

Early kicking games

All throughout history, many ball games have emerged as well as perished independently to one another, often leaving us with nothing but speculations. Considering that many of these games were impulsive and had few or no regulations, it is likely that they also were quite violent. The roughness of these early games surely must have demanded involvement of the legs, for kicking. We have to emphasize the difference between such scuffles and today's skillful game. Even although modern football evolved from rugby, a major distinction stands between the two - the feet are not only used for kicking but also for controlling and moving the ball (dribbling). Using body parts other than the feet, like the head or chest, is another factor suggesting the development advanced technical skills.

While most ancient ball games had no proven relation to rugby or simply diminished ignominiously long ago, they certainly must have produced skillful players or artisans, much like the superstars of today. Therefore, we must acknowledge these as predecessors of the world's most popular sport.

The roots of soccer can be traced back to the Han Dynasty in second century China. The game tsu chu, or "kicking a ball," was included in military physical training. An elaborate game of tsu chu was played on the emperor's birthday. Teams would attempt to kick a feather-filled ball through a small goal that consisted of a net attached to bamboo poles. The stakes were high. Legends say the winners were treated to a feast while the losers were sometimes beheaded.

Kemari was played in Japan dating back to the seventh century. In this circular game, players had to pass the ball to each other without letting it touch the ground, similar in some ways to what we call hacky sack or footbag.



celebrate military victories. Some historians say that after a victory against the Danes, the English played a soccer-type game with the head of defeated prince. The real roots of soccer came not from the battlefields but from the streets of England and Scotland. Games of mob football were played in village streets and squares. Unlimited numbers of men from opposing villages would attempt to kick an inflated pig's bladder. According to an early handbook, any means short of murder and manslaughter could be used to get the ball across the goal.

In spite of such "rules" these violent street games often did involve the injury and even death of both players and spectators. This led to the game being banned by the King. Even when it was illegal to play, people couldn't help themselves; they just had to kick the ball. Despite laws and edicts, soccer-type games continued to be played for the next 500 years, particularly by working class men who played on Sundays, the one day each week they took off from the fields and factories

During the second part of the 19th century in England, rugby as well as most sports experienced a massive surge in popularity. This was mostly an effect of the Industrial Revolution, which drew people in cities and factories, depriving them from the typical outdoor activities of rural life. Recreation became common and people turned to sport on Sundays, in addition to their religious activities. British traders, sailors and workers spread sport and football all over the globe through their web of colonies

Modern Era

In the modern soccer began to take shape in the public schools of England. Schoolmasters recognized that the game promoted health and strength and could be

civilized. So schools including Eton, Harrow Rugby and, eventually, Westminster began playing recreational games with football. In fact, by the 1840s, most top English schools developed their own rules and defined their own field of play. Before these schools began to organize the sport, matches were played in open spaces without boundaries.

Graduates of English schools wanted to continue to play football games so they began to form clubs. In 1845, some of the graduates drew up the Cambridge Code, rules that allowed the ball to be handled only to stop it in their own place or kick on the ground.

On October 26, 1863, representatives from 11 schools and clubs met at the Freemasons Tavern to hash out official rules of the game. One club, Blackheath, eventually withdrew from the debates after the group voted not to allow running with the ball or hacking an opponent. When that decision was made, the break between the games that would become soccer and rugby became official. The remaining 10 representatives formed the Football Association and published the original 14 Laws of the Game in December 1863.

Remarkably, these first laws contained no mention of fouls, penalties or referees. Despite its violent heritage, soccer at this time was considered "JNF5NVDd"KFJ1NP1FD "1FJ55"152'1'1'66PD "5J1F577I



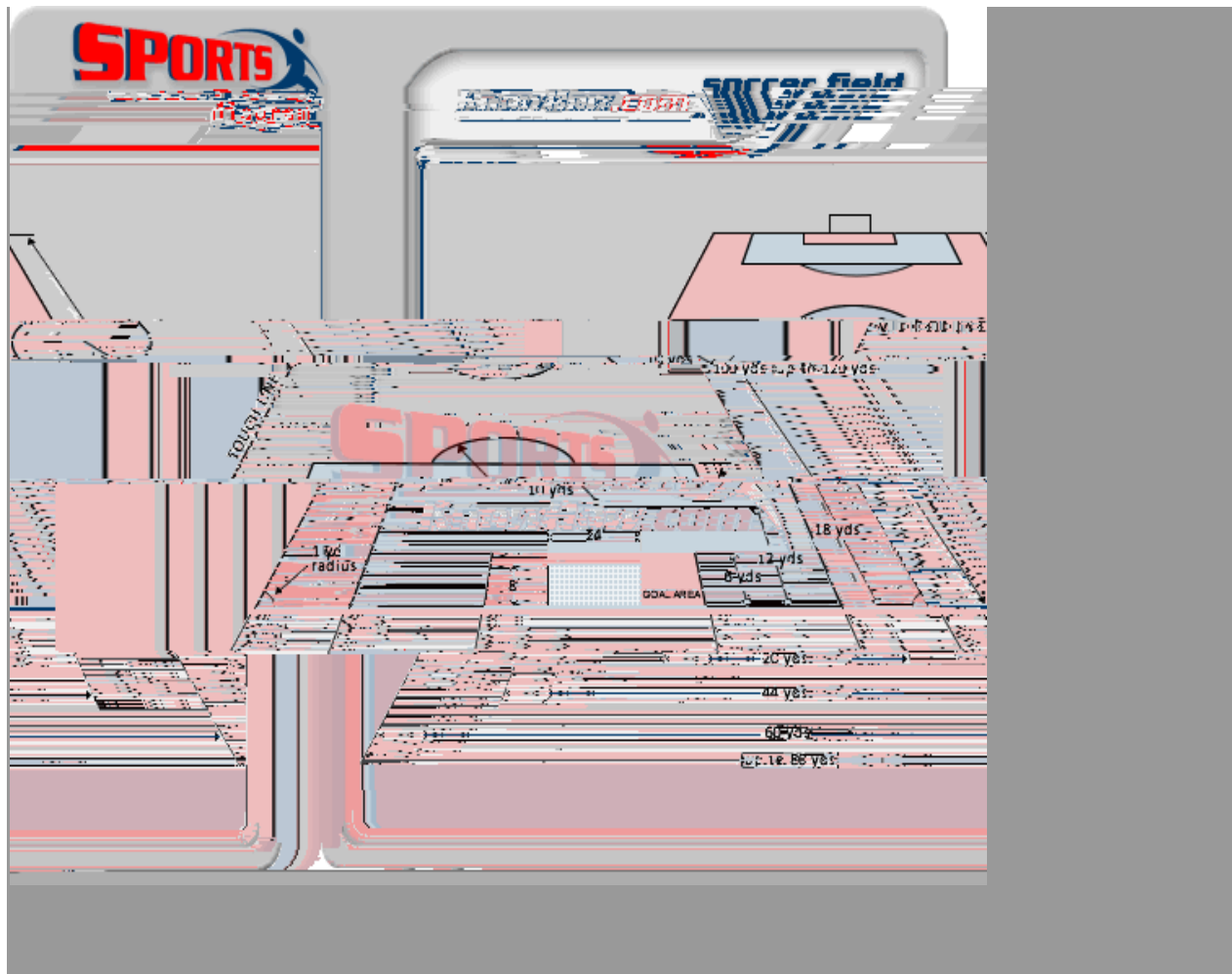
To date, 17 World Cup trophies have been awarded in men's competition and four in women's. See the chart listing the World Cup Champions.

Soccer, as we know it today, was molded during the 1960s. Increased media coverage and TV broadcasts made the game far more popular than it ever was. Commercial air flight replaced traveling by ship, which made it more efficient to conduct international matches.

BASIC RULES OF SOCCER :

Soccer is a game in which two teams of 11 players (one of whom is the goal keeper) try to kick or head a ball into the opponents' goal. Players score a goal when they succeed in moving the whole ball over the opposing team's goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar. Players may use any part of their body except their arms and hands. Up to a maximum of three substitutes may be used in any match played in an official competition organized under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations or the national associations. The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line - whether on the ground or in the air - and when play has been stopped by the referee. The game is controlled by one Referee on the playing field and two assistant referees placed on opposite touchlines. The winning team is the one which has scored the most goals at the end of the game. The duration of an official match is 90 minutes played in two halves - each half lasting 45 minutes.





It may seem simple when you know it, but the rules governing where the ball can go on and off the soccer pitch are certainly not obvious.

As long as it is within the sidelines and goal lines — which form the rectangle of the field — players can control the ball with any part of their bodies except their arms. Within their respective penalty areas, the goalkeepers can also use their hands. For more on the areas of the field, [click here](#).

The Corner Kick

If a player puts the ball out along his own goal line, the opposing team is awarded a corner kick.