



# **2012 WOMEN'S 6 NATIONS**

**STATISTICAL REVIEW  
AND MATCH ANALYSIS**

**IRB GAME ANALYSIS**



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# COMMENTARY

In Women's 6 Nations 2012, **England** won all 5 of their matches and did not concede a single try.

This comprehensive dominance of the tournament was a continuation of England's performance over the years from 2008 to 2012, the extent of which is shown in the next section of this Commentary.

## Part 1 - England

Between 2008 and 2012, **England** have played 25 matches in the Women's 6 Nations Championship, winning 24 and losing one, while heavily outscoring their opponents on most occasions, producing an average scoreline of 40 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 5 years.

	TRIES SCORED	TRIES CONCEDED
6N 2008	34	2
6N 2009	38	5
6N 2010	26	2
6N 2011	36	1
6N 2012	26	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>10</b>

When tries scored outnumber tries conceded by a ratio of some 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 5 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	47	0	2012
WON	43	3	2012
WON	41	0	2010
WON	34	5	2008
WON	33	0	2012
WON	31	0	2011
WON	31	0	2010
WON	31	0	2008
WON	29	13	2009
WON	23	6	2012
WON	22	5	2010
WON	19	0	2011
WON	17	7	2008
WON	16	3	2011
WON	15	3	2012
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 this year's Men's 6 Nations, for example, only 8 of the 15 matches were won by the team with most possession. This profile does not apply however in Women's 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 22 of their 25 matches played to date:

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Match 1	105% more	134% more	140% more	144% more	99% more
Match 2	96% more	25% more	80% more	130% more	51% more
Match 3	48% more	16% more	37% more	97% more	32% more
Match 4	47% more	Opp 29% more	37% more	48% more	28% more
Match 5	3% more	Opp 29% more	2% more	Opp 10% more	3% more

An inevitable result of more possession is that a 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 over twice as many 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** also pressurise their opponents' scrums and lineout. This is shown in the following table:

	Success on opponents' lineout	Success at opponents' scrum
England	30%	19%
Wales	13%	14%
Scotland	28%	12%
Ireland	27%	10%
Italy	25%	19%
France	30%	12%

There was however one area that was quite different from 2011. Last year **England** were also awarded almost twice as many penalties and free kicks as their opponents. This year there was almost parity.

## 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 5 years – and their best and worst performances - were as follows:

	Average Scoreline	Best result	Biggest defeat
IRELAND v England	6 - 25	7 - 17	0 - 31
FRANCE v England	5 - 25	10 - 11	7 - 52
WALES v England	3 - 31	16 - 15	0 - 55
SCOTLAND v England	2 - 60	5 - 34	0 - 89
ITALY v England	5 - 60	0 - 41	6 - 76

Outside the matches involving **England** however, there is a far greater element of competition.– and as an illustration of this, a notional championship table has been put together that excludes all **England's** matches over the last 5 years, producing what is, in effect a 5 Nations championship based on the last 5 year's matches.

This notional table looks as follows:

	2008 to 2012	Played	W	D	L	FOR	AGAINST	Points	Av score
1	FRANCE	20	17		3	466	153	34	23-8
2	IRELAND	20	13		7	375	160	26	19-8
3	WALES	20	12		8	313	272	24	16-14
4	ITALY	20	5	1	14	245	444	11	12-22
5	SCOTLAND	20	2	1	17	132	490	5	7-25

What the above tables show is that, in overall terms, the Women's 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 Women's world rugby.

**What was of further interest in this year's Women's 6 Nations was the distinct gap in performance that appeared between the top 3 teams and the remaining 3 teams.** Whether this was indicative of what may happen in the future or was no more than a one-off exception, the difference this year was between the two groups of teams was very noticeable.

This is illustrated by showing the results of the 9 matches played between the top 3 teams – **England, France and Ireland** - and the 3 other teams. These are listed in the following table which shows

- That **Wales** conceded 100 points and failed to score in any of the 3 matches they played against England, France and Ireland
- That **Scotland** conceded 90 points and failed to score in any of the 3 matches they played against England, France and Ireland
- That **Italy** conceded 115 points and scored only 10 points in the 3 matches they played against England, France and Ireland

		WALES	SCOTLAND	ITALY	Points for	Points against
ENGLAND	v	33 - 0	47 - 0	43 - 3	123	3
FRANCE	v	31 - 0	23 - 0	32 - 0	86	0
IRELAND	v	36 - 0	20 - 0	40 - 10	96	10
	total	100 - 0	90 - 0	115 - 13		

- In the 9 matches played between the two groups, the **England, France and Ireland** group scored a total of 305 points while conceding just 13.
- In the 2012 competition, **England, France and Ireland** concede a total of 7 tries. The other 3 teams conceded 67.

These clearly define the challenge facing **Wales, Scotland and Ireland** in 2013.

## TEAM SUMMARY



### ENGLAND

**England's overall performance in Women's 6 Nations 2012 has already been referred to in earlier paragraphs.** The following detailed report shows that

- they won all 5 games, scoring almost 50% more points than the next team
- they scored 26 tries – which was 10 fewer than last year - while conceding none
- unlike other teams, the greatest proportion of their tries were scored by backs who scored three times as many tries as the forwards
- 7 tries were scored from tap penalties – which was more than the other 5 teams combined
- they made the most passes and passed at the highest rate
- England's backs made 200 more passes than France's backs while their forwards made fewer passes than the French forwards
- in each of their 5 matches, they obtained more possession than their opponents
- in 3 of 5 matches they made twice as many rucks as their opponents
- they had the most overall successful scrum
- they had the least successful lineout on their own throw (73%) but, together with France, the most successful on their opponents throw-in (30%)
- they were the only team to kick most restarts short retaining possession in 4 of the 6
- only 8 of 26 tries were converted and only 5 of 10 penalty goal attempts were successful giving an overall success rate of just 36%



### FRANCE

**Just as last year France ended as runners-up.**

- Only 3 tries were conceded in 5 games which was half as many as last year
- 15 tries were scored but only 5 were converted
- France's backs made 200 fewer tries than England's – an average of 40 fewer per game
- they were the most penalised team for the third consecutive year
- while England's backs scored 3 times as many tries as their forwards, France's forwards scored twice as many tries as their backs
- almost 70% of their tries were from possession obtained from inside their opponents 22m line – far more than any other team
- of the 6 teams, France had the lowest passing rate
- 10 of 11 restarts were kicked long
- together with England they had, the most success on their opponents throw-in (30%)



### IRELAND

**Despite scoring 4 more tries than last year, and one more than France, Ireland ended up in third place.**

- in 3 matches, not a single try or penalty goal was conceded
- more tries were scored than last year (16 compared to 12) while tries conceded went down from 10 to 4

- while the overall kick at goal success rate was 43%, Ireland's success rate was 62% - the highest
- they had the most successful lineout with an 89% success rate
- their lineout ball was stolen just once – the next most successful team lost 8 steals
- their forwards were the forwards most likely to pass the ball - especially their front row



## WALES

**This year Wales won 2 games and lost 3 – ending in 4<sup>th</sup> position, the same as last year**

- tries scored went down by one but tries conceded increased from 12 to 18
- averaged points scored went down to 10 from 13 - with points conceded going up to 23 from 14
- 8 tries were conceded from lineout possession – more than all the other 5 teams combined
- Wales obtained less possession than their opponents in every one of their 5 matches – an almost complete reversal from last year's championship
- their forwards made fewer passes than any other team – a complete contrast from last year
- all 32 restarts were kicked long
- Wales kicked the least and at the lowest rate
- an overall kick at goal success rate of 30% was the lowest of all 6 teams



## ITALY

**In 2011, Italy won 2 games and came joint third with Ireland and Wales. This year only one game was won resulting in Italy finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> position**

- fewer tries were scored this year compared to last year
- 5 more tries were conceded
- Italy lost 12 lineout steals, but stole their opponents' lineout more than any other team – a total of 14 times
- rucking was at a lower rate than any other team
- the back row passed the ball on almost 50% of occasions – far more than any other team
- Italy were the least penalised team and were awarded 50% more penalties and free kick than their opponents



## SCOTLAND

**This was another disappointing year for Scotland who again finished bottom of the table.**

- all 5 games were lost, 139 points were conceded which was, however, almost 100 fewer than last year
- in 4 of 5 matches, not a single point was scored
- all 12 points were scored against Italy
- only 2 tries were scored, one fewer than last year but 12 fewer tries were conceded
- Scotland were the least successful at the lineout with a 64% success rate
- their own lineout was stolen 16 times
- Scotland rucked at a higher rate than any other team
- just as last year, their forwards were the set of forwards the least likely to pass the ball.



## **SUMMARY**

This Report is divided into 3 sections.

- Section 1 shows the final standings and results and takes a brief look at constituent game elements in Women's 6 Nations 2012 and compares them to Women's 6 Nations 2011 and 2010.
- Section 2 comprises a detailed statistical analysis of all matches played in the tournament,
- Section 3 comprises a short statistical comparison with this year's men's 6 Nations Championship





## FINAL STANDINGS & RESULTS



**England**  
**France**  
**Ireland**  
**Wales**  
**Italy**  
**Scotland**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	PTS
England	5	5	0	0	161	12	149	10
France	5	4	0	1	97	22	75	8
Ireland	5	3	0	2	109	41	68	6
Wales	5	2	0	3	50	113	-63	4
Italy	5	1	0	4	55	157	-102	2
Scotland	5	0	0	5	12	139	-127	0

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



France Women	32 - 0	Italy Women
Scotland Women	0 - 47	England Women
France Women	8 - 7	Ireland Women
Wales Women	20 - 0	Scotland Women
Italy Women	3 - 43	England Women
Ireland Women	40 - 10	Italy Women
Scotland Women	0 - 23	France Women
England Women	33 - 0	Wales Women
Ireland Women	36 - 0	Wales Women
Ireland Women	20 - 0	Scotland Women
Wales Women	30 - 13	Italy Women
France Women	3 - 15	England Women
England Women	23 - 6	Ireland Women
Italy Women	29 - 12	Scotland Women
Wales Women	0 - 31	France Women





## OVERALL SUMMARY

The game's core elements and the shape of the game in Womens 6 Nations 2012 showed no major change from previous years as shown in the following comparison which comes from the detailed report that follows

	WOMENS 6 NATIONS 2012	WOMENS 6 NATIONS 2011	WOMENS 6 NATIONS 2010
Average POINTS per game	32	38	30
Average TRIES per game	4.9	5.7	4.3
PENALTY GOALS per game	1.1	1.5	1.1
DROP GOALS per game	1 in 15 matches	0 in 15 matches	1 in 15 matches
% of points from TRIES	76%	76%	73%
Average PASSES per game	232	244	225
Average RUCKS & MAULS per game	143	161	151
Average KICKS per game	30	29	41
TRIES SCORED BY BACKS	58%	67%	60%
TRIES SCORED BY FORWARDS	41%	33%	40%
PENALTY TRIES	1%	0%	0%
MATCHES with point margin of 20 or less	6 of 15	8 of 15	11 of 15
CONVERSION SUCCESS RATE	41%	41%	49%
PENALTY GOAL SUCCESS RATE	47%	55%	39%
DROP GOAL SUCCESS RATE	1 of 2	0 of 1	1 in 5
matches won by TEAM SCORING MOST TRIES	14 of 15	13 of 15	13 of 15
Matches where tries were equal	1	1	2 of 15
matches won by TEAM SCORING LEAST TRIES	none	1	none
% of TRIES FROM LINEOUT POSSESSION	20%	33%	44%
% of TRIES FROM SCRUM POSSESSION	30%	34%	18%
% of TRIES FROM PENALTY/FREE KICKS	16%	7%	6%
% of TRIES FROM TURNOVER/ERROR	16%	11%	18%
% of TRIES FROM OPPONENTS KICKS	18%	15%	14%
BALL IN PLAY % / TIME	43%	43%	44%
% of all PASSES MADE BY BACKS	39%	37%	37%
% of all PASSES MADE BY SCRUM HALF	46%	45%	48%
% of all PASSES MADE BY FORWARDS	15%	18%	15%
Average LINEOUTS per match	24	24	27
% of LINEOUT POSSESSION RETAINED	75%	79%	70%
Average SCRUMS per match	24	26	24
% of SCRUM POSSESSION RETAINED	86%	83%	84%
Average PENALTIES per match	24	25	25
% of RUCK/MAUL POSSESSION RETAINED	91%	93%	90%

### 1.0 SCORING

There were **484** points scored in the 15 matches played, giving an average of **32** points per game (2011 – 38). They were made up as follows:

**Converted Tries**  
**Unconverted Tries**  
**Penalty Goals**  
**Drop Goals**

	Type of Score			% of points scored from tries	
	Total	Average	Points		%
Converted Tries	30	2.0	210	6N 2012	76%
Unconverted Tries	44	2.9	220	6N 2011	76%
Penalty Goals	17	1.1	51		
Drop Goals	1	0.07	3		
			<b>484</b>		

Of the total points scored:  
**76% came from TRIES**  
**11% came from PENALTY GOALS**  
**12% came from CONVERSIONS**  
**1% 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 2012

Points Difference	No of matches	Cumulative 2012	Cumulative 2011
1 - 5	1	1	3
6 - 10	0	1	4
11 - 20	6	7	8
21 - 30	2	9	11
31 - 40	5	14	12
41 - 50	1	15	13
50+	0	15	15

The table shows that only 1 of the 12 matches had a points difference of 10 points or less. In 2011, the comparable figure was 4.

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		
	2012 Total	2012 Average	2011 Average	2012 Total	2012 Average	2011 Average
ENGLAND	161	32	45	12	2	2
FRANCE	97	20	23	22	4	10
IRELAND	109	22	15	41	8	14
WALES	50	10	13	113	23	14
ITALY	55	11	14	157	31	26
SCOTLAND	12	2	4	139	28	46

**1.2 PENALTY GOALS**

There were **17** penalty goals kicked in 2012. (2011 – 23)

All teams scored more tries than penalty goals.

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

	<b>2012 Penalties Goals Kicked</b>	<b>2012 Ratio PGs : Tries</b>	<b>2011 Penalties Goals Kicked</b>	<b>2011 Ratio PGs : Tries</b>
 <b>ENGLAND</b>	5	1 : 5	3	1:12
 <b>FRANCE</b>	4	1 : 4	7	1 : 2
 <b>IRELAND</b>	3	1 : 5	2	1 : 6
 <b>ITALY</b>	3	1 : 2	5	1 : 2
 <b>WALES</b>	2	1 : 4	5	1 : 2
 <b>SCOTLAND</b>	-	0 : 2	1	1 : 3
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1 : 4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1 : 4</b>

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

Tries continue to win matches - in Women's 6 Nations 2012, the winning team scored the most tries in 14 of the 15 matches or in 93% of matches. In 2011, the comparative figure was 13 of 15 or 87%.

In one games, tries were equal..







**2.0 TRY SCORING**

The total number of tries, penalty goals and drop goals scored by each country in Women's 6 Nations 2012 was as follows:







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

	<b>2012 Tries</b>	<b>2011 Tries</b>	<b>2012 Penalty Goals</b>	<b>2011 Penalty Goals</b>	<b>2012 Drop Goals</b>	<b>2011 Drop Goals</b>
 <b>ENGLAND</b>	26	36	5	3	0	0
 <b>IRELAND</b>	16	12	3	2	0	0
 <b>FRANCE</b>	15	16	4	7	0	0
 <b>WALES</b>	8	9	2	5	0	0
 <b>ITALY</b>	7	9	3	5	1	0
 <b>SCOTLAND</b>	2	3	0	1	0	0
	<b>74</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

Tries scored and conceded per team

	Tries scored 2012	Tries scored 2011	Tries conceded 2012	Tries conceded 2011
 ENGLAND	26	36	none	1
 IRELAND	16	12	4	10
 FRANCE	15	16	3	6
 WALES	8	9	18	12
 ITALY	7	9	24	19
 SCOTLAND	2	3	25	37


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

	% of points from Tries	% of points from Kicks at goal
 IRELAND	73%	27%
 ENGLAND	81%	19%
 SCOTLAND	83%	17%
 FRANCE	77%	23%
 WALES	80%	20%
 ITALY	64%	36%

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.

	Total Tries Scored	2012	2011
 ENGLAND	26	1 try scored every 4min 01secs	1 try scored every 3min 00secs
 FRANCE	15	5min 58secs	5min 35secs
 IRELAND	16	5min 32secs	6min 12secs
 ITALY	7	11min 40secs	7min 58secs
 WALES	8	9min 46secs	10min 49secs
 SCOTLAND	2	37min 20secs	23min 07secs

**2.2 RATE OF TRY CONCEDING**

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.

		Total Tries Conceded	2012	2011
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	none	n/a	1 try conceded every 5min 07secs
	<b>FRANCE</b>	3	1 try conceded every 15min 03secs	15min 03secs
	<b>IRELAND</b>	4	21min 13secs	8min 40secs
	<b>WALES</b>	18	6min 41secs	6min 41secs
	<b>ITALY</b>	24	3min 43secs	5min 01secs
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	25	3min 27secs	2min 32secs

**2.3 PLAYERS AND TRIES**

It has been noted above that there were 74 tries scored in the 15 matches:

- 43 or **58%** of tries were scored by Backs
- 30 or **41%** of tries were scored by Forwards
- There was 1 penalty try



The breakdown between the 6 competing teams is shown below:

		Tries scored by Backs and Forwards per Team			
		Tries by Backs	Tries by Forwards	Penalty try	Total
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	19	6	1	26
	<b>IRELAND</b>	9	7		16
	<b>FRANCE</b>	5	10		15
	<b>WALES</b>	5	3		8
	<b>ITALY</b>	3	4		7
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	2	0		2
	<b>TOTAL</b>	43	30	1	74

### 3.0 TRIES







#### 3.1 SOURCE OF TRIES

There were 74 tries scored in Women's 6 Nations 2012




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.

	2012	2011
Lineout – Own	13	24
Scrum –Own	19	23
Turnover/Handling Error	12	9
Opponents Kick	7	7
Penalty/Free Kick	12	6
Lineout - Opp	2	4
Scrum – Opp	3	6
Restart – Opp	6	6
	<b>74</b>	<b>85</b>

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

	Lineout	Scrum	Pen/FK	Kick	Turnover	Restart	Total tries Scored
 ENGLAND	2	9	7	1	3	4	26
 IRELAND	6	3	1	2	4		16
 FRANCE	5	6	2	1		1	15
 WALES	1	1		3	2	1	8
 ITALY	1	2	1		3		7
 SCOTLAND		1	1				2

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

	Lineout	Scrum	Pen/FK	Kick	Turnover	Restart	Total Conceded
 ENGLAND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
 FRANCE		1			2		3
 IRELAND		3	1				4
 WALES	8	2	5		1	2	18
 SCOTLAND	4	7	2	5	5	2	25
 ITALY	3	9	4	2	4	2	24

The tables show that England scored more tries from tap penalties and free kicks than the other 5 teams combined. It also shows that of 15 tries resulting from lineout possession, Wales conceded 8,

**3.2 ORIGIN OF TRIES**







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

	% of Tries		% of Tries
Own Half	26%	<b>Left of the Posts</b> <b>Under the Posts</b> <b>Right of the Posts</b>	50%
Halfway to 10m	11%		15%
10m to 22m	27%		35%
22M to Tryline	36%		

In 2012, 1 in 4 tries originated from within the scoring teams own half. One in three tries originated in the opposition 22m area.

	Own Half	Halfway to 10m	10m to 22m	22m to Try-line	Total Scored
 ENGLAND	8	1	7	10	26
 FRANCE	2	1	2	10	15
 IRELAND	4	2	6	4	16
 WALES	4	1	2	1	8
 ITALY	1	2	2	2	7
 SCOTLAND		1	1		2
<b>total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>

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

	Opp Half	Halfway to 10m	10m to 22m	22m to Try-line	Total Conceded
 ENGLAND	0	0	0	0	0
 FRANCE	2		1		3
 IRELAND		1	2	1	4
 WALES	4	2	5	7	18
 ITALY	6	2	7	9	24
 SCOTLAND	7	3	5	10	25
<b>total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>

**3.3 TRY LOCATIONS**

Of the 74 tries scored,

15% were scored under the posts  
 50% were scored on the left side of the posts, and  
 35% 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 74 tries scored in Womens 6 Nations 2012

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

	Number	%	2012 Cumulative %	2011 Cumulative %
<b>0 R/Ms</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>28%</b>	27%
<b>1 R/Ms</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>60%</b>	48%
<b>2 R/Ms</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>76%</b>	64%
<b>3 R/Ms</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>73%</b>
4 R/Ms	5	7%		
5 R/Ms	4	5%		
6 R/Ms	0	0%		
7 R/Ms	1	2%		
8 R/Ms	1	2%		
9 R/Ms	1	1%		
10+ R/Ms	0	0%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>100%</b>		

The table shows that 83% of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer second phases.

The next table shows the number of passes that preceded each of the 74 tries scored

**Build Up to Tries - Passes**







	Number	%	2011 Cumulative %	2010 Cumulative %
<b>0 pass</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>18%</b>	18%
<b>1 pass</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>26%</b>	25%
<b>2 passes</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>38%</b>	37%
<b>3 passes</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>45%</b>
4 passes	9	12%		
5 passes	11	15%		
6 passes	1	1%		
7 passes	6	8%		
8 passes	2	3%		
9 passes	4	5%		
10 passes	1	1%		
11+ passes	5	8%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>100%</b>		

The table shows that 47% of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer passes.

**3.5 TIMING OF SCORES - TRIES**

37 or 50% of tries were scored in the first half - 37 or 50% 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>	11	15	0	0
	<b>FRANCE</b>	9	6	0	3
	<b>IRELAND</b>	8	8	2	2
	<b>WALES</b>	5	3	7	11
	<b>ITALY</b>	4	3	13	11
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	0	2	15	10

**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 2012, 37 tries or 50% were scored in the first half – 37 or 50% in the second. With regard to penalty goals, 14 or 82% were kicked in the first half – 3 or 18% 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>ENGLAND</b>	4	1	3	1
	<b>FRANCE</b>	3	1	1	0
	<b>IRELAND</b>	2	1	3	1
	<b>ITALY</b>	3	0	3	0
	<b>WALES</b>	2	0	3	0
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	0	0	1	1

**4.0 KICKS AT GOAL**







Kicking success rates were as follows:

	2012	2011
<b>Conversions</b>	41%	41%
<b>Penalty goals</b>	47%	55%
<b>Drop goals</b>	1 of 2	0 of 1

There were only two drop goal attempts in the entire tournament – one succeeded..

The kicking success for penalty goals, conversions and drop kicks of each participating country is shown below. It shows that the most successful side – Ireland – achieved a success rate of 62%. Italy was the only other team that had a success rate of over 50%.

**Kicks at Goal Success**

		Penalty Success	Conversion Success	2012 Overall Success %	2011 Overall Success %	Drop goal Success
	<b>IRELAND</b>	3 of 5	10 of 16	62%	31%	----
	<b>ITALY</b>	3 of 6	4 of 7	54%	50%	1 of 1
	<b>FRANCE</b>	4 of 9	5 of 15	38%	52%	0 of 1
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	5 of 10	8 of 26	36%	53%	----
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	0 of 1	1 of 2	33%	33%	----
	<b>WALES</b>	2 of 5	2 of 8	30%	37%	----







## 5.0 BALL IN PLAY

In percentage terms, Women's 6 Nations 2012 matches produced an average ball in play time of **34min 28secs – or 43%** (2011 – 43%)




The highest Ball in play figure was **51%** or 40 mins 34 secs (**France v England**)  
 The lowest Ball in play figure was **38%** or 30 mins 21 secs (**Scotland v France**)

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 match against Scotland for example, England had the ball in their possession 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 Italy	31m20s	39%			19m52s			11m28s
Scotland v England	30m26s	38%		20m15s			10m11s	
France v Ireland	40m32s	51%			17m15s	23m17s		
Wales v Scotland	37m19s	47%	18m20s				18m59s	
Italy v England	36m32s	46%		21m58s				14m34s
Ireland v Italy	33m16s	42%				16m11s		17m05s
Scotland v France	30m21s	38%			17m20s		13m01s	
England v Wales	32m27s	41%	15m49s	21m21s				
Ireland v Wales	32m38s	41%	15m49s			16m49s		
Ireland v Scotland	31m58s	40%				15m00s	16m58s	
Wales v Italy	38m55s	49%	15m35s					23m20s
France v England	40m34s	51%		23m06s	17m28s			
Italy v Scotland	30m46s	38%					15m31s	15m15s
England v Ireland	35m06s	44%		17m47s		17m19s		
Wales v France	34m15s	43%	16m45s		17m30s			
	<b>Av per game</b>		15m37s	20m53s	17m53s	17m43s	14m56s	16m20s

The following table shows the average possession time obtained by all 6 teams:

		2012	2011
	ENGLAND	20m 53s	21m 36s
	FRANCE	17m 53s	17m51s
	IRELAND	17m 43s	14m54s
	ITALY	16m 20s	14m19s
	WALES	15m 37s	19m29s
	SCOTLAND	14m 56s	13m52s

As a formula for winning, having the most possession is not always a guarantee of success. In Women's 6 Nations 2012, the winning team had the most possession in 10 of the 15 games,

## 6.0 ACTIVITY CYCLES

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

The average number of rucks/mauls, passes and kicks per game made in Women's 6 Nations 2012 is shown in the attached table.







	2012	2011
Rucks/Mauls	143	161
Passes	232	244
Kicks	30	29

### 6.1 PASSING

Games, on average, contained **232** passes (2011 – **244**)

The most in any game was **272 (England v Ireland)** – the fewest was **194 (Wales v France)**. The most by any team in a game was **181** – the fewest, **33**

The following table shows the average passes per game per team

		2012	2011
	ENGLAND	167	184
	IRELAND	126	103
	FRANCE	105	115
	ITALY	104	101
	WALES	103	144
	SCOTLAND	92	85



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 75% more passes, their passing rate was only 29% more.

This is shown in the next table which gives the average number of passes per minute's possession ie the rate of passing.

	2012	2011
ENGLAND	8.0	8.5
IRELAND	7.1	6.9
WALES	6.6	7.4
ITALY	6.4	7.1
SCOTLAND	6.2	6.1
FRANCE	5.8	6.4

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. Apart from Ireland, the least number of passes made in a game by the remaining 4 teams was against England – a consequence of England's far greater possession.

	Average Per game 2012	Most In a game 2012	Least In a game 2012
ENGLAND	167	181	143
IRELAND	126	141	109
FRANCE	105	139	75
ITALY	104	150	89
WALES	103	140	50*
SCOTLAND	92	125	33

**6.2 PLAYER PASSING**

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

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

All the passes made in Women's 6 Nations 2012 have been allocated into these 3 groups, and are shown in the following table:

	2012	2011
% of passes made by forwards	15%	18%
% of passes made by scrum half	46%	45%
% of passes made by backs	39%	37%
	100%	100%

The next table shows the number of passes made by the three groups of players in each team. It shows how active they were in passing the ball.

	<b>WALES</b>
	<b>ENGLAND</b>
	<b>FRANCE</b>
	<b>ITALY</b>
	<b>IRELAND</b>
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>

	<b>Passes by Forwards</b>	<b>Passes by Scrum half</b>	<b>Passes by Backs</b>
<b>WALES</b>	71	242	202
<b>ENGLAND</b>	90	372	374
<b>FRANCE</b>	98	251	174
<b>ITALY</b>	84	223	213
<b>IRELAND</b>	125	270	236
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	72	238	151

The following table develops this further. It shows the proportion of a team's 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:

	<b>IRELAND</b>
	<b>FRANCE</b>
	<b>ITALY</b>
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>
	<b>WALES</b>
	<b>ENGLAND</b>

	<b>% by Forwards</b>	<b>% by Scrum Half</b>	<b>% by Backs</b>
<b>IRELAND</b>	20%	43%	37%
<b>FRANCE</b>	19%	48%	33%
<b>ITALY</b>	16%	43%	41%
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	16%	52%	33%
<b>WALES</b>	14%	47%	39%
<b>ENGLAND</b>	11%	44%	45%

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.







	<b>IRELAND</b>
	<b>ITALY</b>
	<b>WALES</b>
	<b>FRANCE</b>
	<b>ENGLAND</b>
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>IRELAND</b>	1 in 2.3	1 in 3.2
<b>ITALY</b>	1 in 2.8	1 in 2.9
<b>WALES</b>	1 in 3.3	1 in 3.1
<b>FRANCE</b>	1 in 3.6	1 in 2.6
<b>ENGLAND</b>	1 in 3.7	1 in 3.7
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	1 in 4.1	1 in 5.0









This difference between the forwards of each country is even more graphically illustrated when the forwards are broken down into the 3 groups of (a) front row, (b) second row and (c) back row. This time the relationship between passes and possession is expressed in percentage terms, so that if a group of forwards received the ball 20 times and passed it 6 times, it means they passed it on 30% of occasions.







**% of times ball passed by Front Row**

		2012 6 Nations
	Ireland	43%
	Wales	29%
	England	27%
	France	16%
	Scotland	15%
	Italy	15%







**% of times ball passed by 2<sup>nd</sup> row**

		2012 6 Nations
	France	34%
	Wales	25%
	Ireland	24%
	Italy	22%
	England	20%
	Scotland	12%

**% of times ball passed by Back Row**

		2012 6 Nations
	Italy	48%
	Ireland	46%
	Wales	33%
	Scotland	33%
	France	32%
	England	29%







Additional analysis of passes made by backs show noticeable differences between the passes made by the numbers 12 and 13 of each country. The following table illustrates these differences:

		2012 6 Nations
	England	143
	Ireland	78
	Italy	74
	France	53
	Scotland	53
	Wales	52

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 no major differences between the various countries as shown below:

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

		2011	2010
	SCOTLAND	84%	80%
	FRANCE	83%	81%
	WALES	80%	84%
	IRELAND	77%	81%
	ITALY	76%	77%
	ENGLAND	74%	75%

The data also shows that Scotland had just 14 passing movements with more than 3 passes. This contrasts with Ireland who had 29 and England who had 46.

6.4 RUCKS/MAULS (2nd PHASE)

The average number per game was **143 (2011 – 151)**.  
 The most in any game was **177 –France v England** ; the fewest was **119– Ireland v Wales**.  
 The most by any team in a game was **104** – the least, **36**

The average rucks per match for all countries is shown below:

		2012	2011
	ENGLAND	91	109
	FRANCE	72	77
	IRELAND	71	64
	SCOTLAND	69	72
	WALES	65	104
	ITALY	61	58

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 Italy's 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 minute's possession)**







		2012	2011
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	4.6	5.1
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	4.4	5.0
	<b>WALES</b>	4.1	5.3
	<b>IRELAND</b>	4.1	4.3
	<b>FRANCE</b>	4.0	4.3
	<b>ITALY</b>	3.7	4.0

Again this table shows, for example, that while England made 49% more rucks and mauls than Scotland, their rucking rate was only 19% more..

**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 **91%** of occasions.(2011 – 93%)

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

		2012	2011
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	94%	94%
	<b>ITALY</b>	93%	91%
	<b>IRELAND</b>	92%	92%
	<b>FRANCE</b>	91%	93%
	<b>WALES</b>	89%	93%
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	89%	92%







**6.6 KICKING**

The average number per game was **30 (2011 – 29)**.

The most open play kicks in a game was **52 (France v England)** the fewest **20 (Scotland v France)**

The most by a team was **29** – the least **8**

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

		2012	2011
	<b>FRANCE</b>	18	18
	<b>ITALY</b>	16	17
	<b>IRELAND</b>	15	15
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	15	13
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	14	14
	<b>WALES</b>	12	11

When an adjustment is made to take account of possession obtained, by each team, then the kicking table changes only slightly.







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

		2012	2011
	ITALY	1.0	1.1
	FRANCE	1.0	1.0
	SCOTLAND	0.9	1.0
	IRELAND	0.8	1.0
	ENGLAND	0.7	0.6
	WALES	0.7	0.6

**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	91	4.4	167	8.0	15	0.7
	FRANCE	72	4.0	105	5.8	18	1.0
	WALES	65	4.1	103	6.6	12	0.7
	SCOTLAND	69	4.6	92	6.2	14	0.9
	IRELAND	71	4.1	126	7.1	15	0.8
	ITALY	61	3.7	104	6.4	16	1.0

**7.0 RESTARTS**

Of 50m restarts, 76% were kicked long – 24% 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 22% of occasions (2011 – 24%).

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
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	6	3	0	3	4 of 6
	<b>IRELAND</b>	3	11	1	5	1 of 4
	<b>ITALY</b>	12	16	0	2	2 of 12
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	5	24	1	5	0 of 6
	<b>FRANCE</b>	1	8	0	2	0 of 1
	<b>WALES</b>	0	25	0	7	0 of 0

It can be seen that there was a major contrast between certain of the countries. While England, for example, was the only team that kicked short more often than long, all 32 of Wales' restarts were kicked long..

## 8.0 SCRUMS

The average number of scrums per game was **24 (26– 2011)**







The most scrums in a game was 29 – the least 17

		2012	2011
<b>Average no per game</b>		24	26
<b>Possession retained</b>		86%	83%

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
	<b>ENGLAND</b>	87%	19%	1	5
	<b>WALES</b>	81%	14%	3	2
	<b>FRANCE</b>	89%	12%	1	2
	<b>SCOTLAND</b>	87%	12%	4	3
	<b>IRELAND</b>	85%	10%	3	2
	<b>ITALY</b>	84%	19%	5	3

Retention of possession averaged 86%

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 17 in 359 scrums. – or 1 scrum in 21.

## 9.0 LINEOUTS

The average number of lineouts per game was 24 (2011 – 24)

	2012	2011
Average no per game	24	24
Percentage competed	59%	69%
Possession retained	75%	79%

The most line outs in a game was 28 – the least 21

### 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
IRELAND	89%	27%	1	11	5	6
FRANCE	75%	30%	8	12	7	6
ITALY	74%	25%	12	14	6	1
WALES	74%	13%	11	4	7	3
ENGLAND	73%	30%	10	12	4	7
SCOTLAND	64%	28%	16	5	6	12

## 10.0 PENALTIES & FREE KICKS

In Womens 6 Nations 2012, the average number of penalties and free kicks awarded in a game was 24. (2011 – 25)

There was a wide spread between the matches. The most awarded in a single game was 33 – the least, 20.

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.

The table also shows that while France conceded the most penalties, Ireland were penalised proportionately more than their opponents – albeit only 1% more.

### Penalties For and Against per Team per Game

### Proportion of Penalties For and Against per Team

	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
ITALY	64	42	60%	40%
SCOTLAND	67	54	55%	45%
ENGLAND	64	62	51%	49%
WALES	67	74	48%	52%
IRELAND	47	61	44%	56%
FRANCE	52	68	43%	57%

10.1 CATEGORIES OF OFFENCES PENALISED

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

Penalty categories

	2012	2011
Ruck/tackle on ground	55%	53%
Offside	16%	17%
Scrum	15%	15%
Dangerous tackle	4%	2%
Other	2%	7%
Maul pulling down	4%	1%
Lineout	1%	1%
Foul play	1%	>1%
Obstruction	2%	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 2012







11.1 RED CARDS

There were no red cards issued. (2011 – 0)

11.2 YELLOW CARDS

There were 15 yellow cards issued during the championship. (2011 – 15)

Yellow cards conceded

	2012	2011
 FRANCE	4	3
 IRELAND	3	3
 WALES	2	3
 ITALY	2	3
 SCOTLAND	2	3
 ENGLAND	2	0

Of the 15 matches, there were 11 which contained at least one yellow card, meaning 4 (or 27%) of all matches did not contain a single yellow card. The most yellow cards in one match was 2 – (4 matches)

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

	2012	2011
Ruck/Tackle	10	10
Ruck offside	-	3
Foul play	1	1
General play		1
Maul	2	-
Dangerous Tackle/Charging	2	-
	15 + 0	15 + 0



**A STATISTICAL COMPARISON BETWEEN  
WOMENS 6 NATIONS 2012 & MEN'S 6 NATIONS 2012**

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 any 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 2012</b>	<b>MENS 6 NATIONS 2012</b>
<b>% of points from TRIES</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>% of points from PENALTY GOALS</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>% of points from CONVERSIONS</b>	12%	12%
<b>% of points from DROP GOALS</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>TRIES per game</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>PENALTY GOALS per game</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>DROP GOALS per game</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>TRIES SCORED BY BACKS</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>TRIES SCORED BY FORWARDS</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Penalty try</b>	1%	2%
<b>MATCHES with point margin of 20 or less</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TRIES originated in opposition 22m</b>	<b>1 in 4</b>	<b>1 in 4</b>
<b>CONVERSION SUCCESS RATE</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>PENALTY GOAL SUCCESS RATE</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>DROP GOAL SUCCESS RATE</b>	<b>1 of 2</b>	<b>3 of 20</b>
<b>BALL IN PLAY TIME</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>PASSES av per game</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>268</b>
<b>RUCKS/MAULS av per game</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>KICKS av per game</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>% of all PASSES MADE BY BACKS</b>	39%	34%
<b>% of all PASSES MADE BY SCRUM HALF</b>	46%	49%
<b>% of all PASSES MADE BY FORWARDS</b>	15%	17%
<b>% of LINEOUT POSSESSION RETAINED</b>	75%	83%
<b>% of SCRUM POSSESSION RETAINED</b>	86%	85%
<b>% of RUCK/MAUL POSSESSION RETAINED</b>	91%	93%
<b>YELLOW AND RED CARDS</b>	<b>15 + 0</b>	<b>13 + 0</b>