

Sports Balls

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Football

- American football is a hodgepodge that developed from two sports, rugby and soccer.
 - In 1960 the American Football League was created
- A football's shape is actually called a prolate spheroid, which translates to "long sphere."



Basketball

- The first basketballs were colored brown.
- Basketball was invented by James Naismith in 1891.
- It was invented to keep students fit and busy indoors during the winter.



Soccer Ball

- Soccer balls have 32 panels.
- Each panel represents one for the 32 countries of Europe.
- The earliest versions of soccer can be traced back 3,000 years.



Baseball

- Baseballs contain a cork center called a “pill” that is wrapped by two thin rubber layers.
- Each ball used in the US major leagues has 108 stitches.
- Each of the 108 stitches is actually double stitched so technically there are 216 stitches.



Tennis Ball

- Tennis balls were first white or black.
- In 1972 tennis balls took on their bright yellow neon color.
- The Wimbledon tennis matches did not change the ball color to yellow until 1986.



Golf Ball

- The first golf balls were made out of feathers wrapped in leather.
 - These feather balls flew much further than the ones today.
 - Golf was the only sport ever played on the moon.



Volleyball

- Volleyball took some of its qualities from tennis and handball.
 - It was invented by Willian G. Morgan in 1895.
- It was designed as an indoor sport for men who found basketball to be too vigorous.



Rugby Ball

- The first rugby balls were plum-shaped because they were made of pig bladders.
- In the 1800s they were made egg-shaped and from rubber inner tubes.
- Today, they are oval-shaped as oval balls are easier to play with.



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Bowling Ball

- Bowling balls can weigh between 6 and 16 pounds.
 - In the early 1900s they were made of wood.
 - Today, they are made with plastic and polyester.



Bocce Ball

- The first known documentation from bocce ball was in 5200 B.C in Egypt.
 - It was first played with stones not balls.
 - Bocce ball became an Olympic sport in 1896.

