



Erasmus+

# Sport in Spain

Created by

**Daniel Mihai Zahiu & Razvan Mihai Florea**

Proiect de mobilitate in domeniul formare profesionala (VET)

**„Developing skills in Android applications and programming e-commerce platforms”**

2016-1-RO01-KA102-023317

- Spain's passion for soccer (football, or fútbol) is known worldwide, as are the country's top teams such as Real Madrid and F.C. Barcelona, not to mention the national team which in 2010 won nothing less than the sport's most celebrated competition, the FIFA World Cup.
- But Spanish sporting glory also shines in arenas far beyond the soccer pitch. Several players on Spain's national basketball team such as Pau Gasol and José Calderón are also NBA superstars. The team itself won the 2006 World Basketball Championships and secured silver medals in the 2008 and 2012 olympics. Rafa Nadal is a living tennis legend and Fernando Alonso is a race car champion.
- Take a look below at our selection of Spanish athletes, teams and sports and prepare to get caught up in the excitement of Spanish sports.

# Soccer

- Spain has a great history of soccer, arguably only beaten by England and Italy in terms of football heritage. Names of players like Raúl, Puyol or Casillas constantly come up in sports press around the world.
- Men's footy is of course where the country has shone brightest over the past half century, with its La Liga one of the world's premier leagues, with top teams including Real Madrid and FC Barcelona (aka El Barça) – which have a storied rivalry, with Barça current top dog – along with Atlético Madrid, Athletic Bilbao, Sevilla, and Valencia.
- The national team has also been a powerhouse on the international level in European competition as well as FIFA World Cup (though it won the cup just one, in 2010) and the Olympics (gold in Barcelona '92, silver in Sydney 2000). As elsewhere in the world, footballers are idolised here, and the most celebrated at the moment include Iker Casillas, Xavi Hernández, Andrés Iniesta, Lionel Messi, and David Villa.



Spain won the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa

FC Barcelona's team in the 2014-15 season winning the UEFA Champions League



# Tennis

- In international team tennis, Spain does exceptionally well – for example winning the Davis Cup five times (though not since 2011). And individually, while Rafa Nadal is unquestionably the national superstar par excellence, other Spaniards have achieved grand slams, such as Sergi Bruguera, Albert Costa, Andrés Gimeno, Conchita Martínez, and Garbiñe Muguruza. And in the 1990s, Barcelona-born Arantxa Sánchez Vicario was an international powerhouse, winning a number of French Opens and a U.S. Open.
- At the moment, Spain has 10 players in top 100 ATP and 3 players in top 100 WTA. Between the stars there are to mention Garbine Muguruza (Roland Garros champion), Carla Suarez Navarro (former world n.6), David Ferrer (former world n.3) and Roberto Bautista Agut (ranked #17ATP ).

# Rafael Nadal's Career in Numbers

Grand Slam Titles Won

14 🏆

Clay Court Win Ratio

90.50%



# Cycling

- A national mainstay since the 1940s, Spanish cycling's main household name internationally has perhaps been Miguel Induráin, who won the Tour de France five times in a row during the 1990s, as well as the Giro d'Italia, and a gold medal at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.
- Stars of the current century include Oscar Pereiro and Carlos Sastre – both now retired – as well as 33-year-old Alberto Contador, still active but dogged in the past by doping allegations. The three-week Vuelta a España is along with the Tour de France and Giro d'Italia one of the top three long-distance cycling races, with routes varying but always including a stretch through the Pyrenees Mountains and a finish on the streets of Madrid.



**Alberto Contador**



# Spain at the 2016 Summer Olympics

- The Spanish Olympic Committee sent a total of 306 athletes in Rio, 163 men and 143 women, to compete in 25 sports. They earned a total of 17 medals (7 golds, 4 silvers and 6 bronzes). The flag bearer at the opening ceremony was Rafael Nadal while at the closing ceremony Jesús Ángel García was the one that waved the Spanish flag.



Jesús Ángel Garcia

16187655  
MaviSports | Dreamstime.com

Download from  
Dreamstime.com  
This watermark copy is not for publishing purposes only.

# Spanish Sports: Traditional and Regional Sports of Spain

- **Basque Pelota** - a variety of court sports which involves hitting a ball against a wall using the hand, a racket, a wooden bat or a basket.
- **Valencian Pilota** - is a traditional handball sport played in the Valencian Community of Spain. The ball is usually struck with a bare hand in a game involving two teams.
- **Bull Fighting** - involves one or more bulls which are being fought in a bullring
- **Calva** - a traditional Spanish sport in which you throw a piece of metal to knock down bull's horn shaped piece of wood.

# Bibliography

- <http://www.donquijote.org/culture/spain/sports/>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain\\_at\\_the\\_2016\\_Summer\\_Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain_at_the_2016_Summer_Olympics)
- <http://www.topendsports.com/world/countries/spain.htm>
- <http://www.wtatennis.com/singles-rankings>
- <http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/rankings/singles>

- Thank you for your attention!