

November 1933

## THE GAME OF RUGBY FIVES.

It is some time now since the Rules of Rugby Fives and the dimensions of a Rugby Fives Court were determined by the Rugby Fives Association. It was a work which was necessary and long overdue, and for the time which they spent and the thoroughness with which they did their work the Association deserved much congratulation and thanks. They did not get it. Like many other people Rugby Fives players are extremely—one might almost say hopelessly—conservative. Apparently what was good enough for the past was good enough for them and many of them have disobligingly continued to play in their old sweet way. Unfortunately the traditions of play in one place are in complete and utter disagreement with the customs of another, and the Association were forced to compromise in their ruling. If the Association had charged at tradition like a bull in a china shop, the decision of certain Fives Clubs to ignore their recommendations might well have been understood. But, indeed, they did nothing of the kind. Instead they took the opinions of all and proved for ever and ever that England has no love for coalitions.

Many Clubs have now come to heel and since the Association has now all the Championships under their control it is likely that more will follow. But it is still plain that there is lamentable ignorance among clubs which are outside London as to what the modern ruling is. Many even profess to be surprised when informed that the dimensions of a standard court have been fixed. This is ridiculous and it behoves every Fives player to read, and digest the rules.

Accordingly in this issue we have printed the Rules of Rugby Fives in full and it is to be hoped that Rugby Fives players will study them. A copy of these rules pasted on thin cardboard and suitable for hanging near the Fives Courts can be obtained from V. E. A. Bowley, 1, Fairway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey. Price 6d. Mr. Bowley is the Hon. Secretary of the Rugby Fives Association and he will be pleased to answer any queries which may arise. It is surely not too much to expect that every school, which is interested in this game, will desire to have a copy of the rules. More than twenty schools were represented at the Public Schools Championships last April and there were not a few competitors who needed to be told the rules before they began to play.

So far there are only a few standard courts in existence, but it is good to see that the few courts which have been built since the dimensions were determined nearly all conform to the regulation size. Good examples may be seen at Dulwich College and Emmanuel College, Cambridge. The dimensions are as follows:—

### SPECIFICATIONS OF STANDARD COURT.

Length of Court .....	28 ft.
Width of Court .....	18 ft.
Height of Front Wall	15 ft.
Height of Back Wall	6 ft.
Height of Side Walls	15 ft. for the first 12 ft. (measuring from the front wall thence sloping down to 6 ft. at the back.)
Board	The top of the Board should be 2 ft. 6 in. from the floor.
Door	The Door should be in the middle of the Back Wall and should be faced like the Walls, the handle being flush with the surface.
Colour of Walls	Black.
Colour of Floor	Red.