**History/Background:**

* **Soccer** first evolved as a game in England during the Middle Ages. Following many years of informal play, formal soccer rules were adopted by the English Football Association.
* Soccer is referred to as **"football"** in every country except the United States.
* Soccer is the focus of the largest sporting event in the world - **The World Cup** – held every 4 Years
* **FIFA - Fédération Internationale de Football Association**
* The **English Premier League (EPL)** is the top tier league in England boasting widely known teams such as Manchester United, Manchester City, Chelsea, Arsenal, Liverpool and many other popular teams. The EPL runs from August through May
* The Major American Soccer League is called **MLS – Major League Soccer –** Started in 1996 – years after the MLB, NBA, NFL, and NHL

**Players:**

* There are **11** players on the field for each team

**Positions**

* **Forwards =** entirely offensive. Their primary responsibility is to attach and score
* **Mid-Fielders =** both offensive and defensive players. They back up the forwards when attacking and scoring.
* **Defenders =** entirely defensive. Their primary responsibility is to prevent the opposing team from scoring.
* **Goalie =** entirely defensive. The goalie can use his/her hands and arms.

**Formations:**

The arrangement of players by position. Coaches adjust their formations depending on how attacking or defensive they want their team to be.

* 4-4-2 Formation would have 4 defenders, 4 midfielders, and 2 forwards

**The start of the game**

* Begins when the official blows the whistle AND the team kicking off makes the ball roll one revolution.

**The object of the game**

* Get the ball across the opponent’s goal line (in the goal)
* No player may touch the ball with any part of his or her arm, below the shoulder, while the ball is in play (except the goalie).

**Terminology:**

* Direct Kick – Free kick where a goal may be scored directly from kick
  + Examples: Tripping, Kicking, Charging, Striking, Pushing, Jumping at an opponent, Holding or pulling, deliberately handling the ball (hand ball).
* Indirect Kick – Free kick where another player must touch ball prior to going in to goal
  + Examples: Dangerous Play
* Penalty Kick – Direct kick for a foul which occurs in the penalty box.
* Thrown in- When the ball goes out of bounds on the sidelines, the team who did not touch the ball last is awarded a thrown in.
  + When throwing the ball in, the hands must come behind the head and both feet must remain on the ground until the ball touches someone or the ground.
* Free goal kick: If the attacking team kicks the ball over the endline, the defending team gets a free goal kick. This kick occurs from the corner of the goal box.
* Corner kick- If the defending team kicks (or hits) the ball over the endline, the attacking team is awarded a corner kick. This kick occurs from the corner arc.
* Offsides - when an offensive player is on the opponent's side of the field and a teammate touches the ball, there must be at least two opposing players who are closer to the goal line than the offensive player is, or that player cannot become involved in the play.

**Penalty Cards:**

* **Yellow Card** – player has been officially cautioned.A player who has been cautioned may continue playing in the game. However, a player who receives a second caution in a match must leave the field immediately and take no further part in the game. The player may not be replaced by a substitute.
* **Red Card** – player commits a serious offence resulting in that player being ejected from the game. Player is suspended from the next game as well. No substitutions allowed for that player.