

GOAL

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THE NATIONAL

FOOTBALL GAME

For 2, 3, or 4 Players



10

9

8
BEHIND
ANOTHER

7

6

5
FREE
KICK

4

3

2

1

BALL

1

2

3

4

5
FREE
KICK

6

7

8
BEHIND
ANOTHER

9

10



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How to Play

The National Football Game

2 to 4 players

OBJECT

To be the first player to kick a goal.

SETUP

The ball playing piece is placed in the centre space marked ball.

GAME PLAY

Each player rolls the dice. The player with the highest number takes the red column, the next highest the blue, the next highest the green and finally, the yellow. The red player starts the play, followed by blue, green and then yellow.

The first player rolls the dice and moves the ball along the red column.

The next player rolls the dice and moves the ball back along the red column. The roll can take you past the space marked ball and down your own column. The centre ball space is not counted in the move.

- > If you land on 5, marked free kick, you get an extra roll.
- > If you land on 8, marked behind, you get an extra roll.
- > If you roll a 6 you get an extra roll.

The first player to land on the goal space with an exact roll, wins the game.



Background History

Aboriginal groups in north-west Victoria had been playing a football game called marngrook, for hundreds of years. The official start for Australia Rules football in South Australia was 1877.

The *National Game of Football* was created in the early 1900s by the National Game Company of Ballarat and Melbourne. They were the first big company to make board games in Australia.

The game is designed to resemble a game of football as the ball is moved towards and away from the goals.

Look closely at the artwork. What clues are there that this game was made over 100 years ago?



Want to find out more about this game? Visit digital.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au
State Library of South Australia: Children's Literature Research collection,
The National Football Game, for 2, 3 or 4 players [game], 1910, Games box 33.



Equipment

- 1 x dice
- 1 x football playing piece

