

History

The earliest reference to cricket is in [South East England](#) in the mid-16th century. It spread globally with the expansion of the [British Empire](#), with the first international matches in the second half of the 19th century. The game's governing body is the [International Cricket Council](#) (ICC), which has over 100 members, twelve of which are [full members](#) who play Test matches. The game's rules, the [Laws of Cricket](#), are maintained by [Marylebone Cricket Club](#) (MCC) in [London](#). The sport is followed primarily in [South Asia](#), [Australia](#), [New Zealand](#), the United Kingdom, [Southern Africa](#) and the [West Indies](#).