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Opening extract from

Quiz Whiz: Sport

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Author: Tom Jackson

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mounting and dismounting a horse

Football

1 What is the name of the uniform worn by footballers?

2 Players can hit a football with their knee. True or false?

3 What country does DEGLNNA spell?

4 What was an early football made of?

5 How big is a standard football?

6 What are shin pads for?

7 What is a professional footballer?

8 What colour is the Brazil team's football shirt?

Football is the most popular sport in the world. Hundreds of millions of fans watch on TV as the world's best teams play matches. The aim is to kick the ball into the opposing team's goal.

The uniform worn by football players is called a strip. 1

Freestyle 2

Performing football tricks is called freestyling. You can use any part of the body to hit the ball apart from the hands or arms. Players try to keep the ball off the ground for as long as possible. The best freestylers put on shows, but the same skills are also useful during football games.

Early football 3 4

Football began 1,000 years ago as a game played in England. The ball was a pig's bladder and there were few rules. Villages played each other, trying to get the ball to the other side's church.

Early versions of the game were rough.

Anyone can play

Football is an easy game to enjoy – all you need to play is a ball. The goals can be marked out with just about anything. Children from all over the world know the basic rules, and matches are played on the beach, in gardens and in parks.

The standard football is a size 5, which is 71 centimetres across. 5

Shin pads inside the socks protect the player's legs from kicks.

Football boots have moulded or screw-in studs to grip the ground. 6

Football stars 7

A professional footballer is paid to play the game. Only the best players can do this job, and many of them become world famous. The top players play for their country.

Brazil football strip 8

Football rules

The rules of football have been built up over the last 200 years. Today, the rules of the game are decided by FIFA, the organization in charge of world football.

1 How many players are there on a football team?

2 How does the game start again after a foul is committed?

3 How do players get penalty kicks?

4 What pitch line does CHTUOEINL spell?

5 The goalkeeper can pick up the ball anywhere on the pitch. True or false?

6 What colour cards does a referee use?

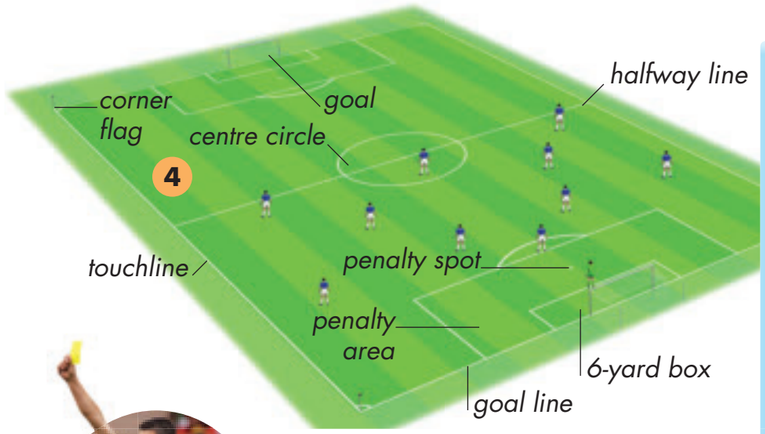
7 What rule does FFDSIOE spell?

8 Which referee runs along the touchline?

In play

1 2 3

There are 11 players on each team. They pass the ball and try to kick it into the other side's goal. Play continues until the ball goes off the pitch or there is a foul (bad play). The fouled team starts again with a free kick. A player fouled in the penalty area gets a penalty kick straight at the goal.



The pitch

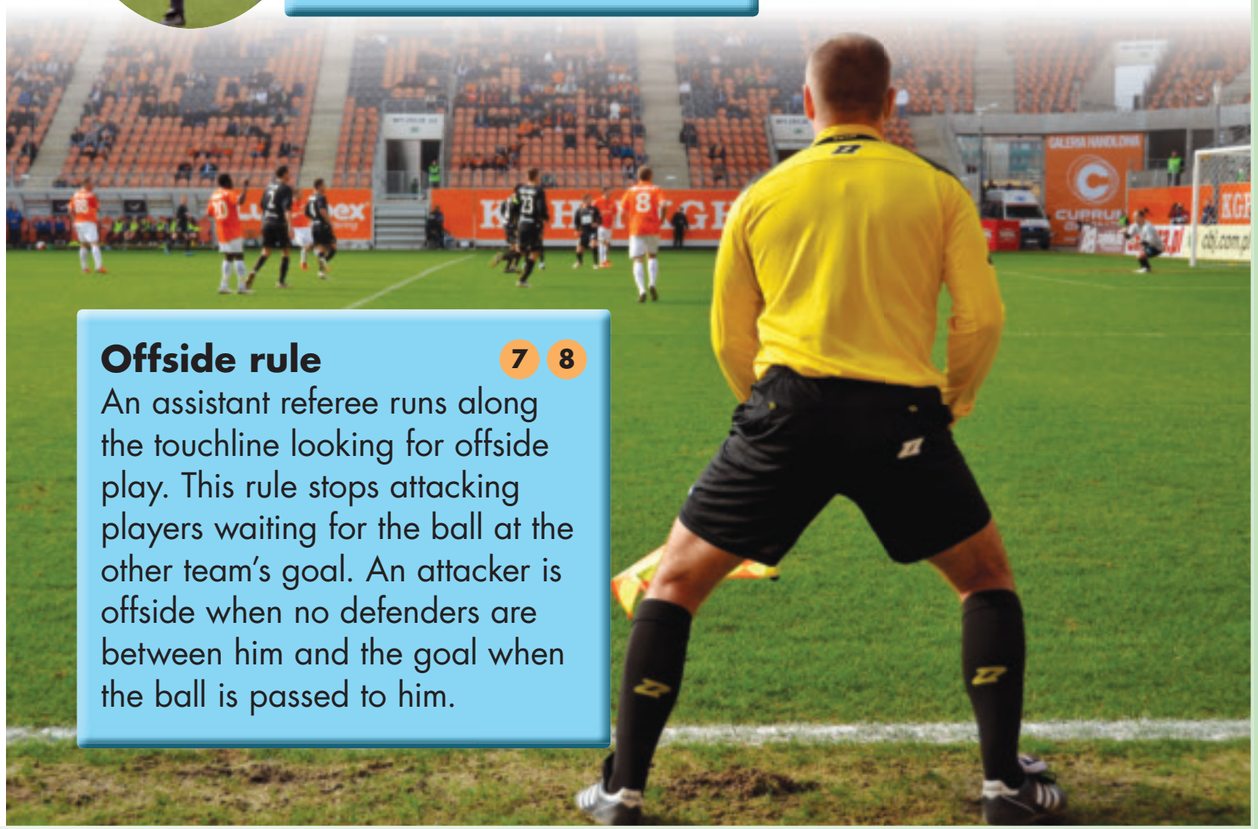
5

The goalkeeper can only pick up the ball in the penalty area. If the ball goes over the touchline, the other team throws it back in. When the attacking side kicks the ball past the goal line, their opponents get a goal kick. If the defenders kick it past their own goal line, the attackers get a corner kick.

Officials

6

A referee watches for fouls. He warns foulers with a yellow card. Players get a red card for serious fouls and must leave the pitch.



Offside rule

7 8

An assistant referee runs along the touchline looking for offside play. This rule stops attacking players waiting for the ball at the other team's goal. An attacker is offside when no defenders are between him and the goal when the ball is passed to him.

Rugby

This sport's full name is rugby football. Players are allowed to carry, throw or kick the oval ball. They win points by getting the ball over the line at the end of the pitch or kicking it over an H-shaped goal.

1 Rugby was named after a hospital. True or false?

2 What happens when the ball is thrown forwards?

3 Unjumble GIRWNE to spell a fast-running player?

4 How many players are in a rugby union team?

5 Are rugby forwards big or small?

6 What points are awarded for a try?

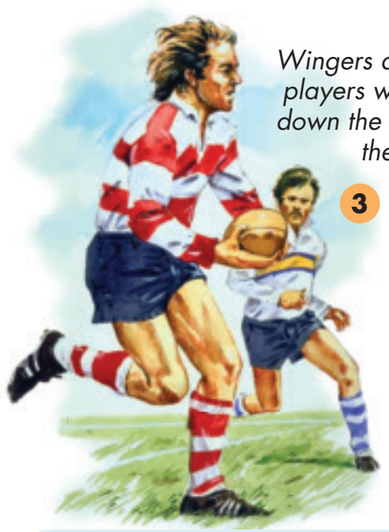
7 What happens after a try is scored?

8 How many players are in a rugby league team?

Inventing the rules 1 2

Rugby is named after the English boy's school where the game was invented in 1823. The main rule is that players can only move the ball forwards by kicking or running with it; they can only throw it backwards. If the ball is thrown forwards or goes out, the play stops. The teams then form a scrum and push against each other to win back the ball.

a scrum



Wingers are fast players who run down the side of the pitch. 3

Tries 6 7

Placing the ball over the goal line wins five points. It is called a try, and the team then gets a shot at the goal. If the ball goes over the crossbar, they win another two points.

Rugby union 4 5

The most popular form of rugby is called rugby union. Teams have 15 players. Big players called forwards compete in scrums. Smaller, faster players are known as backs – they run with the ball to score tries.

Rugby league 8

This version has 13 players per team and different rules. One team attacks, while defenders tackle them to the ground. After six tackles, the defending team gets the ball and starts an attack.