**Cricket**

The sport of [cricket](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cricket) has a known history beginning in the late 16th century. Having originated in southeast England, it became the country's national sport in the 18th century and has developed globally in the 19th and 20th centuries. International matches have been played since 1844 and [Test cricket](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Test_cricket) began, retrospectively recognized, in 1877. Cricket is the world's second most popular spectator sport after [association football](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_football). Governance is by the [International Cricket Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Cricket_Council) (ICC) which has over one hundred countries and territories in membership although only twelve play Test cricket.

Cricket was probably created during [Saxon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Saxons) or [Norman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normans) times by children living in the [Weald](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weald), an area of dense woodlands and clearings in south-east England that lies across [Kent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kent) and [Sussex](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sussex).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_cricket#cite_note-PWT-1) The first definite reference is dated Monday, 17 January 1597 (["Old Style"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Style_and_New_Style_dates) Julian date, the year equating to 1598 in the modern calendar).

There have been several speculations about the game's origins including some that it was created in France or Flanders. The earliest of these speculative references is dated Thursday, 10 March 1300 and concerns the future [King Edward II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_II_of_England) playing at "creag and other games" in both [Westminster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westminster) and [Neweden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newenden).

**The offensive team can lose possession of the football by:**

Scoring

Not getting 10 yards in four downs.

Fumbling or dropping the football and the defensive team recovers it.

Throwing the football to a defensive player for an interception.

Punting or kicking the football to the defensive team.

Missing a field goal.

Getting tackled in the end zone for a safety.

### First definite reference

### John Derrick was a pupil at the [Royal Grammar School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Grammar_School%2C_Guildford), then the Free School, in Guildford when he and his friends played creckett circa 1550

A 1597 (Old Style – 1598 New Style) court case in England concerning an ownership dispute over a plot of common land in [Guildford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guildford), [Surrey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surrey) mentions the game of crecket.

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