

# >>Pre-Game

## FIFA 2014 World Cup Predictions

Who will win the World Cup this year? We have a delicious pie chart for you to digest slowly.



## Science of a Bicycle Kick

Probably one of the coolest looking moves in Soccer. How does it work?



## Pro Picks: What the Pros Like

Our monthly veteran, we ask pros what they like. From cars to cake flavors, we ask them all.



Two of the earliest recorded football type games from Europe include Episkyros from Ancient Greece and the Roman version Harpastum, which similar to pre-codified “Mob Football” involved more handling the ball than kicking. Other competitive games revolving around the kicking of a ball have been played in a few countries throughout history, such as cuju in China. Non-competitive games included kemari in Japan and woggabaliri in Australia. The modern rules of association football are based on the mid-19th century efforts to standardise the widely varying forms of football played in the public schools of England. The history of football in England dates back to at least the eighth century.

The Cambridge Rules, first drawn up at Cambridge University in 1848, were particularly influential in the development of subsequent codes, including association football. The Cambridge Rules were written at Trinity College, Cambridge, at a meeting attended by representatives from Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Winchester and Shrewsbury schools. They were not universally adopted. During the 1850s, many clubs unconnected to schools or universities were formed throughout the English-speaking world, to play various forms of football. Some came up with their own distinct codes of rules, most notably the Sheffield Football Club, formed by former public school pupils in 1857, which led to formation of a Sheffield FA in 1867. In 1862, John Charles Thring of Uppingham School also devised an influential set of rules.

These ongoing efforts contributed to the formation of The Football Association (The FA) in 1863, which first met on the morning of 26 October 1863 at the Freemasons Tavern in Great Queen Street, London.

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**SOCCKER DAD 28** We always hear about Soccer Moms, but what about Soccer Dad's? They're out there too!

**4-4-3, WHY IS IT SO POPULAR? 30** Turns out this is most popular formation in soccer. We dive in and find out why. The reasons are suprising.

**THE PERFECT CORNER KICK 31** Working on your corner kicks? Read these tips from Lionel Messi himself on how to perfect your corners.