

A group of children are playing tag rugby on a grassy field. They are wearing blue and red clothing. One child in the center is holding a rugby ball. The background is a blurred green field.

# Rules of Tag Rugby

NWLSSP

School Games Version

Years 5/6

Video link - <https://youtu.be/oCJvl0sm2NI>



# Objective of the game

- The objective is to score more 'tries' than your opponent
  - To score a try place the ball with downward pressure on or past the opposition try-line
- For safety reasons, all tries must be scored on their **feet**. No dive tries
- After a try, restarts are taken at the centre of the pitch with a "free pass" to the team that didn't score the try





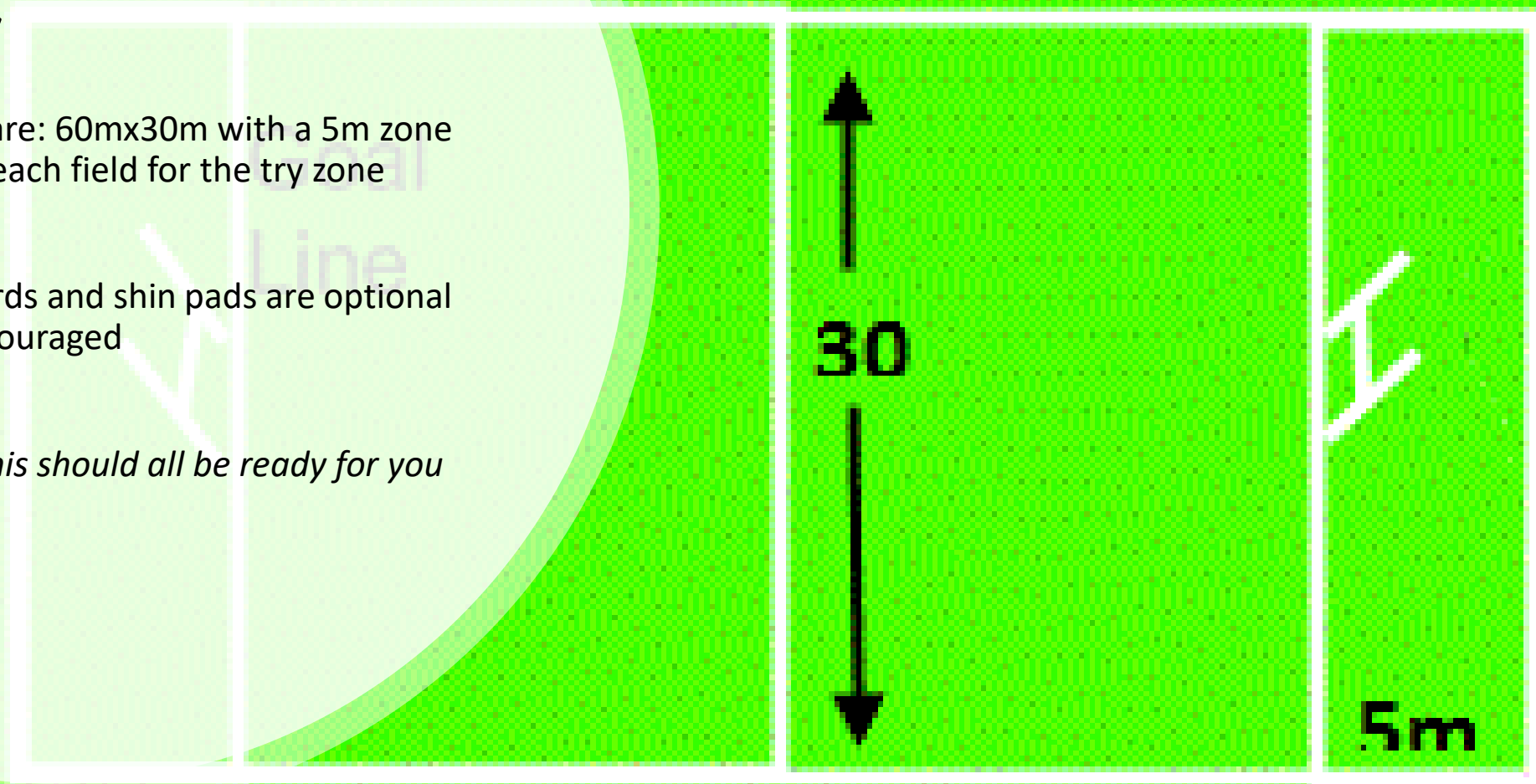
# Teams

- Tag rugby involves two teams with the same amount of players
- For this competition, each team will have 8 players on the field , with 2 boys and 2 girls on the pitch at all times.
- Substitutions will occur. Coaches should give you notice and make the changes at the next dead ball, change of possession, try, etc.



# Technicalities of Tag Rugby

- Pitch sizes are: 60mx30m with a 5m zone the end of each field for the try zone
- Size 4 ball
- Mouth guards and shin pads are optional but are encouraged
- *However, this should all be ready for you*



# Passes

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- Passes can only go sideways or backwards
- Forward passes and dropped balls that go forward (knock on) result in a hand over to the opposition
- If a team drops the ball forward and the opposition retrieves it. Don't stop the play instead give the team an "advantage," and carry on. If play carries on smoothly call "advantage over," if it's too messy blow your whistle and come back to the first dropped ball.
- All passes should have air between the passer, the ball and the catcher. If there is no air between the pass it will be deemed a grab and a free pass awarded to the opposition.
- The ball cannot be slapped or grabbed out of an opposing players' hands. If the ball is slapped/grabbed out of a player hands a free pass will be awarded.



# Free Passes

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- A free pass is allowing the team to pass the ball to one of their team members. The opposition must not be within 7m to the passer.
- A free passes cannot be taken nearer than 7m from the goal line
- Free passes occur:
  - To start a game
  - Restart a game after a try
  - The ball has gone out of bounds
  - Forward passes/knock-ons
  - Any infringements give a free pass to the opposition team







## The Tag!

- Each player must have a tag belt on with two tags
  - Sometimes the kids won't realise they only have one tag on before running with the ball. Stop play, put two tags on them and restart the game
  - Be aware of kids trying to alter their tags in a cheating way
- A "tag" occurs when a tag is removed from the ball carrier's belt
  - The ball carrier cannot FEND, BLOCK or GUARD their tags



# Ball carriers!

- The main focus is around the person with the ball: ball carrier
- The ball must be carried **in two hands**
- When the ball carrier is “tagged” they must: Stop as soon as possible and pass the ball to a team member
  - They can’t re-join or influence the game until they have two tags on again
- Ball carriers “tagged” close to the try line are allowed one step to score a try
  - Use your own judgement if it’s a try or a pass to a team member

If the ball carrier falls to the ground, stop play and allow them to pass the ball





# Tagger!

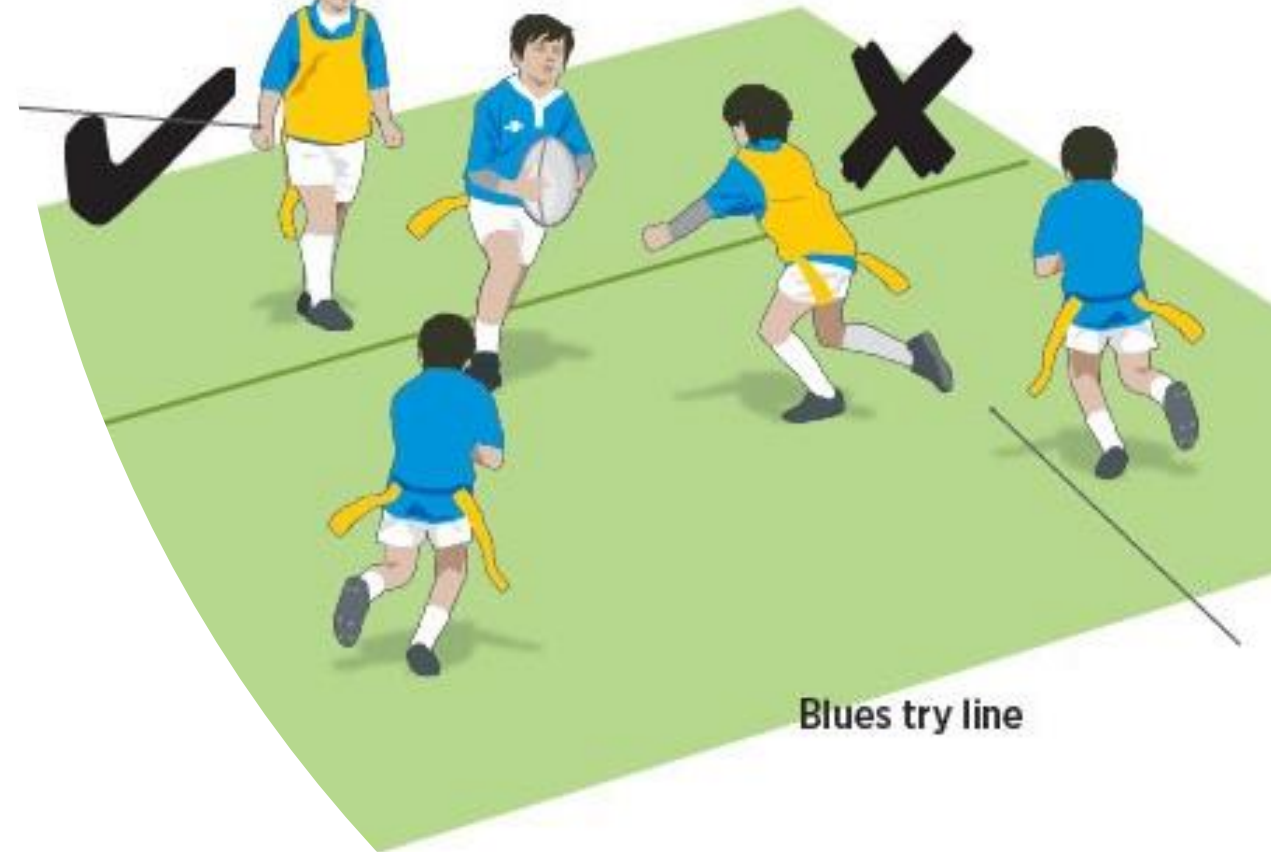
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- The person who rips the tag off the opposition belt: Tagger
- When a tag has been ripped you should raise the tag in the air for the ref to see. The ref should then call tag
- The tagger is out of play until the ball has been passed
- Taggers are not allowed to intentionally tamper with the oppositions tags
  - For example; throwing tags away, running away with tags or throwing the tags at their opposition



# Offside!

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- This is the hardest concept for the children to understand.
  - An imaginary offside line is created horizontally across the pitch when a “tag” has been made.
  - The defending team must get behind this line to continue playing and are only allowed over this line once the tagged player passes the ball.
  - Defending players that cross this line and affect play are offside.
  - This stops them from standing in passing lanes and pulling tags before receiving the ball.







## The ground and contact

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- Remember if the ball is dropped/passed forward it is a knock on and a hand over. (Free pass)
- If the ball goes backwards either team can pick it up
  - If it gets messy with too many kids on the ground, stop the game choose who you think had possession and give them a free pass.
- Lastly, there should be NO contact like real rugby. All contact should only be around the tags.
  - If it does happen stop the game, talk to the offender and give a free pass against them