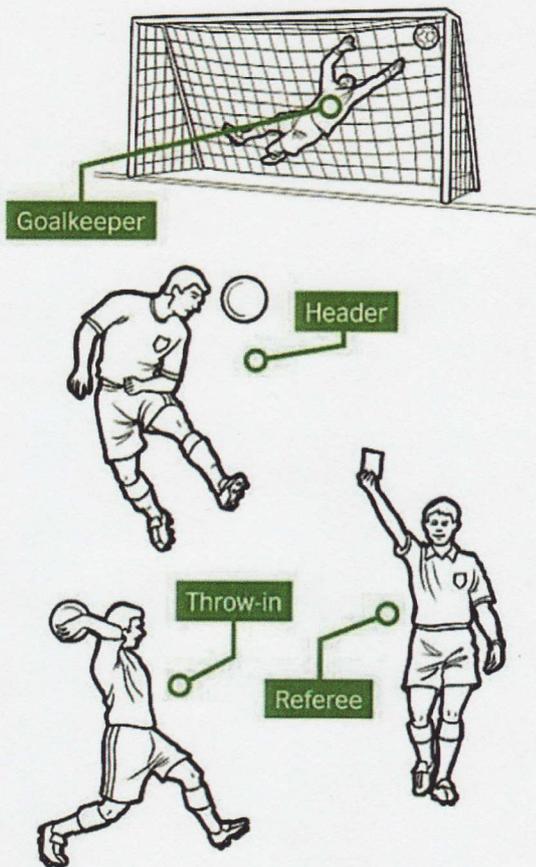


FOOTBALL

Get ready for the Summer Olympic Games with our new series and learn about different Olympic and Paralympic sports.



Probably the world's most popular sport, football also takes its place at the Olympics.

Questions and answers

There's football at the Olympics? You don't hear much about it. I mean, it's not like the World Cup, is it?

You're right – the World Cup is definitely the biggest prize in football, but the sport has a long Olympic history too.

Lesson No. 16



You're not going to tell me the ancient Greeks played, are you?

No, but football has been on the Olympic programme since 1900. And women's football since 1996. In comparison, the first World Cup only took place in 1930.

Ok, but I suppose the same teams always win: Brazil, Italy, Germany ...

Actually no. Italy's won once and Germany (the old German Democratic Republic) once also, but Brazil has never won.

Really? So who's won all the medals?

Hungary, the former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union have each won five medals in the men's competition and the USA women's team has won three golds.

Activity

Decide if the following statements about the text are true or false.

- 1. The World Cup is a more important football competition than the Olympics.
- 2. Football was played at the ancient Olympics.
- 3. European teams have won

more medals than other countries in the men's competition.

- 4. Messi and Ronaldinho have never played at the Olympics.
- 5. It is further from Rio to Manaus than it is from Los Angeles to Boston.
- 6. The offside rule is complicated.

Who is playing in Rio 2016?

Some of the best players in the world.

Only some? They aren't all coming?

Since 1992 male footballers have to be under 23 years old, though they can have three older players in each team. But you still get to see some real stars – in Beijing 2008 Messi and Ronaldinho

both played.

And I can see them all in Rio?

No. Football is the only sport where events will take place in other cities. Games will be played in some of the 2014 World Cup venues in Brasilia, Belo Horizonte, Salvador, Sao Paulo and Manaus.

So fans might have to go to the Amazon? That's a lot of travelling.

Rules for Football

- Two teams of 11 players play on a pitch. Each team tries to score more goals than the other.
- A game lasts 90 minutes, divided into two 45-minute halves.
- Players can use any part of their body except their arms and hands to move the ball. The exception is when a player takes a throw-in.
- Goalkeepers can use their hands, especially when making a save.
- If a player commits a foul, then a free kick is awarded to the other team.
- If there is a foul inside the penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded to the other team.
- If there is a more serious foul such as a bad tackle or handball, the referee can show a yellow or red card. Two yellow cards or one red card mean a player is expelled from the game.
- If teams have the same score (a draw) then extra time and penalty shootouts are used to decide the winner.
- In Olympic football male players must be under 23 years old, though they can have three older players in each team. There are no age restrictions for female players.

Wordsearch

G	O	Z	J	H	E	A	D	E	R
O	F	D	K	E	C	A	M	T	O
A	X	X	G	T	W	S	X	D	F
L	D	R	E	F	E	R	E	E	F
K	F	P	S	T	B	Z	J	Q	S
E	C	F	S	P	I	T	C	H	I
E	N	G	O	A	L	Y	W	Y	D
P	Y	Q	G	U	S	I	B	K	E
E	C	K	K	C	L	A	A	A	M
R	D	X	J	F	D	R	A	W	N

Find these words in the grid: goalkeeper, header, referee, pitch, foul, goal, draw, offside

Answers

- 1.True; 2.False; 3.True; 4.False; 5.False; 6.True

just one more question?
Sure, what is it?

Can you explain the offside rule?

Um... not unless you've got all day...



Wow! You seem to know a lot about it – can I ask you

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