



football



Football refers to a number of sports that involve, to varying degrees, kicking a ball with the foot to score a goal.

THE MOST POPULAR OF THESE SPORTS WORLDWIDE IS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS JUST "FOOTBALL" OR "SOCCER".

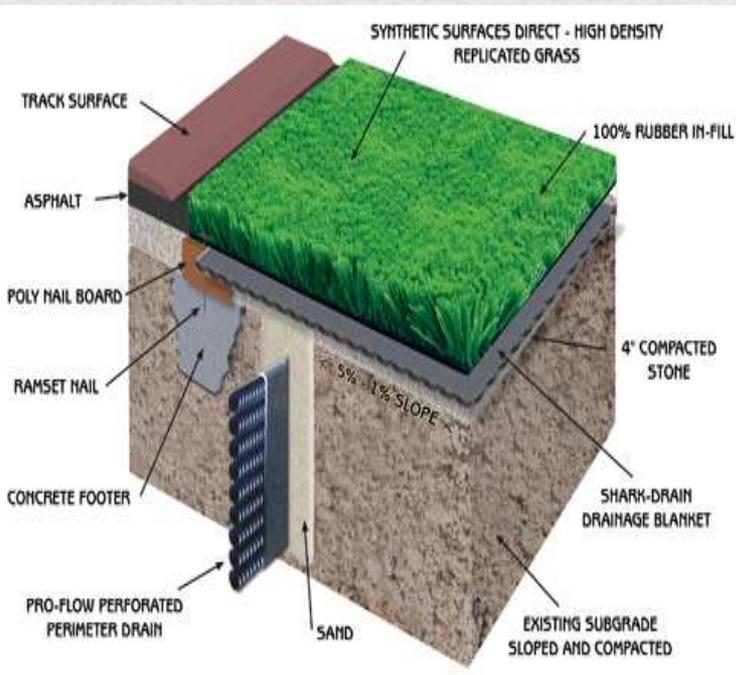
Unqualified, the word **football** applies to whichever form of football is the most popular in the regional context in which the word appears, including association football, as well as **American football, Australian rules football, Canadian football, Gaelic football, rugby league, rugby union** and other related games.





- **Association football**, more commonly known as **football** or **soccer**, is a sport played between two teams of **eleven players** with a spherical ball. At the turn of the 21st century, the game was played by over **250 million** players in over **200 countries**, making it the world's most popular sport.

- The game is played on a **rectangular field of grass** or **green artificial turf**, with a goal in the middle of each of the short ends. The object of the game is to score by driving the ball into the opposing goal.



- Have you ever wondered how soccer got into our life?
- **When and where is the origin of this game from?**
- **WHY ARE SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD CRAZY ABOUT THIS GAME?**

Almost every culture has reference to the history of soccer...



- The origin of football(soccer) can be found in every corner of geography and history.
- The Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Ancient Greek, Persian, Viking, and many more played a ball game long before our era.
- The Chinese played "football" games as far back as 3000 years ago.
- The Ancient Greeks and the Roman used football games to sharpen warriors for battle.
- In south and Central America a game called "Tlatchi" once flourished.



But it was **in England** that soccer really begin to take shape.

It all started in **1863** in England, when two football association (association football and rugby football) split off on their different course.

Therefore, the first Football Association was founded **in England**.

It is the oldest national football association and is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the amateur and professional game in England...





On October **1863**, eleven London clubs and schools sent their representatives to the Freemason's Tavern. These representatives were intent on clarifying the muddle by establishing a set of fundamental rules, acceptable to all parties, to govern the matches played amongst them.

The first football competition in the world was started in the same year - **the FA Cup**, which preceded *the League Championship* by **17** years.

International matches were being staged in **Great Britain** before football had hardly been heard of in Europe. The first was played in 1872 and was contested by England and Scotland.

The rules of play for soccer are simple...

- The referee makes most of the decisions and attempts to encourage fair play. The game starts off with a kick off and the teams are allowed to pass, dribble, juggle, head, kick and shoot the ball to place it down the field, and (hopefully or eventually) into their opponent's goal.
 - If the ball is kicked off the field over the length of the field, the other team is given a throw-in, where the ball is thrown over the player's head, and back onto the field.
 - If the ball is kicked over the goal or across the width of the field, either a corner kick results, realizing by the offensive team, where the ball is placed on the corner of the field and kicked into play or the defensive team is awarded a kick, where the ball is placed on the corner of the goal box, and kicked back into play.
 - If a goal is scored, the ball is taken back to the centre of the field and the team, scored against, kicks off and keeps playing.
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- The spread of football **outside of England**, mainly due to the British influence abroad, started slow, but it soon gathered momentum and spread rapidly **to all parts of the world**.
- The next countries to form football associations after the Netherlands and Denmark in 1889 were New Zealand (1891), Argentina (1893), Chile (1895), Switzerland, Belgium, Italy (1898), Germany, Uruguay (both in 1900), Hungary (1901) and Finland (1907).
- When **FIFA** was founded in Paris in May 1904 it had **seven** founder members: France, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain (represented by the Madrid FC), Sweden and Switzerland. The German Football Federation cabled its intention to join on the same day.



- This international football community grew steadily, although it sometimes met with obstacles and setbacks. In 1912, 21 national associations were already affiliated *to the Fédération Internationale de Football Association* (FIFA).
- By 1925, the number had increased to 36, in 1930 - the year of the first World Cup - it was 41, in 1938, 51 and in 1950, after the interval caused by the Second World War, the number had reached 73.
- At present, after the 2000 Ordinary FIFA Congress, FIFA has **204** members in every part of the world.

