



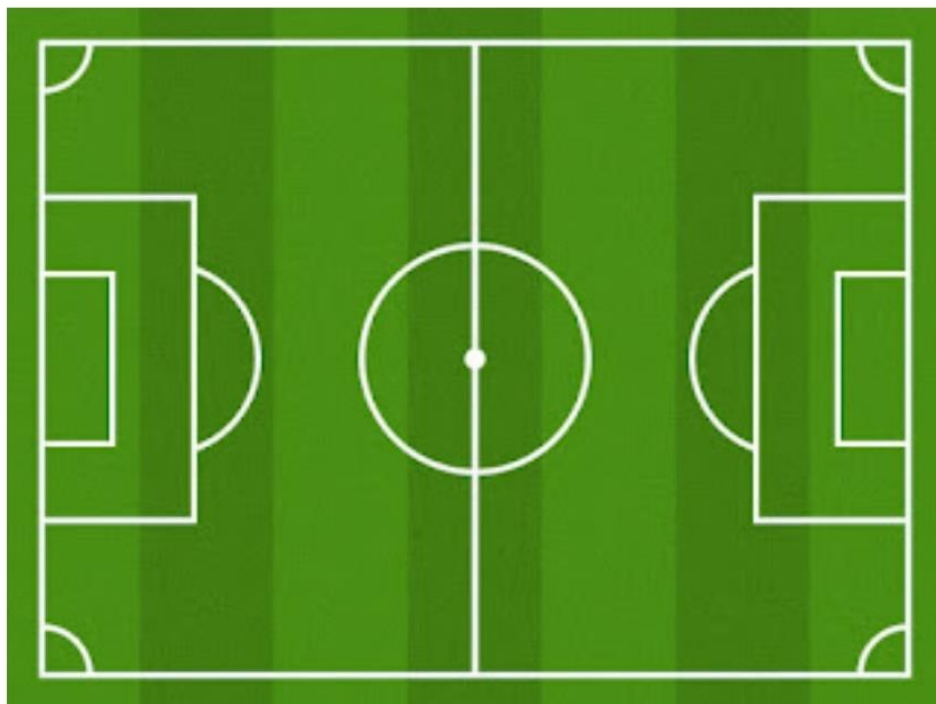
Football



Football



March 31, 2022



Football is a team sport played with a ball between two teams of 11 players. It is played by approximately 250 million players in over 200 countries making it the world's most popular sport. The game is played on a rectangular field with a goal post at each end. The objective of the game is to score more goals than the opposition.



Players are not allowed to touch the ball with hands or arms while it is in play, except for the goalkeepers within the penalty area. Players may use any other part of their body to strike or pass the ball and mainly use their feet. The team that has scored more goals at the end of the game is the winner; if both teams have scored an equal number of goals, either a draw is declared or the game goes into extra time or a penalty shootout, depending on the format of the competition. Each team is led by a captain who has only one official responsibility as mandated by the Laws of the Game: to represent their team in the coin toss before kick-off or penalty kicks.

Football is governed internationally by the International Federation of Association Football which organises World Cups for men and women every four years. Approximately 190–200 national teams compete in qualifying tournaments within the scope of continental confederations for a place in the finals. The finals tournament is held every four years and involves 32 national teams competing over four weeks. It is the most prestigious men's football tournament in the world, and the most widely viewed and followed sporting event in the world.