

I'm not a robot







































Each Rugby League team has 13 players & 4 substitutes available at any time in the game. Each team is made up of 7 'backs' and 6 'forwards'. The backs are generally regarded as the attacking players and usually have more pace than the bigger more powerful forwards who are usually the 'yard' makers. On-field Positions Object Of The Game: For one team to score more points than the other team. A team can score points through scoring a 'try' or kicking a 'goal'. Each team in effect, is given six tackles or chances to score. If after six tackles they have not achieved this then the ball is given to the other team who then also have the chance to score with six tackles. If a team has not scored by the fifth/last tackle then the 'acting half-back' will generally pass the ball to the teams 'kicker' who will punt the ball downfield in order to gain 'territorial advantage'. The only disadvantage to this tactic is that if the ball goes out of play on the 'full' before bouncing, the opposition gain possession of the ball form where the kick was originally made. It becomes slightly more complicated than this, but if you grasp this concept then you will have a greater understanding of the game. Key phrases and termsTry A try is worth four points and is scored when one team's player touches the ball down over the goal line/try line of the opposition . A conversion follows and is worth two points if successful. This is achieved by kicking the ball over the cross bar and between the goal posts. For a try and conversion a team will thus score 6 points.Forward Pass/Knock on The ball can only be passed in a backwards motion between players. Therefore, if the ball is passed in a forward motion towards the opponents goal-line or knocked forward by the attacking team when attempting to catch it, then play will stop and will be re-started with a scrum awarded to the opposing team.Scrum The two sets of 'Forwards' (six from each team) lock together and the ball is put into the middle by the "Scrum-half" of the team that have been awarded the scrum (called the feed). In modern day rugby, the team feeding the scrum will nearly always win possession from the scrum.Play The Ball After a tackle is made, the tackled player restarts the action and the next "tackle" by standing upright and rolling the ball through his legs to a team-mate stood directly behind him. The opposing team must stand at least 10 metres in front of the player when this is taking place.Offside Several different types but the most common is when at least one member of the opposing defending team, encroaches within the ten metres at the play the ball - a penalty will result. This offence usually leads to the greatest number of penalties within a game and causes the most distress amongst the fans!Penalty Awarded for any foul or rule contravention. The team awarded the penalty can either kick for goal, or kick for touch and take six more tackles level with where the ball landed in touch or continue with six more tackles.Acting half-back This is a player from the attacking team who picks up the ball immediately following a play the ball and passes it to a team mate or makes an attacking run. He is generally the hooker.Advantage Allowing the advantage means allowing play to proceed if it is to the advantage of the team which has not committed an offence or infringement.Blood-Bin Occurs when a player has blood showing or flowing from a wound. The referee instructs the player to leave the pitch in order to clear up the blood injury so that it is not visible. The player may leave the field for a maximum period of 10 minutes. Any longer and this temporary substitution becomes a permanent one.Dead Ball Means that the ball is out of play, i.e. the field of play.Drop Goal his type of kick is worth one point to a team if kicked successfully. Sometimes referred to as a field goal, this is a goal scored by propelling the ball over the full, over the cross bar by drop-kicking it.Dummy The pretence of passing or otherwise releasing the ball whilst still retaining possession of it in an attempt to cause confusion to the defending team.40/20 Rule This was introduced to reward excellence in kicking for touch. If a player kicks the ball into touch and he is within 40 metres of his own line, (the 40 metre line is marked on the field of play) if the ball BOUNCES into touch within the 20 metre area of his opponents' half, then the side who have kicked the ball will have head and feed at the resulting scrum. This virtually guarantees possession in an attacking position and is a real reward for a precise kick covering over half the length of the field.Kick-Off The method of restarting the game at the beginning of each half or after a try, drop-goal or goal has been scored.Kicker Each side generally has a kicker who takes kicks either in general play and/or kicks for goal. Any player from either side may kick at any point in play however.Obstruction Is the illegal act of impeding an opponent who does not have the ball.Marker Is a player from the defending team who stands directly in front of the attacking player at the play the ball following a completed tackle. The marker must stand directly in front of the tackled player and not move until the play the ball has been completed otherwise he will be penalised.Play the ball Is the act of bringing the ball into play after the tackle has been completed by the team with the ball.Referee The man in charge of keeping control of the game and making sure that the game is played within the rules of the sport. He is present on the pitch at all times and it is his job to award penalties to teams if required and make any decisions whilst still maintaining the flow of the game.Sin-Bin Occurs when a player from either team commits an offence which the referee deems to be more serious than an ordinary foul. The referee shows the offending player a 'yellow card' which means that the offending player must leave the field immediately for a period of 10 minutes.Substitutes There are 4 on each team and can be introduced at appropriate moments in the game to replace another player from the same team.Squad Numbers These were introduced for the start of Super League in order for every team's Super League squad member to be identified with a consistent number(s) which he kept for an entire season. Was introduced as a promotional tool so fans could identify with their heroes.Territorial Advantage Each team has to spend as much time as possible in the opposition's half, this is known as territorial advantage.Zero Tackle Kick reception resulting from an opponents' kick in general play. Can also be achieved by recovering the ball when lost by the opposition in a set of six tackles. Effectively creates seven tackles. A rugby league team consists of 13 players on the field, with 4 substitutes on the bench. Each of the 13players is assigned a position, normally with a standardised number. Although players can take up any position at any time.Players are divided into two general types, forwards and backs. Forwards are generally chosen for their size and strength. They are expected to run with the ball, to attack, and to make tackles. Forwards are required to improve the team's field position thus creating space and time for the backs. Backs are usually smaller and faster, though a big, fast player can be of advantage in the backs. Their roles require speed and ball-playing skills, rather than just strength, to take advantage of the field position gained by the forwards. Typically forwards tend to operate in the centre of the field, while backs operate nearer to the touch-lines, where more space can usually be found.See also: Number (sports) Rugby league# Prop9 Hooker10 Prop11 Second-row12 Second-row13 Lock7 Halfback6 Five-eighth4 Centre3 Centre5 Wing2 Wing1 FullbackThe laws of the game recognise standardised numbering of positions. The starting side normally wear the numbers corresponding to their positions, only changing in the case of substitutions and position shifts during the game. In some competitions, such as Super League, players receive a squad number to use all season, no matter what positions they play in.The positions and the numbers are defined by the game's laws as [1][2][3][4]Backs1 Full back2 Right wing3 Right centre4 Left centre5 Left wing6 Stand-off half (Predominately used in the Northern hemisphere) or Five-eighth (Elsewhere)7 Scrum half (Predominately used in the Northern hemisphere) or Half-backForwards8 Prop (Front Row Forward)9 Hooker or Dummy-half10 Prop (Front Row Forward)11 Second Row Forward12 Second Row Forward13 Lock Forward or Loose ForwardIn practice, the term 'front row forward' is rarely used, frequently being replaced with 'tighthead' or 'loosehead'. The scrum half is often known as the 'half-back', especially in Australasia, and the lock forwards are seven halves, numbered 1 to 7. For these positions, the emphasis is on speed and ball handling, with the scrum half being the fastest player on the field. Generally, the "back-line" consists of smaller, more agile players.[6]Main article: Fullback (rugby league)Numbered , the fullback's primary role is the line of defence. Defensively, fullbacks must be able to chase and tackle and a player who breaks the first line of defence and must be able to catch and return kicks made by the attacking side. Their role in attack is usually as a support player, and they are often used to come into the line to create an overlap in attack. Fullbacks that feature in their respective nations' rugby league halls of fame are France's Puig Aubert, Australia's Clive Churchill, Charles Fraser, Graeme Langlands, Graham Eadie and Billy Slater. Great Britain/Wales' Jim Sullivan, New Zealand's Des White and Great Britain's Kris Radlinski.There are four threequarters: two wingers and two centres - right wing (2), right centre (3), left centre (4) and left wing (5). Typically these players work in pairs, with one winger and one centre occupying each side of the field.Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs winger Josh Addo-CarrAlso known as wingers. There are two wings in a rugby league team, numbered 2 and 5. They are usually positioned closest to the touch-line on each side of the field. They are generally among the fastest players in a team, with the speed to exploit space that is created for them and finish an attacking move. In defence their primary role is to mark their opposing wingers, and they are also usually required to catch and return kicks by an attacking team, often dropping behind the defensive line to help the fullback. Wingers that feature in their nations' rugby league halls of fame are Great Britain's Billy Batten, Billy Boston and Clive Sullivan, Australia's Brian Bevan, John Fergusson, Ken Irvine, Harold Horder and Brian Carlson, South African Tom Vollenhoven and France's Raymond Contrastin.There are only 2 centres, right and left, numbered 3 and 4 respectively. They are usually positioned just inside the wingers and are typically the second-closest players to the touch-line on each side of the field. In attack their primary role is to provide an attacking threat and as such they are some of the fastest players on the pitch, often proving the pass for their winger to finish off a move, by drawing the opposition's attention and giving the fast winger space to move. In defence, they are expected to mark their opposite number. Centres that feature in their countries' halls of fame are France's Max Rouss, England's Eric Ashton, Harold Wagstaff and Neil Fox, Wales' Gus Risman and Australia's Reg Gasnier, H "Dally" Messenger, Dave Brown, Jim Craig, Bob Fulton, Mal Meninga, and Greg Inglis.There are two halves. Positioned more centrally in attack, beside or behind the forwards, they direct the ball and are usually the team's main play-makers, and as such are typically required to be the most skillful and intelligent players on the team. These players also usually perform most tactical kicking for their team.Main article: Five-eighthPennrh Panthers halfback Nathan Cleary playing for Australia in the 2021 Rugby League World CupNumbered 6, the stand-off or five-eighth is usually a strong passer and runner, while also being agile. Often this player is referred to as "second receiver", as in attacking situations they are typically the second player to receive the ball (after the half-back) and are then able to initiate an attacking move.Numbered 7, the scrum-half or half-back is usually involved in directing the team's play. The position is sometimes referred to as "first receiver", as half-backs are often the first to receive the ball from the dummy-half after a play-the-ball. This makes them important decision-makers in attack.A rugby league forward pack consists of six players who tend to be bigger and stronger than backs, and generally rely more on their strength and size to fulfill their roles than play-making skills. The forwards also traditionally formed and contested scrums; however, in the modern game it is largely immaterial which players pack down in the scrum. Despite this, forwards are still referred to by the position they would traditionally take in the scrum.The front row of the scrum traditionally included the hooker with the two props on either side. All three may be referred to as front-rowers, but this term is now most commonly just used as a colloquialism to refer to the props.Main article: Hooker (rugby league)Former Melbourne Storm, Queensland and Australia hooker Cameron Smith holds the NRL records for matches played, points scored, goals kicked, tackles made, grand final points scored, competition wins.[7][8][9][10]The hooker or rake, numbered 9, is a traditionally packs in the middle of the scrum front row. The position is named because of the traditional role of "hooking" the ball back with the foot when it enters the scrum. It is usually the hooker who plays in the dummy-half position, receiving the ball from the play-the-ball and continuing the team's attack by passing the ball to a teammate or by running with the ball. As such, hookers are required to be reliable passers and often possess a similar skill-set to half backs.Former Brisbane Broncos prop Shane WebckeThere are two props, numbered 8 and 10,[notes 2] who pack into the front row of the scrum on either side of the hooker. Sometimes called "bookends" in Australasia,[11] the props are usually the largest and heaviest players on a team. In attack, their size and strength means that they are primarily used for running directly into the defensive line, as a kind of "battering ram" to simply gain metres.[12] Similarly, props are relied upon to defend against such running from the opposition's forwards. Prop forwards that feature in their respective nations' rugby league halls of fame are Australia's Arthur Beeton, Duncan Hall, Frank Burge and Herb Steinhort and New Zealand's Cliff Johnson.Three forwards make up the back row of the scrum: two second-rowers and a loose forward. All three may be referred to as back-rowers.Second-row forwards are numbered 11 and 12.[notes 3] While their responsibilities are similar in many ways to the props, these players typically possess more speed and agility and take up a wider position in attack and defence. Often each second rower will cover a specific side of the field, working in unison with their respective centre and winger. Second rowers are often relied upon to perform large numbers of tackles in defence. Second-row forwards that feature in their nations' halls of fame include New Zealand's Mark Graham, Australia's Norm Provan, George Trewick and Harry Bath, France's Jean Galla, and Great Britain & England's Martin Hodgson.Numbered 13,[notes 4] the loose forward or lock forward packs behind the two-second-rows in the scrum. Some teams choose to simply deploy a third prop in the loose forward position, while other teams use a more skilful player as an additional playmaker. Loose forwards that feature in their nations' Halls of Fame include Australia's Reg Coote, Johnny Raper, Bradley White and Wally Prigg, Great Britain's Vince Karalis, Elliot Hanley and 'Rocky' Turpin, and New Zealand's Clive Seeling. In addition to the thirteen on-field players, there are a maximum of five substitute players who start the game on their team's bench. Usually, they will be numbered 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18. Each player normally keeps their number for the whole game, regardless of which position they play in. That is, if player number 14 replaces the fullback, they will wear the number 14 for the whole game, and not change shirts to display the number 1. The use of substitutes in Test matches was officially approved by the International Rugby League Board in 1963.[13] Prior to this most games were played with no changes permitted at all, although some domestic leagues allowed injured players to be replaced.The rules governing if and when a replacement can be used have varied over the history of the game; currently they can be used for any reason by their coach typically because of injury, to manage fatigue, for tactical reasons or due to poor performance. Under current rules, players who have been substituted are typically allowed to be substituted back into the game later on. Leagues in different countries have had different rules on how many interchanges can be made in a game. the Super League allowed up to ten interchanges per team in each game, this was reduced to eight interchanges per team per game, commencing in the 2019 season. Commencing in the 2016 season, Australia's National Rugby League permits up to eight interchanges per team per game. Additionally, if a player is injured due to foul play and an opposition player has been sin-binned or sent off then the injured player's team is given a free interchange.[14] Often an interchange bench will include at least one (and usually two) replacement props, as it is generally considered to be the most physically taxing position and these players are likely to tire the quickest.Commencing in 2021, a player named as the squad's 18th player on match day is able to take the field when three players fall a head injury assessment, or when a player suffers a match-ending injury caused by foul play, in which the opposing player was either sin-binned or sent off.[15][16] Since the change, there have been calls to reduce the number of players that suffer a match-ending injury to two players, in the wake of a few incidents in the NRL.[17][18]The concussion substitute was used during the 2021 Rugby League World Cup played in 2022, and adopted by the RFL in 2023.[19]As well as their positions, players' roles may be referred to by a range of other terms.Following a tackle, the defending team may position two players known as markers at the play-the-ball to stand, one behind the other facing the tackled player and the attacking team's dummy-half.The dummy half or (acting half-back) is the player who stands behind the play-the-ball and collects the ball, before passing, running or kicking the ball. The hooker has become almost synonymous with the dummy half role. However, any player of any position can play the role at any time and this often happens during a game, particularly when the hooker is the player tackled. The first receiver is the name given to the first player to receive the ball off the play-the-ball, i.e. from the dummy-half.[20]If the ball is passed immediately by the first receiver, then the player catching it is sometimes referred to as the second receiver.A player who can play in a number of different positions is often referred to as a "utility player", "utility forward", or "utility back".Cameron Smith, former captain of Australia and Queensland and the Melbourne Storm.Although any player can attempt their team's kicks at goal (penalty kicks or conversions), most teams have specific players who train extensively at kicking, and often use only one player to take goal kicks during a game.See also: Captain (sports)/The captain is the on-field leader of a team and a point of contact between the referee and a team, and can be a player of any position. Some of the captain's responsibilities are stipulated in the laws.Before a match, the two teams' captains toss a coin with the referee. The captain that wins the toss can decide to kick off or can choose which side of the field to defend. The captain that loses the toss then takes the other of the alternatives [21];[1]The captain is often seen as a person of a team's discipline. When a team persistently breaks the laws, the referee will often speak to the captain with a caution, often speaking with the team's captain to encourage them to encourage their team's discipline.[21]38,42The captains are additionally responsible for appointing a substitute should a player suffer an injury during a game, although in the professional game there are other procedures in place for dealing with this.[21.4]Sports portalRugby league gameplay" Until 1989, hookers in the NSWRL and BRL were usually numbered 1 and 13. Until 1989, second rowers in the NSWRL and BRL were usually numbered 9 and 10. 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