

# The Six Nations

The Six Nations is a rugby union tournament that takes place every year. The 2020 Six Nations will start on 1<sup>st</sup> February. England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy will all play against each other once to see who will win the trophy.

Many people will watch each Six Nations match on television and thousands of people will be watching in the stadiums.



## The History of the Six Nations

The Six Nations is the oldest rugby competition in the world. It has been through several formats and name changes over the years.

Year	Name of Tournament	Countries Playing
1883	Home Nations Championship	England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales
1910	Five Nations	England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and France
1932	Home Nations	England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales
1947	Five Nations	England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and France
2000	Six Nations	England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy



People think that the game began at Rugby school, England. The story says that, in 1823, while playing a football match, a student called William Webb Ellis picked up the football and ran with it to the goalposts. It's unclear if this story is true. However, it was so popular that the story has become almost a legend in the world of rugby.

### All About Rugby

A rugby union team has 15 players on the field and each match lasts for 80 minutes. Substitutes can take the place of other players during the game.

A team can score points in a variety of ways:

- **try** – A try is when a player holding the ball runs across the opposition's tryline and touches the ball down on the ground. This needs to be controlled. A try is worth five points.
- **conversion** – A conversion is worth two points. After a team scores a try, they have a chance to kick a conversion. A player must kick the ball between the goalposts to score a conversion.
- **penalty** – A team receives three points if they score a penalty. The referee gives a penalty when the other team breaks the rules. A player must kick the ball between the goalposts to score a penalty.
- **drop goal** – A drop goal is scored when the ball is dropped to the ground (it has to bounce) and then immediately kicked, manoeuvring the ball between the goal posts and above the cross bar. A drop goal is worth three points.

### The Six Nations' Scoring System

The scoring system for the tournament has lots of different possibilities.

A team gets four points if they win. If they score four or more tries, they get a bonus point and this means that they can get five points.

### The Six Nations' Scoring System

The team gets zero points if they lose. However, if they score four or more tries or lose by seven points or fewer, they get one point. If the losing team scores four or more tries and loses by seven points or fewer, they get two points.

If the match is a draw, both teams get two points each but can also earn an extra point if they score four or more tries.

If a team wins a grand slam, they get an extra three points. A grand slam is when a team wins all their matches.



### 2020 Six Nations

After reaching the 2019 Rugby World Cup final, England are the third-best team in the world. However, Wales won the Six Nations in 2019, winning the grand slam. England won the Women's Six Nations last year and they also won the grand slam.



Want to know more about how to play rugby in your school?

If your students were inspired by these resources, please visit:  
[www.englandrugby.com/kidsfirst](http://www.englandrugby.com/kidsfirst)

# Questions

1. When was the first tournament held? Tick **one**.

- 1883
- 1910
- 1932
- 1947

2. When do the 2020 Six Nations start? Tick **one**.

- 1<sup>st</sup> February
- 14<sup>th</sup> February
- 1<sup>st</sup> March
- 14<sup>th</sup> March

3. Find and copy a word that means a story which has been handed down through history.

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4. Finish the sentence by filling in the missing words.

The story says that, in 1823, while playing a \_\_\_\_\_ match, a student called William Webb Ellis picked up the football and ran with it to the \_\_\_\_\_.

5. How can you score five points in a rugby game?

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6. Who do you think will win the 2020 Six Nations? Explain your answer.

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7. Why do you think extra points are available under the Six Nations' scoring system? Explain your answer.

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# Questions

8. Why do you think the name of the tournament has changed over the years? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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# Answers

1. When was the first tournament held? Tick **one**.

- 1883**  
 1910  
 1932  
 1947

2. When do the 2020 Six Nations start? Tick **one**.

- 1<sup>st</sup> February**  
 14<sup>th</sup> February  
 1<sup>st</sup> March  
 14<sup>th</sup> March

3. Find and copy a word that means a story which has been handed down through history.  
**legend**

4. Finish the sentence by filling in the missing words.

The story says that, in 1823, while playing a **football** match, a student called William Webb Ellis picked up the football and ran with it to the **goalposts**.

5. How can you score five points in a rugby game?

**A team can score five points in a rugby game when a player holding the ball runs across the other team's try line and touches the ball down on the ground. This needs to be controlled.**

6. Who do you think will win the 2020 Six Nations? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own answers, such as: I think England will win the 2020 Six Nations because they are the third-best team in the world.**

7. Why do you think extra points are available under the Six Nations' scoring system?

Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own answers, such as: I think extra points are available because it rewards teams for achieving difficult things, such as scoring four or more tries.**

8. Why do you think the name of the tournament has changed over the years? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupils' own answers, such as: I think the name of the tournament has changed over the years because more countries have joined in.**

# The Six Nations

The Six Nations is an international rugby union tournament that occurs every year. The 2020 Six Nations will start on 1<sup>st</sup> February and end on 15<sup>th</sup> March. England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy will all play each other once. The team that wins the most games wins the coveted trophy.



## The History of the Six Nations

The Six Nations is the oldest rugby competition in the world. It has undergone several format and name changes over the years.

Year	Name of Tournament	Countries Playing
1883	Home Nations Championship	England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales
1910	Five Nations	England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and France
1932	Home Nations	England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales
1947	Five Nations	England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and France
2000	Six Nations	England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy

It is thought that the game of rugby game into being at Rugby school, England, and was created by a pupil called William Webb Ellis in 1823. The story says that while playing in a football match, Webb Ellis picked up the ball and ran with it to the goalpost rather than kicking it. Some people doubt this happened; however, the story was so popular, it has become a legend in the world of rugby.



### All About Rugby

There are different types of rugby people can play, such as rugby union, rugby league, rugby sevens and touch rugby. The Six Nations is a rugby union competition.

A rugby union team has 15 players on the field and each match lasts for 80 minutes. A team can substitute players during the match. This means that a player may not play at the start but could replace a teammate during the match. There is a break after 40 minutes.

There are different ways of scoring. Here are some of the ways a team can score points in rugby union:

- **try** – A try is when a player holding the ball runs across the opposition's tryline and touches the ball down on the ground. This needs to be controlled. A try is worth five points.
- **conversion** – A conversion is worth two points. After a team scores a try, a team may kick a conversion. A player must kick the ball between the goalposts.
- **penalty** – A team receives three points if they score a penalty. The referee gives a penalty when the other team breaks the rules. A player must kick the ball in-between the goalposts to score a penalty.
- **drop goal** – A drop goal is scored when the ball is dropped to the ground (it has to bounce) and then immediately kicked, manoeuvring the ball between the goal posts and above the cross bar. A drop goal is worth three points.



## The Six Nations' Scoring System

The scoring system for the tournament has lots of different possibilities.

A winning team scores four points. If they score four or more tries and win the match, they get five points.

The losing team gets zero points unless they score four or more tries or lose by seven points or fewer, in which case they get one point.

If the losing team scores four or more tries and loses by seven points or fewer, they get two points.

Teams receive two points each if they draw a match but they can also earn an extra point if they score four or more tries.

If a team achieves a grand slam, they get an extra three points. A grand slam is when a team wins all of their matches.

## 2020 Six Nations

After reaching the 2019 Rugby World Cup final, England are currently ranked third in the world. This means they are expected to perform well in the tournament. However, Wales are the current men's Six Nations champions, having won a grand slam in 2019. Wales hold the record for winning the tournament the most times. England won the Women's Six Nations last year and they also won the grand slam.



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# Questions

1. In this sentence, what does the word '**transmitted**' mean? Tick **one**.  
'Each Six Nations match will be transmitted across the world.'

- broadcasted
- transported
- sold
- watched

2. Which of these countries participate in the Six Nations? Tick **two**.

- Spain
- France
- Italy
- New Zealand

3. When was the tournament first held?

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4. In this sentence, why do you think the author uses the phrase '**It is thought...**'? Explain your answer.

'It is thought that the game of rugby game into being at Rugby school, England, and was created by a pupil called William Webb Ellis, in 1823.'

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5. Fill in the missing word.

The Six Nations is a rugby \_\_\_\_\_ competition.

6. Why do you think extra points are available under the Six Nations' scoring system? Explain your answer.

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7. Why do you think the format and name of the tournament have changed over the years? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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# Questions

8. Explain how you can score seven points in a rugby union game. Use evidence from the text for your answer.

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9. Do you think England will win the 2020 Six Nations? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. In this sentence, what does the word 'transmitted' mean? Tick **one**.  
'Each Six Nations match will be transmitted across the world.'

- broadcasted**  
 transported  
 sold  
 watched

2. Which of these countries participate in the Six Nations? Tick **two**.

- Spain  
 **France**  
 **Italy**  
 New Zealand

3. When was the tournament first held?

**The tournament was first held in 1883.**

4. In this sentence, why do you think the author uses the phrase 'It is thought...'? Explain your answer.

'It is thought that the game of rugby game into being at Rugby school, England, and was created by a pupil called William Webb Ellis, in 1823.'

**Pupils' own answers, such as: I think the author uses the phrase 'it is thought' to show that it's not certain how rugby first began.**

5. Fill in the missing word.

The Six Nations is a rugby **union** competition.

6. Why do you think extra points are available under the Six Nations' scoring system? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own answers, such as: I think extra points are available because it rewards teams for achieving difficult things, such as scoring four or more tries.**

7. Why do you think the format and name of the tournament have changed over the years? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupils' own answers, such as: I think the format and name of the tournament have changed over the years because rugby has become a more popular sport.**

# Answers

8. Explain how you can score seven points in a rugby union game. Use evidence from the text for your answer.

**Pupils' own answers, such as: A team can receive seven points in a rugby union game by scoring a try, which is worth five points, and kicking a conversion, which is worth two points.**

9. Do you think England will win the 2020 Six Nations? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own answers, such as: I think England will win the 2020 Six Nations because they are ranked third in the world and reached the final of the 2019 Rugby World Cup.**

# The Six Nations

The Six Nations is an annual international rugby union tournament. Six of the northern hemisphere's top international rugby teams compete in it. They are England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy. Over 15 exhilarating matches, the six teams will compete to win this coveted title.

The 2020 Six Nations commences on 1<sup>st</sup> February and concludes on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Millions of people around the world will watch the Six Nations matches on television.



## The History of the Six Nations

The Six Nations is the oldest rugby competition in the world and has undergone several format and name changes over the years.

Year	Name of Tournament	Countries Playing
1883	Home Nations Championship	England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales
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2000	Six Nations	England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy

During the tournament, if a home nation (England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales) defeats all the other home nations, they win the triple crown. When England and Scotland play during the tournament, they compete for a trophy called the Calcutta Cup.



It is thought the game of rugby originated at Rugby school, England. Legend has it that it came into existence when a pupil called William Webb Ellis suddenly picked up the football during a match. He then ran with it to the goalpost rather than kicking it. The accuracy of this story has been questioned. However, it is such a popular tale that it has become almost a legend in the world of rugby.

### All About Rugby

There are different types of rugby, such as rugby union, rugby league and touch rugby. The Six Nations is a rugby union competition.

A rugby union team consists of 15 players and each match lasts for 80 minutes, with two halves lasting 40 minutes. A team can substitute players during the match. This means that a player who does not start a match can replace another player during the game.

The team that scores the most points wins the game. There are various ways that a team can score points during a game:

- **try** – A try is when a player holding the ball runs across the opposition's tryline and touches the ball down on the ground. This needs to be controlled. A try is worth five points.
- **conversion** – A conversion is worth two points. After a team scores a try, they have an opportunity to kick a conversion. To do this, a player must kick the ball between the goalposts.

## All About Rugby

- **penalty** – A team receives three points if they score a penalty. The referee gives a penalty to a team if they think the other team has broken the rules. A player must then kick the ball in-between the goalposts to score a penalty.
- **drop goal** – A drop goal is scored when the ball is dropped to the ground (it has to bounce) and then immediately kicked, manoeuvring the ball between the goal posts and above the cross bar. A drop goal is worth three points.

## The Six Nations' Scoring System

The scoring system for the tournament has several different possibilities.

A winning team scores four points or if they score four or more tries, five points.

The losing team gets zero points unless they score four or more tries or lose by seven points or fewer, in which case they get one point. If the losing team scores four or more tries and loses by seven points or fewer, they get two points.

Teams that draw both get two points but they can also earn an extra point if they score four or more tries.

If a team achieves a grand slam, they get an extra three points. A grand slam is when a team wins all their matches.



## 2020 Six Nations

After progressing to the 2019 Rugby World Cup final, England are currently ranked third in the world. This means they are expected to perform well in the tournament. However, Wales are the current men's Six Nations Champions, having won a grand slam in 2019. Wales hold the record for winning the tournament the most times. England won the Women's Six Nations last year and they also won the grand slam.



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# Questions

1. How often is the Six Nations tournament held?

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2. When do the Six Nations finish? Tick **one**.

- 1<sup>st</sup> February
- 14<sup>th</sup> February
- 1<sup>st</sup> March
- 15<sup>th</sup> March

3. Why do you think the term 'home nations' is used to describe certain countries?

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4. Where does the name rugby come from?

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5. Tick the word that is closest in meaning to '**coveted**'.

'Over 15 exhilarating matches, the six teams will compete to win this coveted title.'

- popular
- greatly desired
- common
- unusual

6. Where does the name rugby come from?

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7. Why do you think extra points are available under the Six Nation's scoring system?  
Explain your answer.

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# Questions

8. Why do you think the format and name of the tournament have changed over the years? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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9. Who do you think will win the Six Nations? Explain your answer.

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10. Summarise the paragraph '**The History of the Six Nations**' in 30 words or fewer.

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# Answers

1. How often is the Six Nations tournament held?

**The Six Nations tournament is held every year.**

2. When do the Six Nations finish? Tick **one**.

- 1<sup>st</sup> February
- 14<sup>th</sup> February
- 1<sup>st</sup> March
- 15<sup>th</sup> March**

3. Why do you think the term 'home nations' is used to describe certain countries?

**Pupils' own answers, such as: I think the term 'home nations' is used to describe England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales because they are countries close to each other off the coast of mainland Europe.**

4. Where does the name rugby come from?

**The name rugby comes from Rugby school, where the game was created.**

5. Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'coveted'.

'Over 15 exhilarating matches, the six teams will compete to win this coveted title.'

- popular
- greatly desired**
- common
- unusual

6. Where does the name rugby come from?

**Pupils' own answers: Points can be scored in rugby union by scoring a try. A try is when a player holding the ball runs across the opposition's try line and touches the ball down on the ground. They need to apply downward pressure and be in control of the ball. A try is worth five points. A team can also score points by kicking the ball in-between the posts through either a conversion, drop goal or penalty.**

7. Why do you think extra points are available under the Six Nation's scoring system?

Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own answers, such as: I think extra points are available because it rewards teams for achieving difficult things, such as scoring four or more tries.**

# Answers

8. Why do you think the format and name of the tournament have changed over the years? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupils' own answers, such as: I think the format and name of the tournament have changed over the years because rugby has become a more popular sport.**

9. Who do you think will win the Six Nations? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own answers, such as: I think England will win the 2020 Six Nations because they are ranked third in the world and reached the finals of the 2019 Rugby World Cup.**

10. Summarise the paragraph 'The History of the Six Nations' in 30 words or fewer.

**Accept any reasonable summary that is 30 words or fewer, e.g. It started in 1883 with England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and, since then, France and Italy have joined.**