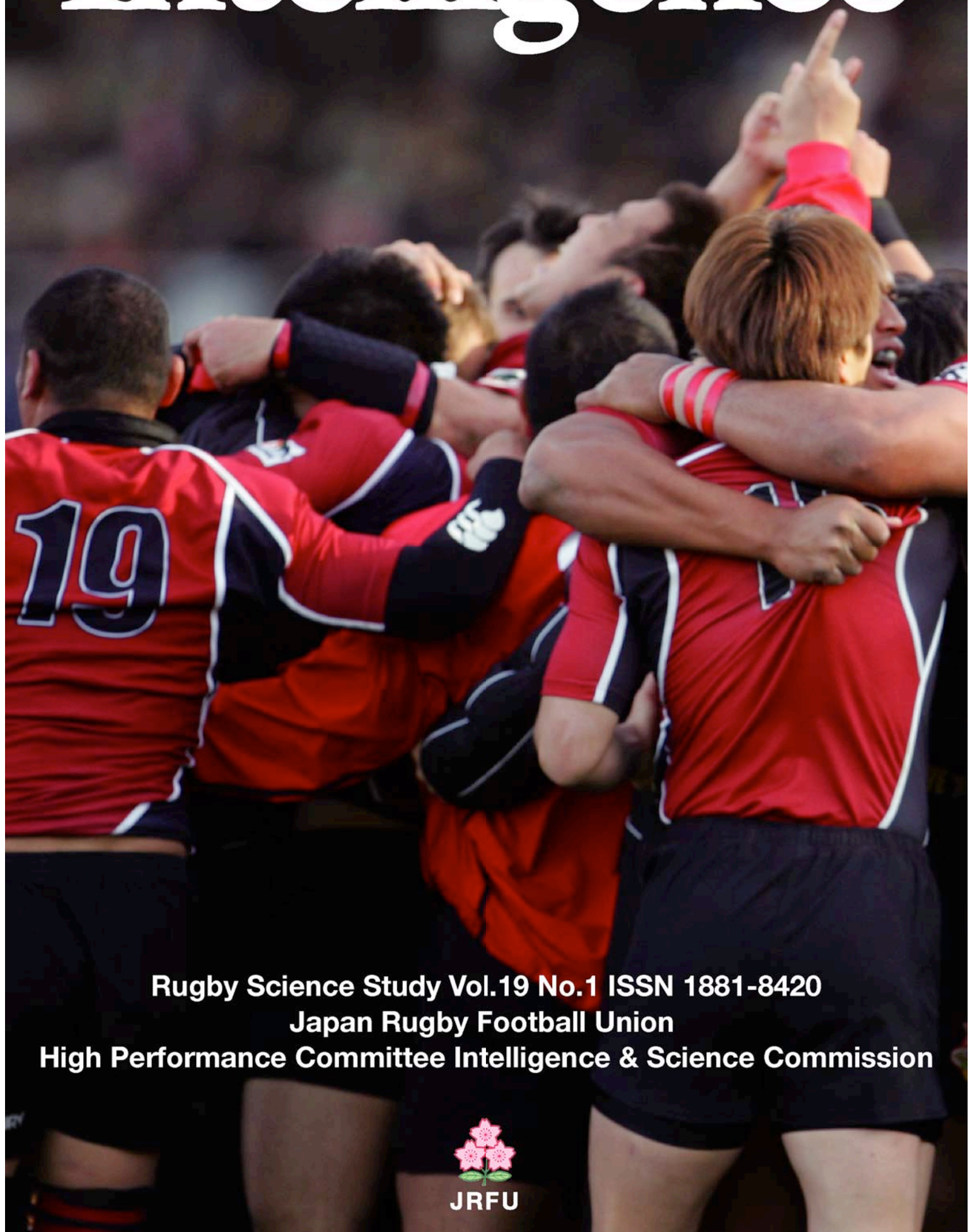


# Intelligence



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**Japan Rugby Football Union**

**High Performance Committee Intelligence & Science Commission**



**JRFU**



## Introduction: Perspective on cooperative plan of 'ATQ' and 'Intelligence & Science commission'

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## Technical Report of Japanese U23/U21 representative team against New Zealand University in April 2007

# Advance to the Quarterfinal

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### Abstract

The perspective of the alliance between the JRFU ATQ (Advance to the Quarterfinals project) and the JRFU Information & Science commission has been summarized in this document. Three separate viewpoints are presented in the summary. The first is the Core Fitness Factor that concerns the principal physical fighting factor and smart set piece play: scrum/lineout. The second is the Flexible Intelligence Factor that concerns the rugby strategy and tactics involved in overcoming competitive advantage. The third is the International Thought Factor that concerns adaptive human skills in relationship development, communication, self motivated feasible action, and virtue etc. The total development of these internal motivating factors is key to a systematic and innovative mind set.

### Abstract

The Japan U21/U23 side beat the New Zealand University side in their final match in April 2007 after succumbing in the first two games. The games that the team played against New Zealand have been analyzed and information on the "postures" of the players at ruck time was collected by SportCode (sportstec). This information was classified into "standing" and "non-standing". The number of "standing" players at ruck time in the Japan U21/U23 side was less than the NZU team. The ratio of "standing" players in the Japan U21/U23 side was 48%-64% as opposed to 61% - 78% in the NZU team. The number of "standing" players and the postures of the player in a ruck situation is a potentially very important element in controlling the game.



## Review of Japanese Under 19 representative team in IRB Under 19

# JAPAN in the world

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### Abstract

To summarize the Japan U19 team performance in the 2006/2007 season we analyzed their matches played in the U19 world championships held in Belfast from the 5th-21st of April 2007. On average the team scored 9.6 points (1.4 tries) while giving away 53.4 points (8.6 tries) per game. An important factor for attaining a win is the control of low scoring games whereby the opposing team scores less than 2 tries. Due an average of 25.8 points being given up in the second half, a review of strategy and tactics for second half play is needed.

Tries from set plays (lineout/mauls) in the oppositions 22 show a distinct pattern but other effective variations were not formalized. Points from the boot consisted of 2 PG and 1 DG. A specialist kicker for the team would be an indispensable asset.

Due to the special scrum training camp the team went through prior to the tour the Japan U19 forward pack performed well at scrum time and ball reacquisition rates exceeded 90%. However, there is a definite need for a continuous strength program for scrum development for international matches.

## Report of Japanese 7 rugby representative team in Hong-Kong 7 and Adelaide 7 competition and world trends of Seven-a-side

Jun SANO

### Abstract

The Japanese Sevens Representative team won the 2006 Asian Games held in December 2006 in Doha Qatar. Japanese sevens short term goals are to get winning points in the IRB Hong Kong 7's and the Adelaide 7's tournament. The team has a mid-term goal to reach the quarterfinals in the 2009 Sevens World Cup. The standing position of the Japanese Sevens rugby is the primary challenge for international rugby and potential young 15 a side players' development. The slogan of the Japan Sevens representative team in 2007 is "Challenge from Asia to the World." The concrete tasks that lay in front of the team are:

- (1) Winning the 1st tier Unions preliminary pool, and
- (2) Winning the bowl tournament championship in the Hong Kong and Adelaide Sevens Tournaments.

In the last Adelaide tournament the Japan Sevens won against France but was unable to prevail over any of the other non-Asian unions. All the unions are slowly improving and the Japan Sevens team must work towards their mid-term goal through a continuous strengthening plan and adjustment to fit in with the domestic 15 a side rugby season. In addition to this, in order to make an appearance in the IRB Sevens series a reality the team will participate in the Safari Sevens tournament.

## Progress report about 'U19 scrum project' start

Ichiro WATANABE

### Abstract

This article focuses on the "U19 Scrum Project." Since the 1983 All Japan High School National Championships a special domestic rule has been enforced whereby the tight five form and engage and only then do the loose forwards join the scrum. International rules that govern international matches however allow for the full 8 man forward pack to bind and engage at the same time. Coaches of the Japanese U19 representative team and high school teams have expressed concern over the inexperience of the players in an 8 on 8 scrum situation and have voiced their fear of serious injuries resulting from this. There has been a tendency to not take scrums seriously in Japan and many coaches are of the opinion that this tendency has impeded growth both directly and indirectly. The "U19 Scrum Project" was begun to remedy this situation and to address the new November 2006 scrum engage rule of the IRB.

## Japan Rugby Top League 2003-2006 Statistical Review and Match Analysis

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### Abstract

During the past 4 seasons there has been a gradual decrease in the average combined scores (both teams) in each game from 62 points to between 52-54 points. There has also been a decrease in the number of no-try games and games with less than 20 points which is a result of the competitive leagues. The average number of penalties show a slight increase in 2006 season conversions and a decreasing trend in the 2003-2005 seasons.



# Game Characteristics of Asian Women's Rugby

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## Introduction

The development of Women's Rugby contributes to the development of Rugby as a global sport both directly and indirectly. Of recent years Women's Rugby in Japan has widely developed and the national team has taken part in the all the Women's Rugby World Cup tournaments since the inaugural 1991 tournament.

## Objectives

The purpose of this study was to clarify the game characteristics of Asian Women's Rugby in comparison to the world stage and the level of men's rugby.

## Materials & Methods

The games of the four top teams in the Asian qualifying tournament for the WRWC (AQT) held in Thailand and the games of the four top teams of the Women's Rugby World Cup (2006 WRWC) that was held in Canada were analyzed. The top four games of the AQT were recorded by a digital video camera and then transferred to computer where they were analyzed by an AgPower Analysis produced by Smile Works Co. The results of the 2006 taken from the data of the International Rugby Board (IRB). The numbers of tries, penalty goals, line-outs, scrums, in-play time, mauls/rucks, passes, and kicking were adopted as parameters for the game assessment. (The parameters were determined based upon the report of the 2003 Rugby World Cup (2003RWC)).

## Results & Discussion

In the game results of the Asian qualifying tournament there were significant differences in team performance between the finalists and the other teams participating in the event. As far as the results of the 2006 WRWC go, the scores of the teams, except for those posted by New Zealand and France, were not significantly different (Table 1).

As shown in the scoring profiles of the game, the total scores of the AQT were higher than those of the 2006 WRWC games. This result was not directly related to the offensive performance of the AQT, but was caused by the difference of the total scores on

the semi-final games. The success rates of the conversion rates of the conversion kicks after each try were less than 50% in both the AQT and the 2006 WRWC. These rates were much lower than the 67% success rate recorded in the 2003 WRWC. Compared to the 2003 IRB RWC game report, the ball possessions at line-out time, scrum time, in-play time, the number of mauls and rucks in Asian Women's Rugby were significantly lower than those parameters obtained in Men's Rugby. The numbers obtained relating to penalty kick and kicking were, as a result, lower than Men's Rugby. While the superiority of physical fitness in men is obvious, the skill levels of men were also superior to those of women. The reason for the lower levels of ball possession and ball continuity among individuals and units was identified

Asian Qualifying Tournament of 2006 WRWC			
Semi-Finals	JAPAN	78-0	HONGKONG
	KAZAKHSTAN	67-0	THAILAND
Final	KAZAKHSTAN	19-3	JAPAN
Women's Rugby World Cup 2006			
Semi-Final	NEW ZEALAND	40-10	FRANCE
	ENGLAND	20-14	CANADA
Final	NEW ZEALAND	25-17	ENGLAND

Table 1. Game Results of Top 4 Game of Asian Qualifying Tournament of 2006 WRWC and Women's Rugby World Cup 2006.

	AQT2006WRWC		2006WRWC	
Scores (Points)	167		126	
Tries (Points/numbers)	135	27	95	19
Conversions (Points/numbers)	26	13	16	8
Penalties (Points/numbers)	6	2	15	5
Drop Goals (Points/numbers)	0	0	0	0
Try:Conversion:Penalty	81:15.5:3.5		75:13:12	

Table 2. Scoring Profiles of Asian Qualifying Tournament of 2006 WRWC and Women's Rugby World Cup 2006.

# Rugby Football as a Moral Agent

Yuichi UENO/Japan Rugby Football Union,  
Kayoko KOMATSU  
/Tokyo National University of Fine Arts & Music

## Conclusion

The game characteristics of the Asian Qualifying Tournament of the 2006 WRWC were as follows:

The differences in team performance among the top four teams were significant in the AQT but were not significant in the 2006 WRWC.

As far as game performance is concerned, the try scoring ration was much higher than other forms of scoring in the AQT. There were also fewer penalty goals in the AQT as opposed to both the 2003 RWC and the 2006 WRWC.

The success rates in ball possession at both scrum and line-out time in the AQT were much lower than those of the 2003 RWC.

The ratio of kicking (penalty goals and general field play kicking) were much lower in the AQT and the 2006 WRWC than in the 2003 RWC.

## References

International Rugby Board (2003), RWC 2003 Statistical Review and Match Analysis

## Keywords

Women's Rugby, Game Analysis

The spirit of Fair Play is supposed to be the most important aspect of football. This paper has attempted to clarify the educational theory of H. H. Almond (1832-1903) who regarded football as a moral agent. In addition to this, the paper attempted to expand the framework of scientific research for football by incorporating moral aspects.

After examining the circumstances in which Almond thought rugby football an important moral agent for the character building of students, this paper analyzed in detail H. H. Almond's article "Football as a Moral Agent" *Nineteenth Century*, 34, 1893.

Almond's Loretto School made physical education an essential part of school practice. He thought of football as a moral agent that made students unselfish. Because of the characteristics of rugby football, the game cannot be played properly if players do not possess a spirit of fair play. Almond said that "There must be a certain amount of bona fides in it or soon it becomes no game at all. But from the professional player we cannot expect these bona fides." As stated in the IRB playing charter, "Rugby is rightly proud of its ability to retain high standards of sportsmanship, ethical behavior and fair play." Even when Almond wrote his article, the topic of professionalism in the sport was an issue of debate. Almond recommended the promotion of the spirit of fair play in rugby football among students.

Almond established a regimen of sound living that embraced diet, dress, and exercise that was designed to train the character of students. He also adopted rugby football because it provided a training ground for a virtue that was so advanced that it had not even been named. The review of the educational theory and practice of Almond has indicated that rugby football could be correlated with the mode of life of students. In this sense, football is not only an exercising tool for the body but also for the soul. The formation of the spirit of fair play, the character of rugby football, was intertwined with the holistic education.

## Keywords

Football and education, Moral agent, Bona fides

	AQT2006WRWC	2003RWC
Scores	55.7	59.0
Number of Tries	9.0	6.9
Number of Penalty Goals	0.7	4.3
Number of Lineouts	25.7	33.0
Possession Retained of Lineouts	67%	80%
Number of Scrums	20.3	21.0
Possession Retained of Scrums	78%	91%
Number of Penalties	25.0	24.0
Ball in Play Time	0:27:02	0:33:17
Number of Ruck/Mauls	114.7	136.0
Number of Passes	229.3	241.0
Number of Kicks	25.7	52.0

Table3. Mode of Play of Asian Qualifying Tournament of 2006 WRWC and World Cup 2003.





# Strategic Planning of 'Asian Institute of Rugby: AIR'

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## Keywords

Rugby Union, Strategic Planning, Asia, Management

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## Introduction

The development of rugby in Asia will spread to a global level. The Asian Institute of Rugby (AIR) will link rugby and work for the development of Asian and World Rugby.

## Objectives

The purpose of this study is to discuss the advantages of rugby in Asia and the development of human resources. From direct interviews with key individuals of the AIR, the discourse analysis will clarify the qualitative structure of strategic planning in the AIR.

## Results

Some supporting activities such as "kit aid" and the consultation of Asian international competitions have occurred in 2006. Until 2006, all activities originated in Japan and were transferred to other unions. In recent year however, the number of cooperative works has been increasing. In the figure "JRFU - AIR Strategic Planning Model 2005-2015" AIR activities were classified as Human Support, Kits/Kids Support, Program Support, and Intelligence/Information Support. Mission state, finance, feasibility studies, and concrete actions have been produced from the second stage.

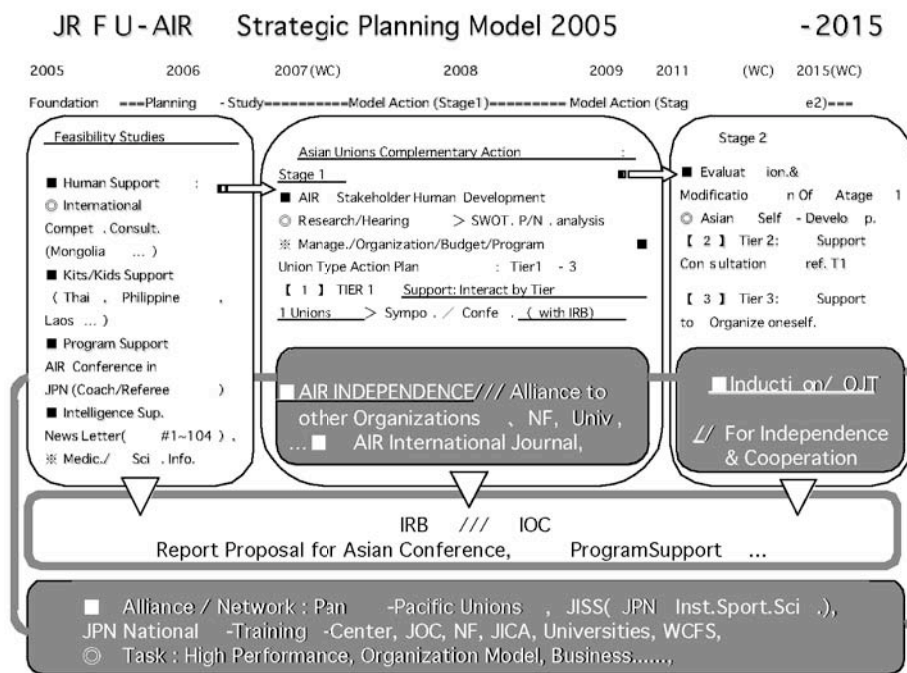
Because the activity dimensions of the Asian Unions is widespread, intuitive and appropriate support is needed.

## Discussion & Conclusion

The cognition of the AIR would be extended through the Asian Unions step by step. There were some scientific conferences and practical seminars planned and the IRB has gradually increased its degree of recognition of the AIR. AIR cooperative activities will cross the borders of rugby, sports, and/or various socio-economic opportunities and will extend the spirit of dynamic management of mutual aids.

## References

Sasaki K. et al. (2005), Asian Institute of Rugby, World Congress of Performance Analysis of Sports VII Szombathely, Hungary.





# Scoring profiles in Rugby Union : Difference of League and Tournament System.

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## Keywords

**Rugby Union, Notation Analysis, Scoring Profile, Defense Performance**

## Abstract

The senior league of the Japanese Rugby Union introduced a Top 12 league system in 2003 (66 games per season) with the aim of expanding opportunities for more competitive games in the country. The JRFU Science Committee has analyzed the changing structure of the games through three seasons (2003-2005). Analysis items were based on the IRB game analysis parameters. In this study, we firstly focused on how the scoring of

points was changing (total of both teams) and the details of related factors (source and origin of tries, lineout and scrum structure). There is an underlying question of the games. At what point does the structure of the game differ between the league system and a tournament system (knockout rounds)? To date there has been no research that specifically addresses this area. Taking into account the nature of the professional game today, it is thought that the transfiguration process of the league or tournament would be both important and suggestive knowledge.

The purpose of this study was to discuss the differences and analyze the changing structure of the scoring profiles and defense performance in Rugby Union games with regard to the knockout tournament system (Microsoft Cup, MC) and the league system (Top League, TL) over three seasons (2003-2005).

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