Sport Football History:

The early years

Modern football originated in Britain in the 19th century. Since before [medieval](#) times, "[folk football](#)" games had been played in towns and villages according to local customs and with a minimum of rules. [Industrialization](#) and [urbanization](#), which reduced the amount of [leisure](#) time and space available to the working class, combined with a history of legal prohibitions against particularly violent and destructive forms of folk football to undermine the game's status from the early 19th century onward. However, football was taken up as a winter game between residence houses at public (independent) schools such as Winchester, [Charterhouse](#), and Eton. Each school had its own rules; some allowed limited handling of the ball and others did not. The variance in rules made it difficult for public schoolboys entering university to continue playing except with former schoolmates. As early as 1843 an attempt to standardize and [codify](#) the rules of play was made at the [University of Cambridge](#), whose students joined most public schools in 1848 in adopting these "Cambridge rules," which were further spread by Cambridge graduates who formed football clubs. In 1863 a series of meetings involving clubs from metropolitan [London](#) and surrounding counties produced the printed rules of football, which prohibited the carrying of the ball. Thus, the "handling" game of [rugby](#) remained outside the newly formed [Football Association](#) (FA). Indeed, by 1870 all handling of the ball except by the goalkeeper was prohibited by the FA.