

# Sport in the European Union

WHEN YOU'VE GOT  
HEALTH, YOU'VE GOT  
EVERYTHING.



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Sport represents an integral part of the lives of millions of Europeans. Support for sport builds community cohesion, grows social inclusion and leads to an enhanced sense of European identity. Sport is also a key facet of Member States' and the larger European economies; the sector employs millions of European citizens, and adds billions in revenue.



Sport is therefore a vital part of what it means to be European. Policymakers, education professionals, regional and national experts are directly and regularly involved in ensuring sport continues tackle challenges in this field.



Many of Europe's most popular sports today developed from traditional pastimes, many of which originated in the United Kingdom. The most common sport in Europe is football. Another popular sport in Europe is Rugby Union, which is especially enjoyed in southern France, parts of the UK, Ireland and northern Italy. Cricket is a favourite summer sport in the UK and has been exported to other parts of the former British Empire. Tennis is another famous European sport now played all over the world. Just as the popular and ancient game Boxing. An even older sport is skiing. Skiing is not only a famous sport, but also a popular holiday activity.



Swimming has a long history, dating back to prehistoric times. It is popular throughout Europe, with many countries boasting strong competitive swimming programs. Governed by the International Swimming Federation (FINA), swimming features numerous events in the Summer Olympics, and the World Swimming Championships are held every two years.



Begs the question - Does where you're born impacts what sport you'll play?. i.e if Michael Jordan was born in the UK would he have been a pro basketball player? If Tom Brady was born anywhere in Europe would he even know what a Quarterback is? If Brian O'Driscoll (Irish rugby player) was born in Sweden would he have laced up skates instead of rugby boots? As football is by far the most popular sport in Europe, are football players the best athletes and most skilful? Are elite-level footballers at a higher level than any other sport?



With more global sports such as tennis and golf, you could argue that you could make it pro in any country in Europe (if you can afford the equipment and coaching).



