

2019  
SCHOOL  
GAMES

# Year 5/6 Tag Rugby League Competition

Tuesday 19th March 2019

Venue TBC

## Competition Pathway

**1** SGO Area Events  
Open to all schools in the area/borough with the top 2 schools from each borough being invited to the School Games County Final

NB. An athlete can only represent their school in one event at the Greater Manchester School Games County Finals

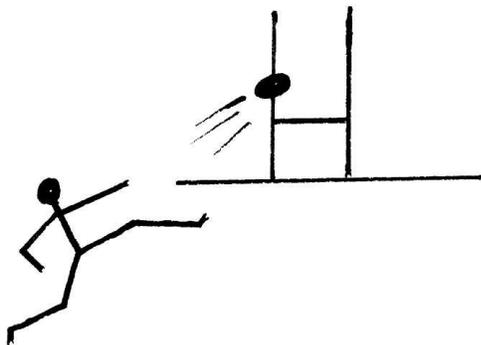
**2** Greater Manchester School Games County Final  
This stage is organised in partnership with the Salford Red Devils Foundation and comprises of 20 schools representing the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester.

## Teams

Players must be from year 5 and/or year 6.  
Squads of 12 players with 8 players on the pitch at a time.  
Minimum of 4 girls and 4 boys on the squad with at least 2 of each gender playing at once.  
Substitutions can only occur when the ball is not in play, or at half time, and must always occur with the referee's knowledge.

## Playing the Game - Set of Six

There will be 6 runs and 5 tackles.  
If no try occurs in this time the ball will turnover to the other team and the tackle count will be reset to 0.  
At the start of play the team with the ball will have 4 remaining tackles.



## Equipment

Size 4 ball.  
40m x 25m maximum pitch.

## Competition Format

At SGO Area level the local organisers will decide on the format, which will be played to the same rules. Leagues are the preferred model as they encourage regular participation, but central venue festivals or an alternative can be used.  
Games should have 2 10 minute periods with a change-over interval of 2 minutes between each session. This can be changed provided both teams agree.  
The finals will be 10-12 minute games.

## Playing the Game - Passing

The ball can only be passed sideways or backwards through the air, not handed to another player. If the ball is handed to another player or passed or knocked forwards (towards the opponents' goal-line) then "play the ball".

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## Playing the Game - Object of the Game

The object of the game is to score a try (4 points) by placing the ball with a downward pressure on or behind the opponents' goal-line.

For safety, the ball carrier must remain on their feet at all times and they are not allowed to score a try by diving over the goal-line. If a player grounds the ball while on their knees, the try should be allowed but, afterwards, all players should be reminded that they should stay on their feet. A player may not be prevented from grounding the ball by any physical contact (including placing a hand between ball and ground).

Where Tag Rugby is played indoors or in restricted areas, a try can be scored by the ball carrier crossing the vertical plane of the goal-line without grounding the ball. This allows players to have their head up and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

When a try is scored, the game is restarted by a free pass from the centre of the pitch by the non-scoring team.

## Playing the Game - Play the Ball

A "play the ball" is used to start the match at the beginning of each half from the centre of the pitch, from the side of the pitch when the ball goes into touch at the point where the ball went out of play and from where the referee makes a mark when an infringement has taken place.

At a "play the ball" the opposition must be 7m back from the mark and the receiver needs to be behind the passer. At a "play the ball", the player must start with the ball in both hands and, when instructed by the referee who will call "PLAY", pass the ball backwards through the air to a member of their team. For safety reasons, no player may run until the pass is made. If an infringement takes place or the ball goes into touch over the goal-line or within 7m of the goal line, then the "play the ball" must be awarded to the non-offending side 7m from the goal-line. This gives more space for both attacking and defending teams to play in.

## Playing the Game - After a Tag

After a tag, a 'play the ball' must take place. The tagged player places the ball on the ground and, using their foot, rolls the ball backwards to an awaiting player ('acting half back').

The defensive team must retreat 5m.

The defensive team can't advance until the 'acting half back' has passed the ball.

## Playing the Game - The Tag

All players wear a tag belt around their waist with two tags attached to it by Velcro positioned over each hip. Tag belts are to be securely fastened and any excess belt is to be tucked away so that this cannot be pulled by mistake. Tag belts are to be worn outside of shirts and not obscured in any way. Referees are to be watchful for tags being wrapped around the belt preventing them from being pulled off.

The standard dimensions for a tag are 38cms in length by 5cms in width although slight variations of a few mms should not be cause for concern. They should be made of a flexible plastic or plastic/canvas material. Tag colours should be chosen so that they stand out against the player's strip e.g. teams with yellow shirts or shorts should not use yellow tags. Teachers are reminded that the tags are to be positioned on the hips, not at the front or back. Placing a knot in between the two Velcro pieces on the belt often brings the tags into the correct position.

A "tag" is the removal of one of the two tags from the ball carrier's belt. Only the ball carrier can be tagged. The ball carrier can run and dodge potential taggers but cannot fend them off using their hands or the ball and cannot guard or shield their tags in any way. The ball cannot be pulled out of the ball carrier's hands at any time.

If a player does not have two tags on their belt, one on each hip and they become a ball carrier or if they tag an opponent, a "play the ball" will be awarded to the non-offending side at the place of infringement.



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## Playing the Game - Offside

Offside occurs if the defending team are not in line with the referee or if they move before the pass is made. When a tag is made, all the other players from the tagger's team must attempt to retire towards their own goal-line until they are behind the ball. If a player, in an offside position, intercepts, prevents or slows down a pass from the tagged player to a team-mate, a "play the ball" will be awarded to the non-offending side. A player can, however, run from an onside position to intercept a floated pass before it reaches the intended receiver.

## Playing the Game - Obstruction

The ball carrier can run and dodge potential taggers but cannot fend them off using their hands or the ball and cannot guard or shield their tags in any way. Similarly, the ball carrier or a potential tagger must not deliberately make contact with an opponent.

If such contact is made the game must be stopped, the offender spoken to, reminded of the non-contact rules of tag and a "play the ball" awarded to the non-offending side.

If the ball is pulled from the ball carrier's grasp, a "play the ball" is awarded to the ball carrier's side.

## Playing the Game - Ball on the Ground

Players play Tag Rugby on their feet, with the ball in hand. If the ball goes to ground, players can pick it up but they must not dive to the floor to recover the ball.

If they do a "play the ball" is awarded to the non-offending side and the following rules will apply:

If the ball was lost forward, a "play the ball" is awarded to the non-offending side.

If the ball carrier falls to the ground with the ball then a "play the ball" will be awarded to the non-offending side.

If the passed ball rolls into touch a "play the ball" will commence from the touchline to the non-passing side.

## Health & Safety

Before all matches this must be read and adhered to: Players can't play if they are barefoot or in unsuitable footwear.

No jewellery to be worn.

All loose clothing must be tucked in and shoelaces tied.

No chewing gum or sweets.

Players should bring plenty of drinks.

All players are advised to warm up appropriately before each match.

When not competing, players must remain off the court and not get in the way or distract officials

Medical supplies that players may need should be brought with them on the day i.e. asthma inhalers.

All team teachers must ensure their pupils are under adult supervision at all times, even when playing.

Please ensure students have been briefed on health and safety.

## Playing the Game - No Contact

The only contact allowed between the two teams is the removal of a tag from the belt of the ball carrier.

Any other type of contact on the ball carrier, such as shirt pulling, running in front of or barging the ball carrier, forcing the ball carrier into touch, etc must be penalised with a "play the ball" and the players concerned reminded of the rules.

## No kicking of the ball

## Fair Play

The ideals of good sportsmanship and respect should permeate throughout all competitive and recreational sport. They are displayed by someone who abides by the rules of a contest, respects their opponents and accepts victory or defeat graciously.

## Entry deadline Friday 1st March

If you enter past this deadline your school will not appear in pre-press material



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