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Sports like soccer, baseball, and basketball are popular all over the world. Many countries also have their own national sports. These **traditional** games are often hundreds—or even thousands—of years old. Here is one example.

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Sepak Takraw

5 Malaysia's national sport is sepak takraw (*sepak* means *kick*, and *takraw* means *woven¹ ball*). This fast-moving game is like both soccer and volleyball.

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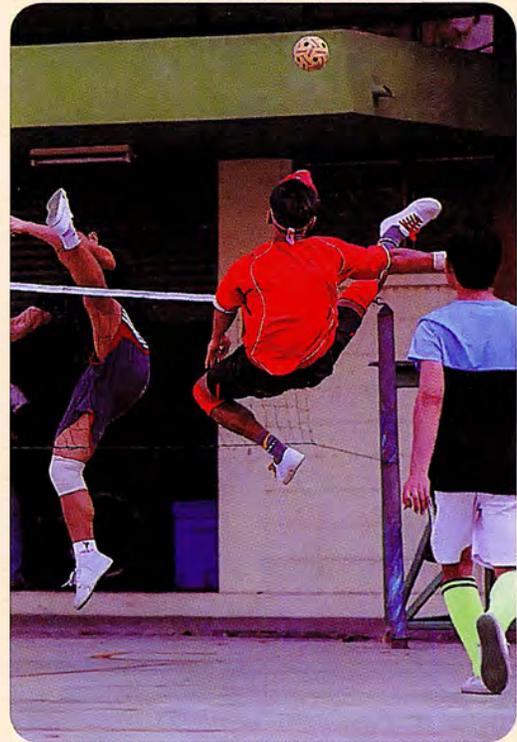
10 In sepak takraw, players move the ball like they do in soccer and volleyball. Two **teams** (of three players each) **compete** by hitting a small ball across a net (like they do in volleyball). Players can use their heads, feet, shoulders, or knees to pass the ball to
15 the other team. But like in soccer games, players cannot use their hands.

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20 Playing sepak takraw is a little like playing tennis, too. Like a tennis match, there are three sets² in a game. If one team drops the ball, the other team gets a **point**. The first team to get 15 points **wins** a set. The winner of two sets wins the whole game.

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The sport of sepak takraw is more than 1,000 years old. **Originally**, the native Malays played it. Later, the sport **spread** to other countries in Asia, including Thailand, Indonesia, and the
25 Philippines. Today, it is one of the most popular sports played in the Asian Games. There are also sepak takraw **clubs** in North America and Europe.



¹ Something that is **woven** is made like a basket with fibers crossing over and under each other.

² A **set** is a part of a game.