

CULTURE

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

1 Discuss the questions with your partner.

- 1 Do you like playing or watching football?
- 2 Do many girls and women play football in your country?
- 3 Do you ever watch girls or women playing football on TV or live?

2 What can you see in the photos? Read the text and check your ideas. Match the photos A–D to the paragraphs 1–4.

A SPORT FOR ALL?

82

1 In 1920, there was a match between two women's football teams at Everton's football **ground** in Liverpool. Around 53,000 people went to watch it! Just a few years earlier, during the First World War, many men were fighting abroad. This meant there were no football players and no important **games**. People loved the sport and wanted to watch it, so women started to play. Some of the best players, such as Lily Parr, are still famous today. She became famous when she was only 14 and scored 43 goals in one season.

2 A year later, in 1921, the Football Association (FA) decided to stop women's football because they thought it was not a sport that women should play for payment. Fifty years later, in 1971, women could finally play football as a **profession** and not just as a hobby. However, it wasn't until 1993 that the English FA recognised international women's football. After that, women could play in competitions with other countries.

3 Nowadays, nearly three million girls and women play football in the UK, and there are 100,000 registered players who can play official **tournaments**. There are only about 200 professional players, and many have to do other work to earn enough money, but you can often see women's football on television. They sometimes play in really famous places, such as Wembley **Stadium** in London.

4 In schools, girls and boys play football in the **playground** – there are teams with both boy and girl players. Recently, all-girl teams are playing against all-boy teams. So football is really a sport for everyone!



3 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 How many people went to watch the women's football match in Liverpool in 1920?
- 2 Why did many women start playing football during the First World War?
- 3 Why did women stop playing football after 1921?
- 4 When did the Football Association in England allow women to play in international competitions?
- 5 Do professional women players receive a lot of money nowadays?
- 6 Do boys and girls always play in separate football teams?

4 Match the highlighted words in the text to the definitions.

- 1 three words for a place or places where people can play football
- 2 two words for football competitions
- 3 one word that means 'job'



TALKING POINTS

Are some sports in your country only for girls or only for boys?
Which ones are played only by girls or only by boys?

5 Look at the table about different types of football. In pairs, try to complete the gaps.

	When people first played it	Number of players	Indoors or outdoors	Where people play it most
Table football	¹ _____	Usually two or four	Indoors	Europe and the USA
Futsal	1930	ten (five in each team)	² _____	South America and ³ _____
FIFA video game	⁴ _____	Maximum 8	⁵ _____	All over the world
Football for the blind	1920s	⁶ _____	Both indoors and outdoors	⁷ _____



83 Listen and check. Complete the information you didn't know.

D



PROJECT

The history of a sport

Find out about the history of a sport in your country. Make a poster to present the information to the class. Use pictures and photos to make the poster more interesting. Include information about:

- when and where it started
- who plays the sport: only men, only women or both
- some famous teams or players
- what competitions there are for this sport

Present your poster to the class.