place in the Australian culture and psyche. Students interpret photographs showing the values associated with love of the game, teamwork and camaraderie, heritage and tradition and Australian pride.

OUTCOMES

This lesson contributes to the achievement of the following unit outcomes:

English

- With teacher guidance, identifies and discusses how linguistic structures and features work to shape readers' and viewers' understanding of texts.
- Identifies and discusses some of the relationships between ideas, information and events in visual texts designed for general viewing.
- Justifies own interpretation of ideas, information and events in texts containing some unfamiliar concepts and topics and which introduce relatively complex linguistic structures and features.
- Uses writing to develop familiar ideas, events and information.
- Adjusts writing to take account of aspects of context, purpose and audience.

SUGGESTED TIME:

60 minutes

WHAT YOU NEED:

- recording of a Rugby match (on tape, compact disc, video or other); try to obtain a range of matches, including local and international
- class copies of the student handouts (at the end of this lesson plan)

GAME PLAN

PART 1 THE BEGINNINGS

- a. Distribute Student handout – The history of Rugby

Discuss the ideas associated with history and how it is recorded and interpreted. Introduce the reading by suggesting that history can often be reported inaccurately and that readers should make up their own minds about what is likely to have happened.

Read through the handout with the students. During reading, clarify any unfamiliar vocabulary if requested.

After reading, ask students for their opinions about what is the most likely version of events and their reasons for thinking so.

- b. Ask students to read the questions and complete their answers.

Share and discuss the answers to the questions, asking students to give evidence for their choices.

Other discussion topics could include the pros and cons of amateurism and the merits of different Rugby codes.

PART 2 THE GAME

- a. Show students an extract of a recorded Rugby match. After watching, ask for their observations. Suggested questions could include:

What equipment does the game require?

What are the players trying to do?

Who is controlling the game and how?

What questions could you ask to help you understand the game better?

- b. Distribute student handout – Welcome to Rugby 1 and 2

Focus on the diagram of the field, asking students to identify dimensions and names of positions. Compare it with other playing fields they know. Point out how the bold type relates to the illustrations and then set students to read the text.

- c. After reading, ask students to formulate two questions (and answers) based on the information to ask the class. Suggested questions could include:

What is the aim of the game?

How do players score points?

How many players in a team?

What does the term 'prop' refer to?

What are the two categories of player?

- d. Direct students' attention to the photographs and ask what other information about the game is shown in the photographs, eg the different uniforms, the shape of the ball, headgear.

PART 3 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GAME

- a. Distribute Student handout – Rugby montage

Pose the question:

What is shown that explains why Rugby is important to people in Australia?

Generate a list of words and phrases and list them on labels. Such words could include: friendship, fun, fitness, sportsmanship, as well as the words printed on the page. Discuss the meanings of the words.

- b. Distribute Student handout – Introductory message. Ask students to read the text by a former Australian Rugby Union Chief Executive Officer. Encourage students to add more words to their list after reading.
- c. Make a wall display with the Rugby montage, using additional photographs and pictures if you have them. Use string to connect the labels to the relevant photos.

PART 4 REFLECTION

Reflect on the game of Rugby. Discuss its significance as a widely played game which has developed specific laws and playing styles that distinguish it from other games. In what ways is it similar to and different from other ball games?

What attracts players and spectators to the game of Rugby in Australia?

PART 5 EXTENSION

- Learn more about the history of Rugby Union on the Internet by a search on 'Rugby origins' or 'Rugby history' or at www.rl1908.com/Origin-Rugby.htm
- Research more recent history of the game in Australia and in other countries such as South Africa, the USA and New Zealand using the Internet.
- Research to find out more about the rules of the game on www.irb.com/laws/index.cfm



Explore www.rugby.com.au/edrugby (select 'ONLINE RESOURCE') for a student interactive activity related to this lesson.

STUDENT HANDOUT THE HISTORY OF RUGBY

Even before the 1800s there were several different types of ball games that could be classified as football but with a variety of rules and styles of play. Such games were played at public schools in England.

As the story goes, it was at one of these schools, called Rugby, that a boy called William Ellis decided to cheat and picked up the ball and ran with it, thereby inventing a new game.

This version of the game was then named Rugby, after the school. Some believe, however, that this version was common before that, along with other variations in the game.

By the middle of the century the game was being played by more people and so it was important that everyone played the same version. Because of this need, the standard laws of Rugby were determined in a meeting in London between club representatives. The meeting was held in 1871 and was called The Rugby Football Union. The standardisation of the rules meant that the first international match, between England and Scotland, could be played with both sides playing the same game.

The union strongly supported amateurism in the game.

Twenty years later, controversy erupted when it was found that some northern clubs were paying their players. This resulted in a split and eventually these clubs formed the beginning of Rugby League. The merits of the two games still cause great debate among fans, as does the issue of amateurism in sport.

These days more than 120 countries play Rugby Union and there is a mix of amateur and professional players.

Questions

- a. Do you think this version of the history of Rugby is most likely to be true?

- Why? -----
- b. What was the most significant change to the game of Rugby?

- c. What does 'amateurism' mean?

- d. What does the term 'standardised' mean?

- e. Why is it important to have standardised rules in a game?

A Plain English Guide to Rugby Union

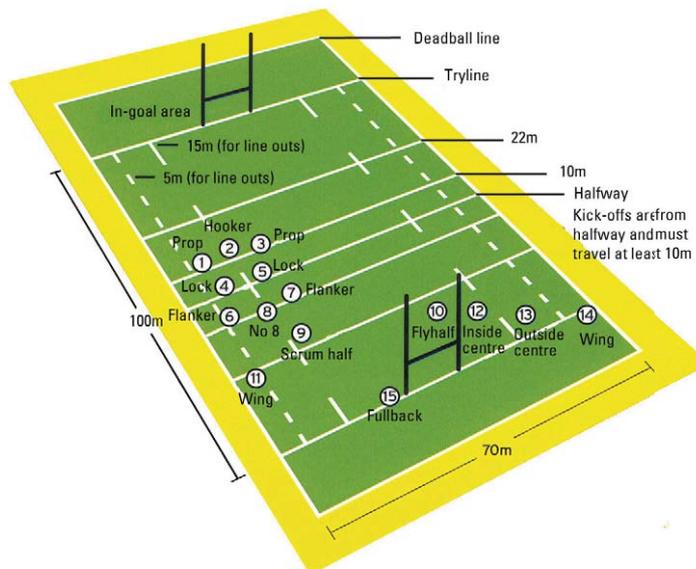
Rugby gets its name from Rugby school in England where it was first played in 1823. Legend has it that the game originated when one of the pupils, William Webb Ellis, picked up the ball during a game of soccer and ran with it. It is now played in over 100 countries worldwide.

Rugby is played by various people and in various forms across Australia and around the world. Women play in a range of competitions, while many men continue to play on well into their forties and fifties. Rugby is usually played as a 15-a-side game, but can also be played as 10-a-side and is also very popular at 7-a-side, which is played at the Commonwealth games.

Object of the game

Rugby is a continuous game whereby two teams carry, pass, kick and ground the ball in order to score as many points as possible, with the team scoring the greater number of points being the winner.

In Under 19 and senior rugby, 15 people play at a time per side, each of which have specific duties as a player. Players are usually talked about in respect to two categories. Members of the first group are called the forwards, or the pack, and consist of the first eight numbered players. Members of the second group are called the backs, and consist of the remaining players, numbered nine to fifteen.



If a player is tackled to the ground they must release the ball which usually results in a RUCK. If a player is held while standing, a MAUL will usually be formed. The purpose of the ruck or maul is so that the game can continue without any stoppage in play.

The line-out and scrum are two key distinguishing

factors to the game of Rugby Union. A SCRUM occurs when there is an accidental infringement and a LINE-OUT occurs when the ball goes out of bounds. Both of these are methods of restarting the game.

A try is scored when a player places the ball in the opposition's in-goal area. it is counted as 5

points and can be converted to an additional 2 points with a successful PLACE KICK or drop kick. Points may also be awarded from a DROP KICK in general play and a penalty kick. Both are worth 3 points.



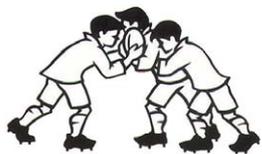
RUCK



SCRUM



PLACE KICK



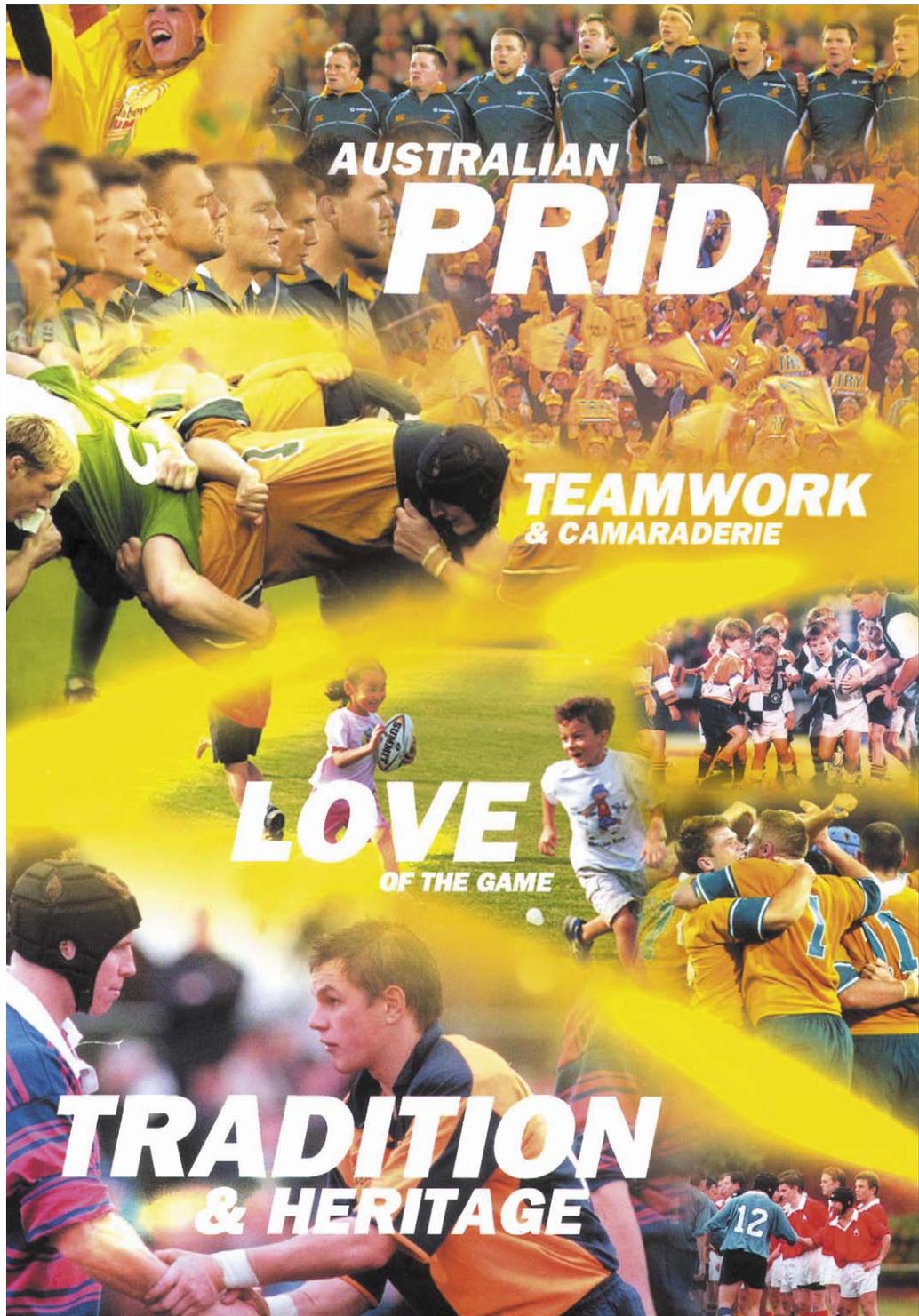
MAUL



LINE OUT



DROP KICK



Introductory Message to Welcome to Rugby 2003

Rugby has been played in Australia for more than one hundred years and it continues to provide players of all shapes and sizes an opportunity to develop skills, teamwork and friendships through the sport. Rugby is played across a range of competition standards, so that all players can find the level that's just right for them.

Every four years, our National team, the Australian Wallabies, take part in the ultimate contest – the Rugby World Cup. To date Australia is the only country to ever have won it twice.

The Rugby World Cup will be played in our own backyard across Australia, in October and November 2003. The Wallabies will be playing to win the Cup for the third time as millions of Australian fans show their true colours by attending the games or watch on television.

In Australia, we are fortunate enough to see our Wallabies play international sides every year both here and overseas. But the Wallabies aren't the only ones who tour overseas.

One of rugby's greatest assets is the fact that it is played in over 120 countries. Australian rugby players of all ages and standards have the opportunity to play overseas, experiencing new cultures and making new friendships. This opportunity occurs in very few sports. There is a special and unique bond between rugby people everywhere.

Rugby Union is a game that develops leadership, team spirit, courage, sportsmanship, & friendship

These values and traditions develop from the first time a young player shakes hands with their opposite number, leading to a life long passion for and involvement with the game at all levels. Foremost, the game of Rugby embodies the best Australian values and the nation's indomitable spirit.

I wish you every success in rugby. From the youngest player to the seasoned Wallaby, there's an adventure waiting with every season. Whatever your goals are, I know you will be richer for the experience.

John O'Neill

CEO and Managing Director, ARU 1996 – 2004