



# Sports in the US



## General

- major pastime<sup>1</sup>, both for people doing sports actively and for spectators
- important subject at school
- good sports facilities, large playing fields in most high schools
- High-school championships

## Baseball

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baseball>

- American team sport (9 people in a team)
- game between pitcher (pitching team) and batter (batting team)
- aim: to score most runs
- duration: 2 – 3 hours
- equipment: bat, mitt (big glove to catch ball), baseball (size of tennis ball)
- teams in all major cities
- famous teams: New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox, Detroit Tigers, San Francisco Giants ...
- best teams compete in Major League, championship: the World Series
- baseball stadiums = ballparks, seating capacity between 48,000 – 52,000 spectators (biggest ballpark: New York Yankee Stadium, capacity 52,000)

## American Football

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_football](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_football)

- is said to be the most popular sport in the USA
- two teams/11 players each (or less)
- oval ball
- aim: to get the ball into the opponent's end zone with a field goal or touchdown
- only the defence or offence of a team are on the playing field
- playing field: 12 strips of 10 yards each
- very aggressive game
- many hard physical tackles
- complex protection gear: shoulder and thigh pads, mouthpieces, helmets
- the American Football Championship – the Super Bowl = most watched sports event worldwide

## Cheerleading



[http:// en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheerleading](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheerleading)

- founded in 1898 in Minnesota, originally all-male, now 97% female
- meaning of "cheerleading" = causing the sports spectators to cheer and applaud for sports teams
- cheerleading squads for baseball, handball, basketball, football, American football and ice-hockey
- now: not only associated with 4 team sports (baseball, basketball, etc.), but also a sport in its own right with national and international championships
- cheerleading elements: dances, jumps, stunts, tosses, tumbles
- team-related costumes, pompons, flags
- three age groups: peewees, juniors (10+), seniors (16+)

<sup>1</sup> pastime – Freizeitbeschäftigung, Zeitvertreib, 2 tackle – Zweikampf, 3 squad – team, 4 associated with – gebunden an, verbunden mit