

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!



BY DR PRISCILLA JSS

“Sports is human life in microcosm,” said the American sports journalist, Howard Cosell. Quite true! The myriad hues of life are reflected in sports. With International Sports Journalists Day on 2nd July, here’s our way of celebrating sports. It’s part 10 of our special series ‘World of Words’.



1. **ATHLETICS** sports involving contests of speed, strength and agility, usually the track and field events
2. **BATON** a short stick passed on from one participant to another during a relay race
3. **BOUT** a fixture in combat sports such as boxing or wrestling
4. **BYE** a situation when a player or a team doesn't have an opponent in a particular round and, therefore, goes through to the next round
5. **CHAMPIONSHIP** competition to identify the best player or team in a particular sport
6. **CHINAMAN** (in cricket) a ball by a left-arm bowler that is bowled over the wrist and turns in the opposite direction of the usual left-arm spin
7. **CLASH OF THE TITANS** contest involving two key players or teams
8. **DRIBBLE** (in games such as football and hockey) to move the ball in several short kicks or hits
9. **DECIDER** an action in a game or a match in a series which determines the final outcome after two teams are level
10. **DERBY** a contest between neighbouring teams
11. **FAIR PLAY** the principle of playing a sport by adhering to the rules; many tournaments give fair play awards these days
12. **FIXTURE** a sporting event fixed on a particular date at a particular place
13. **GRAND PRIX** (French meaning Grand Prize) important sports competitions or their titles
14. **GRAND SLAM** the winning of all the Major Cups in sports such as tennis, baseball, equestrian and golf
15. **GOOGLY** (in cricket) a ball bowled by a leg-spin bowler, that appears to turn in one direction, but actually turns in the opposite direction

16. HALF-TIME a period of rest for players between the first and second halves of a game

17. LAP one journey or circuit of a race track

18. LOB hit the tennis ball in a high curve so that it falls behind the opponent who cannot reach/hit it

19. LOVE zero points in tennis

20. KNOCKOUT COMPETITION contest involving the elimination of the losers of every round

21. LAP OF HONOUR (also victory lap) a run around the sports field by a winning sportsperson or team

22. MARATHON a long running race of about 42 kms (Half marathon is about 21 kms)

23. MATCHUP a contest between two players/teams

24. THE PARALYMPICS international sporting competition for athletes with physical disabilities

25. PLAY-OFF a match between two players or teams who have equal scores, to decide the winner

26. QUALIFIER preliminary round of a competition, which is held to limit the number of entrants into the main event

27. RELAY race involving a team of four, where all run the same distance, each passing on a baton to the next

28. RINK section of playing area in games such as ice hockey or roller skating

29. ROUND ROBIN competition involving each contestant or team playing against every other contestant or team

30. STADIUM large sports ground with seats for spectators and other facilities

31. STARTING BLOCKS two blocks that runners place their feet on and push against at the starting line

32. TACKLE a trick to take the ball from a member of the opposite team, in games like football and hockey

33. SPECIAL OLYMPICS an international sports organisation which conducts year-round competitions for the intellectually disabled

34. ULTRA MARATHON race on foot that is longer than the traditional marathon

35. WAR OF NERVES trying to defeat opponents in contests by putting pressure on them in order to discourage them or make them lose confidence

IDIOMS RELATED TO SPORTS

36. THE BALL IS IN YOUR COURT (from tennis) you are responsible to take action next

37. BOWL OVER (from cricket) to astonish or overwhelm

38. DOWN AND OUT (from boxing) to be without money or a job, like a destitute

39. GET THE BALL ROLLING (from ball games) to make something start happening

40. HAT-TRICK (from cricket) three continuous successful achievements by someone

TYPES OF SPORTS

41. ADVENTURE SPORTS (aka extreme sports) sports, such as paragliding, bungee jumping and scuba diving

42. AIR SPORTS sports, such as hot air ballooning and sky diving

43. CONTACT SPORTS sports, such as football, boxing and hockey

44. COMBAT SPORTS one-to-one forms of sports, such as boxing and wrestling

45. FIELD SPORTS sports, such as fishing and hunting

46. MIND SPORTS sports, such as chess and draughts

47. MOTOR SPORTS competitive events involving motorised vehicles

48. NON-CONTACT SPORTS sports, such as tennis, badminton and athletics

49. TARGET SPORTS sports, such as shooting and archery

50. WATER SPORTS sports, such as swimming, sailing and snorkelling

