

Rugby League

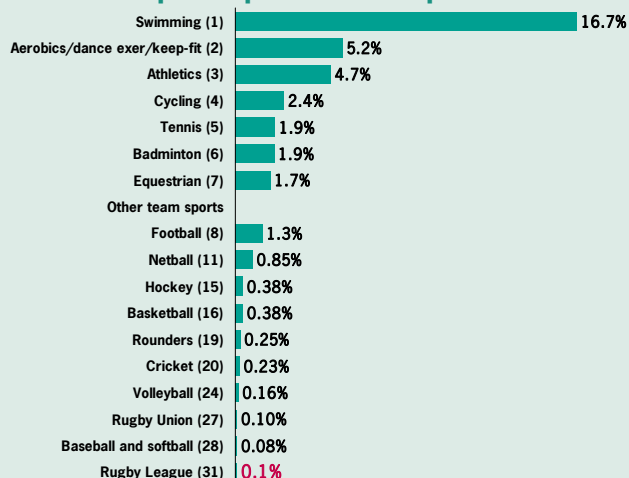
- 11,700 women played rugby league at least once in the last four weeks
- Almost three in five female players are students
- Female rugby league players are considerably more satisfied than the average with virtually all aspects of their sport

All charts are based on those adults (16 and over) who said they had played rugby football league (RFL) at least once in the last four weeks (Active People Survey (APS2) 2007-08), unless stated otherwise. See Note 1.

Women who play RFL – overview

How does RFL fare?

Women's participation in all sports



Base: All female respondents. Figure for cycling is respondents who took part in at least four recreational cycles in the last four weeks at moderate intensity

Participation overview

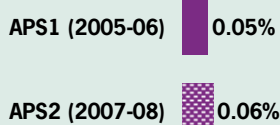
- 11,700 women played rugby league at least once in the last four weeks – 1 in 1,666 women (rugby union = 20,800)
- Male RFL players outnumber female players 10:1
- BME women make up 4% of female rugby league players compared with 9% of the population profile

Trends in RFL participation by gender

MEN - Played at least once in last four weeks (moderate intensity)

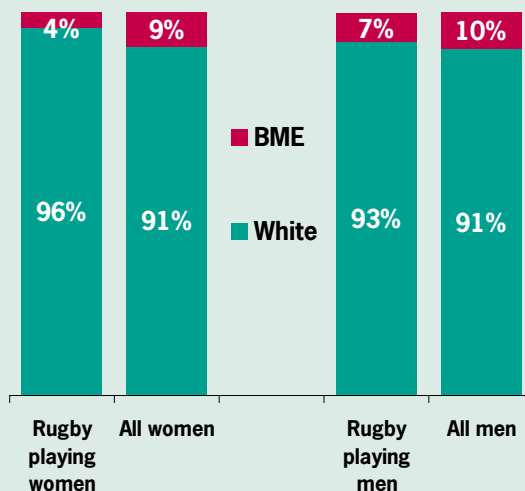


WOMEN - Played at least once in last four weeks (moderate intensity)



Base: All respondents (women = APS1 – 212,568; APS2 – 113,056, men = APS1 – 151,156; APS2 – 78,269)

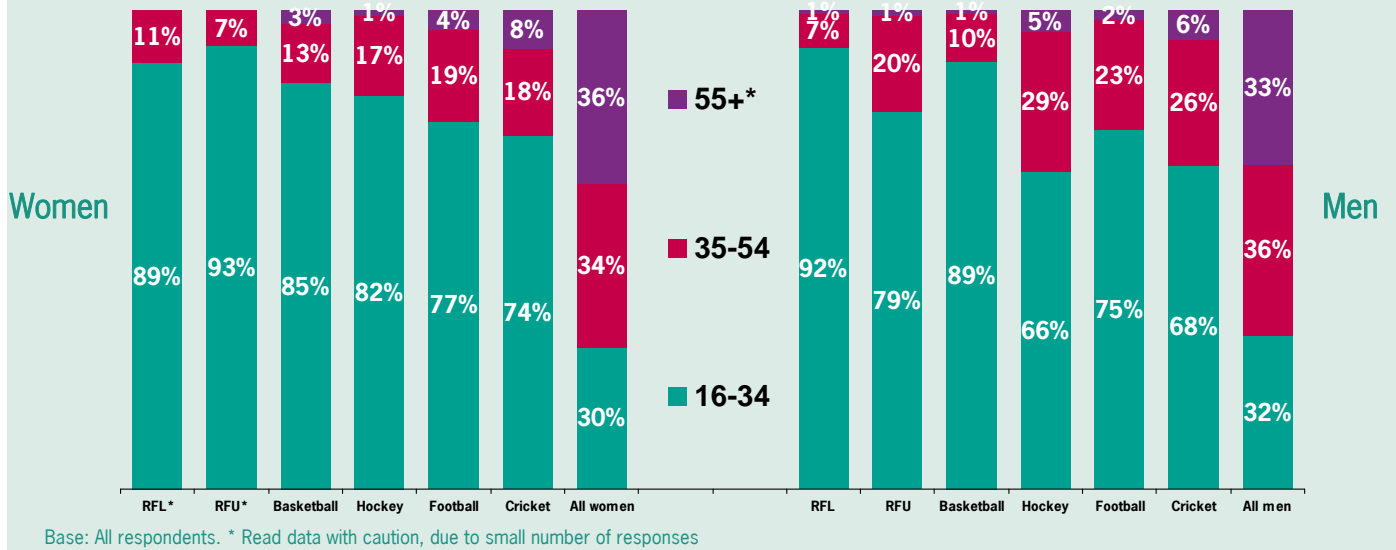
Profile of RFL by gender and ethnicity



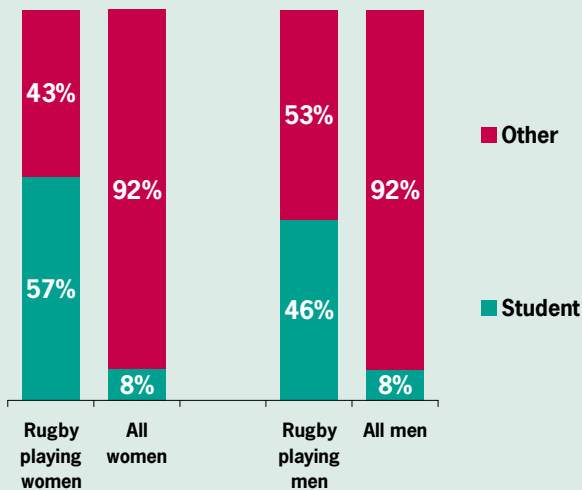
Base: All respondents

Demographic profile of rugby league players

Age profile of men and women who play RFL v. similar sports



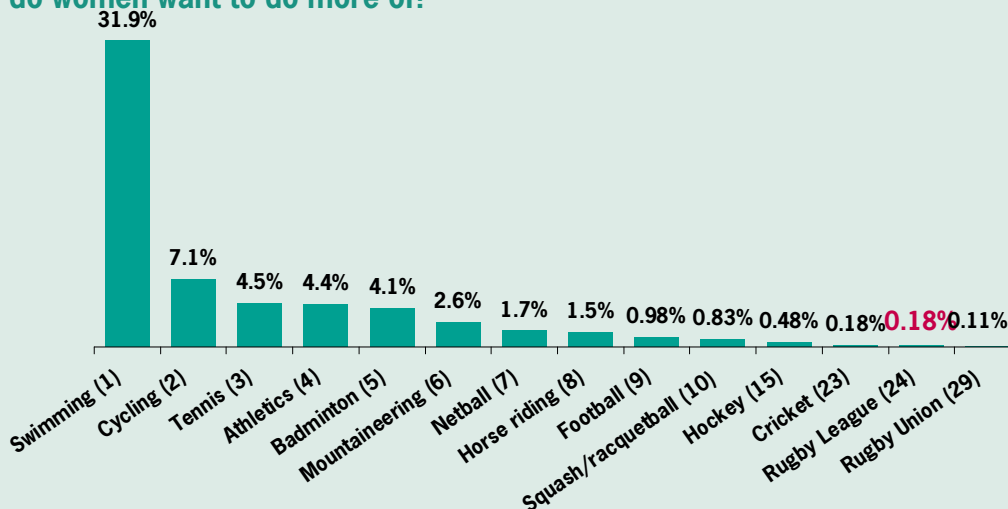
Profile of RFL players by gender and whether a student



Participation – demographics

- Possibly due to opportunities to play at school and college and the relatively recent acceptance of rugby for women, rugby league is predominately played by young women – over 89% of players are aged between 16 and 34 (football = 77%)
- As mentioned rugby league is predominately played by young women most likely due to opportunities to play at school or university. This is backed up by the fact that 57% of rugby league players are students (football = 38%)
- Latent demand for rugby league among women is quite low compared with all other Sport England funded sports

What sports do women want to do more of?



Organised participation

Women who play RFL as a member of a sports club and receives tuition



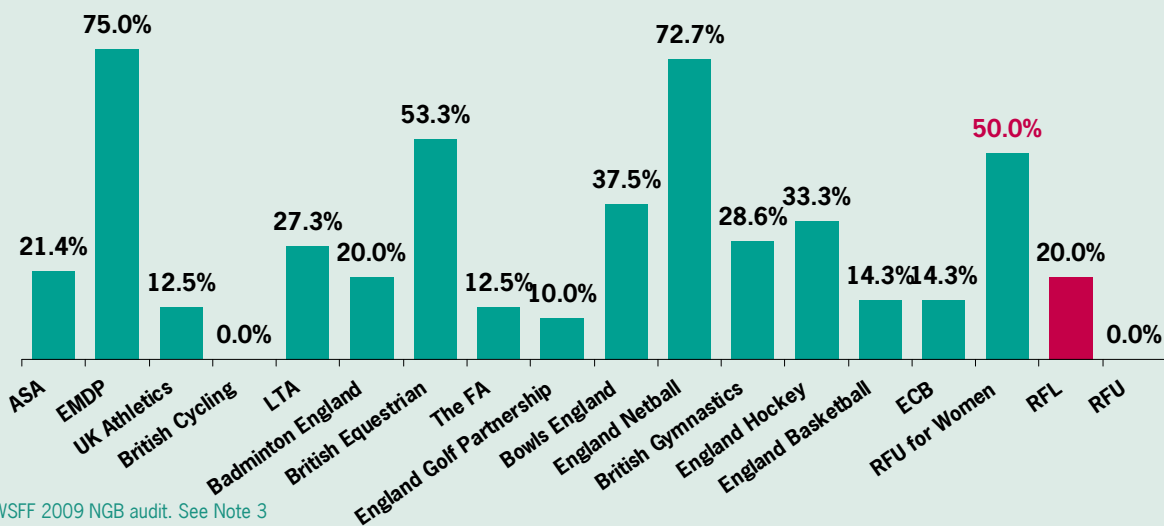
Base: All respondents who played rugby league at least once in the last four weeks. See Note 2

Organised participation

- Almost four in ten women play rugby league as a member of a club
- Women make up one in 12 club members
- As with most sports, female rugby league players are more likely than men to receive tuition

Women as leaders

Women as leaders of sport: % of NGB Board members who are women



Source: WSFF 2009 NGB audit. See Note 3

Women as leaders and volunteers

- One in five of the RFL board is a woman – which is the NGB average. However, this is actually a higher proportion of women than the profile of current RFL club membership (8%)
- Sample sizes are too small to show volunteering data for rugby league

Women's satisfaction

Satisfaction of female RFL players compared with average for all women who do sport/activity



Source: Sport England's Satisfaction with the quality of the sporting experience survey (2009).
 Base: Female respondents (16+) who rated their satisfaction as 8-10 on a 1 to 10 scale. Figures in brackets are satisfaction percentages for all sportswomen. See Note 4

Satisfied

- Female rugby league players are considerably more satisfied than the average with virtually all aspects of their sports – particularly the social elements, people and staff, and coaching
- The only area in which they fall below the average for satisfaction is exertion and fitness

To sum up...

Rugby league is predominately played by young women and students, where there are opportunities to play as part of school and university. But the RFL needs to consider how to keep these women in rugby league and moving onto more formal long-term involvement within clubs. It may be that women do not know of the opportunities to play once leaving education. There is also scope to increase the proportion of BME women playing rugby league.

Sample sizes make it hard to analyse the demographic profile of women who play rugby league in any great detail. However, on a positive note, we do know that those women who do play rugby league are more satisfied than the average with mostly all the elements, therefore, for those women who want to play rugby league, the sport is meeting their requirements more than other sports are for their players.

Notes

- 1 Source for all data is the Active People Survey 2 (2007-08) unless otherwise stated. 16 year olds and over in England only. Sports used in comparison are the 46 Sport England funded sports except where data are not available or sample sizes too small. Using a gym is not included in this series of factsheets.
- 2 Club membership is based on those who have been a member of a sports club to participate in rugby league in the past four weeks. These figures may not correspond with National Governing Body's (NGB) affiliation figures. Organised competition is defined as 'having taken part in any organised competition in rugby league in the last 12 months'. Received tuition is defined as 'having received tuition from an instructor or coach to improve your performance in rugby league in the last 12 months'.
- 3 In 2009 WSFF undertook an audit of all 46 Sport England funded NGBs. NGBs were asked to provide demographic data about board members, affiliated coaches and members. Sports chosen for comparison are the top participation sports for women + sports similar to rugby league.
- 4 Survey respondents were asked to rate their perceived satisfaction for 75 questions across ten themes. Figures in brackets are aggregate satisfaction percentages of the individual theme questions. Domains ranked in order of satisfaction for all women.

To convert overall percentages to population numbers use the following figures:

Survey	Male 16+	Female 16+
APS 1	19,756,900	20,954,000
APS 2	20,170,100	21,266,200

Source: Office for National Statistics England Mid-year Population Estimates, 2005 and 2007

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To be updated with Rugby League specific data from Active People Survey 3...

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