



The World Games  
2022 BIRMINGHAM, USA

# KORFBALL

## FROM AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS



Korfbal was invented in 1902 by Dutch school teacher Nico Broekhuysen. Broekhuysen had traveled to Sweden to learn about "gymnastics" for children. While there he learned "ringboll," a Swedish game where players could score points by throwing a ball through an elevated ring on a 3-meter pole. In Swedish ringboll, boys and girls played together, an element that Broekhuysen kept when he created his own version of the game back in the Netherlands. Back in Amsterdam he began playing a similar game with his students. Rather than using a ring, the pole had a basket or "korf" in Dutch. From then on the sport was referred to as "korfbal." The fact that boys and girls, and even grown men and women, played together created controversy for the sport early on. However, by 1920, it was a demonstration game at the Summer Olympics and by 1933 the International Korfbal Association (IKF) had been established in Antwerp, Belgium. Since 1978 the International Korfbal Association has hosted a world championship, and korfbal has been played in The World Games since 1985. Today, the sport is played in 69 countries on 6 continents.

### THE NETHERLANDS

**POPULATION:**  
17.18 MILLION

**AREA:**  
16,041 SQUARE MILES

**CAPITOL:**  
AMSTERDAM

**SOVEREIGNTY DATE:**  
MAY 15, 1648

**GDP:**  
826.2 BILLION USD

**MEDIAN GROSS INCOME:**  
\$36,000 EU / \$39,849 USD

**TOP EXPORT:**  
REFINED PETROLEUM

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# BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NETHERLANDS

In ancient times, the land now known as the Netherlands was inhabited by Germanic and Celtic tribes, before being conquered by the Roman Empire in the 1st century BC. Around this time the city of Nijmegen was established, serving as a military post. The city still stands today, and is recognized as the oldest city in the Netherlands.

As the Roman Empire fell, Germanic tribes began to invade. The Germanic Franks conquered the Roman's rule and established Christianity in the fifth Century. By 800 the people of this land were under the rule of Charles the Great, commonly known as Emperor Charlemagne. The land was ruled by Charlemagne until his death in 814. After Charlemagne's empire ended, the land was divided into principalities and small states ruled by many lower ranking nobility.

By the Middle Ages the region of the modern day the Netherlands was already recognized as a prominent trading and shipping center, with a flourishing economy. Trade routes reached across Europe to North Africa and Asia. The Netherlands also played a prominent role in the Renaissance, as the home of many great scholars, philosophers, and artists.

In 1482 the Dukes of Burgundy (who, through marriage, later unified with the Hapsburgs) established power over the Netherlands and in 1555 Charles of the Hapsburgs gifted The Netherlands to his son Phillip II, King of Spain, who ruled until 1581. During this time period, what is known as the "Eighty Years War" began. Political tension, prosecution, and fighting broke out in the land, due to the rule of Phillip II, who imposed his Roman Catholic faith, as well as further taxes on the people.

While the region of the Netherlands declared its independence from Spain in 1581 in the Union of Utrecht, the Eighty Years War didn't end until 1648, with Spain's recognition of the Netherlands' sovereignty. While much of the country had been damaged by war, by this time Amsterdam was nonetheless the largest trading center on the continent of Europe.

During the 18th century, as large kingdoms such as France, Austria, and Russia expanded, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, expanded to include modern day Luxembourg and Belgium. Belgium revolted and established sovereignty in 1830 and Luxembourg in 1890.

The Netherlands enjoyed an era of peace in the 19th century and remained neutral during World War I, however, the Dutch Resistance struggled to overcome Nazi forces and by 1940 the country was incorporated into the Third Reich. While the initial reconstruction after liberation was a trying time for the Dutch, the country is now one of the wealthiest and most stable in the world.

Today the Netherlands is a parliamentary democracy. The parliament is bicameral and the lower House of Representatives holds elections every four years. It also has a constitutional monarchy, however, the monarch's role is largely symbolic with little political influence. In the Netherlands' parliamentary democracy, citizens directly elect for positions in the legislature (or parliament). During elections voters select the party they support and after the election, the parties proportionally assign members to seats in parliament.

After all seats in parliament are assigned, legislators in parliament get to work trying to create a clear majority government through a "coalition." This is when representatives of different parties agree to work together in order to form a majority. After the coalition is agreed upon, the leader of the largest party in the coalition becomes Prime Minister and the leader of the second largest party in the coalition becomes Deputy Prime Minister.





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## CIVICS & CITIZENSHIP



If you've ever seen a picture of the Netherlands, there is a very good chance it had either a windmill or a bicycle in it. Windmills, which produce renewable energy, and bicycles, which provide carbon-zero transportation, are just two ways that **Dutch people try to remain sustainable**. To give you an idea of just how popular bicycles are in the Netherlands, consider this: the Netherlands has a population of 17 million people who own 22.5 million bicycles... and only 7.7 million cars. Taking care of the environment is important in Dutch culture, and has become even more important since the EU introduced the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Dutch people rank third in Europe for recycling - the country recycles 82% of its waste!

The Netherlands has the highest percentage of newspaper subscribers in the world, and Dutch people express a high level of trust in their media. This is just one example of the emphasis that Dutch culture puts on education. **In the Netherlands it is expected for people to be media literate and informed** of what is happening throughout their country and the world.



**One very important holiday in the Netherlands is Liberation Day**, also known as Freedom Day. Similar to the 4th of July in the United States, this holiday is celebrated on May 5th and commemorates the end of Nazi rule in the Netherlands. Cities host festivals, concerts, and parades celebrating the freedom that citizens now enjoy. On May 4th, the day before Liberation Day, the Netherlands honors all of those who have died in war during Remembrance Day.

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