

# Soccer



## I. The history of football

Football as we know it today was born in England in 1848 when people from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge came together to decide on rules for a new game. The game looked different from that of today and was still very much like rugby with up to 20 men on one side. In 1857 the first official club was founded in Sheffield and is today called Sheffield United (and today Sheffield is one of the cities that have two clubs: Sheffield Wednesday and Sheffield United). In 1863 the Football Association in England was formed, and in 1870 they decided to have only 11 players on each side.

There was always a difference between England and Scotland. In England football, or soccer, was a gentleman's sport at first, but in Scotland it was a game for everybody. The two countries even had different rules at first. In 1872 the first game between England and Scotland took place.

All this was before Germany had an official football club: the first German football club was FC Hannover in 1878.

As the famous player Gary Lineker said, "Football is a simple game; 22 men chase a ball for 90 minutes, and at the end the Germans win!"

## II. The Rules of modern football (soccer)

Soccer is a ball game played by two teams. The ball is advanced with the feet, that's why the sport is also called football. As not to confuse it with other variants of football, e.g. American football, rugby, or Gaelic football, the official name of this sport is association football (after the London Football Association). But English native speakers usually just call it soccer, football, footie, footy or footer.

### Basic rules

**Object:** The object is to score goals.

**Players:** Each team has 11 players:

a goalkeeper (also called goalie) who tries to block the shots by the opposing team

the fullbacks (defense) who try to prevent the opposing team from scoring goals

the halfbacks (or midfielders) who play both offense and defense

the forwards (or strikers) who try to score goals for their team

**Duration:** The game is played in two halves of 45 minutes each. At halftime the teams change ends.

### Playing

Except for the goalie and at throw ins, players must not touch the ball with their hands or arms. They can, however, use any other part of the body.

(Übung zur Verwendung von 'must not' auf der nächsten Seite.)

### Scoring:

A goal is scored when the ball has crossed the goal line between the posts and under the crossbar.

**Field:** This is what a soccer field looks like.



## Soccer-Quiz

What is 'soccer' officially called?

- association football
- London Football Association
- Gaelic football

What does the goalie do?

- He tries to score goals for his team.
- He tries to block shots from the opposing team.
- He controls the game.

Are players allowed to touch the ball with their hands?

- They are allowed in certain situations only.
- No. Nobody is allowed to do this.
- Yes. The players can use their hands all the time.

»They're still trying.« - What does it mean?

- One team has scored more goals than the other but the game isn't over yet.
- The number of goals scored by each team is equal but the game isn't over yet.
- The game is over and the number of goals scored by each team is equal.

Who can be awarded a corner kick?

- the referee
- the defending team
- the attacking team

Übung zur Verwendung von '**must not**'

- must not (nicht dürfen) - Verbot (etwas darf nicht sein)

- need not (nicht müssen) - Möglichkeit (etwas muss nicht unbedingt sein, kann aber)

The players must not touch the ball with their hands or arms. = Die Spieler dürfen den Ball nicht mit der Hand oder dem Arm berühren.

Hier sind noch ein paar Beispiele. Wähle die richtige Form aus.

The teams  must not/  need not have more than 11 players on the field during a match.

But there  must not/  need not even be 11 players playing for each team.

Players  must not/  need not wear anything which might injure another player.

Players  must not/  need not play the ball with their feet only.

Substituted players  must not/  need not return to the game.

Players  must not/  need not leave the game without the referee's permission.

Players  must not/  need not hold an opponent.

The referee  must not/  need not send a player off if he has committed foul play.

However, if a player is sent off during the game, he  must not/  need not be replaced.

A period must  not/  need not be over after exactly 45 minutes.

### III. Advanced exercise

Write a short text about the differences between soccer and American rugby.