



FROM THE HISTORY OF FOOTBALL THE GAME OF MILLIONS

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Abstract: Today, there is a sport in the world that both young and old watch with great interest and actively take part in. Football, which calls the peoples of the world to friendship, mutual respect, and unity, is also one of the fields that has developed significantly and continues to grow in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: The first rules of football, the goalkeeper, the sport of football, handball (playing with the hand), the 11-meter kick (penalty kick), conditions and requirements.

Uzbek footballers, through their patience and perseverance, have been making a special contribution to enhancing the prestige of our country and fulfilling our people's hopes and aspirations in the field of sports. During the years of our nation's independence, Uzbek footballers have raised the flag of Uzbekistan high on the world stage and achieved great honor and glory.

Under the direct initiative and leadership of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, all necessary conditions are being created to further improve young people's physical development through football and to enable them to demonstrate true courage and bravery and achieve high results in international football arenas. Football in Uzbekistan stands out for its honesty, rich values, modesty, fair attitude toward opponents, and deep respect for them. In particular, on October 31, 2017, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a meeting was held dedicated to improving the management system in the field of physical education and sports, developing mass sports, selecting and



training talented athletes, strengthening the sector with qualified personnel, and constructing modern sports facilities. At the meeting, the popularization of physical education and sports was identified as one of the key directions of the country's social policy. This is because sport strengthens public health, educates the younger generation to be healthy and well-rounded, promotes a healthy lifestyle in society, and as a result helps prevent various diseases.

This article provides information about the history of the emergence of football, the stages of its development, and its establishment and growth in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Football is one of the most ancient games. According to the English, playing with a ball using the feet was already popular on the British Isles as early as the 9th century. On October 26, 1863, during the establishment of the Football Association of England in London, the first official rules of the game, consisting of 13 articles, were approved. These rules later became the foundation of football for all other national associations.

According to the initial rules of football, the length of the field was not to exceed 200 yards (183 meters), and the width was not to exceed 100 yards (91 meters). The goals consisted of two posts without a crossbar, and the distance between the posts was 8 yards (7.32 meters). In 1866, a rope was stretched between the posts to limit the height. By 1876, ten years later, this rope was replaced with a wooden crossbar.

In 1866, the goalkeeper was not allowed to play the ball with the hands. In 1871, the use of the right hand was permitted, but only within the goal area. It took more than 30 years (until 1902) for goalkeepers to be allowed to use their hands inside the penalty area as well. For a long time, there were neither penalty kicks nor 11-meter kicks; punishments were limited to free kicks for rule violations. Finally,



in 1891, one of the strictest penalties—the 11-meter kick—was introduced, which was called a “penalty” in English.

During the formative years of football, team captains were responsible for ensuring that the rules of the game were observed. Referees appeared on football fields in 1880, and one year later they began officiating matches together with two assistants. In 1878, the whistle was introduced; before that, referees used their voices or hand signals to stop or restart the game.

In those years, the rules were neither uniform nor mandatory for all national football associations. Each association could make various changes to the rules at its own discretion. This situation created difficulties in holding international matches and organizing international competitions. In 1882, the independent football associations—namely those of England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland—were united. As a result, unified rules were adopted, and an International Board with the authority to introduce changes to the Laws of the Game was established.

In 1871, the format of the national cup competition was approved in England. Today, English football clubs compete for this cup. The first international football match took place in 1873 between the national teams of England and Scotland. At that time, when the number of players exceeded eleven, their positioning on the field differed from today’s formations. The England team had seven attackers, one midfielder, two defenders, and one goalkeeper, while the Scotland team consisted of six attackers and two midfielders.

By the 1880s, football began to spread to countries on the European continent. In 1875, football was introduced in the Netherlands and later in Denmark. From 1882, football started to be played in Switzerland, from 1890 in the Czech lands, and from 1897 in Russia.



In 1882, the International Football Association Board was founded. Finally, on May 21, 1904, at the initiative of France, the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) was established, which today includes more than 200 member countries. Alongside FIFA, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) has been operating since 1954.

Since 1930, the Football World Cup has been held every four years, and since 1958, the European Championships for national teams have also been organized. In 1900, football became an Olympic sport, although it was officially included in the Olympic Games program in 1908.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) was established in 1954 and currently unites more than 40 countries. The Football Federation of Uzbekistan became a member of FIFA and the AFC in 1994 and currently participates in all official competitions organized by FIFA and the AFC.

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