

# THE STORY OF RUGBY AT THE OLYMPICS



At a glance:

- What are the similarities between the Rugby and Olympic values?
- What is Rugby's history at the early Summer Olympic Games?
- Why was Rugby excluded from the program following the 1924 Olympics?
- What messages were used to get Rugby Sevens included at the 2016 and 2020 Olympics?
- How is Rugby Sevens at the Olympics impacting on Rugby players and fans around the world?
- What is the other type of Rugby game played at the Paralympics?

## OVERVIEW

Rugby is experiencing massive growth all over the world since the news in 2009 that Rugby Sevens would be included as a sport at the 2016 and 2020 Olympics. In this learning experience students explore the history of Rugby at the Olympics including Rugby 15-a-side events played at the 1900, 1908, 1920 and 1924 Olympics – as well as explore the similarities between the Rugby and Olympic values. Students will also learn about the campaign to get Rugby Sevens in the Olympics and discuss some of the impacts of this decision. Students will also learn about wheelchair Rugby which has been played at the Paralympics since 2000.

### LEARNING AREA

- Health and Physical Education

### FOCUS AREA

- Relationships and sexuality

Strand: Personal, social and community health

Sub-strand: Contributing to healthy and active communities (ACPPS042; ACPPS060)

Strand: Movement and physical activity

Sub-strand: Understanding movement (ACPMP085)

### GENERAL CAPABILITIES

- Intercultural understanding: Recognising culture and developing respect.
- Ethical understanding: Exploring values, rights and responsibilities.
- Literacy: Comprehending texts through listening, reading and viewing; Composing texts through speaking, writing and creating.
- ICT capability: Investigating with ICT.

### STIMULUS

- PowerPoint Presentation – ready to use!
- USA takes gold in Olympic Rugby – USA v France – Paris 1924 (YouTube 2:05)
- Rugby Sevens is reaching out (2:40)
- London 2012 Wheelchair Rugby (1:19)

### POSSIBLE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES / TASKS

- Discuss what your class already knows about Rugby and the Olympics.
- Look at the Rugby and Olympic values; discuss similarities; and suggest whether or not Rugby is a good fit with the Olympics.
- Learn about Rugby 15-a-side events at the 1900, 1908, 1920 and 1924 Olympics including the video footage of the 1924 Olympic Rugby final.
- Discuss differences between those early Olympics and the Olympics of today e.g. issues, politics, fashion, sports, gender equality etc.
- Talk about the campaign to have Rugby reintroduced at the Olympics and why it might have excited so many people.
- Look at the Rugby Sevens is reaching out video and discuss the key 'selling points' of Rugby Sevens including its diverse global appeal.
- Look at the two videos showing the 'yes vote' for Rugby Sevens at the Olympics and the Rugby Sevens promotional video.
- Discuss some of the impacts the inclusion of Rugby Sevens at the Olympics will have globally.
- Explore the 'other' game of Rugby included in the Paralympics i.e. wheelchair Rugby.

### REFLECTION

Students reflect on the similarities between and importance of the Rugby and Olympic values as well as the changes which have occurred at the Olympics and in Rugby since 1900.

### EXTENSION IDEAS

- Find out more about the history of the Olympics.
- Read the Rugby and the Olympic Movement.
- Research more about Wheelchair Rugby including information about the Murderball. documentary.
- Use some fun Classroom Olympic activities.
- Research various Olympic symbols and their meanings e.g. flag, motto, rings, creed.

### WORKSHEETS

- LP - Design a Rugby Olympic flag
- MP - Design a Rugby Olympic poster
- UP - Complete the Rugby Olympic timeline

### ASSESSMENT IDEAS

- LP - Create a Rugby Olympic art piece including symbols, values and messages.
- MP - Write a short story about being a spectator at the Rugby final of an Olympics
- UP - Write an essay "How has the Olympics and Rugby changed since 1900?"