



Football and Ice Hockey: History and Rules

Before reading:

Try to figure out the meaning of the words in bold using the context. Work in pairs.

Football is one of the world's most popular games. It is played in nearly every country, by everyone from kids in vacant lots and back streets to professional players in giant stadiums. Professional football is watched by billions of people all over the world, and is probably the world's most popular spectator sport.

History

The earliest known form of the game was developed in China around 500 B.C. It was known as *cuju* ('kick-ball') and was played with a leather ball. The object was to kick the ball into a net **stretched** between two goal-posts. By 800 A.D. there was a well-organized professional league in China, and similar games were also being played in Korea and Japan.

The earliest form of the game that we know of in Europe was played in England around 1100 A.D. It was played between big teams, sometimes whole villages, on a large field, and the ball could be thrown, kicked, or carried towards the opponent's goal. There were very few rules and games were often wild and rough. The game was repeatedly **banned** by the authorities because of the violence and injuries it caused.

The modern game first developed in England in the 19th century. The Football Association was set up in 1863 and the 'Laws of the Game' were drawn up in the same year. In 1882 the International Football Association Board (IFAB) was formed, and this organization still **oversees** the rules of the game. Then FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) was founded in 1904 to run international competitions. FIFA still runs the World Cup, as well as regional competitions such as the European and Asian Cups.

How the Game Works

The modern game is played by two teams of eleven players on a rectangular field with a goal at each end. Players pass the ball to each other by kicking or heading it, with the aim being to score goals by getting the ball into the opponent's goal. The game lasts for two 45-minute halves, and the team scoring the most goals wins. **Draws** are common, but if a winner has to be found, a game can go into extra time. If the score is still tied after thirty minutes of extra time, a 'penalty shootout' can decide the winner.

In general play, the goalkeeper is the only player who can touch the ball with the hands or arms. All the other players can kick or head the ball only. Players can **tackle** an opponent in order to get the ball from them, but must do so without pushing or tripping the player. Pushing and tripping, along with other illegal actions such as 'handball' and 'offside', are fouls that can be penalized with a free kick. If a foul is committed in the penalty area near either goal, the referee can award a penalty kick, meaning a player can have a free shot at goal, with only the goalkeeper being allowed to try to block it. If a player commits a more serious offence, such as dangerous play, the referee can issue a yellow card as a warning, or issue a red card, in which case the player is sent off and cannot be replaced by a substitute. Teams are normally allowed three substitutes, which can be used to **replace** players because of injury, or for tactical reasons.

<http://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/sports-football.htm>

Choose the correct option:

1. The earliest known form of football developed in _____ around 500 B.C.
a) India b) China c) Japan d) Australia e) Lebanon
2. The modern game of football first developed in England in the _____ century.
a) 18 b) 16 c) 20 d) 19 e) 14
3. The modern game is played by two teams of _____ players.
a) 11 b) 5 c) 6 d) 2 e) 10
4. If the score is tied after extra time, a _____ is used to determine the winner.
a) face-off b) draw c) shoot-out d) corner e) toss-up
5. A player is sent off by the referee after he gets a _____.
a) red card b) warning c) bribe d) handball e) yellow card

Football Quiz.

Finish the sentences.

1. A player whose job is to stop attackers from scoring is a _____.
2. Neither team scored, so the game ended in a _____.
3. Tripping, pushing and diving are _____.
4. Chelsea and Liverpool are teams in the English Premiership _____.
5. A player throws the ball if an opponent kicks the ball over the _____.
6. If a game ends in a draw, it can go into extra _____.
7. If a player commits a foul in the penalty area, the referee awards a penalty _____.
8. Each team can _____ up to 3 players during the game.
9. The assistant referee signals when he sees a player in an _____ position.
10. A player whose role is to score goals is called a _____.

Match the words to their definitions:

assistant referee	a free kick taken from one of the corners of the pitch
corner kick	an instance of kicking or heading the ball into the goal
dive	law requiring at least two defenders to be between an attacker and the goal line when the ball is passed to the attacker
goal	player whose role is to stop the ball from entering the goal, and the only player who can handle the ball in general play
goalkeeper	to replace one player with another player; <i>also</i> a player used to replace another
handball	to deliberately fall over when tackled in order to deceive the referee into awarding a free kick
offside	to challenge a player for the ball
substitute	a warning issued to a player for a serious foul, two of which result in a red card and sending off
tackle	a foul committed by touching the ball with a hand or an arm
yellow card	official who runs one of two touchlines and advises the referee, esp. on offside decisions

For fun:

Read the text about two famous football players. What other famous football players do you know? Which football player would you call your role model?

Famous Players

Pele

Edison Arantes do Nascimento, or Pele, is rated by many as the greatest footballer of all time. The Brazilian champion was given the title of Athlete of the Century by the International Olympic Committee and jointly named FIFA Player of the Century with Diego Maradona. He was part of three World Cup winning teams, and was known for his brilliant passing, his speed, his strong heading of the ball, as well as for his brilliance at shooting for and scoring goals.

Diego Maradona

Diego Maradona is one of the most well-known footballers of all time. He played in four World Cups for his country Argentina, and led them to their victory over West Germany in 1986. He also won many trophies with Boca Juniors in Argentina, FC Barcelona in Spain and SSC Napoli in Italy. Together with Pele, he was named FIFA Player of the Century in 2000. Maradona had a stocky build and his strength and speed made him a difficult opponent for defenders. He had great ball-control and passing abilities, and was often able to create goal scoring opportunities for his teammates. He also scored many goals himself, including 34 goals for Argentina in international competitions.