



# **2011 WOMEN'S 6 NATIONS**

## **STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS**

**IRB GAME ANALYSIS**



# CONTENTS

	Page
Commentary	1
Summary	6
Final Standings & Results	7
<b>Section 1</b>	
Summary of Constituent Game Elements	8
<b>Section 2</b>	
<b>Statistical Analysis and Match Summary</b>	
Scoring	9
Try Scoring	10
Tries	13
Kicks at Goal	16
Ball in Play	17
Activity Cycles	18
Restarts	23
Scrum	24
Lineouts	25
Penalties	25
Cards	26
<b>Section 3</b>	
A statistical comparison between Women's and Men's 6 Nations 2011	27



## COMMENTARY

The first report on the Women's 6 Nations championship was prepared in 2008 with the opening paragraph of the Commentary on that tournament stating the following

**“ seldom has a team dominated a tournament as much as England did in this year's Womens 6 Nations”**

This was a characteristic that repeated itself in 2009, where, despite losing to Wales, the Commentary stated that

**“ England totally dominated the Championship”.**

This happened again in 2010, with a similar phrase

**“ England – just as in other years – dominated the tournament”**

The 2011 Women's 6 Nations championship a showed that nothing had changed - with England's superiority, in certain respects, being greater than ever. Because of this, the opening section of this year's Commentary will illustrate just how dominant England's presence has been over the last 4 years.

### Part 1 - England

Between 2008 and 2011, England have played 20 matches in the Women's 6 Nations Championship, winning 19 and losing one, while heavily outscoring their opponents on most occasions, producing an average scoreline of 42 points to 5.

Such domination can be illustrated further by showing the number of tries both scored and conceded by England in each of the last 4 years.

	TRIES SCORED	TRIES CONCEDED
2008	34	2
2009	38	5
2010	26	2
2011	36	1
TOTAL	134	10



When tries scored outnumber tries conceded by a ratio of over 13 to 1, high scoring games with huge points margins are not unusual as shown in the following table that list all England's results over the 4 year period:

	ENGLAND	OPPONENTS	
WON	89	0	2011
WON	76	6	2008
WON	72	3	2009
WON	69	13	2009
WON	68	5	2011
WON	55	0	2008
WON	52	7	2009
WON	51	0	2010
WON	41	0	2010
WON	34	5	2008
WON	31	0	2011
WON	31	0	2010
WON	31	0	2008
WON	29	13	2009
WON	22	5	2010
WON	19	0	2011
WON	17	7	2008
WON	16	3	2011
WON	11	10	2010
LOST	15	16	2009

In most tournaments, while there may be some high scores, domination of possession is not a constant characteristic of the winning team. In last year's Tri Nations, for example, New Zealand won all 6 games but had most possession in only two. This profile does not apply however in Womens 6 Nations where England's domination of possession is consistent and often overwhelming with the following table showing the excess of possession England had over their opponents in 17 of their 20 matches:

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Match 1	105% more	134% more	140% more	144% more
Match 2	96% more	25% more	80% more	130% more
Match 3	48% more	16% more	37% more	97% more
Match 4	47% more	Oppo 29% more	37% more	48% more
Match 5	3% more	Oppo 29% more	2% more	Oppo 10% more

An inevitable result of more possession is that one team will make proportionately more passes, rucks/ mauls and kicks than their opponents – and in England's case, this can mean that their opponents often have to make between two and three times more tackles. When this is combined with England's greater rate of passing and greater movement, their opponents frequently find themselves under constant and relentless pressure.

Such pressure is not relieved at the set piece where England dominated both scrum and lineout. This is shown in the following table:

2011	Success at own lineout	Success on opp lineout	Success at own scrum	Success at opp scrum
England	88%	37%	97%	28%
Wales	77%	13%	88%	8%
Scotland	72%	29%	81%	28%
Ireland	88%	17%	80%	16%
Italy	70%	21%	70%	11%
France	79%	13%	83%	14%

The pressure on England's opponents therefore is continuous in both open play and set play. It is also extended to the level of sanctions. In 2011, for example, England were awarded almost twice as many penalties and free kicks as their opponents. While England conceded an average of 8 penalties/free kicks per game, other teams averaged between 10 and 16.

## Part 2 – The other teams

Of the other 5 teams that participate in the tournament, Wales is the only country to have beaten England. The average scores of each countries' matches against England over the last 4 years is as follows:

	Average Scoreline	Best result	Biggest defeat
<b>IRELAND</b> v England	6 - 25	7 - 17	0 - 31
<b>FRANCE</b> v England	5 - 28	10 - 11	7 - 52
<b>WALES</b> v England	4 - 30	16 - 15	0 - 55
<b>SCOTLAND</b> v England	2 - 62	5 - 34	0 - 89
<b>ITALY</b> v England	6 - 64	0 - 41	6 - 76

Outside those matches involving England however, there is a far greater element of competition. In 2011, for example, there were points margins of 1, 2 and 8 – and as an illustration of this narrowing of points differences, a notional championship table has been put together that excludes all England's matches over the last 4 years, producing what is, in effect a 5 Nations championship based on the last 4 year's matches.

This notional table looks as follows:

	2008 to 2011	Played	W	D	L	FOR	AGAINST	Points	Av score
1	<b>FRANCE</b>	16	13		3	372	146	26	23-9
2	<b>IRELAND</b>	16	10		6	272	152	20	17-10
3	<b>WALES</b>	16	10		6	263	192	20	16-12
4	<b>ITALY</b>	16	4	1	11	193	330	9	12-21
5	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	16	2	1	13	120	398	5	8-25

What the above tables show is that, in overall terms, the Womens 6 Nations tournament provides an annual platform of intensive competitive rugby for one group of teams and the opportunity for teams in that group to be tested against one of the top two teams in Womens world rugby.

## TEAM SUMMARY



### ENGLAND

The England performance has already been referred to at length in the first part of this report. The data showed that:

- they won all 5 games, scoring twice as many points as the next team
- they scored 36 tries and conceded 1
- unlike other teams, their tries were equally spread between forwards and backs
- 15 tries were scored from opposition kicks, turnovers, and restarts – which was 2 more than the other 5 teams combined
- they made the most passes and at the highest rate
- in 4 of 5 matches they made between 2 and 3 times more rucks than their opponents
- they had the most successful scrum – 97% success on own scrum, 28% success on opposition scrum
- they had the most successful lineout – 88% success on own lineout; 37% success on opposition lineout
- they were the least penalised team



## FRANCE

In 2010, France shared second place with Ireland. This year they retained that second position but did not share it with any other team.

Last season, France had a highly efficient defence, when only 5 tries were conceded in all 5 games. This year, that efficiency was maintained when they conceded just 6. This put them a clear second to England in both tries scored (with 2 more tries being scored this year than last) and in tries conceded. They also kicked 7 penalty goals – more than any other team.

Of their 16 tries, 13 came from the set pieces of scrum and lineout – with twice as many tries being scored in the first half as in the second.

France were heavily penalised for the second consecutive year. In 2010 they conceded 76 penalties and free kicks in the 5 matches – this year they conceded 79. Their opponents, on the other hand, were penalised only 45 times in 2010 and only 50 times in 2011. This means that in each of the last 2 years, France have conceded around 60% more penalties than their opponents



## IRELAND

Despite scoring 3 more tries than last year, Ireland ended up joint third with Wales and Italy but they scored more tries than they conceded unlike Wales and Italy.

Of the 10 tries that Ireland conceded, 9 came from their opponents' scrum or lineout. Further, all 10 tries came from opponents possession obtained from within 40m of Ireland's goalline. Of the tries that Ireland scored, twice as many were scored in the first half than the second.

Unlike last year – and the previous year – when Ireland were awarded 50% more pens than their opponents, this year they were penalised more often than opponents.



## WALES

Last year, Wales won only one game, failed to score a try in 3 matches and conceded two and half times as many tries as they scored.

There was an improvement this year - 2 games were won and points for and against were almost equal. Nevertheless, only 9 tries were scored – all by backs - and although that was 3 more than last year, Wales averaged only 13 points per game, the second lowest in the tournament. Of the 12 tries conceded, 11 were conceded from their opponents' scrums and lineouts.

Wales were however successful in obtaining possession. They had more possession than their opponents in 4 of their 5 matches, one of the results of which was that they rucked at a rate higher than any other team. Further, 23% of all Wales' passes were made by forwards – again, more than any other team.

While Wales had a successful scrum on their own put-in, obtaining 88% possession, they were by far the least successful on their opponents' put having success on only 8% of occasions – compared with 28% by both England and Scotland. They were also the least successful side on opposition lineout.



## ITALY

Italy came last in the 2009 championship, failing to win a game. In 2010, they won one game and drew another, but in 2011, won 2 games and came joint third with Ireland and Wales – but because of a heavy defeat against England, with a far greater negative points difference. They scored 3 more tries than last year with all 9 tries coming from the set pieces of scrum and lineout.

Just as in the last two years, Italy had great difficulty in securing and maintaining possession. In all 5 of their matches, they had less possession than their opponents. A contributory factor could be that they had the least successful lineout – retaining possession on only 70% of occasions – a problem that replicated last year. They also had the least successful scrum with the retention rate being only 70% against the almost 90% of England and Ireland.

Despite having problems in retaining possession, Italy kicked at the highest rate – with only 14 passing movements contained more than 3 passes in contrast to England's 45 and France's 29.

At restarts, Italy were far more likely to kick short than any other of the 5 teams – and on a positive note, retained 6 of 16 short restarts- a higher rate of success than any other team.



## SCOTLAND

This was a disappointing year for Scotland.

They lost all 5 games, conceded 231 points – 99 points more than the next team and over twice as many as last year. They needed 23 minutes possession to score a try while the longest required by any other team was 11 minutes. 10 tries were conceded from inside their oppositions' own half which was twice as many as the other 5 teams combined.

Only 3 tries were scored - and just as last year, possession source was lineout or scrum, with none coming from the open play areas of turnovers, kicks, penalties and free kicks. Two of Scotland's 3 tries did not contain a single pass.

Possession was also a problem – Scotland had the least possession in 4 of their 5 matches. Against England, for example, they had 9 minutes possession compared with England's 21 minutes.

Just as last year, Scotland was also by far the lowest passing team making an average total of just 85 passes compared to England's 184 and Wales's 144. This can be explained to a large extent by lack of possession. As noted above, they obtained less possession than their opponents often by a substantial amount but they also passed at a lower rate than any of the other teams.

Their forwards were the least likely forwards to pass the ball but were the only team whose forwards scored more tries than backs albeit it by only 2 to 1.

Only 6 kicks at goal were attempted in 5 matches of which only 2 were successful.

On a more positive note, Scotland together with England had the greatest success on their opponents scrum and were second only to England at opponents' lineouts.



## SUMMARY







This Report is divided into 3 sections.

- Section 1 takes a brief look at constituent game elements in Womens 6 Nations 2011 and compares them to Womens 6 Nations 2010. It also includes a summary of each team's activities and performance in certain critical areas of the game
- Section 2 comprises a detailed statistical analysis of all matches played in the tournament, together with all the match results.
- Section 3 comprises a short statistical comparison with this year's men's 6 Nations Championship



































## FINAL STANDINGS & RESULTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	PTS
 <b>England</b>	5	5	0	0	223	8	215	10
 <b>France</b>	5	4	0	1	113	51	62	8
 <b>Ireland</b>	5	2	0	3	74	70	4	4
 <b>Wales</b>	5	2	0	3	64	72	-8	4
 <b>Italy</b>	5	2	0	3	68	130	-62	4
 <b>Scotland</b>	5	0	0	5	20	231	-211	0

P = Played    W = Won    D = Draw    L = Lost    F = Point For    A = Points Against  
 PD = Points difference    PTS = Points

	<b>France Women</b>	<b>53 - 3</b>	<b>Scotland Women</b>	
	<b>Italy Women</b>	<b>5 - 26</b>	<b>Ireland Women</b>	
	<b>Wales Women</b>	<b>0 - 19</b>	<b>England Women</b>	
	<b>Ireland Women</b>	<b>12 - 14</b>	<b>France Women</b>	
	<b>England Women</b>	<b>68 - 5</b>	<b>Italy Women</b>	
	<b>Scotland Women</b>	<b>12 - 41</b>	<b>Wales Women</b>	
	<b>Scotland Women</b>	<b>5 - 22</b>	<b>Ireland Women</b>	
	<b>England Women</b>	<b>16 - 3</b>	<b>France Women</b>	
	<b>Italy Women</b>	<b>12 - 8</b>	<b>Wales Women</b>	
	<b>Italy Women</b>	<b>20 - 28</b>	<b>France Women</b>	
	<b>Wales Women</b>	<b>15 - 14</b>	<b>Ireland Women</b>	
	<b>England Women</b>	<b>89 - 0</b>	<b>Scotland Women</b>	
	<b>Ireland Women</b>	<b>0 - 31</b>	<b>England Women</b>	
	<b>France Women</b>	<b>15 - 0</b>	<b>Wales Women</b>	
	<b>Scotland Women</b>	<b>10 - 26</b>	<b>Italy Women</b>	



## OVERALL SUMMARY

In a number of the game's core elements, Womens 6 Nations 2011 showed little change, as shown in the following comparisons. There were however certain areas that showed some differences from previous years – average tries and penalty goals went up while the proportion of tries from lineout and scrum possession changed considerably from last year. The following comparison data comes from the detailed report that follows and reflects the shape of the current women's game as expressed through this year's 6 Nations championship, together with comparative figures from previous years:

	WOMENS 6 NATIONS 2011	WOMENS 6 NATIONS 2010	WOMENS 6 NATIONS 2009
Average POINTS per game	38	30	39
Average TRIES per game	5.7	4.3	5.7
PENALTY GOALS per game	1.5	1.1	1.6
DROP GOALS per game	0 in 15 matches	1 in 15 matches	0 in 15 matches
% of points from TRIES	76%	73%	73%
Average PASSES per game	244	225	231
Average RUCKS & MAULS per game	161	151	147
Average KICKS per game	29	41	35
TRIES SCORED BY BACKS	67%	60%	71%
TRIES SCORED BY FORWARDS	33%	40%	29%
PENALTY TRIES	0%	0%	0%
MATCHES with point margin of 20 or less	8 of 15	11 of 15	8 of 15
CONVERSION SUCCESS RATE	41%	49%	52%
PENALTY GOAL SUCCESS RATE	55%	39%	46%
DROP GOAL SUCCESS RATE	0 of 1	1 in 5	0 in 0
matches won by TEAM SCORING MOST TRIES	13 of 15	13 of 15	13 of 15
Matches where tries were equal	1	2 of 15	2 of 15
matches won by TEAM SCORING LEAST TRIES	1	none	none
% of TRIES FROM LINEOUT POSSESSION	33%	44%	28%
% of TRIES FROM SCRUM POSSESSION	34%	18%	29%
% of TRIES FROM PENALTY/FREE KICKS	7%	6%	3%
% of TRIES FROM TURNOVER/ERROR	11%	18%	13%
% of TRIES FROM OPPONENTS KICKS	15%	14%	27%
BALL IN PLAY % / TIME	43%	44%	44%
% of all PASSES MADE BY BACKS	37%	37%	40%
% of all PASSES MADE BY SCRUM HALF	45%	48%	43%
% of all PASSES MADE BY FORWARDS	18%	15%	17%
Average LINEOUTS per match	24	27	23
% of LINEOUT POSSESSION RETAINED	79%	70%	70%
Average SCRUMS per match	26	24	26
% of SCRUM POSSESSION RETAINED	83%	84%	83%
Average PENALTIES per match	25	25	23
% of RUCK/MAUL POSSESSION RETAINED	93%	90%	91%

## 1.0 SCORING

There were **564** points scored in the 15 matches played, giving an average of **38** points per game (**2010 – 30**). They were made up as follows:

	Type of Score			6N 2011	% of points scored from Tries	
	Total	Average	Points		%	
Converted Tries	35	2.3	245		76%	
Unconverted Tries	50	3.4	250			
Penalty Goals	23	1.5	69			
Drop Goals	0	0	0			
<b>Total</b>			<b>564</b>			

Of the total points scored:  
**76% came from TRIES**  
**12% came from PENALTY GOALS**  
**12% came from CONVERSIONS**  
**0% came from DROP GOALS**



### 1.1 WINNING MARGINS

The winning margins in each of the 15 matches fell into the following ranges

**Points Difference in Women's 6 Nations 2011**

Points Difference	No of matches	Cumulative
1 - 5	3	3
6 - 10	1	4
11 - 20	4	8
21 - 30	3	11
31 - 40	1	12
41 - 50	1	13
50+	2	15

The table shows that 8 of the 12 matches had a points difference of 20 points or less. In 2010, the comparable figure was 11. Not surprisingly, points scored and conceded varied throughout the various teams with the average points scored and conceded by each team shown below.

**Points for/against per Team**





	Points For			Points Against		
	2011 Total	2011 Average	2010 Average	2011 Total	2011 Average	2010 Average
ENGLAND	225	45	31	8	2	3
FRANCE	113	23	19	51	10	10
IRELAND	74	15	14	70	14	10
WALES	64	13	10	72	14	19
ITALY	68	14	9	132	26	25
SCOTLAND	20	4	6	231	46	21

**1.2 PENALTY GOALS**

There were **23** penalty goals kicked in 2011. (2010 – 17)

All teams scored more tries than penalty goals.

**Penalty Goals per team & Penalty:Try Ratios**

		2011 Penalties Goals Kicked	2011 Ratio PGs : Tries	2010 Penalties Goals Kicked	2010 Ratio PGs : Tries
	FRANCE	7	1 : 2	3	1 : 5
	WALES	5	1 : 2	3	1 : 2
	ITALY	5	1 : 2	2	1 : 3
	ENGLAND	3	1:12	2	1 : 13
	IRELAND	2	1 : 6	5	1 : 2
	SCOTLAND	1	1 : 3	2	1 : 2
	<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1 : 4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1 to 4</b>

**1.3 IMPACT OF THE PENALTY GOAL ON MATCH RESULTS**


Tries win matches - in Women's 6 Nations 2011, the winning team scored the most tries in 13 of the 15 matches or in 87% of matches.

In one games, tries were equal. In another game, the team scoring fewer tries than their opponents won.







**2.0 TRY SCORING**

The total number of tries, penalty goals and drop goals scored by each country in Women's 6 Nations 2011 was as follows:

**Total tries/Penalty Goals/Drop goals per Team**

		2011 Tries	2010 Tries	2011 Penalty Goals	2010 Penalty Goals	2011 Drop Goals	2010 Drop Goals
	ENGLAND	36	26	3	2	0	0
	FRANCE	16	14	7	3	0	0
	IRELAND	12	9	2	5	0	1
	WALES	9	6	5	3	0	0
	ITALY	9	6	5	2	0	0
	SCOTLAND	3	4	1	2	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**% of points (a) from Tries and (b) Kicks at goal per Team**







	<b>% of points from Tries</b>	<b>% of points from Kicks at goal</b>
 IRELAND	81%	19%
 ENGLAND	80%	20%
 SCOTLAND	75%	25%
 FRANCE	71%	29%
 WALES	70%	30%
 ITALY	66%	34%

**2.1 RATE OF TRY SCORING**

An earlier table shows the number of tries scored by each country. The table does not show however how effective each team was in scoring tries in relation to the possession that it obtained. A team may obtain little possession but still manage to score a significant number of tries. The following paragraphs consider this and attempt to show how successful each team was in converting possession into tries.

This was done by adding together the time each team was in possession of the ball in each of the matches played and then dividing it by the number of tries scored. The result then gave a rate of try scoring – or a measure of how effective each country was in converting possession into tries.

**Rate of Try scoring  
(Tries scored per minute's own possession)**

	<b>Total Tries Scored</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
 ENGLAND	36	<i>3min 00secs</i>	<i>4min 00secs</i>
 FRANCE	16	<i>5min 35secs</i>	<i>6min 49secs</i>
 IRELAND	12	<i>6min 12secs</i>	<i>10min 32secs</i>
 ITALY	9	<i>7min 58scs</i>	<i>12min 33scs</i>
 WALES	9	<i>10min 49secs</i>	<i>13min 45secs</i>
 SCOTLAND	3	<i>23min 07secs</i>	<i>18min 17secs</i>

**2.2 RATE OF TRY CONCEDED**

Following the above exercise, the converse was looked at ie. how effective was each team in restricting tries in relation to the possession that their opponents obtained. The following paragraph tries to measure this by illustrating how successful each team was in preventing their opposition from converting possession into tries. This was done by adding together the total time the team's opponents were in possession of the ball - and then dividing it by the number of tries conceded. The result then gave a rate of try scoring by the opposition.

**Rate of Try conceding  
(Tries conceded per minute's opposition possession)**

	Total Tries Conceded	2011	2010
 ENGLAND	1	65min 07secs	35min 10secs
 FRANCE	6	15min 03secs	15min 58secs
 IRELAND	10	8min 40secs	11min 03secs
 WALES	12	6min 41secs	6min 21secs
 ITALY	19	5min 01secs	4min 55secs
 SCOTLAND	37	2min 32secs	6min 09secs

**2.3 PLAYERS AND TRIES**







It has been noted above that there were 85 tries scored in the 15 matches:

56 or **67%** of tries were scored by Backs  
 29 or **33%** of tries were scored by Forwards  
 There were no penalty tries



The breakdown between the 6 competing teams is shown below:

**Tries scored by Backs and Forwards per Team**

	Tries by Backs	Tries by Forwards	Total
 ENGLAND	19	17	36
 FRANCE	13	3	16
 IRELAND	8	4	12
 WALES	9	0	9
 ITALY	6	3	9
 SCOTLAND	1	2	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>85</b>

### 3.0 TRIES

#### 3.1 SOURCE OF TRIES

There were 85 tries scored in Women's 6 Nations 2011

The teams scoring the tries obtained possession of the ball prior to the scoring of the try from a variety of sources. This is shown in the following table.

	2011	2010
Lineout – Own	24	24
Scrum –Own	23	12
Turnover/Handling Error	9	12
Opponents Kick	7	8
Penalty/Free Kick	6	4
Lineout - Opp	4	4
Scrum – Opp	6	-
Restart – Opp	6	1
	<b>85</b>	<b>65</b>

The following table shows the possession source from which tries were scored by each of the 6 teams:

**Source of Tries Scored per Team**

	Lineout	Scrum	Pen/FK	Kick	Turnover	Restart	Total Scored
 ENGLAND	10	11	3	4	4	4	36
 FRANCE	7	6	1	1	1		15
 IRELAND	4	4	1	1	2		12
 WALES	3	1	1	1	2	1	9
 ITALY	3	5				1	9
 SCOTLAND	1	2					3

The next table shows the possession source from which their opponent's tries came:

**Source of Tries Conceded per Team**

	Lineout	Scrum	Pen/FK	Kick	Turnover	Restart	Total Conceded
 ENGLAND		1					1
 FRANCE	1	2	1	2			6
 IRELAND	6	3			1		10
 WALES	5	6			1		12
 ITALY	3	8	2	3	2	1	19
 SCOTLAND	13	9	3	2	5	5	37

The tables show that England 15 tries from penalties/free kicks, opponents kicks, turnovers and restarts. This is more than the other 5 teams combined. This can be an indicator of success – the ability to score tries from possession obtained from broken play.

**3.2 ORIGIN OF TRIES**

Tries originate from various parts of the pitch – this is illustrated below:

	% of Tries		% of Tries
Own Half	17%	Left of the Posts	40%
Halfway to 10m	5%	Under the Posts	12%
10m to 22m	31%	Right of the Posts	48%
22M to Tryline	47%		

In 2011, 1 in 6 tries originated from within the scoring teams own half. A high percentage of tries originated in the opposition 22m area – 47%.

**Origin of Tries scored per team**

	Own Half	Halfway to 10m	10m to 22m	22m to Try-line	Total Scored
 ENGLAND	4	2	12	18	36
 FRANCE	4	1	7	4	16
 IRELAND	4		3	5	12
 WALES	2	1	1	5	9
 ITALY	1		2	6	9
 SCOTLAND			1	2	3

The following table provides the converse to the above ie. It shows – for each team – the origin of all tries conceded.

**Origin of Tries conceded per team**

	Opp Half	Halfway to 10m	10m to 22m	22m to Try-line	Total Conceded
 ENGLAND			1		1
 FRANCE	1		1	4	6
 IRELAND			2	8	10
 WALES	1		2	9	12
 ITALY	3	2	5	9	19
 SCOTLAND	10	2	15	10	37

**3.3 TRY LOCATIONS**

Of the 85 tries scored,

12% were scored under the posts  
 40% the left side of the posts, and  
 48% on the right side of the posts.



**3.4 BUILD-UP TO TRIES**

Possession of the ball that leads to tries is obtained from a number of sources – and they have been listed above. More often than not, other actions – second phase, kicks and passes – then take place before the try is scored.

The first table below shows the number of rucks and mauls (2<sup>nd</sup> phase) that preceded each of the 85 tries scored in Womens 6 Nations 2011

**Build Up to Tries - Ruck/Mauls**

	Number	%	2011 Cumulative %	2010 Cumulative %
0 R/Ms	22	27%	27%	29%
1 R/Ms	17	21%	48%	63%
2 R/Ms	14	16%	64%	75%
3 R/Ms	8	9%	73%	87%
4 R/Ms	7	8%		
5 R/Ms	2	2%		
6 R/Ms	8	9%		
7 R/Ms	1	2%		
8 R/Ms	2	1%		
9 R/Ms	3	4%		
10+ R/Ms	1	1%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100%</b>		

The table shows that 73% of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer second phases.

The next table shows the number of passes that preceded each of the 85 tries scored

**Build Up to Tries - Passes**







	Number	%	2011 Cumulative %	2010 Cumulative %
0 pass	15	18%	18%	25%
1 pass	6	7%	25%	39%
2 passes	10	12%	37%	53%
3 passes	7	8%	45%	59%
4 passes	7	8%		
5 passes	4	5%		
6 passes	7	8%		
7 passes	7	8%		
8 passes	3	3%		
9 passes	5	6%		
10 passes	1	1%		
11+ passes	13	16%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100%</b>		

The table shows that 45% of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer passes. This was not a figure that was seen consistently throughout all teams. In **Scotland's** case, for example, 2 of their 3 tries did not contain a single pass. Also, none of Scotland's 4 tries contained more than 2 passes while the majority of England's tries contained 3 or more.

**3.5 TIMING OF SCORES - TRIES**

43 or 51% of tries were scored in the first half - 42 or 49% in the second half.

The following table breaks down these figures further and shows the halves in which teams scored tries and the halves which they conceded tries.

		Tries scored 1st half	Tries scored 2nd half	Tries conceded 1st half	Tries conceded 2nd half
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	17	19	0	1
	<b>FRANCE</b>	11	5	2	4
	<b>IRELAND</b>	4	8	6	4
	<b>WALES</b>	5	4	7	5
	<b>ITALY</b>	5	4	10	9
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	1	2	18	19







It shows that France scored over twice as many tries in the first half as the second half.

**3.6 TIMING OF SCORES - PENALTY GOALS**

There was a difference between the time when tries were scored and the time when penalties were kicked.

In Women's 6 Nations 2011, 43 tries or 51% were scored in the first half – 42 or 49% in the second. With regard to penalty goals, 16 or 70% were kicked in the first half – 7 or 30% in the second.

The following chart shows the number of penalties kicked and conceded by each team:

		PGs kicked 1st half	PGs kicked 2nd half	PGs conceded 1st half	PGs conceded 2nd half
	<b>FRANCE</b>	3	4	3	2
	<b>WALES</b>	5	0	0	0
	<b>ITALY</b>	4	1	3	4
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	2	1	1	0
	<b>IRELAND</b>	1	1	3	1
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	1	0	6	0

**4.0 KICKS AT GOAL**







Kicking success rates were as follows:

	2011	2010
Conversions	41%	49%
Penalty goals	55%	40%
Drop goals	0 of 1	1 of 5

There was only one drop goal attempt in the entire tournament – and that failed.

The kicking success for penalty goals, conversions and drop kicks of each participating country is shown below. It shows that the most successful side – England – achieved a success rate of just over 50% - while Scotland had only 6 attempts at goal in 5 matches only 2 of which were successful.

**Kicks at Goal Success**

		Penalty Success	Conversion Success	2011 Overall Success %	2010 Overall Success %	Drop goal Success
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	3 of 4	18 of 36	53%	40%	0 of 0
	<b>FRANCE</b>	7 of 9	6 of 16	52%	50%	0 of 1
	<b>ITALY</b>	5 of 9	4 of 9	50%	46%	0 of 0
	<b>WALES</b>	5 of 10	2 of 9	37%	50%	0 of 0
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	1 of 3	1 of 3	33%	38%	0 of 0
	<b>IRELAND</b>	2 of 7	4 of 12	31%	47%	0 of 0

## 5.0 BALL IN PLAY







In percentage terms, Women's 6 Nations 2011 matches produced an average ball in play time of **35min 01secs – or 43%** (2009 – 44%)

The highest Ball in play figure was **52%** or 41 mins 49 secs (**England v France**)







The lowest Ball in play figure was **37%** or 29 mins 56 secs (**Wales v Ireland**)

The following table shows the total ball in play time per game - and how much possession was obtained by each team in the 15 matches. There are some noticeable differences - in England's matches against Italy, Scotland and Ireland for example, England had the ball in their possession over twice as long as their opponents.

**Possession % and Times per team per match**

MATCH	BALL IN PLAY TIME	%	WAL 	ENG 	FRA 	IRE 	SCO 	ITA 
France v Scotland	33m 01s	41%			17m56s		15m05s	
Italy v Ireland	34m 07s	43%				17m58s		16m09
Wales v England	35m 25s	44%	18m32s	16m53s				
Ireland v France	30m 54s	39%			16m29s	14m25s		
England v Italy	32m 04s	40%		21m16s				10m48s
Scotland v Wales	37m 45s	47%	24m08s				13m37s	
Scotland v Ireland	31m 48s	40%				18m28s	13m20s	
Italy v Wales	35m 32s	44%	18m06s					17m26s
England v France	41m 49s	52%		24m59s	16m50s			
Italy v France	34m 57s	44%			19m47s			15m10s
England v Scotland	30m 23s	38%		21m10s			9m13s	
Wales v Ireland	29m 56s	37%	16m00s			13m56s		
Ireland v England	33m 27s	42%		23m43s		9m44s		
France v Wales	39m 00s	49%	20m43s		18m17s			
Scotland v Italy	30m 11s	38%					18m05s	12m06s
	<b>Av 34m 01s=43%</b>		19m29s	21m36s	17m51s	14m54s	13m52s	14m19s

The following table shows the average possession time obtained by all 6 teams:  
**Average Possession per Game**

		2011	2010
	ENGLAND	21m 36s	20min 51secs
	WALES	19m29s	16min 35secs
	FRANCE	17m51s	19min 06secs
	IRELAND	14m54s	18min 58secs
	ITALY	14m19s	15min 04secs
	SCOTLAND	13m52s	14min 37secs

As a formula for winning, having the most possession is not always a guarantee of success. In Women’s 6 Nations 2009, the winning team had the most possession in 10 of the 15 games, in 3 games the losing team had most possession while in 2 matches the possession percentage was the same.

## 6.0 ACTIVITY CYCLES

Activity cycles comprise - ruck/mauls, passes, and kicks.

The number of rucks/mauls, passes and kicks made in Women’s 6 Nations 2011 are shown in the attached table.

	2010	2009
<b>Rucks/Mauls</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Passes</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>Kicks</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>41</b>

### 6.1 PASSING

Games, on average, contained **244** passes (2010 – **225**)

The most in any game was **296 (Scotland v Wales)** – the fewest was **163 (Ireland v France)**. The most by any team in a game was **202** – the fewest, **43**

The following table shows the average passes per game per team







**Average Passes per Team per game**

		2011	2010
	ENGLAND	184	158
	WALES	144	119
	FRANCE	115	123
	IRELAND	103	108
	ITALY	101	93
	SCOTLAND	85	74

Again, there were noticeable differences between the 6 teams with England, for example, making almost 100 more passes per game than Scotland – but while this represented 116% more passes, their passing rate was only 39% more.

This next table shows the average number of passes per minute's possession ie the rate of passing.







**Rate of Passing per Team  
(passes per minutes possession )**

	2011	2010
 ENGLAND	8.5	7.6
 WALES	7.4	7.2
 ITALY	7.1	6.2
 IRELAND	6.9	5.7
 FRANCE	6.4	6.4
 SCOTLAND	6.1	5.1



The number of passes made by a team can also vary considerably from match to match. The following table shows the average number of passes per country per game as shown above together with the most in a game and the least in a game

**Average, Most and Least per Team**

	Average 2010	Most 2010	Least 2010
 ENGLAND	184	229	119
 WALES	144	242	93
 FRANCE	115	161	86
 IRELAND	103	159	60
 ITALY	101	135	67
 SCOTLAND	85	133	52

**6.2 PLAYER PASSING**

Total passes made in the championship were broken down into 3:







- Passes made by forwards
- Passes made by the scrum half
- Passes made by backs

All the passes made in Women's 6 Nations 2011 have been allocated into these 3 groups, and are shown in the attached table:

	2011	2010
% of passes made by forwards	18%	15%
% of passes made by scrum half	45%	48%
% of passes made by backs	37%	37%
	100%	100%







What the table below shows is the number of passes made by the three groups of players. It simply shows how active they were in passing the ball.

**Total number of passes made by Forwards/Scrum Half/Backs per Team**

		Passes by Forwards	Passes by Scrum half	Passes by Backs
	<b>WALES</b>	169	341	211
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	140	383	396
	<b>FRANCE</b>	100	275	198
	<b>ITALY</b>	94	216	197
	<b>IRELAND</b>	85	240	190
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	62	206	158

The following table takes this further. It shows the proportion of a teams passes made by each of the 3 groups of players. Where certain teams used forwards more as suppliers of the ball for onward transmission by the backs, other teams involved the forwards themselves in the distribution process. This is what the table shows:

**Percentage of total passes made by forwards/scrum half /backs**

		% by Forwards	% by Scrum Half	% by Backs
	<b>WALES</b>	23%	47%	30%
	<b>ITALY</b>	19%	43%	39%
	<b>FRANCE</b>	17%	48%	35%
	<b>IRELAND</b>	17%	47%	37%
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	15%	42%	43%
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	15%	48%	37%

The next table shows the number of times each countries' forwards had the ball in their hands and the number of times they passed it. This is then expressed as a ratio so that if a team's forwards passed the ball 20 times having received it 100 times, the ratio would be expressed as 1 to 5 – ie 1 pass for every 5 possessions. Again, the table shows clear differences between the countries.







**Ratio of Passes to Possession – by Forwards per Team**

		2011	2010
	<b>FRANCE</b>	1 in 2.6	1 in 3.2
	<b>ITALY</b>	1 in 2.9	1 in 3.6
	<b>WALES</b>	1 in 3.1	1 in 3.3
	<b>IRELAND</b>	1 in 3.2	1 in 4.6
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	1 in 3.7	1 in 3.8
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	1 in 5.0	1 in 5.9

6.3 PASSING MOVEMENTS

Passes are grouped into passing movements – i.e. one pass movement, two pass movements and so on. The data shows that some 79% of all passing movements contained two passes or less. There were however a number of differences between the various countries as shown below:

**% of passing movements with 2 or fewer passes**

		2011	2010
	WALES	84%	79%
	IRELAND	81%	89%
	FRANCE	81%	86%
	SCOTLAND	80%	92%
	ITALY	77%	90%
	ENGLAND	75%	73%

The data also shows that Scotland had just 14 passing movements with more than 3 passes. This contrasts with France who had 29 and England who had 15.

6.4 RUCKS/MAULS (2nd PHASE)

The average number per game was **151 (2010 – 151)**.  
 The most in any game was **204 – England v France** ; the fewest was **126 – Ireland v France**.  
 The most by any team in a game was **141** – the least, **36**

The average for all countries is shown below:







**Average Ruck/Mauls per Team per Game**

		2011	2010
	ENGLAND	109	88
	WALES	104	80
	FRANCE	77	71
	SCOTLAND	72	65
	IRELAND	64	88
	ITALY	58	63

The above table indicates the total number of rucks/mauls created by each team in the competition expressed as average per game.

However, and just as in the case of passes, the number of rucks and mauls made by one team may be constrained because it obtained only limited possession of the ball. In order to address this, an alternative calculation has been made which relates the number of rucks/mauls to the share of ball in play time won by each team. This is expressed in the number of rucks created for every minutes' possession obtained by a team and shows, for example, that Frances' rate of rucking was less than any of the other teams, just as it was last year.

Rate of Rucks/Mauls per Team (rucks/mauls per minutes possession)







		2011	2010
	WALES	5.3	5.3
	SCOTLAND	5.1	4.5
	ENGLAND	5.0	4.2
	IRELAND	4.3	4.6
	FRANCE	4.3	3.7
	ITALY	4.0	4.3

Again this table shows, for example, that while England made 50% more rucks and mauls than Scotland, their rucking rate was slightly less.

6.5 BREAKDOWN RETENTION

At the breakdown the team taking in the ball retained possession by either winning the ball or being awarded a penalty on **93%** of occasions.

The percentage success rate for each team was very similar and was as follows:

		2011	2010
	ENGLAND	94%	92%
	FRANCE	93%	88%
	WALES	93%	87%
	IRELAND	92%	91%
	SCOTLAND	92%	90%
	ITALY	91%	93%

6.6 KICKING







The average number per game was **29 (2010 – 41)**.

The most open play kicks in a game was **47 (Italy v France)** the fewest **17 (Eng v Scotland)**

The most by a team was **29** – the least **6**

The average number of kicks per team per game are shown in the table below:







Average Kicks per Team per Game

		2011	2010
	FRANCE	18	27
	ITALY	17	22
	IRELAND	15	15
	SCOTLAND	14	27
	ENGLAND	13	19
	WALES	11	14



When an adjustment is made to take account of possession obtained, by each team, then the kicking table changes slightly. It shows that Italy kicked at a higher rate than the other teams as well as making most kicks. The table below shows the average number of kicks per team per minute's possession:







**Rate of Kicking per Team (kicks per minutes possession)**

		2011	2010
	ITALY	1.1	1.4
	SCOTLAND	1.0	1.8
	IRELAND	1.0	0.8
	FRANCE	1.0	1.4
	ENGLAND	0.6	0.9
	WALES	0.6	0.9

**6.7 SUMMARY**

A summary of previous tables is shown below – it shows the average number of rucks, passes, and kicks per game and the rate for each per minute possession.

**Activity Cycle Summary**  
Average per game and Rate per minute possession





		Rucks/Mauls		Passes		Kicks	
		Average	Rate	Average	Rate	Average	Rate
	ENGLAND	109	5.0	184	8.5	13	0.6
	WALES	104	5.3	144	7.4	11	0.6
	FRANCE	77	4.3	115	6.4	18	1.0
	SCOTLAND	72	5.1	85	6.1	14	1.0
	IRELAND	64	4.3	103	6.9	15	0.8
	ITALY	58	4.0	101	7.1	17	1.1

**7.0 RESTARTS**

Of 50m restarts, 70% were kicked long – 30% were kicked short and were contestable. These were similar percentages to last year.

When 50m restarts were kicked short, the kicking team regained possession on 24% of occasions (2010 – 20%).

Success rate and restart type varied between the 6 teams. The most effective teams in retaining short restarts are shown below.

	50m Restarts		22m Restarts		Retention rate
	Short	Long	Short	Long	Short
 SCOTLAND	12	31	2	1	4 of 14
 ITALY	13	16	3	3	6 of 16
 IRELAND	4	13	0	2	0 of 4
 WALES	3	12	0	2	0 of 3
 FRANCE	3	12	1	7	2 of 4
 ENGLAND	3	4	2	1	2 of 5

It can be seen that there was a major contrast between Italy and England and the remaining countries. While Italy and England kicked short almost as much as long, the remaining teams kicked long on the vast majority of occasions.

### 8.0 SCRUMS

The average number of scrums per game was **26 (24– 2010)**  
 This amounts to an average of 13 scrums per team per game.







The most scrums in a game was 37 – the least 18

	2011	2010
Average no per game	26	24
Possession retained	83%	84%

Scrum success includes heels against head, uncontrolled heels by the putting-in team, penalties and free kicks against attack and transfer resets.

The scrum success on own feed and opposition feed are shown below:

#### Scrum Success (Own feed and Opposition feed)

	Scrum Success %		Heels against the head	
	Own Feed	Opposition Feed	Won	Lost
 ENGLAND	97%	28%	7	1
 WALES	88%	8%	3	2
 FRANCE	83%	14%	2	3
 SCOTLAND	81%	28%	2	3
 IRELAND	80%	16%	4	3
 ITALY	70%	11%	2	8

Retention of possession averaged 83%

With such high percentage of possession retained, it is no surprise that heels against the head were few and far between. In total there were just 20 in 389 scrums. – or 1 scrum in 19.

## 9.0 LINEOUTS

The average number of lineouts per game was 24 (2010 – 27)

The most line outs in a game was 31 – the least 9

	2011	2010
Average no per game	24	27
Percentage competed	69%	65%
Possession retained	79%	70%

### Lineout Success (Own Throw and Opposition Throw)

		Success %		Lineout Steals		Not straight / Pen/FK / Knock-on	
		Own Throw	On Opposition Throw	Lost on Own Throw	Won on Opposition Throw	Own Throw	Opposition Throw
	ENGLAND	88%	37%	3	13	4	2
	IRELAND	88%	17%	4	8	4	4
	FRANCE	79%	13%	8	5	5	4
	WALES	77%	13%	12	6	2	2
	SCOTLAND	72%	29%	9	5	6	12
	ITALY	70%	21%	8	7	8	4

## 10.0 PENALTIES & FREE KICKS

In Womens 6 Nations 2011, the average number of penalties and free kicks awarded in a game was 25. (2010 – 25)

There was a wide spread between the matches. The most awarded in a single game was 37 – the least, 12.

The following table comprises the total penalties awarded to and conceded by each team. However, because the number of penalties can vary from match to match, a better measure is the **proportion** of penalties conceded by a team in all their matches compared with their opponents. This shows that Ireland – just as last year - were the least penalised team in relation to their opponents.

The table also shows that while Wales conceded the most penalties, France were penalised proportionately more than their opponents.

		Penalties For and Against per Team per Game		Proportion of Penalties For and Against per Team	
		Pen/FK For	Pen/FK Against	% Pen/FK For	% Pen/FK Against
	ENGLAND	72	39	65%	35%
	WALES	78	66	54%	46%
	SCOTLAND	59	52	53%	47%
	IRELAND	61	72	46%	54%
	ITALY	53	65	45%	55%
	FRANCE	50	79	39%	61%

10.1 CATEGORIES OF OFFENCES PENALISED

The following table groups the penalties awarded into 9 categories – these are as follows.

% of Offences Penalised

	2011	2010
Ruck/tackle on ground	53%	49%
Offside	17%	15%
Scrum	15%	14%
Dangerous tackle	2%	5%
Other	7%	6%
Maul pulling down	1%	2%
Lineout	1%	2%
Foul play	>1%	3%
Obstruction	4%	4%
	100%	100%

11.0 YELLOW & RED CARDS

The following paragraphs examine the circumstances and effects of the issue of red and yellow cards during Women’s 6 Nations 2011

Yellow cards conceded

11.1 RED CARDS

There was 0 red cards issued. (2010 – 1)

11.2 YELLOW CARDS

There were 15 yellow cards issued during the championship. (2010 – 15)



WALES  
IRELAND  
FRANCE  
ITALY  
SCOTLAND  
ENGLAND

	2011	2010
WALES	3	4
IRELAND	3	3
FRANCE	3	3
ITALY	3	2
SCOTLAND	3	1
ENGLAND	0	2

Of the 15 matches, there were 8 which contained at least one yellow card, meaning 7 (or 47%) of all matches did not contain a single yellow card. The most yellow cards in one match was 4 – (Scotland v Wales)

The reasons for each of the yellow cards were as follows:

Reason for Cards

	2011	2010
Ruck/Tackle	10	5
Ruck offside	3	4
Foul play	1	0 + 1
General play	1	-
Collapsing Maul	-	2
Dangerous Tackle/Charging	-	3
Obstruction	-	1
Deliberate Knock on	-	1
	15 + 0	15 + 1



**A STATISTICAL COMPARISON BETWEEN  
WOMENS 6 NATIONS 2011 & MEN'S 6 NATIONS 2011**

The following data has been included simply as a matter of general interest. It should not be regarded as a meaningful study since it is not a comparison of like with like. The men's game at the top level is fully professional - and while there are a number of similarities it will inevitably show significant differences when compared with a game where all players are amateur whether played by men or women. The areas of **major differences are highlighted in RED.**

	<b>WOMENS 6 NATIONS 2011</b>	<b>MENS 6 NATIONS 2011</b>
<b>% of points from TRIES</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>% of points from PENALTY GOALS</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>% of points from CONVERSIONS</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>% of points from DROP GOALS</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>TRIES per game</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>PENALTY GOALS per game</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>DROP GOALS per game</b>	<b>0 in 15 matches</b>	<b>5 in 15</b>
<b>TRIES SCORED BY BACKS</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>TRIES SCORED BY FORWARDS</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>MATCHES with point margin of 20 or less</b>	<b>8 of 15</b>	<b>14 of 15</b>
<b>TRIES originated in opposition 22m</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>CONVERSION SUCCESS RATE</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>PENALTY GOAL SUCCESS RATE</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>DROP GOAL SUCCESS RATE</b>	<b>0 in 1</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>BALL IN PLAY TIME</b>	<b>43%</b> <b>35 min 01s</b>	<b>49%</b> <b>39 min 10s</b>
<b>PASSES av per game</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>297</b>
<b>RUCKS/MAULS av per game</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>194</b>
<b>KICKS av per game</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>% of all PASSES MADE BY BACKS</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>% of all PASSES MADE BY SCRUM HALF</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>% of all PASSES MADE BY FORWARDS</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>% of LINEOUT POSSESSION RETAINED</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>% of SCRUM POSSESSION RETAINED</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>% of RUCK/MAUL POSSESSION RETAINED</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>YELLOW AND RED CARDS</b>	<b>15 +0</b>	<b>10 + 0</b>