

WOMEN'S SIX NATIONS 2008



STATISTICAL REVIEW & MATCH ANALYSIS



IRB GAME ANALYSIS



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COMMENTARY

ENGLAND



Seldom has a team dominated a tournament as much as England did in this year's Women's 6 Nations. As an illustration,

- They won all 5 matches scoring 34 tries and conceding 2
- Their points differential was 195 - or 163 more than the 32 achieved by the next best team
- They scored almost 5 times as many tries as the team that came second
- They conceded just 2 tries in 5 matches.

This was all achieved on the back of overwhelming superiority of possession that was consistently achieved in all but one of their matches. The following data shows the extent of this superiority

- v Scotland 105% more
- v Italy 96% more
- v Wales 48% more
- v Ireland 47% more
- v France 3% more

This extra possession had the inevitable result of producing more England game activity. As an illustration

- 42% more passes were made by England than by the next best team - Wales
- over twice as many passes were made as each of Scotland and Italy

Passes were also made at a higher rate than any other team which meant that England made more passes per minutes possession than their competitors. The effect of this was that there was an average of 230 passes in each of England's matches while the average in the remaining 10 was just 209.

England were also highly effective in turning possession into points

- they scored 34 tries or a try for every 3 minutes possession

They supplemented this by being highly successful in preventing their opponents from scoring tries. While it has been noted that England managed to score a try every 3 minutes or so, it took their opponents 35 minutes possession to break England's try line.



A further illustration of England's physical superiority was the fact that not only did they have the most successful scrum on their own feed but they managed a 30% success rate on their opponents feed. No other team came near this figure.

One way or another therefore, England dominated most if not all aspects of this year's Women's 6 Nations.

WALES



Wales were runners up winning 4 games out of 5. Despite this, they ended up with a points deficit of minus 4 – a figure largely accounted for by a 55 – 0 defeat to England.

This cannot disguise the fact however that Wales found scoring tries difficult. Although having the second highest possession figure in the tournament, their 3 matches against England, France and Ireland, for example, produced just one try. Conversion of possession into points was difficult and the seven tries they scored in their 5 matches was bettered by 3 other teams.

What Wales did however was take advantage of penalties. They attempted many more penalty kicks at goal than any other team and nine were kicked - a number considerably higher than the other teams.

Further, (the England match aside), Wales had a good defensive record, conceding only 3 tries in their remaining 4 matches. The result was that, for Wales, it was a successful tournament despite struggling with tries. Winning matches is the ultimate performance indicator and Wales' success in obtaining possession, utilising the penalty as an effective scoring tool, and a rugged defence gave them a success rate of 4 matches out of 5.



FRANCE



France finished third in this year's championship despite scoring 15 tries in their 5 games – a total that was over double of that achieved by the team that finished second and several times more than some of the other teams.

Despite this, their championship was affected by the fact that in two matches they failed to score a single point whether by try, penalty goal or drop goal.

When they did score tries however, France were very successful in using turnover ball. Of the 13 tries that came from turnover possession, 6 were scored by France. France's tries also almost always resulted in 7 points. Of their 15 tries, 13 were converted giving a success rate of 87%, a rate far in excess of almost every other team. Despite this, only 2 penalty goal attempts were made in the 5 matches.

As for elements of general play, France averaged the least rucks and mauls per game; they rucked at a rate that was less than any other team and had the lowest successful retention rate at the breakdown – albeit only marginally less than most other teams. Also, France had the least successful lineout – albeit marginally. They were however clearly the least effective team in challenging the opposition throw in.

IRELAND



Of the 6 participating teams Ireland finished 4th. Despite this, they were one of only 3 teams that scored more tries than they conceded. They scored tries in every game, and they had the second most successful defence.

Further, there were other patterns that identified Ireland's play

- 8 of their 9 tries came from lineout possession – almost as many as the other 5 teams combined
- While almost 70% of tries scored by the other 5 teams were scored by backs, Ireland's figure was 22%. 7 of their 9 tries were scored by forwards
- A possible reason for this could be the fact that Irish forwards made proportionately fewer passes than any other team's forwards
- In addition, although some 50% of tries started with possession gained inside the opponents 22m, in Ireland's case it was almost 90%. Only 1 of their 9 tries started with possession gained more than 22m from their opponents goalline.



Finally, Ireland had the least successful kick at goal rate with an overall success rate of 44%.

ITALY



When Italy played Scotland in the last game of the championship, neither team had won a game at that stage - and by going on to win by 31 points to 10, Italy ensured that it was Scotland who were at the foot of the table.

In that game, Italy scored 3 tries. This was in stark contrast to their other 4 games where only one try had been scored - match try rates of 0,0,0, and 1 indicated one of the difficulties facing Italy. This was compounded by the fact that Italy's defence was vulnerable, conceding 25 tries in the 5 matches ranging from a minimum of 2 to a maximum of 12. While it took over 20 minutes possession for Italy to score a try, tries were conceded at a rate of one every 4 minutes.

Many of these tries started in the opponents half. Of the 15 tries that started over 50 metres from the opponents goalline, 10 were scored against Italy.

One noticeable fact on the Italian game was the high number of kicks that were made. Italy averaged 27 kicks per game which was twice as much as most of the other teams. Italy also kicked the second highest number of penalty goals – and was the only team to drop a goal in the 15 matches.

SCOTLAND



Scotland were last in this years tournament losing all 5 of their matches.

The data shows that no team had less possession – although this was distorted by the fact that only 11 minutes possession was obtained in the match against England compared to their opponents 23 minutes. Overall, Scotland had parity or more possession than most of their opponents. Their difficulty was turning possession into tries - just 5 tries in 5 matches.

It appeared that passing was not seen as the favoured route in attacking their opponents. No team passed less than Scotland – some passed considerably more. As an illustration of this, Scotland – in the entire tournament – had only 4 passing movements with more than 3 passes. France and England’s comparable figures were 38 and 46 respectively. A further illustration of this is that the 5 tries scored by Scotland contained a total of just 4 passes.

In addition, Scotland’s rate of passing was a lot less than most of the other teams. Some countries were 50% higher. Their forwards were also the set of forwards least likely to pass the ball.

Defensively, Scotland conceded at least 2 tries per game including 6 on two occasions. Almost two thirds of their tries were conceded in the second half.

What Scotland did was kick more. They were the second highest kicking team and their rate of kicking was also the second highest. They also had the highest penalty goal kick success rate using – just like Wales - the penalty goal as a leading method of scoring.

One area however where the statistics were positive was in the area of the lineout where, overall, Scotland had a successful lineout especially on their opponents throw ins where they managed a 1 in 3 success rate. One final point in relation to Scotland concerns ball in play times. Ball in play time in Scotland’s matches only once hit the tournament average of 44%. In fact, of the lowest 8 ball in play matches, 5 involved Scotland.



FINAL STANDINGS & RESULTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	PTS
ENGLAND	5	5	0	0	213	18	+195	10
WALES	5	4	0	1	72	76	-4	8
FRANCE	5	3	0	2	104	72	+ 32	6
IRELAND	5	2	0	3	66	65	+1	4
ITALY	5	1	0	4	48	167	- 119	2
SCOTLAND	5	0	0	5	39	144	- 105	0

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

	IRELAND	19		ITALY	0
	ENGLAND	55		WALES	0
	SCOTLAND	15		FRANCE	43
	WALES	23		SCOTLAND	6
	FRANCE	26		IRELAND	17
	ITALY	6		ENGLAND	76
	WALES	27		ITALY	5
	IRELAND	13		SCOTLAND	3
	FRANCE	0		ENGLAND	31
	IRELAND	10		WALES	19
	SCOTLAND	5		ENGLAND	34
	FRANCE	35		ITALY	6
	ITALY	31		SCOTLAND	10
	ENGLAND	17		IRELAND	7
	WALES	3		FRANCE	0



SUMMARY

This Report is divided into 4 sections

Section 1	takes a brief look at constituent game elements in Women's 6 Nations 2008 and certain core data for each team.
Section 2	comprises a detailed statistical analysis of all matches played in the tournament, together with all the match results.
Section 3	contains a one-page-per-team summary of key statistics relating to each of the 6 participating teams
Section 4	comprises a short statistical comparison with this year's Men's 6 Nations Championship



SUMMARY

This is the first time that a detailed Women's 6 Nations report has been prepared. As a result, there are no detailed comparatives. The following data also comes from the detailed report that follows and reflects in summary form the current women's game as expressed through this year's 6 Nations championship:.







	6 NATIONS 2008
av POINTS per game	36
% of points from TRIES	69%
av PASSES per game	216
av RUCKS & MAULS per game	146
av KICKS per game	34
PENALTY GOALS per game	1.7
DROP GOALS per game	1 in 15 matches
TRIES SCORED BY BACKS	62%
TRIES SCORED BY FORWARDS	38%
PENALTY TRIES	0%
MATCHES with point margin of 20 or less	7 of 15
CONVERSION SUCCESS RATE	61%
PENALTY GOAL SUCCESS RATE	58%
DROP GOAL SUCCESS RATE	100% - 1 of 1
matches won by TEAM SCORING MOST TRIES	13 of 15
Matches where tries were equal	1 in 15
matches won by TEAM SCORING LEAST TRIES	1 of 15
% of TRIES FROM LINEOUT POSSESSION	23%
% of TRIES FROM SCRUM POSSESSION	27%
% of TRIES FROM PENALTY/FREE KICKS	14%
% of TRIES FROM TURNOVER/ERROR	18%
% of TRIES FROM OPPONENTS KICKS	14%
BALL IN PLAY TIME	44% or 34min 50secs
% of all PASSES MADE BY BACKS	39%
% of all PASSES MADE BY SCRUM HALF	45%
% of all PASSES MADE BY FORWARDS	16%
LINEOUTS	26
% of LINEOUT POSSESSION RETAINED	74%
SCRUMS	26
% of SCRUM POSSESSION RETAINED	84%
PENALTIES	24
% of RUCK/MAUL POSSESSION RETAINED	90%
YELLOW AND RED CARDS	11 and none



THE TEAMS PERFORMANCES

This section comprises some brief highlights of each team's activities and performances in certain critical areas of the game. Again, further and far more extensive analysis can be found in the main report – and in appendices on each country.

The number of tries scored by each team, the number conceded by each team and the number of penalty goals kicked is shown in the following table

		TRIES SCORED 2008	TRIES CONCEDED 2008	PENALTY GOALS 2008	DROP GOALS 2008
	ENGLAND	34	2	1	0
	FRANCE	15	9	1	0
	IRELAND	9	7	3	0
	WALES	7	12	9	0
	SCOTLAND	5	19	4	0
	ITALY	4	25	7	1

The table shows how effective each team was in converting possession into **tries** - the most successful country was **England**.

	ENGLAND
	FRANCE
	IRELAND
	WALES
	SCOTLAND
	ITALY

6N 2008
1 try scored every 3min 13secs
5min 24secs
8min 57secs
13min 02secs
15min 43secs
20mins 25secs

The effectiveness in preventing opponents from converting possession into **tries** is in the attached table. **England** was again the most successful country.

	ENGLAND
	IRELAND
	FRANCE
	WALES
	SCOTLAND
	ITALY

6N 2008
1 try conceded every 35min 51secs
12min 21secs
10min 29secs
7min 32secs
4min 34secs
3min 44secs


Each teams overall **kicking** success rate was as follows

:

	FRANCE
	WALES
	ENGLAND
	ITALY
	SCOTLAND
	IRELAND

6N 2008
82%
67%
58%
53%
50%
44%

The average time in **possession** of the ball per game by each team is shown in the following table:

	ENGLAND
	WALES
	ITALY
	FRANCE
	IRELAND
	SCOTLAND

6N 2008
21min 55secs
18min 15secs
16min 20secs
16min 11secs
16min 07secs
15min 43secs

The above data – and additional data – in key areas of play are shown in the main body of the report which now follows.

SCORING

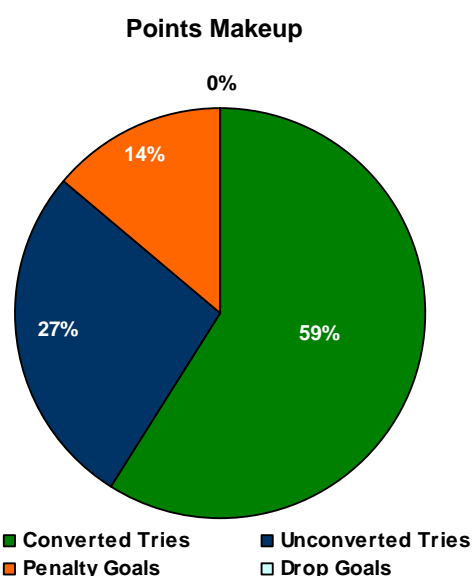
There were **538** points scored in the 15 matches played, giving an average of **36** points per game. They were made up as follows:

Type of Score	Total	Points
Converted Tries	45	315
Unconverted Tries	29	145
Penalty Goals	25	75
Drop Goals	1	3
Total		538pts

% of points scored by Tries	
6N 2008	
	%
	69

Of the total points scored:

69% came from **TRIES**
 14% came from **PENALTY GOALS**
 17% came from **CONVERSIONS**
 >1% came from **DROP GOALS**



WINNING MARGINS







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

Points Difference in Women's 6 Nations 2008

Points Difference	No of matches	Cumulative
1 – 5	1	1 with 5 points or less
6 – 10	4	5 with 10 points or less
11 – 20	2	7 with 20 points or less
21 – 30	5	12 with 30 points or less
31 – 40	1	13 with 40 points or less
+ 50	2	2 with + 50 points

Not surprisingly, points scored and conceded varied throughout the various teams and the average points per team are shown.







Points for/against per Team

		Points For		Points Against	
		TOTAL	AVERAGE	TOTAL	AVERAGE
	ENGLAND	213	43	18	4
	FRANCE	104	21	72	14
	WALES	72	14	76	15
	IRELAND	62	12	65	13
	ITALY	48	10	163	33
	SCOTLAND	39	8	144	29

PENALTY GOALS

There were 25 penalty goals kicked in 2008

Only two teams scored more penalty goals than tries – Wales and Italy. The table suggests that England and France were more confident in obtaining a greater benefit than 3 points and therefore took the other options available. Wales, Scotland and Italy, on the other hand, saw penalty goals as a far more important element in their scoring mix and were far more likely to seek the benefit of 3 points..

		Penalties Goals Kicked	Ratio PGs : Tries
	ENGLAND	1	1 : 34
	FRANCE	1	1 : 15
	IRELAND	3	1 : 3
	SCOTLAND	4	1 : 1.25
	WALES	9	1 : 0.8
	ITALY	7	1 : 0.6
	OVERALL	25	1 : 3

IMPACT OF THE PENALTY GOAL ON MATCH RESULTS





Tries win matches - in Women's 6 Nations 2008, the winning team scored the most tries in 13 of the 15 matches or 87% of matches.

In one game, tries were equal and in another, one team scored fewer tries than their opponents and won the game – (Wales against Ireland).







TRY SCORING

The total number of tries, penalty goals and drop goals scored by each country in Women's 6 Nations 2008 was as follows:

Total tries/Penalty Goals/Drop goals per Team

		Tries	Penalty Goals	Drop Goals
	ENGLAND	34	1	0
	FRANCE	15	1	0
	IRELAND	9	3	0
	WALES	7	9	0
	SCOTLAND	5	4	0
	ITALY	4	7	1

% of points from Tries and Kicks at goal per Team







		% of points from Tries	% of points from Kicks at goal
	ENGLAND	80%	20%
	IRELAND	73%	27%
	FRANCE	72%	28%
	SCOTLAND	64%	36%
	WALES	49%	51%
	ITALY	42%	58%

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 per Team

	Total Tries Scored	6N 2008
 ENGLAND	2,5,6,9,12 = 34	1 try scored every 3min 13secs
 FRANCE	0,0,4,5,6 =15	5min 24secs
 IRELAND	1,2,2,2,2, = 9	8min 57secs
 WALES	0,0,1,2,4 = 7	13min 02secs
 SCOTLAND	0,0,1,2,2 = 5	15min 43secs
 ITALY	0,0,0,1,3 = 4	20min 25secs

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.

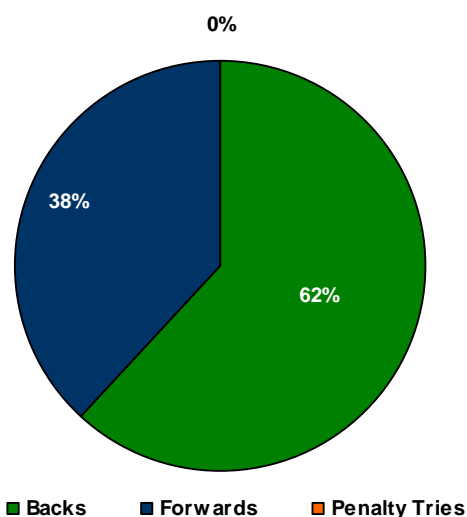
Rate of try conceding per Team

	Total Tries Conceded	6N 2008
 ENGLAND	0,0,0,1,1= 2	1 try conceded every 35m 51secs
 IRELAND	0,0,1,2,4 =7	12min 21secs
 FRANCE	0,0,2,2,5 = 9	10min 29secs
 WALES	0,0,1,2,9 =12	7min 32secs
 SCOTLAND	2,2,3,6,6 = 19	4min 34secs
 ITALY	2,2,4,5,12 = 25	3min 44secs

PLAYERS AND TRIES







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

46 or 62% of tries were scored by Backs
 28 or 38% 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 Forward per Team

	Tries by Backs	Tries by Forwards	Penalty Tries	Total
 ENGLAND	22	12	0	34
 FRANCE	11	4	0	15
 IRELAND	2	7	0	9
 WALES	7	0	0	7
 SCOTLAND	2	3	0	5
 ITALY	2	2	0	4
TOTAL	46	28	0	74

Of tries scored by the top 3 teams – England, Wales, and France – 71% were scored by backs.

By contrast, the comparable figure for the bottom 3 teams was 33%.

TRIES

1. SOURCE OF TRIES

There were 74 tries scored in Women's 6 Nations 2008.

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:

The source of possession from which tries were scored was as follows:

	6N 2008
Scrum –Own	20
Turnover/Handling Error	13
Lineout – Own	17
Opponents Kick	7
Penalty/Free Kick	10
Restart – Opp	4
Scrum – Opp	3
	74

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

Source of Tries Scored per Team

	Lineout	Scrum	Pen/FK	Kick	Turnover	Restart	Total Scored
ENGLAND	5	11	6	5	4	3	34
FRANCE	1	7	1		6		15
IRELAND	8	1					9
WALES		2	1	2	1	1	7
SCOTLAND	1	1	1		2		5
ITALY	2	1	1				4

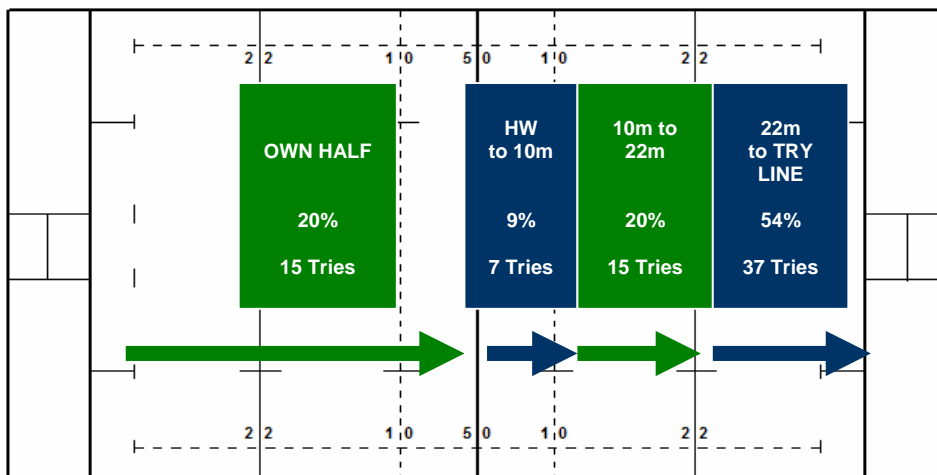
The next table shows the possession source from which their opponent's tries came:

Source of Tries Conceded per Team

	Lineout	Scrum	Pen/FK	Kick	Turnover	Restart	Total Conceded
ITALY	3	10	4	4	2	2	25
SCOTLAND	7	4	1	2	5		19
WALES	3	2	3	1	3		12
FRANCE	3	3	1		1	1	9
IRELAND		4	1		1	1	7
ENGLAND	1				1		2

2. ORIGIN OF TRIES

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



Origin of Tries scored per team

	Own Half	Halfway to 10m	10m to 22m	22m to Try-line	Total Scored
ENGLAND	10	3	4	17	34
FRANCE	2	3	4	6	15
IRELAND			1	8	9
WALES	2	1	3	1	7
SCOTLAND	1		2	2	5
ITALY			1	3	4

The following table provides the converse to the above ie. It shows – for each team – the origin of all tries conceded. This shows for example that almost half of the tries conceded by Italy started at least 40 metres from the goalline.

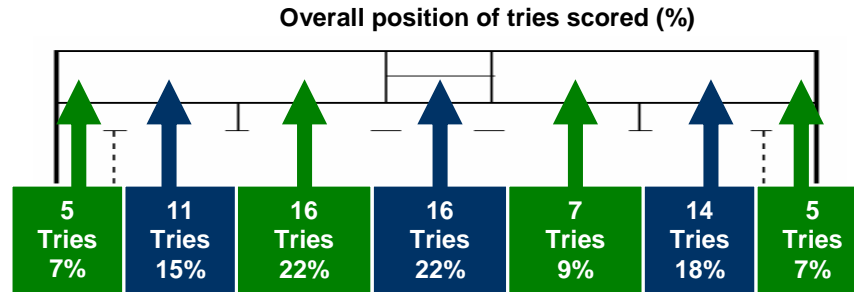
Origin of Tries conceded per team

	Opp Half	Halfway to 10m	10m to 22m	22m to Tryline	Total Conceded
ITALY	10	2	6	7	25
SCOTLAND	1	3	5	10	19
WALES	2	2		8	12
FRANCE	1		2	6	9
IRELAND			2	5	7
ENGLAND	1			1	2

3. TRY LOCATIONS

The chart below indicates where across the goal-line tries were scored. It shows that:

22% were scored under the posts
 43% the left side of the posts, and
 35% on the right side of the posts.



4. BUILD-UP TO TRIES

Possession of the ball that leads to tries is obtained from a number of sources – and they are 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 (2nd phase) that preceded each of the 74 tries scored in Womens 6 Nations 2008

Build Up to Tries - Ruck/Mauls

	Number	%	Cumulative %
0 R/Ms	22	30%	30%
1 R/Ms	30	41%	71%
2 R/Ms	5	7%	78%
3 R/Ms	7	9%	87%
4 R/Ms	3	4%	91%
5 R/Ms	4	5%	96%
6 R/Ms			
7 R/Ms			
8 R/Ms	2	3%	99%
9 R/Ms	1	1%	100%
10+ R/Ms			
Total	74	100%	

The table shows that 87% of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer second phases.

The next table below shows the number of passes that preceded each of the 74 tries scored in 6 Nations 2008

Build Up to Tries - Passes

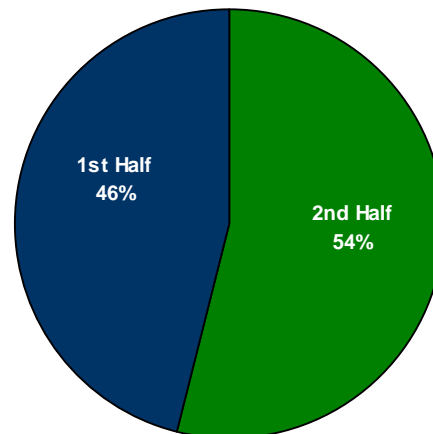
	Number	%	Cumulative %
0 pass	14	19%	19%
1 pass	10	14%	33%
2 passes	11	15%	48%
3 passes	11	15%	63%
4 passes	5	7%	70%
5 passes	5	7%	77%
6 passes	6	8%	85%
7 passes	2	2%	87%
8 passes	2	2%	89%
9 passes			
10 passes	3	4%	93%
11+ passes	5	7%	100%
Total	74	100%	

The table shows that 63% of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer passes. This was not a figure that was seen consistently throughout all teams. In **Italy's** case, for example, their 4 tries contained a total of 5 passes while Scotland's 5 contained 4. **In addition, none of France's 15 tries contained more than 4 passes. By contrast, 17 – or half of England's tries – contained 5 or more.**







TIMING OF SCORES - TRIES

34 or 46% of tries were scored in the first half - 40 or 54% 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.



Timing of Tries Scored and Conceded per Team

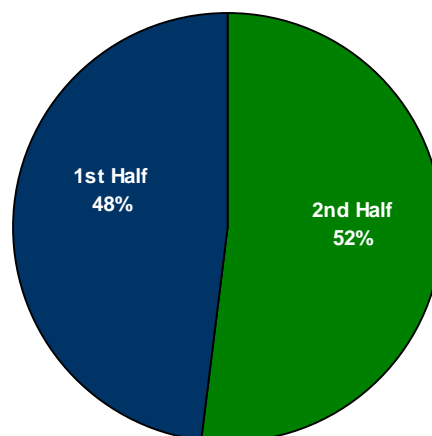
	Tries scored 1st half	Tries scored 2nd half	Tries conceded 1st half	Tries conceded 2nd half
 ENGLAND	16	18	0	2
 FRANCE	7	8	4	5
 IRELAND	3	6	4	3
 WALES	3	4	7	5
 ITALY	3	1	12	13
 SCOTLAND	2	3	7	12

All teams except Italy scored the majority of their tries in the second half.

TIMING OF SCORES - PENALTY GOALS







There was no noticeable difference between the time when tries were scored and the time when penalties were kicked.

In Women's 6 Nations 2008, 34 tries or 46% were scored in the first half – 40 in the second. With regard to penalty goals, 12 or 48% were kicked in the first half - 13 in the second.



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

Timings of Penalty Goals kicked and Conceded per Team

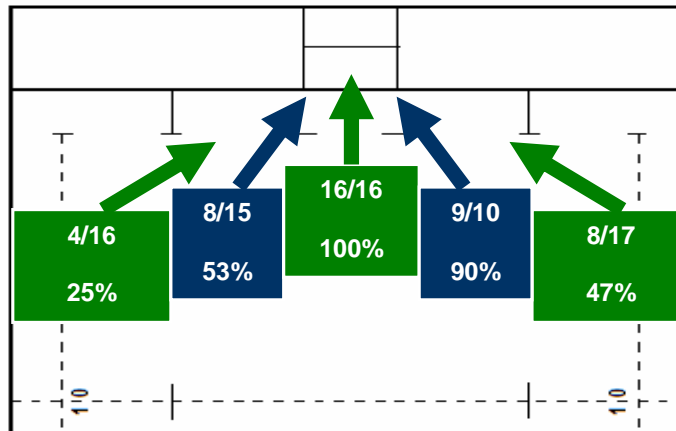
	PGs kicked 1st half	PGs kicked 2nd half	PGs conceded 1st half	PGs conceded 2nd half
 WALES	5	4	1	1
 ITALY	3	4	1	1
 SCOTLAND	3	1	3	6
 IRELAND	0	3	5	1
 ENGLAND	1	0	0	1
 FRANCE	0	1	2	3

KICKS AT GOAL

Kicking success rates were as follows:







	Kicking success rates
Conversions	61%
Penalty goals	58%
Drop goals	100% - 1 out of 1

Map of Conversion Success



The kicking success for **penalty goals, conversions and drop kicks** – of each of the participating countries was as follows:

Kicks at Goal Success

	Penalty Success	Conversion Success	Overall Success %	Drop goal Success
 FRANCE	1 of 2=50%	13 of 15=87%	82%	0 of 0
 WALES	9 of 14=64%	5 of 7=71%	67%	0 of 0
 ENGLAND	1 of 2=50%	20 of 34=59%	58%	0 of 0
 ITALY	7 of 13=54%	2 of 4=50%	53%	1 of 1
 SCOTLAND	4 of 5=80%	1 of 5=20%	50%	0 of 0
 IRELAND	3 of 7=43%	4 of 9=44%	44%	0 of 0

France had the most successful percentage, missing three kicks out of 18 which made 13 of their 15 tries each worth 7 points.

BALL IN PLAY











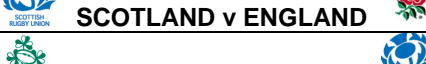
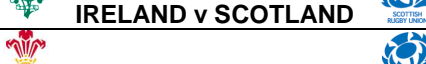
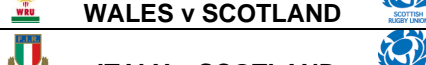
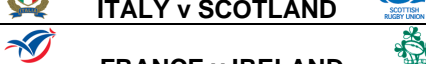

In percentage terms, Women's 6 Nations 2008 matches produced an average ball in play time of **34min 50secs – or 44%**

The highest Ball in play figure was **49%** or 39 mins 25 secs (**England v Wales**)

The lowest Ball in play figure was **36%** or 28 mins 44 secs (**France v Ireland**)







In percentage terms, each of the 2008 matches produced the following ball in play times

Ball in Play % and Times per match




MATCH	BALL IN PLAY %	BALL IN PLAY TIME
 ENGLAND v WALES	49%	39min 25secs
 FRANCE v ENGLAND	48%	38min 16secs
 WALES v ITALY	47%	37min 26secs
 WALES v FRANCE	46%	36min 40secs
 FRANCE v ITALY	45%	36min 06secs
 IRELAND v WALES	45%	35min 59secs
 SCOTLAND v FRANCE	44%	35min 26secs
 IRELAND v ITALY	44%	35min 15secs
 ENGLAND v IRELAND	44%	34min 50secs
 ITALY v ENGLAND	43%	34min 41secs
 SCOTLAND v ENGLAND	43%	34min 07secs
 IRELAND v SCOTLAND	40%	31min 51secs
 WALES v SCOTLAND	40%	32min 15secs
 ITALY v SCOTLAND	39%	31min 35secs
 FRANCE v IRELAND	36%	28min 44secs

The following table shows how much possession was obtained by each team in the 15 matches. There are some noticeable differences. In the Scotland v England match 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 
ENG v WAL	39min 25s	49%	15m 52 40%	23m 33 60%				
FRA v ENG	38min 16s	48%		19m 26 51%	18m 50 49%			
WAL v ITA	37min 26s	47%	19m 19 52%					18m 07 48%
WAL v FRA	36min 40s	46%	22m 49 62%		13m 51 38%			
FRA v ITA	36min 06s	45%			16m 44 46%			19m 22 54%
IRE v WAL	35min 59s	45%	17m 10 48%			18m 49 52%		
SCO v FRA	35min 26s	44%			16m 15 46%		19m 11 54%	
IRE v ITA	35min 15s	44%				19m 46 56%		15m 29 44%
ENG v IRE	34min 50s	44%		20m 43 59%		14m 07 41%		
ITA v ENG	34min 41s	43%		22m 59 66%				11m 42 34%
SCO v ENG	34min 07s	43%		22m 56 67%			11m 11 33%	
WAL v SCO	32min 15s	40%	16m 06 50%				16m 09 50%	
IRE v SCO	31min 51s	40%				14m 22 45%	17m 29 55%	
ITA v SCO	31min 35s	39%					14m 36 46%	16m 59 54%
FRA v IRE	28min 44s	36%			15m 14 53%	13m 30 47%		
TOTAL			91m16	109m37	80m54	80m34	78m36	81m39

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

		Average Possession
	ENGLAND	21min 55secs
	WALES	18min 15secs
	ITALY	16min 20 secs
	FRANCE	16min 11secs
	IRELAND	16min 07secs
	SCOTLAND	15min 43secs

As a formula for winning, having the most possession is not always a guarantee of success. In Women's 6 Nations 2008, the winning team had the most possession in 10 of the 15 games

ACTIVITY CYCLES

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

The number of rucks/mauls, passes and kicks made in Women's 6 Nations 2008 are shown in the attached table.

	6N 2008
Rucks/Mauls	146
Passes	216
Kicks	34

PASSING







Games, on average, contained **216** passes

The most in any game was **275 (France v Italy)** – the fewest was **150 (Italy v Scotland)**.

The most by any team in a game was **225** – the fewest, **41**.







The following table shows the average passes per game per team

Average Passes per Team per game

	6N 2008
 ENGLAND	168
 WALES	118
 FRANCE	113
 IRELAND	93
 ITALY	80
 SCOTLAND	75

Again, there were noticeable differences between the 6 teams with England making over twice as many passes as both Scotland and Italy. Much of this is accounted for however by the greater possession that England obtained. When an adjustment is made to take account of this, for all teams, then the above table changes – albeit slightly. This next table now shows the average number of passes per minute's possession ie the rate of passing.







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

	6N 2008
 ENGLAND	7.7
 FRANCE	7.0
 WALES	6.5
 IRELAND	5.8
 ITALY	4.9
 SCOTLAND	4.7

Under this method of calculation, when passing is related to possession, **England**, for example, while they made almost 50% more passes than **France**, they passed at a rate that was only 10% higher.

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 6N 2008	Most 6N 2008	Least 6N 2008
 ENGLAND	168	225	141
 WALES	118	151	80
 FRANCE	113	147	90
 IRELAND	93	147	50
 ITALY	80	128	41
 SCOTLAND	75	94	44

It can be seen from the table that there were noticeable contrasts between the highs and lows of certain teams. In Ireland's case, for example, they made almost 100 more passes in their highest passing game compared to their lowest.

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 2008 have been allocated into these 3 groups, and are shown in the attached table:

	6N 2008
Passing % by forwards	16%
Passing % by scrum half	45%
Passing % by backs	39%
	100%

The percentages for each country in each of the categories are shown below:







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

		Passes by Forwards	Passes by Scrum half	Passes by Backs
	ENGLAND	148	294	396
	FRANCE	96	203	278
	WALES	88	297	207
	ITALY	74	213	113
	SCOTLAND	51	218	104
	IRELAND	50	247	168

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







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
	ITALY	19%	53%	28%
	ENGLAND	18%	35%	47%
	FRANCE	17%	35%	48%
	WALES	15%	50%	35%
	SCOTLAND	14%	58%	28%
	IRELAND	11%	53%	36%

The next table shows the number of times each countries' forwards had the ball in their hands and then notes 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 major differences between the countries.







Ratio of Passes to Possession – by Forwards per Team

		6N 2008
	FRANCE	1 in 2.8
	ENGLAND	1 in 3.2
	ITALY	1 in 3.9
	WALES	1 in 4.0
	IRELAND	1 in 4.6
	SCOTLAND	1 in 5.7

What the above table shows, for example, is that while England's forwards made some 50% more passes than France's forwards, France's forwards were more likely to pass the ball when they had it in their hands.

PASSING MOVEMENTS

Passes are grouped into passing movements – i.e. one pass movement, two pass movements and so on. The data shows that some 81% of all passing movements contained two passes or less. There were however noticeable differences between the various countries as shown below:

		% of passing movements with 2 or fewer passes
	SCOTLAND	93%
	ITALY	88%
	IRELAND	87%
	WALES	84%
	FRANCE	75%
	ENGLAND	68%

The data also shows that Scotland had just 4 passing movements with more than 3 passes.

This contrasts with France who had 38 and England who had 46.



RUCKS/MAULS (2nd PHASE)







The average number per game was **146**.

The most in any game was **176 – Wales v France**; the fewest was **109 – France v Ireland**.

The most by any team in a game was **126** – the least, **37**

The average for all countries is shown below:







Average Ruck/Mauls per Team per Game

	6N 2008
 ENGLAND	94
 WALES	87
 IRELAND	68
 SCOTLAND	67
 ITALY	66
 FRANCE	59

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 Wales' rate of rucking exceeded that of the other 5 teams.

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

	6N 2008
 WALES	4.8
 ENGLAND	4.3
 SCOTLAND	4.3
 IRELAND	4.2
 ITALY	4.1
 FRANCE	3.7







Again this table shows, for example, that while England made almost 40% more rucks than Ireland, Ireland made almost the same number of rucks per minute's possession.

BREAKDOWN RETENTION

At the breakdown the team taking in the ball retained possession by either winning the ball or being awarded a penalty on 90% of occasions.

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

Rucks/Mauls success per Team

		6N 2008
	ENGLAND	93%
	WALES	92%
	ITALY	90%
	IRELAND	89%
	SCOTLAND	88%
	FRANCE	86%

KICKING







The average number per game was **34**.

The most open play kicks in a game was **49** – Wales v France; the fewest **26**

The most by a team was **28** – the least **10**







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

Average Kicks per Team per Game

		6N 2008
	ITALY	27
	SCOTLAND	20
	IRELAND	15
	ENGLAND	14
	WALES	14
	FRANCE	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)

		6N 2008
	ITALY	1.7
	SCOTLAND	1.3
	FRANCE	0.9
	IRELAND	0.9
	WALES	0.8
	ENGLAND	0.6

The table shows that Italy kicked at a rate that was twice that of most other countries and almost three times more than England.







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	94	4.3	168	7.7	14	0.6
	WALES	87	4.8	118	6.5	14	0.8
	FRANCE	59	3.7	113	7.0	14	0.9
	IRELAND	68	4.2	93	5.8	15	0.9
	SCOTLAND	67	4.3	75	4.7	20	1.3
	ITALY	66	4.1	80	4.9	27	1.7

RESTARTS

Of 50m restarts, 60% were kicked long – 40% were kicked short and were contestable.

When 50m restarts were kicked short, the kicking team regained possession on 1 in 3 occasions.

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
	FRANCE	13	5	3	7	5 of 16
	SCOTLAND	14	19	1	0	4 of 15
	ITALY	11	18	0	4	3 of 11
	IRELAND	4	9	2	1	2 of 6
	WALES	4	13	0	3	1 of 4
	ENGLAND	2	9	1	1	2 of 3

It can be seen that there was a major contrast between France and the remaining countries. While France kicked short far more often than long, all other countries kicked long on the majority of occasions.

LINEOUTS


The average number of lineouts per game was 26

The most line outs in a game was 40 – the least 17.

	6N 2008
Average no per game	26
Percentage competed	63%
Possession retained	74%

All teams had high success rates on their own throw while rates of success on opponents throw-ins showed more variation. Lineout success on own throw and opposition throw are shown below. It also highlights lineout steals won and lost:

Lineout Success (Own Throw and Opposition Throw)

	Success %		Lineout Steals		Not straight / Pen/FK / Knock-on	
	Own Throw	Opposition Throw	Lost on Own Throw	Won on Opposition Throw	Own Throw	Opposition Throw
 SCOTLAND	77%	32%	10	8	2	11
 IRELAND	75%	25%	14	10	7	2
 ITALY	73%	19%	5	7	9	4
 WALES	73%	37%	5	19	5	2
 ENGLAND	72%	29%	13	9	3	5
 FRANCE	71%	15%	9	3	4	6

SCRUMS

The average number of scrums per game was 26
 This amounts to an average of 13 scrums per team per game.
 In England's case however it was 10
 – in Italy's 16.







The most scrums in a game was 33
 – the least 19

Average no per game
 Possession retained

6N 2008
26
84%



Scrum success includes heels against head, uncontrolled heels, 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 %	
	Own Feed	Opposition Feed
 ENGLAND	87%	30%
 ITALY	85%	15%
 SCOTLAND	85%	13%
 IRELAND	84%	12%
 FRANCE	83%	5%
 WALES	81%	18%

Again, retention of possession was relatively high for all teams.

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 21 in 398 scrums. – or 1 scrum in 19. The following table shows the countries that won and lost tight heads:







		Heels against the head	
		Won	Lost
	ENGLAND	11	2
	IRELAND	3	4
	ITALY	3	4
	SCOTLAND	2	5
	WALES	1	5
	FRANCE	1	1

PENALTIES

In 6 Nations 2008, the average number of penalties and free kicks awarded in a game was 23.

There was a wide spread between the matches. The most awarded in a single game was 36 – the least, 13.

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 were the least penalised team in relation to 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
	SCOTLAND	62	67	48%	52%
	WALES	59	67	47%	53%
	FRANCE	59	59	50%	50%
	ENGLAND	54	57	49%	51%
	IRELAND	65	50	57%	43%
	ITALY	51	50	50%	50%

CATEGORIES OF OFFENCES PENALISED

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

% of Offences Penalised

	%
Ruck/tackle on ground	45%
Offside	27%
Scrum	7%
Dangerous tackle	5%
Other	5%
Maul pulling down	4%
Lineout	3%
Foul play	2%
Obstruction	2%
	100%

CARDS – YELLOW & RED

The following paragraphs examine the circumstances and effects of the issue of red and yellow cards during Women's 6 Nations 2008

RED CARDS

There were **no** red cards issued.

YELLOW CARDS

There were **11** yellow cards issued during the championship.

Of the 15 matches, there were 7 which contained at least one yellow card as shown in the following table, meaning 8 (or 53%) of all matches did not contain a single yellow card. The most yellow cards in one match was 2 – this happened on 4 occasions (**Ireland v Scotland, Wales v Italy, Ireland v Italy and Scotland v France**)







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

The following table shows the breakdown of yellow and red cards per team.


Reason for Cards

	6N 2008
Dangerous Tackle	1
Late charge on kicker	1
Ruck/Tackle - Hands in Ruck	2
Ruck/Tackle - Preventing Release	4
Ruck/Tackle - Incorrect joining	3

Yellow cards conceded

	6N 2008
 WALES	1
 ITALY	3
 SCOTLAND	2
 IRELAND	2
 ENGLAND	1
 FRANCE	2




ENGLAND 	Total	Average per Game	Highest	Lowest
POSSESSION	<i>109min 37 secs</i>	21min 55 secs	23min 33 secs	19min 26 secs
SCORES				
Total points	213	42.6	76	17
tries	34	6.8	12	2
conversions	20	4.0	8	2
Openalty goals	1	0.2	1	0
drop goals	0	0.0	0	0
PASSES	838	168	225	141
RUCKS/MAULS	471	94	104	87
- retained	437	87		
- lost	34	7		
KICKS	70	14	17	12
GENERAL PLAY TURNOVERS	77	15	18	9
LINEOUTS	64	13		
- own won	46	9		
- own lost	18	4		
SCRUMS	51	10		
- own won	45	9		
- own lost	6	1		
RESTARTS	11	2.2		
- long	8	1.6		
- short	3	0.6		
regained	4	0.8		
PENALTIES F/K AGAINST	57	11		
YELLOW/ RED CARDS	1/0			




WALES 	Total	Average per game	Highest	Lowest
POSSESSION	<i>91min 16 secs</i>	18min 15 secs	22min 49 secs	15min 52 secs
SCORES				
Total points	72	14.4	27	0
tries	15	1.4	4	0
conversions	13	1.0	2	0
Penalty goals	1	0.0	4	0
PASSES	592	118	151	80
RUCKS/MAULS	436	87	126	65
- retained	403	81		
- lost	33	6		
KICKS	72	14	17	11
GENERAL PLAY TURNOVERS	57	11	20	6
LINEOUTS	55	11		
- own won	40	8		
- own lost	15	3		
SCRUMS	67	14		
- own won	54	11		
- own lost	13	3		
RESTARTS	20	4		
- long	16	3.2		
- short	4	0.8		
regained	3	0.6		
PENALTIES F/K AGAINST	67	13		
YELLOW/RED CARDS	1/0			




FRANCE 	Total	Average per Game	Highest	Lowest
POSSESSION	80min 54 secs	16min 10 secs	18min 50 secs	13min 50 secs
SCORES				
Total points	104	21	43	0
tries	15	3	6	0
conversions	13	2.6	5	0
Penalty goals	1	0.2	1	0
PASSES	567	113	147	90
RUCKS/MAULS	296	59	72	48
- retained	254	51		
- lost	42	8		
KICKS	70	14	18	12
GENERAL PLAY TURNOVERS	50	10	13	7
LINEOUTS	45	9		
- own won	32	6		
- own lost	13	3		
SCRUMS	63	13		
- own won	52	11		
- own lost	11	2		
RESTARTS	28	5.6		
- long	12	2.4		
- short	16	3.2		
regained	6	1.2		
PENALTIES F/K AGAINST	59	12		
YELLOW/ RED CARDS	2/0			



IRELAND 	Total	Average per Game	Highest	Lowest
POSSESSION	80min 34 secs	16min 06 secs	19min 46 secs	13min 30 secs
SCORES				
Total points	62	12.4	17	7
tries	9	1.8	2	1
conversions	4	0.8	2	0
penalty goals	3	0.6	1	0
PASSES	465	93	147	50
RUCKS/MAULS	341	68	86	51
- retained	304	61		
- lost	37	7		
KICKS	75	15	19	10
GENERAL PLAY TURNOVERS	49	10	14	5
LINEOUTS	97	19		
- own won	73	15		
- own lost	24	4		
SCRUMS	62	12		
- own won	52	10		
- own lost	10	2		
RESTARTS	16	3.2		
- long	10	2		
- short	6	1.2		
regained	4	0.8		
PENALTIES F/K AGAINST	50	10		
YELLOW/ RED CARDS	2/0			



 ITALY	Total	Average per Game	Highest	Lowest
POSSESSION	<i>81min 39 secs</i>	16min 19 secs	19min 22 secs	11min 42 secs
SCORES				
Total points	48	9.6	31	0
tries	4	0.8	3	0
conversions	2	0.4	2	0
penalty goals	7	1.4	4	0
drop goals	1	0.2	1	0
PASSES	400	80	128	41
RUCKS/MAULS	332	66	94	37
- retained	300	60		
- lost	32	6		
KICKS	135	27	28	23
GENERAL PLAY TURNOVERS	36	7	12	2
LINEOUTS	55	11		
- own won	40	8		
- own lost	15	3		
SCRUMS	82	16		
- own won	70	14		
- own lost	12	2		
RESTARTS	33	6.6		
- long	22	4.4		
- short	11	2.2		
regained	3	0.6		
PENALTIES F/K AGAINST	50	10		
YELLOW/RED CARDS	3/0			



SCOTLAND 	Total	Average per Game	Highest	Lowest
POSSESSION	<i>78min 36 secs</i>	15min 43 secs	19min 11 secs	11min 11 secs
SCORES				
Total points	39	7.8	27	0
tries	5	1.0	4	0
conversions	1	0.2	2	0
penalty goals	4	0.8	4	0
drop goals	0	0.0		
PASSES	373	118	151	80
RUCKS/MAULS	337	87	126	65
- retained	298	81		
- lost	39	6		
KICKS	99	14	17	11
GENERAL PLAY TURNOVERS	37	11	20	6
LINEOUTS	70	11		
- own won	54	8		
- own lost	16	3		
SCRUMS	73	14		
- own won	62	11		
- own lost	11	3		
RESTARTS	34	6.8		
- long	19	3.8		
- short	15	3		
regained	5	1		
PENALTIES F/K AGAINST	67	13		
YELLOW/RED CARDS	2/0			

SECTION 4 – 6 NATIONS COMPARISON

A STATISTICAL COMPARISON BETWEEN WOMENS 6 NATIONS 2008 & MEN'S 6 NATIONS 2008

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** and confirm previous studies that show the different incidences of scoring mix, kicking success and intensity of activity.

	WOMENS 6 NATIONS 2008	MENS 6 NATIONS 2008
% of points from TRIES	69%	42%
% of points from PENALTY GOALS	14%	42%
% of points from CONVERSIONS	17%	14%
% of points from DROP GOALS	>1%	2%
TRIES per game	4.9	3.3
PENALTY GOALS per game	1.7	5.5
DROP GOALS per game	1 in 15 matches	0.4
TRIES SCORED BY BACKS	62%	78%
TRIES SCORED BY FORWARDS	38%	18%
PENALTY TRIES	0%	4%
MATCHES with point margin of 20 or less	7 of 15	11 of 15
CONVERSION SUCCESS RATE	61%	84%
PENALTY GOAL SUCCESS RATE	58%	80%
DROP GOAL SUCCESS RATE	100% - 1 of 1	31% - 4 of 13
matches won by TEAM SCORING MOST TRIES	13 of 15	12 of 15
Matches where TRIES WERE EQUAL	1 in 15	3 of 15
matches won by TEAM SCORING LEAST TRIES	1 of 15	0 of 15
% of TRIES FROM LINEOUT POSSESSION	23%	20%
% of TRIES FROM SCRUM POSSESSION	27%	26%
% of TRIES FROM PENALTY/FREE KICKS	14%	6%
% of TRIES FROM TURNOVER/ERROR	18%	22%
% of TRIES FROM OPPONENTS KICKS	14%	20%
% of TRIES FROM OTHER	4%	6%
BALL IN PLAY TIME	44% or 34min 50secs	50% or 40m 15secs
PASSES av per game	259	216
RUCKS/MAULS av per game	179	146
KICKS av per game	57	34
% of all PASSES MADE BY BACKS	39%	38%
% of all PASSES MADE BY SCRUM HALF	45%	47%
% of all PASSES MADE BY FORWARDS	16%	15%
% of LINEOUT POSSESSION RETAINED	74%	83%
% of SCRUM POSSESSION RETAINED	84%	92%
% of RUCK/MAUL POSSESSION RETAINED	90%	94%
YELLOW AND RED CARDS	11 and none	7 and none
REFERENCES TO TMO	n/a	11