

# Ball Sports

In many countries, ball games are popular. People play ball sports, like soccer or tennis, all over the world. But some sports are a little different from country to country.

*Oină* is a sport from Romania. It is similar to baseball. There are two teams. One team throws the ball and the players on the other team take turns to hit it. It is like baseball, but it is a little different. There are nine players on a team in baseball, but in *oină* there are eleven. Also, in *oină* you can get points if you hit other players with the ball!

In the Philippines, there is a game like volleyball. It is called *sepak takraw* and it is popular in Southeast Asia. You don't hit the ball over the net with your hands, like in volleyball. You have to hit the ball with any other part of your body. In Thai, *sepak* means "kick," and *takraw* is from the Malay word "woven ball." The ball in *sepak takraw* is small and there are four people on a team. The players have to be very fast.

Russians are very good at hockey. Why? Maybe because their national sport is very similar to hockey. *Bandy* is a popular winter sport. There are eleven players on each team. They play on ice, but the size of the pitch is like a soccer pitch. The game is very fast because the players play with a small ball, not a puck like in hockey.

