

READING PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 14-26**, which are based on Reading Passage 2 below.

Playing Soccer

There are many differences between playing soccer in the street and joining a youth team in an organized league in the USA

- A** Street soccer, as its name implies, is an informal variation of the sport, often played on the street, particularly in urban areas. There are many reasons for the widespread popularity of street soccer. Unlike youth soccer, its more formally organized counterpart, no large space is needed, and goal posts, corner markers, and marked lines, associated with the formal game, are typically absent, as are game officials or referees. Another attraction of street soccer is that it is played frequently and competitively, but does not necessarily require standard 11-a-side teams or fixed playing positions. Unlike in youth soccer, inexperienced street soccer players rarely learn from repetitive technical and tactical drills. Instead, they learn from their poor performance in competition, unconscious of the skills they are nonetheless developing, and without older adults or coaches present. Players learn without effort through playing the game, and soon attain an almost natural feeling for the sport.
- B** However, there are lots of cities in the world today where conditions are such that street soccer is no longer possible. Congested traffic now dominates where games were once played. Parks and open fields are used as hangouts for older teenagers with other interests. Add to this the requirement in many localities for official permits to use public spaces and the managed schedules that many young people have today, and spontaneous play of any kind is hard to imagine.
- C** In spite of all these obstacles, which are probably solvable in most instances, there is another sociological explanation of why in many places street soccer doesn't enjoy the same popularity it once did. In his book *How Soccer Explains the World*, US writer Franklin Foer observes: But for all the talk of freedom, the 1960s parenting style had a far less relaxed side too. Like the 1960s consumer movement which brought seat belts and airbags to cars, the (youth) soccer movement felt like it could create a set of ... regulations that would protect both the child's body and mind from damage. Soccer leagues like the one I played in as a child handed out 'participation' prizes to every player, no matter how few games his (or her) team won. Where most of the world accepts the practice of using your head to hit the ball as an essential element of the game, some (youth) soccer parents have worried over the potential for injury to the brain. An entire industry grew up to manufacture protective headgear. Even though very little medical evidence supports this fear, some youth leagues prohibited heading the ball altogether.

- D** A growing body of people don't believe street soccer involves a legitimate educational method. They argue that children need to be taught by experts. Youth soccer instruction now begins with four-year-olds, so that they will have an advantage as six-year-olds. This need to get ahead brings with it a fear of falling behind that only expert instruction can prevent. This type of instruction leaves no room for the trial-and-error approach of street soccer.
- E** One of the basic ideas of street soccer is that young players are assigned a particular role by a better player and are expected to play for the good of the team. Such an assignment runs counter to the idea of youth soccer that every child needs to learn every position and will benefit from doing so. In street soccer, you fill the role that you are best able to at a particular time. While this role assignment can change from game to game, the purpose is always the same: to get the best out of each individual at any given moment.
- F** In street soccer, children have to learn patience, to wait their turn, to realize that they are not entitled to make decisions, or even be listened to simply because they show up. Positions of responsibility are earned through competition within the team. Younger players in street soccer must wait to attain those positions. In youth soccer, however, with its overly democratic values, youngsters are guaranteed their time in the spotlight. Whether it's their turn to be captain, to play a central position or to take a crucial shot, youth soccer players come to believe that hard work and patience aren't really necessary.
- G** Not only does every youth soccer player get a chance, it is assumed that each individual has played well. 'Everyone's a winner; no one's a loser' is a guiding principle of youth soccer. This ensures each individual goes away positive about themselves. No one can leave a game or a practice feeling bad. But, if there really are no losers, then why try at all? Since giving less than your best receives the same reward as giving your best, why go to any extra effort?

In street soccer, every game results in a winner and a loser and everyone knows who is who. Losing a game is a common experience and players learn early on how to handle this. As a result, unlike most youth soccer players, they acquire resilience.

A further difference between these two strands of soccer is that in street soccer a formal record is not kept. You can lose one day and win the next. The results are only temporary and are forgotten within minutes of the end of the match. But in organized youth soccer, the position each person plays and the results are formally noted and maintained throughout a season.

Questions 14 – 19

Reading Passage 2 has seven sections, **A–G**.

Which section contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, **A–G**, to boxes 14–19 on your answer sheet.

- 14** a contrast between the ways young players gain experience of playing different positions
- 15** examples outside sport of greater emphasis on individual safety
- 16** a description of methods of selection for leadership on soccer teams
- 17** details of urban changes that discourage street soccer
- 18** a mention of the lesson that failure teaches street soccer players
- 19** an explanation of why youth soccer emphasises the need for coaches

Questions 20 and 21

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.

Write the correct letters in boxes 20 and 21 on your answer sheet.

The list below gives some possible reasons for the popularity of street soccer.

Which **TWO** of these reasons are mentioned by the writer of the text?

- A** Many famous soccer players got their start in street soccer.
- B** Young people can begin playing street soccer at a very early age.
- C** You do not need elaborate facilities to play street soccer.
- D** Inexperienced street soccer players are not criticised for mistakes.
- E** Street soccer teams can have varying numbers of players.

Questions 22 and 23

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.

Write the correct letters in boxes 22 and 23 on your answer sheet.

The list below gives some possible results of the 1960s parenting style.

Which **TWO** of these results are mentioned by Franklin Foer in the excerpt from *How Soccer Explains the World*?

- A** Participation in youth soccer became much more expensive.
- B** Some youth soccer leagues adopted more restrictive rules of play.
- C** Fewer young people joined youth soccer teams.
- D** Youth soccer players were sometimes rewarded for simply playing in games.
- E** Soccer equipment manufacturers directed advertising towards parents.

Questions 24–26

Complete the summary below.

Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 24–26 on your answer sheet.

Winners and losers

For youth soccer players, a key **24** _____ is that they should always come away from the game with a positive attitude. In this respect, regardless of the effort the players make, they get some kind of **25** _____ at the end of a game. In street soccer, however, players gain resilience because they have to learn to cope with failure. But the outcome of a match isn't remembered for long. In fact, no-one ever keeps a **26** _____ of the results of games.

14 – 19 段落配对题

题号	答案	关键词定位 (段落原文)	解释
14	E	“One of the basic ideas of street soccer is that young players are assigned a particular role... <i>Such an assignment runs counter to the idea of youth soccer that every child needs to learn every position ...</i> ”	先讲街头足球按能力分工，再对比青少年足球“人人轮岗”——正是“获得不同位置经验的对比”。
15	C	“Like the 1960s consumer movement which brought seat belts and airbags to cars , the (youth) soccer movement...”	段 C 用 汽车安全带、气囊 为跨领域（体育之外）的安全重视实例。
16	F	“Positions of responsibility are earned through competition within the team ... Younger players... must wait to attain those positions.”	描述队内通过竞争、等待来选拔 队长等领导角色 的方式。
17	B	“ Congested traffic now dominates where games were once played. Parks and open fields are used as hangouts... official permits...”	罗列城市交通、场地用途、许可制度等 城市变化 如何妨碍街头足球。
18	G	“ Losing a game is a common experience and players learn early on how to handle this . As a result... they acquire resilience.”	明确指出 失败带来的教训（心理韧性）。
19	D	“They argue that children need to be taught by experts ... fear of falling behind that only expert instruction can prevent .”	解释为何青少年足球强调 必须有教练/专家指导。

20 – 21 街头足球受欢迎的原因（选两项）

题号	答案	关键词定位	解释
20	C	段 A: “ no large space is needed, and goal posts, corner markers, and marked lines... are typically absent .”	不需要“复杂场地设施”即可开踢。
21	E	段 A: “...does not necessarily require standard 11-a-side teams or fixed playing positions.”	球员人数可变、编制灵活。

22 – 23 1960 年代育儿风格的结果（选两项）

题号	答案	关键词定位	解释
22	B	段 C: “...some youth leagues prohibited heading the ball altogether .”	联赛因安全顾虑 收紧比赛规则。
23	D	段 C: “Soccer leagues... handed out ‘ participation ’ prizes to every player , no matter how few games...”	仅因参赛便能获奖，奖励“只是参加”。

选项 E（厂商针对家长宣传）虽提到“protective headgear”产业，但文中未提到“广告营销”或“面向家长推销”，故不选；A、C 在原文均未出现。

24 – 26 摘要填空

题号	答案	关键词定位
24	principle	段 G: “‘Everyone’s a winner; no one’s a loser’ is a guiding principle of youth soccer.”
25	reward	段 G: “...giving less than your best receives the same reward as giving your best...”
26	record	段 G: “...in street soccer a formal record is not kept .”