

The Beautiful Game

When some people think of soccer, they think of a sunny sky, crisp green grass, and athletic people in colourful uniforms making amazing passes to move the ball up the field. It truly is a beautiful game, but the beauty of soccer is so much more than that.

Soccer, called football outside North America, is the best game in the world. I should know because I play it. I play soccer in Vancouver, Canada. Soccer season in Vancouver is the fall and winter. We play rain or shine, in the mud and in the cold. It may not be pretty, but it is still beautiful.

The true beauty of soccer is that anyone can play it any time, anywhere, at any age. Soccer is a global sport. They play in Brazil, Spain, China, Italy, England, Canada, Kenya and hundreds more places. There is even a tournament for teams from all over the world. Soccer is played on all continents except for Antarctica. In fact, maybe the scientists there play too in their spare time when the weather lets them.

When people play soccer they play their hardest and it encourages team playing and sharing. You may not know that soccer is a sharing sport, but to do well you must pass the ball to your teammates and then get ready for a pass back to you.

Soccer is not a contact sport like American football, but it is a strategic game like chess. Soccer revolves around speed, teamwork and predicting what will happen. Even though soccer requires some practice, it is still a very simple sport. People of all ages can play and have fun playing it. You do not need to be rich or have a lot of equipment to do well.

There is an amazing amount of support for soccer from adults, teenagers and children. Volunteer referees give up their spare time to come and help control the game. Coaches volunteer, sometimes without even being asked to. The players know what is expected of them and are not supposed to call names or try to hurt other players or the referee. If they do, they are punished with yellow cards, red cards and sometimes even suspensions. To avoid that, players try their best to be nice and not to get angry with anyone. At the end of the game, to be sportsman-like, both teams shake hands and shake the referee's hand. Any misunderstandings are forgiven. It would be good if that happened more often in life.

Soccer fans can be anyone. Soccer brings together men and women, children and adults, rich and poor. Anyone can love the game, anyone can play and any child can dream of growing up to be a soccer star.

Soccer truly is a beautiful game.

