

A OVER VIEW ABOUT THE MOST POPULAR BALL GAME AROUND THE WORLD

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Abstract

Football or soccer is the most popular ball game around the world. Football requires a lot of stamina and staying power on the ground as it is all about foot speed, and the confidence to skilfully maneuver the ball to score a goal. This tutorial explains the simple yet fundamental rules of the game and various terminologies involved. It also provides information on the various associations that help organize tournaments around the world. Prominent players who have made history are also featured towards the conclusion of the document.

Keywords: Football, Team, Terminology, Field.

Introduction:

Football is the most popular sport worldwide. It is also called “soccer” in some countries. It is an outdoor game that requires absolute athleticism as players have to hustle and run across the field with the ball throughout the game. The name of the sport was derived by the way it is played. This sport took its shape in the 18th century. China being the mother of Football may raise a few eyebrows. In early days, this sport was played by kids in China which was later picked up by the senior fellows. Despite the origin in Asia, the sport was well received and adapted by people of Europe and South-American countries. Spain, Italy, Brazil, Argentina, and England are some of the best football playing countries. At the same time, there are international tournaments organized in Europe that many clubs participate and compete in for a prestigious cup. The objective of a football team is to score a goal more than their opponent and win the game. A goal is scored when the ball passes the goal line. Players can use any part of their body to score the goal but not their hands.

Team Size:

Be it a national team or international club, there should be only 11 players per team on the field while playing the game. One of them is the goalkeeper, who is crucial to the success of the team. He is skilled to intercept the ball before a goal is scored by a player of the opponent team. There are additional players seated on the side as substitutes to replace on-field players. Coach is an integral part of the team who coaches every member of the team, lays plans and strategies to score goals and win matches.

Field Size:

Professional football stadiums should be 105m long and 68m wide with an area of just above 7 sq.km. The outline of the field is called touchline. There is a circle in the center of the pitch (the football field) that indicates opponent's distance from the ball during kickoff. This circle has a radius of 9.15m. There is a center spot in the circle where the ball should be kept at the beginning of a new session or after a goal is scored. The line along the breadth of the field is called goal line. The goal posts are placed in the center of the field and goal line. The distances between the inner and outer edges of the goal post are 7.4m and 2.4m respectively. The goal post at each end has two boxes from goal line. The smaller one is 5m box and bigger is 18m box. All the free-kicks of attacking team are to be taken from 5m box. The 18m box indicates the area where the goalkeeper is permitted to stop the ball with his hands. Direct free-kick or penalty kick can be taken from a white mark that is within the 18m box. In early days of football, semi-circles were drawn by goal-line which were later replaced with rectangular boxes. In order to maintain the tradition, a small semi-circle is drawn outside the bigger box. The corners of the football field have small arcs that indicate where the ball should be placed for a corner kick.

Game Accessories

Cleats or turfs: A very important gear for every football player. These are specially designed shoes with spikes on the bottom that provide great traction on grass.

Socks: The socks made for Football are very long and they are meant to cover the shin-guards.

Shin Guards: These are used to protect the player's shin. While playing football, opponent players try to injure players by kicking in the shin area. It could be an intentional or unintentional act by the player. Hence, shin guards are protective equipment.

Soccer Ball: This is the main equipment of the game and the total game revolves around this. A Football is made of vulcanized rubber with plastic bladders and covered by plastic covers.

Terms Used in Football game:

This chapter explains all the popular terms used at play. Some of these are important rules that every football player should be aware of. People following the game closely will find this chapter interesting.

Advantage Rule: This rule is applied when there is no need to stop the play when a foul is noticed by the referee.

Period: Football game is divided into two halves in time; first half and second half.

Pitch: The Football field is called the pitch for easy use.

Referee: The official in-charge of the game. Referee is the final decision maker in the game; he is the one who checks the time and stops the game when it is over. Players cannot enter or leave the field without his consent. It is the responsibility of the referee to see that the game, ball and players all conform to the rules of the game. There are two assistant referees in the game.

Red Card: A decision of the referee where he decides if a player has made an offence and then asks him to leave the game for the remaining duration.

Scissor Kick: To kick the ball forward while the player leans sideways and the ball is kicked in the direction which he is playing. This kick is performed while the player is completely off the ground.

Aggregate Score: This is the average score scored by the teams that play in the club competitions. These clubs usually conduct games on the knockout basis. The teams will be paired to play each other twice, one on the home ground of both the teams. The score is then decided by adding the scores in both the matches.

Attacker: The term referred to a striker and someone who is close to the goal post of the opposing team.

Ball in and out of play: The ball to be passed out of the play must be found outside the sideline or the goal line. It can be played even if it is on the side line. The game continues as long as the ball is in the play.

Bicycle kick: This is a style or a volley where the player kicks the ball over his head while doing a somersault. The player has both his feet off the ground and kicks the ball simultaneously while doing a somersault.

Booter: A term used in the game which means to kick the ball. To boot means to kick the ball very hard, long and high.

Clear: This is used whenever a situation or chance to score a goal arises in the game. The player should immediately clear the ball or kick the ball away from the goal mouth so that a goal can be stopped. Sometimes they even pass the ball or start an attack and other times they just boot the ball out of the play.

Captain: A player who is chosen to lead a team in the match and to decide the toss before the match.

Chip: A high and a long shot hit so that the ball passes over the goalkeeper's head directly into the goal.

Dead Ball: When the players are stopped and the ball is not moving this is called Dead Ball. Such a situation arises when there is a chance for free kicks and penalty kicks.

Extra time: This is an additional time of play, whenever there is a tie and is played in two halves of 15 minutes to decide the winner.

Foul: A term used to describe the breach of the laws of Football by a player and this can be punishable by a free kick or penalty.

Free Kick: Granting an unobstructed kick to a stationary ball, especially whenever the opposing team makes a foul.

Goalkeeper: A specialized player who is also called as goalie. The work of a goalkeeper is to stop the ball from reaching the goal post behind him.

Hand Ball: The term used when the players use their hand or arm while playing or passing the ball. This is considered to be offensive in the game.

Head: To head the ball means to play the ball with forehead, be it to clear, pass or to score a goal.

Mark: When the game is in the man to man situation, the defender is said to mark the attacker. The farther he is to him the looser the marking and the closer he plays to him the tighter the marking.

Score line: Indication of scores of both the teams which also has the information about the home ground. If the score line shows ABC 0 and DEF 2, this means the game is on ABC's home ground and the winner is DEF with 2 goals.

Tackle: A term used when a player uses his body to take the ball from the opponent, it can be a shoulder charge. Clean tackling means to successfully take the ball from the opponent without a foul.

Time: The Football game is divided into two halves and each half is dedicated to be strictly for 45 minutes in any professional game.

Yellow Card: This is shown to the player, warning him that he has committed a serious offence in the match. It is followed by another yellow card in case of another offence and then the red card.

Man of the match: A term used for the best player of the game.

Own Goal: A situation where a player unintentionally kicks the ball into his own goal is conceded as own or self-goal.

Pass: An action where a player kicks the ball to his team mate.

Penalty: The situation where a player kicks the ball from the penalty spot and there is only one defender near the goal i.e. the goalkeeper.

Players Positions:

Goalkeeper: The main aim of a goalkeeper is to stop the opposing team from scoring a goal. The goalkeeper is restricted to the rectangular penalty area which is 18 yards away from the goal and he is the only player in the game who is allowed to use his hands to stop the ball.

Defenders: The defenders are positioned in front of the goalkeeper and their aim is to stop the opposing team from entering into their goal area.

Outside fullback: They play on the left and right flanks and see that the ball doesn't pass over them. They rarely move from their positions.

Central Defenders: They are positioned in the center of the field and are supposed to cover the leading goal scorer of the opposition's team.

Midfielders: They are the link between the defenders and attackers. They need to be fit and physically very strong than other players on the field as they are the players who run maximum time of the game all around the field. Their responsibility is to enter the opposing team's area and see that they defend them when the opposing team retains the ball.

Forwards: Their main aim is to score goals or to create an easy situation for their teammates to score a goal.

Centre Forward: The most tactful, dangerous and strong player of the game. They are also called strikers. Strikers are basically the leading goal scorers in the game.

Conclusion:

The biggest and the most famous international tournament of Football is The World Cup which is organized by FIFA. This competition takes place once in every four years. There are approximately 190 to 200 national teams competing to qualify in this tournament. The final which is conducted once in every four years involves 32 teams of different nations competing one another for over 4 week's period.

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