

According to Bleacher Report, soccer is played in all 200+ countries around the world. In fact, with 3.5 billion fans, there are only 35 countries where soccer is *not* rated as the number one sport. In a distant second place, cricket is celebrated by only 2.5 billion fans in 104 countries with basketball rounding out the top 3 at 2.2 billion fans in 195 countries. The beautiful, yet complex sport of soccer is the number one sport in the world because of its limited equipment, accessibility to others, and simplicity of rules.

There are very few items that one would need to play the game of soccer. Truthfully, all one would really need is a ball that is big enough to kick around. However, if you were to play this game on a real team, you are required to also have shoes on your feet and shin guards to protect your legs. Other than that, as long as there is at least one ball, you are ready to play the game of soccer. This makes it pretty easy for anyone to play almost anywhere.

Since a ball is really the basic equipment, soccer can be played by nearly everyone! In fact, many poorer communities and less-developed cultures can be seen playing soccer without shoes, on the sand, in the dirt, in the street, or even while there is snow on the ground! You wouldn't be able to play basketball with snow on the ground since you would be unable to bounce the ball! This brings me to my third and final discussion on why soccer is the number one sport in the world – the rules are very easy to learn.

Soccer has very basic, easy to understand rules that even small children can comprehend. Simply put, the goalie is the only player that is allowed to use their hands. Other than that, all players are allowed to use any part of their body except for their hands! The object of the game is to score a goal in the other team's net by either kicking the ball with a part of their leg or using your head. The team that has the most goals at the end of the game wins. It really doesn't get much less complicated than that!

You can now see why soccer is considered the number one sport in the world. It only requires a ball, any amount of open space, and one basic rule of not touching the ball with your hands. Soccer is a magical game that unifies people from all around and brings countless smiles to the faces of the young and old as well as the rich and poor. Now... who would like to kick the ball around with me?