

Football one is thrown back by the scrum

[Entertainment](#), [Games](#)



Football Passion, action, excitement, beauty.

Anyone who has played any of the seven variations of football knows the allure of their sport. Whether a round ball skids along the grass towards your feet or an ellipse one is thrown back by the scrum half, the nature is the same. The moment is yours. The opportunity to drive forward, dribble or make a pass is there.

You may get tackled and hit the ground, but every so often you break through or dribble past the last man and you score. At amateur or at professional level the reward is the same, we want to win. This is why we play. The pouring rain or the scorching sun will not deter us. History and evolution Present day, there are seven variations of football: American football, association football, Australian rules football, Canadian football, rugby league football, and rugby union football.

We will focus on association football or soccer, and rugby union. All variations of football have evolved from common ancestors. Ancient Greeks and Romans (600 A.D.) played games that involved hoofing a ball with the foot. The Greek game phaininda, later renamed by the Romans harpastum, was a passing team orientated ballgame, between two sides in a controlled area.

The teams would try to throw the ball over the head of the other team and force the opposition back behind a marked line, with the centre of the playing field having some kind of special meaning. Although little is known about the rules of the game, there are ancient ornaments that depict people practising with a ball at feet, and a poem from the Greek poet Antiphanes describes a game of phaininda, writing of short pass resulting in a scrum! Over the seas, in China,

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the Han Dynasty (206BC to 220AD) created a game called cuju, which literally means kick ball. Two teams tried to kick a ball through a hole in a sheet hanging between posts. Players could not use their hands, like today's soccer, and melees took place that is likened to modern day rugby. Today rugby and soccer are very different.

These sports have taken different evolutionary pathways and each established official rules and regulations to become organized sports around the early 1800s.