

American Sports

Hello everyone! My name is Stephen Cannell. I am a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) in Toyohashi. Today I would like to introduce you all to some of the many sports played in America. I will be focusing mainly on my hometown of Chicago, as well as introducing some of my own favorite sports.

When you think of American sports, you likely think of gridiron football, baseball, and basketball. These are certainly 3 of the biggest sports in America, but just like Japan, Americans enjoy a large variety of different sports. Track and field, swimming, cycling, motorsports, action sports, the list goes on and on.

The city of Chicago, located in the Midwestern region of the United States, is known for being strong in all four major American sports: basketball, baseball, hockey, and football. The Chicago Bulls basketball team, home team of the legendary Michael Jordan, the Cubs and the White Socks baseball teams, the Chicago Bears football team, and the Blackhawks hockey team. The Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup (awarded to the winners of the playoff tournament) 3 times in a span of 10 years, and the Cubs won the 2016 World Series for the first time in 100 years. After their victory, over 5 million people gathered in Chicago for the celebration. Chicago is truly a city of sports.

Aside from the four big sports, Chicago is also home to a multitude of golf courses. Golf in America is relatively inexpensive compared to Japan, with one round costing as little as 500-1000 yen. When you golf you can enjoy nature, chat with friends, and challenge yourself all at the same time. It is a very difficult and very rewarding sport. Next year's Tokyo Olympic Games will feature golf as an official event.

Action sports are also quite popular in America. There are skate parks all around, and in snowy areas, a large selection of ski resorts. The Tokyo Olympics will be the first to feature skateboarding and surfing as official events. Through this I hope that action sports become more popular throughout the world!

The Olympic skateboarding event will feature street skateboarding and park skateboarding. Street skateboarding involves using objects normally found around town, such as stairs, handrails, and benches. Park skateboarding takes place in a traditional skate park environment, featuring ramps and rails. American skateboarder Nyjah Huston currently ranks first in the Olympic rankings, but Japanese skateboarder Yuto Horigome sits at number two.

A huge variety of sports are being played in America every day. Which sports are the most popular depends on the location, climate, etc. I enjoy playing a variety of sports, and I am constantly trying to learn new ones. I hope that all of you pick up a new sport too and have fun!