This brief provides information on the popular sporting bodies of the APEC member economies. The brief is designed as thus:

- **Team Name**
- **Team Insignia/Mascot**
- **Level Played: Local/Regional/International**
- **Highest Performance Level: The most advanced stage, at the global level, that the team has reached**

### Australia


The two most popular sports in Australia in terms of participation, spectatorship and television viewing are Cricket and Rugby.

#### Rugby Union

Team Name: Australian Wallabies
Team Insignia/Mascot: The Wallaby
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- World Cup Champions: Twice
- Strong rivalry with New Zealand
- Next World Cup in 2013 in the United Kingdom

#### Cricket

Team Name: Australia National Cricket Team
Team Insignia/Mascot: Kangaroo and Bird Flanking a coat of arms
Level: International
Highest Performance Level:
- ICC Cricket World Cup Champions: 4 times
- The Australian Cricket team is one of two teams in The Ashes Series. The Ashes is considered the most celebrated rivalry in international cricket. Australia has held this title a record 31 times.

### Brunei

Sporting Bodies: Soccer, Basketball, Golf, Marathons and Rugby Union.

#### Soccer

Team Name: Duli Penigran Muda Mahkota Football Club
Team Insignia/Mascot: The Wallaby
Level: Premier League
Highest Performance Level:
- Malaysian Super League
- Singapore League Cup: Champions

Note:
- Following government interference in 2009 – the Football Association of Brunei Darussalam was suspended.
- The club is owned by the Crown Prince, HRH Al-Muhtadee Billah.
- Brunei is considered one of the weaker nations in sporting measures, however, this has greatly improved since 1999.

### Recent Updates

- The Australian Netball Team (The Diamonds) recently won the World Netball Championships, which took place in Singapore in July. It edged out New Zealand in the final.

### Hosted Events

Brunei Hosts two major Asian Sporting Events:
- Golf: The Brunei Open is part of the Asian Golf Tour
- Marathon: Brunei organised one of the richest Marathons in Asia, however, this has been put on hold in recent years.
China

Sporting Bodies: Aqua Sports, Badminton, Bandy, Baseball, Basketball, Boxing, Chess, Cricket, Curling, Figure Skating, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Motor racing, Rugby Union, Snooker, Table Tennis, Tennis.

The three most popular sports in China are Badminton, Basketball and Table Tennis.

Badminton
Team Name: China National Badminton Team
Level: International
Highest Performance Level:
- Thomas Cup (World Mens Team Championships): 8 times
  - Current Holders (2010)
- Uber Cup (World Womens Team Championships): 11 times
- Sudirman Cup (World Mixed Team Championships): 7 times
  - Current Holders (2010)
- Won the most medals in the Sport at Olympic competitions

Basketball
Team Name: Chinese National Basketball Team
Team Insignia: Golden Dragon enveloping a red Basketball
Level: International
Highest Performance Level:
- FIBA Asia Championships: 14 times
- 7 Olympic Appearances
- 8 World Championship Appearances
  - Current FIBA ranking: 10th

Note:
- Strongest team in Asia
- Popularity of the sport reached phenomenal heights when Yao Ming signed on with the Houston Rockets (USA) in 2002. It is believed that it may soon topple Table Tennis as the most played sport in China.

Ping Pong (Table Tennis)
Team Name: China National Table Tennis Team
Level: International
Highest Performance Level:
- World Championships
  - Men’s Singles: 15 times
  - Men’s Doubles: 17 times
  - Women’s Singles: 18 times
  - Women’s Doubles: 17 times
  - Mixed: 17 times

Note:
- The biggest amateur recreational sport in China.
- An estimated 300 million players in China alone.

Canada

Sporting Bodies: Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Baseball, Football, Basketball, Cricket, Curling, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Soccer, Motorsport, Bowling, Golf, Cycling and Mixed Martial Arts.

The two legislated official sports of Canada are Ice Hockey and Lacrosse. Ice Hockey is regarded as a winter sport while lacrosse is regarded as a summer sport although it is played all year.

Ice Hockey
Team Name: Team Canada / Equipe Canada
Team Insignia: Maple leaf backdrop with an ice hockey player in the centre.
Level: International
Highest Performance Level:
- IIHF World Championships: 18 times
- Current World Ranking: 2nd
- Olympics: 8 Gold Medals
- Womens
  - IIHF World Championships: 9 times
  - Current ranking: 2nd
  - Olympics: 3 Gold Medals

Note:
- Canada dominates the International Womens competitions.
- In 2011, it had 85,624 registered female players.

Lacrosse
Team Name: Team Canada Lacrosse
Team Insignia/Mascot: Maple Leaf with lacrosse player in the center.

Yao Ming

Canadian Womens Lacrosse Team

Level: International
Highest Performance Level:
- Mens
  - FIL World Indoor Lacrosse Championship: Twice
- Womens
  - FIL Womens World Cup: Bronze medal (2009)
Chile

Sporting Bodies: Athletics, Boxing, Equestrian, Fencing, Golf, Gymnastics, Handball, Martial Arts, Racing Sports, Rodeo, Shooting Sports, Table Tennis, Team Sports, Tennis, Weightlifting, Water sports.

The most popular sport in Chile is Football. Most successful is Tennis and the most practiced sport in rural areas is Rodeo.

Football
Team Name: La Roja (The Red One)/ El Equipo de Todos (Everybody’s team)
Team Insignia/Mascot: Red and Yellow rimmed circle with an white star on a red and blue badge.
Level: International
Highest Performance Level: 
Mens
• Highest FIFA ranking: 6th (1998)
• Current FIFA ranking: 27th
• Highest World Cup ranking: 3rd place (1962)
Womens
• Highest FIFA ranking: 44th (2011)
• Current ranking: 44th

Tennis
Achievements
• Two time winners of the World Team Cup (2003 & 2004)
• 2004 Olympics: Gold (men’s singles)
  Gold (men’s doubles)
  Bronze (men’s singles)
• Marcelo Rios became the first Latin American to reach Number 1 in World Tennis Rankings (1998)

Rodeo
• Declared the national sport in 1962.
• Second most popular sport after football.
  • The sport has been alive for more than 4 centuries.
  • National Championships occur every year.

Hong Kong

Sporting Bodies: The major spectator sports include – Dragon Boat Racing, Rugby Union and Horse Racing. Participant Sports are vast and varied and are a mix of both western and eastern varieties of activities.

Rugby Union
Team Name: Hong Kong National Team
Team Insignia/Mascot: -
Level Played: Regional
Highest Performance Level: Asian Five Nations
Note:
• What makes the sport so popular is the Hong Kong 7’s Tournament. An annual tournament that attracts thousands of visitors to So Kon Po.

Horse Racing
• A remnant of its British colonial past, horse racing has remained as an important entertainment and gambling event.
• Established in 1884 as the Hong Kong Jockey Club it currently oversees the organisation of nearly 700 races per season.

Indonesia

Sporting Bodies: Badminton, Football, Aussie Rules Football, Rugby Union and Polo.

The two most popular sports in Indonesia are Badminton and Football.

Badminton
Team Name: Indonesia national badminton team
Team Insignia/Mascot: Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level: 
Mens
• Thomas Cup (World Championship): 13 times
  • Most successful team this far in this competition.
Womens
• Uber Cup (World Championship): 3
Mixed
- Sudirman Cup (World Championships): Once

Note:
- Indonesia’s most successful sport.
- It has won a gold medal in badminton in every Olympic Game since its introduction.

Football (Soccer)
Team Name: Indonesia national football team
Level Played: International (Local League is very popular amongst countrymen)
Highest Performance Level:
- First Asian Team to qualify for the FIFA world cup in 1938.
- Appeared in the Olympic Games in 1956.

Note:
- The domestic league is very popular. It started around the 1930’s in Dutch colonial times. It is known as Indonesia Super League.

Baseball
Team Name: Japan national baseball team
Team Insignia/Mascot:
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- Current Ranking: 3rd
- Summer Olympics Appearances

Note:
- The Japanese equivalent of Major League Baseball is Nippon Professional Baseball. The most successful team is the Yomiuri Giants who have taken 21 titles

Football (Soccer)
Team Name: Samurai Blue/Soccer Nippon Daihyo
Team Insignia/Mascot: Level Played:
Highest Performance Level:
- Qualified for the FIFA World Cup for the last four consecutive tournaments.
- AFC Asian Cup: 4 times
- Current Champions
- FIFA Confederations Cup: 2nd place (2011)

Note:
- Japan co-hosted the FIFA World Cup in 2002 with Korea. Following this event, there was a surge in the popularity of the sport.

Recent Updates
- Japan’s Women’s Football Team won the FIFA Women’s Championship in Germany in July. It edged the United States of America in penalty shoot outs.

Korea

Sporting Bodies:
Traditional: Kite flying, Bull Fighting and Korean Wrestling, Taekwondo
Western: Football, Baseball, Basketball, Badminton, Bowling, Fishing, Golf, Rugby Union, Table Tennis and E-sports.

Football
Team Name: Korea Republic National Football Team/ Taegeuk Warriors/ Red Devils
Team Insignia/Mascot: Tiger
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- FIFA World Cup Appearance
- Most successful team in Asian Football.
- Only Asian team to reach the semi finals
- Current ranking: 31
- AFC Asian Cup Champions: Twice

Note:
- The South Korean national team is the only Asian team to make 7 consecutive World Cup finals since 1986

Baseball
Team Name: South Korea national
Malaysia

Sporting Bodies: Badminton, Football, Hockey, Rugby, Bowling, Golf, Netball, Athletics, Swimming, Squash, Water polo, Table Tennis, Netball and Kite flying.

Football
Team Name: The Malaysian national football team/ Harimau Malay/ Malaysian Tiger
Team Insignia/Mascot: Yellow Tiger
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
• Appeared in the AFC Asian Cup
• Appeared in the Asian Games
• ASEAN Football Championship: Champions (2010)

Note:
• The team is ranked 144th in the FIFA world rankings
• After a successful 2010 campaign, the team is looking to qualify for its first FIFA World Cup to be held in 2014.

Badminton
Team Name: Malaysian National Badminton Team
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
• Badminton World Cup: Four time Mens Doubles Champions

Note:
• Kuala Lumpur has hosted many international sporting events such as the Commonwealth Games.
• It has also hosted the Badminton World Cup twice.

Kite flying
• It is enjoyed by the younger and older generation alike.
• Due to gaining popularity over the years, kite flying and has encouraged more creativity in kite making and this has attracted people from all walks of life.
• The most popular kite design is that of the a huge moon-kite (wau bulan), whose popularity is timeless.

Mexico

Sporting Bodies: Charería, Bullfighting, Football, Boxing, American Football, Auto racing, Basketball, Basque Pelota, Golf, Ice Hockey, Polo, Racquetball, Rugby Union, Taekwondo and Tennis.

Football
Club Football - Premier League
Founded: Early 1900’s
Current Champions: Club Deportivo Guadalajara
Most Titled: Club Deportivo Guadalajara
Number of Teams: 18

National Statistics
Team Name: Mexican national football team/ El Tricolor
Team Insignia/Mascot: An eagle
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
• FIFA World Cup
• CONCACAF Championship & Gold Cup
• Confederations Cup
• Copa America

Note:
• Mexico has hosted two FIFA World Cups
• Current world ranking: 26

Boxing
• Mexico produced the second most number of World Champions. Second to the US.
Their biggest rival is Puerto Rico.
- The first boxing champion produced was Battling Shaw.
- Mexicans are very proud of their boxing heritage in the sport.

**Bull fighting**
- A remnant of Spanish colonization.
- One of the most popular sports in the country for the past 400 years.
- Thousands of bullfighting events occur throughout the country and generate significant amounts of revenue in some venues.
- Mexico hosts the largest bullring in the world – Plaza Mexico located in Mexico City.
- It is an integral part of their culture and is a celebrated event.

**New Zealand**

Sporting Bodies: Rugby Union, Rugby League, Cricket, Netball, Soccer, Basketball, Horse racing, Tennis, Golf, Olympic Games, Motorsport, Cycling, Rowing, Canoeing, Sailing, Boxing, Equestrian, Hockey, Surfing, Skiing & Snowboarding, Gliding, Squash, American Football and Aussie rules football.

Despite its small size, sport is an important segment of this economy as is shown by the vast number of sports that they excel in. Their sporting participation is considered to be a reflection on their colonial history.

**Rugby Union**
Team Name: The New Zealand All Blacks
Team Insignia/Mascot: A white fern
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- Rugby World Cup Champions: Once
- Current world ranking: 1st

**Note:**
- Famous rivalry with its trans-Tasmanian counterpart Australia.
- Many New Zealanders associate rugby with their national identity.
- At the beginning of each international match, the team performs a Maori war dance known as the Haka. This has gained much international coverage and recognition.

**Netball**
Team Name: The Silver Ferns
Team Insignia/Mascot: A silver fern
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- World Netball Championship Champions: 4 times

**Note:**
- Played primarily by females but with an alternative code for males as well.
- The team is currently ranked second behind the Australian National Netball Team known as The Diamonds.
- The Silver Ferns lost to Australia in the World Netball Championships that was held in Singapore in July. Final Score: 58 - 57 to Australia.

**Cricket**
Team Name: The Black Caps
Team Insignia/Mascot: A white fern
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- ICC Cricket World Cup semi-finalist.
- Appeared in the Twenty20 World Championship

**Note:**
- This sport is regarded as the national summer sport.

**Papua New Guinea**

Sporting bodies: Basketball, Boxing, Rugby League, Australian Rules Football, Cricket, Netball, Rugby Union, Soccer, Volleyball and Weightlifting.

The most popular sport and also the national sport in Papua New Guinea is Rugby League.

**Rugby League**
Team Name: The Kumuls
Team Insignia/Mascot: The Bird of Paradise – national bird.
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- Rugby League World Cup
- Rugby League Four Nations

**Note:**
- Globally, the people of Papua New Guinea are reputed to be the most passionate supporters of the game and follow the competition (local & international) with religious fervour.

The Annual Australian State of Origin matches are the most viewed televised matches in PNG.
Peru

Sporting Bodies: Football, Taekwondo, Rugby Union, Volleyball, Surfing, Sailing, Shooting, Tennis, Paleta Fronton. The most popular sport is Football.

**Football**
Team Name: Peru National Team/ La Blanquirroja La Rojiblanca
Team Insignia/Mascot: Red and White stripes
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- Quarterfinals of the Football World Cup
- Winners of the Copa America Tournament (1939 & 1975)

Paleta Fronton
- Originated in Lima in 1945.
- An infusion of a Spanish sport (Pelota Vasca) and a local sport (Pelota mano).

- The sport is similar to that of Handball.
- Widely popular in the nation.

Philippines

Sporting Bodies: Arnis, Snooker, Bowling, Boxing, Mixed Martial Arts, Cycling, Marathon, Golf, Badminton, Squash, Table Tennis, Tennis, Figure skating and Aquatics.

**Arnis**
- Martial Art of the Philippines – in stick fighting
- It is considered the national sport
- It was included in priority sports of the National Games in 2010
- It was mandated as a national sport when President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the Republic Act in 2009.

**Basketball**
Team Name: Philippines men's national basketball team
Team Insignia/Mascot: The design of the flag in a shape of a flower
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- Appeared in the FIBA World Championship
- Olympic Games appearance
- Appeared in the Summer Olympics
- Asian Championships Champions: 5 times
- Asian Games Champions: twice
Note:
- Largest amateur and professional level organised sport in the economy
- Current world ranking: 53rd

**Singapore**

Sporting Bodies: Badminton, Bodybuilding, Bowling, Chess, Cricket, Football, Netball, Rugby Union, Sailing, Silat, Swimming, Table Tennis, Track and field and Weightlifting.

Singapore participates in various sports and recreational activities. The popular sporting activities are Football and Basketball and an assortment of water sports such as sailing.

**Football**
Team Name: Singapore national football team/ The Lions
Team Insignia/Mascot: The head of a Lion
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- AFF Auzuki Cup Champions (ASEAN Football Championship): 3 times
- Tiger Cup Champions: 3 times
- South East Asian Games Champions: 4 times
Note:
- Current world ranking: 145th
- Singapore has its own professional football league known as the S.League.

**Cricket**
Team Name: Singapore national Team
Team Insignia/Mascot: As above
Level Played: Regional
Highest Performance Level:
- World Cup Qualifier
- Stan Nagaiah Trophy (with Malaysia, Hong Kong and Thailand)
- Saudara Cup (with Malaysia)
Note:
- They are an associate member of the International Cricket Council (ICC)
- Their regional competitions with neighbouring Asian economies keeps the sport alive and popular.

**Thailand**

Sporting Bodies: Thai Boxing, Sepak Takraw, Rugby, Golf, Weightlifting and Football

With the continuous development of sporting infrastructure, other sports in Thailand are gradually growing in popularity.

**Thai Boxing**
- A form of hard martial arts practiced in other South East Asian nations
as well.
• This has built the foundation for the success of Thailand in gaining medals at the Olympic Games in Western Boxing style.

• Muay Thai (traditional name) that is practiced today varies from its ancient art Muay Boran which encompasses the use of kicking, knees and elbows.

Rugby
Team Name: Thailand national rugby union team
Team Insignia/Mascot: Gold crest over a brown rugby ball
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
• Appeared in Rugby Sevens World Cup
• HSBC Asian Five Nations Division 2
Note:
• Current world ranking: 60th

Football
Team Name: Thailand national football team/ The War Elephants
Team Insignia/Mascot: An elephant
Level Played: Regional
Highest Performance Level:
• World Cup Qualifies Round
• Appearance at the Olympics Games
• AFC Asian Cup
• ASEAN Football Championship Champions: 3 times
Note:
• Current world ranking: 120th

United States of America


The most popular sports in this economy are those that were developed in North America, namely, Baseball, American Football, Basketball and Ice Hockey. The major leagues in these sporting bodies are considered the cream-of-the-crop at a global level.

Baseball
Major League Statistics
Founded: 1869
Current Champion: San Francisco Giants (6th Title)
Most Titled Team: New York Yankees
Number of Teams: 30
National Statistics
Team Name: USA national baseball team
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
• World Championship Gold Medalist: Once
• Olympic Games Gold medallist: 13
• World Champions: 4 times
• FIBA Americas Championship Gold: 6
• Pan American Games Champions: 3 times
Note:
• Current world ranking: 1st

Basketball
Major League Statistics
Founded: June 6th, 1946
Current Champion: LA Lakers (16th title)
Most Titled Team: Boston Celtics (17 titles)
Number of Teams: 30
National Statistics
Team Name: US men's national basketball team
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
• Olympic Games Gold Medallist: 13
• World Championship Gold: 4
• FIBA Americas Championship Gold: 6
• Pan American Games Champions: 3 times
Note:
• Current world ranking: 1st

Ice Hockey
Major League Statistics
Founded: November 22nd , 1917
Current Champion: Chicago Blackhawks (4th title)
Most Titled Team: Montreal Canadiens (25 titles)
Number of Teams: 30
National Statistics
Team Name: United States men's national ice hockey team/ Ice Yanks
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
• World Championship Gold Medalist: Once
• Olympic Games Gold Medallist: 2
• World Championship Gold Medalist: 2
Note:
• Current world ranking: 6th
American Football
Major League Statistics
Founded: August 20th, 1920
Current Champion: Green Bay Packers
(13th title)
Most Titled Team: Green bay Packers
Number of Teams: 32

National Statistics
Team Name: US national American football team
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- IFAF World Cup Champions: Once
Note:
- Out of three IFAF World Cups, the US has won only one, the other two instances went to Japan.

Chinese Taipei
Sporting bodies: Baseball, Taekwondo, Badminton, Table Tennis, Traditional sports, Football, Rugby Union, Basketball

Baseball
Team Name: Chinese Taipei baseball team
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- World Baseball Classics
- Olympic Games
- Intercontinental Cup
- Asian Games Champions: 1
- Asian Championship Champions: 1
Note:
- Ranked the second best team in Asia
- Current world ranking: 5th

Basketball
Team Name: Chinese Taipei national basketball team
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- Olympic Games
- World Championships
- Asian Championships
Note:
- Current world ranking: 41st

Russian Federation
Sporting bodies: Athletics, Ice hockey, Bandy, Football, Tennis, Gymnastics, Chess, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Orienteering, Martial Arts and Winter sports.

Ice Hockey
Team Name: Russian men's national ice hockey team/ Big Red Machine
Team Insignia/Mascot: Ice Hocey Player in red white and blue
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- World Championships Gold medalist: 3
- Olympic Games
Note:
- Current world ranking: 1st

Football
Team Name: Russia national football team/ Sbornaya
Team Insignia/Mascot: Eagle
Level Played: International
Highest Performance Level:
- World Cup
- European Championship
Note:
- Current world ranking: 18th

Viet Nam
Sporting bodies: Football (most popular), Australian Rules Football, Cricket, Rugby, Badminton and Tennis.

Football
Team Name: Vietnam Football Federation
Team Insignia/Mascot: Yellow, Green and Red
Level Played: Regional
Highest Performance Level: National

Ice Hockey
Team Name: Russian men's national ice hockey team/ Big Red Machine
Team Insignia/Mascot: Ice Hocey Player in red white and blue
Level Played: International

Viet Nam (red) vs Malaysia (blue)

Yelena Isinbayeva is regarded the greatest female pole vaulter of all time.