



Football



tutorialspoint

SIMPLY EASY LEARNING

www.tutorialspoint.com



<https://www.facebook.com/tutorialspointindia>



<https://twitter.com/tutorialspoint>

About the Tutorial

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 skillfully 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.

The information here is meant to supplement your knowledge on the game. It is not a comprehensive guide on how to play.

Audience

This tutorial is meant for anyone who wants to know and learn about football. It is prepared keeping in mind that the reader is unaware about the basics of the game. It is a basic guide to help a beginner understand the game of football.

Prerequisites

Before proceeding with this tutorial, you are required to have a passion for the most popular game in the world i.e. football and an eagerness to acquire knowledge on the same.

Copyright & Disclaimer

© Copyright 2022 by Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd.

All the content and graphics published in this e-book are the property of Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd. The user of this e-book is prohibited to reuse, retain, copy, distribute, or republish any contents or a part of contents of this e-book in any manner without written consent of the publisher.

We strive to update the contents of our website and tutorials as timely and as precisely as possible, however, the contents may contain inaccuracies or errors. Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd. provides no guarantee regarding the accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of our website or its contents including this tutorial. If you discover any errors on our website or in this tutorial, please notify us at contact@tutorialspoint.com

1. Football – Overview

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.



Objective

Football is played by two teams on a large rectangular shaped grass field. There are two goal posts on both ends of the breadth of the field. Both the teams vie for the ball by tackling each other and try to kick the ball into opponent's goal post. The goalkeeper can only stop the ball

with hands within a restricted area around the goal post. Rest of the players have to play by kicking the ball and passing it within teammates.

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.

2. Football – Participating Countries

Soccer has its roots in China; however, Africa, Middle-east, Europe, and Americas play this game with utmost love. People from these regions love the sport and follow their national teams and favorite clubs.

Japan, South Korea, and Indonesia are the other countries with national teams that have represented in international events. Indonesia is first Asian country to have qualified for World Cup. However, India has made a mark in Asian tournaments and is yet to qualify for an international tournament.

The **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** is the governing body of 47 member associations. It was formed in 1954 and headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Some of these are intercontinental countries like Russia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Israel. Australia had joined AFC in 2006 before being a member of Oceania Football Federation.

There are as many as five governing bodies that manage football outside Asia. All the independent football bodies of various countries are associated with these five federations. Here is the list of various associations and member countries associated with them:

Confederation Africaine de Football (CAF) – Governing body for the participating countries which are Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria.

The Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) – Governing body for North America, Central America and the Caribbean along with Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.

CONMEBOL- The South American Football Confederation is the governing body of association for football in South America and the countries associated are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Uruguay.

Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) – It is the governing body for football associations in whole of Europe. It is a commemorate of 54 nations and some of those are Croatia, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, Bosnia, and Herzegovina.

3. Football – Playing Environment

Football is the only sport that draws maximum crowd compared to any other sport. Two teams dribble, pass, and tackle with the ball to score goals. Boxes are drawn around the goal post to indicate goalkeeper's area. A line is drawn in the center of football pitch, called half-way line. For every football match, there are four referees on field who check if the equipment and conditions are suitable before the start of play.

Dimensions of the Football Field

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 **kick-off**. 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 distance 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.

4. Football – Equipment

Football involves a lot of running around the field with the ball. The players also don't require sporting much gear to play the game. Cleat shoes, socks, shin protector, and head gear are some of the equipment's used by players. In this section, we will learn about these equipments in detail.

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 a protective equipment.

Soccer Ball: This 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.



5. Football – Popular Terms

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.

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.

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.

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.

Scoreline: Indication of scores of both the teams which also has the information about the home ground. If the scoreline 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 show 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.

6. Football – Players and Their Positions

Each Football team has 11 players and among these players, 1 is a goalkeeper. Be it the offensive or defensive team, the player's responsibility is to score a goal for the team and stop the opposing team from scoring a goal.

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.

Center 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.

7. Football – How to Play?

To become a good Football player, the basic and the most important requirement is to be fit, energetic, and tactful. This game needs a lot of running and technical skills in dealing with the ball and the opponent. You have to be a team player and an individual contributor at the same time. To be a Football player, you have to train hard and learn to be faster than your opponent.

Football Kick-off

A football match begins with the toss of coin. The match referee and the two captains meet at the center of the field. The captain of the team who wins the toss gets to decide which goalpost to attack in the first half, while the team that loses the toss gets to kick-off to begin the match.

The players take position in their own half of the field. The ball is placed at the center point of the field. Once the referee blows the whistle, a player from the team that lost the toss takes the kick-off, and the ball moves forward. This player cannot touch the ball again till any other player from either team touches the ball. During the second half, the teams switch goals and the team that won the toss gets to kick-off.

Football – Essential Skills

We have listed here a few essential skills that a player should acquire to become a professional footballer.

Learn to dribble: It is the most important act while playing the game. Dribbling means controlling and keep possession of the ball while running. To dribble means to keep the ball with you and your team's possession, you need to dribble well so that you touch the ball strong enough to move it forward but you should also see that it doesn't move away very far from you.

Learn to pass: To pass a ball means to move the ball accurately to the place where you want it to be. To pass a ball, you have to kick the ball in a direction where you want it to move. Passing a ball can be done using the inside of your foot, this will give good accuracy and require less power. After learning to pass the ball you can master the act by slicing and hooking the ball to pass it to your teammates.

Learn to shoot: Shooting a ball comes in scene when you are closer to a goal and you need to score a goal. This will need a lot of power and accuracy. You need to set your plantar foot and aim at the goal and shoot the ball.

Taking the right place on the field is very important. Sometimes the player needs to run a lot when he is not near the ball, in this situation the player needs to estimate his teammate's next move and take the position where his teammate expects him to be.

Learn to defend the goal: The player uses skills to try and get the ball away from the opponent player. The player needs to be focused and should quickly tackle the ball based on the moves of the other player. In some situations, opponent players could trick but the player should constantly keep an eye on the ball and player movements. This way a player can defend the opponent from scoring a goal.

Learn to head the ball: A player uses his forehead to guide the ball in the desired direction and passes it to his teammate. Heading the ball is frequent when scoring a goal after a corner kick.

Learn to juggle: Juggling is not an easy task, but it's important for a player to learn how to juggle when required. This helps to control the ball when it's coming in the air as the ball won't be on the ground every time.

Learn to use the non-dominant foot: It's very important for a player to learn how to use his non-dominant foot since this can be an advantage for the opposing team if not mastered. Playing with only the dominant foot is playing handicapped. Hence to learn how to use your non-dominant foot is very important.

Learn to be spontaneous and keep your originality: This is the key to master the game. Having an own style of play is a great asset. One should learn to be either tricky, fast, powerful or defensive.

Football – Rules & Regulations

Let's also understand the **rules of the game** that are to be followed while playing the game. Listed here are some of the major rules and regulations of the game.

Offside offence is one of the most important rule to follow in Football. It is basically designed so that the players do not cherry pick or bunch a lot of time near the opponent's goal. A player can be said to be in an offside position when he is in the opponent's half and also behind the last defender.

Throw-in comes into the game when the ball is either kicked or travels completely outside the field. The chance of throw-in is given to the team which didn't last touch it. Throw-in can be done from the place where the ball is outside the field. Throw-in means to catch the ball with both the hands behind the head and throw it inside the field.

The yellow card rules: The yellow card is issued to the players by the referee when a player commits a mistake. The referee shows the player yellow warning him of his first mistake. If a player is shown the yellow card twice then he should leave the game permanently. Reason for the referee to show the yellow card:

- a) The players who play the game disregarding the rules of the game.
- b) Playing dangerously which means hurting the head of the opponent's team members.
- c) Shooting the ball at any player intentionally.
- d) Goalkeeper violating the rules of the game by passing the ball with hands to his teammates when kicked by them.

- e) Wasting the time of game intentionally.

The red card rules: The red card is issued when a player is shown the yellow card twice and commits a mistake after that. Reasons for the referee to show the red card to a player are:

- a) Physically hurting a player by kicking intentionally.
- b) Intentionally jumping on a player.
- c) Hitting a player or charging a player roughly.
- d) Pushing or holding a player.
- e) Handling the ball incorrectly.

Free kick: These are given as a penalty for the team players when the opposing team makes a foul. There are two types of free kicks:

Direct free kick: In this, the ball can be kicked directly into the goal and it doesn't need to be passed or touched by the teammate of the kicker.

Indirect kick: In this, the ball must be touched by another teammate of the player who kicks it before scoring a goal.

The rules of penalty kick: A chance for penalty kick arises when a defending team player commits a foul in the opposing team's penalty box. Except the goalie all the other players must stand in line outside the penalty area. The goalie should stand on the goal line. The ball should be placed on the penalty spot and then kicked.

Corner kick: A chance for the corner kick arises when the ball goes over the goal line but not into the goal and was last touched by the defending team member.

Goal kick: When the ball goes over the goal line but not into the goal and was last touched by the attacking team, the ball will be then moved in to the possession of the defending team and the goalie performs the goal kick.