



YOUR GUIDE TO WIMBLEDON 2023



The oldest tennis tournament in the world is steeped in history, but that doesn't stop the common folk like us from enjoying a match, traditional Pimm's or donning our Wimbledon whites.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- The prestigious tournament has a strict dress code, requiring players to wear all white. (Rumor has it was that it was because it didn't show sweat like other colors).
- The tennis balls are replaced every seven to nine games to ensure they're in perfect shape—no wonder they use more than 53,000 tennis balls during the two-week tournament.
- Last year, the tournament banned Russian and Belarusian athletes due to the invasion of Ukraine. This year the tournament has made some changes, including supporting Ukrainian players by paying for two rooms for Ukrainian tennis players and their teams during the grass court season and donating one British pound (about \$1.25) for each ticket sold at Wimbledon to relief efforts in Ukraine.
- Did you know that Wimbledon is Europe's largest single annual sporting event from a catering perspective? In previous years, spectators consumed over 276,000 glasses of Pimm's to wash down 18,061 servings of fish and chips. The tournament has served 4,242 servings of sushi and 6,147 servings of pasta to their racket-wielding athletes.
- Grunting is no longer left to gremlins and grumpy old men. Even the classiest of tennis players vocalize their play. While you may think this is new, Monica Seles and Jimmy Connors are known as the original creators of the tennis grunt. The loudest one on the court? Russia's Maria Sharapova at 105 decibels – the equivalent of standing next to an accelerating motorcycle.



ON THE COURT

- Four-time defending Champion Novak Djokovic opens up this tourney as No. 2 in the world. Djokovic enters this tournament claiming his men's record 23rd Grand Slam title just a few weeks ago at the French Open (June 11).
- Meanwhile, Carlos Alcaraz opens up the Wimbledon Championship ranked No. 1
- The Polish megastar Iga Swiatek owns the female side of the bracket, ranked No. 1 in the world is the favorite to win this competition.
- Coco Gauff is ranked No. 7 for the Americans, heading into the "All England Lawn Tennis Club."
- Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe, ranked respectfully No. 8 and No. 9, both have outside chances of winning this tournament at (+250-1)

TRIVIA

·Q: Who is Rufus, and what is his role at Wimbledon?

A: Rufus is a specially trained hawk that keeps pooping pigeons away from the grounds at Wimbledon. Like a good predator, he flies above the grounds for one hour, around 9:00 am most mornings, before the gates open to deter the birds from gathering in the area.

Rufus is so famous that he has his own Instagram page (@rufusthehawk).



Q: What stipulations are in place for Russian and Belarusian players in the tournament?

A: Russian and Belarusian players can compete but with a few stipulations. These include the banning of flags or signs of support for either of those countries and the war. Players are required to sign a declaration stating that they will not show support for Russia, Belarus, or the war in Ukraine. Furthermore, the tournament will not be broadcast in Russia or Belarus.

Q: What color were tennis balls before they became yellow?

A: Tennis balls used to be white or black before they became yellow. The change to yellow was made to enhance visibility for TV viewers. However, Wimbledon was a late adopter of this color change and waited until the 1980s to transition to yellow tennis balls.

HOW TO WATCH

When: Wimbledon will run from Monday, July 3 - Sunday, July 16

The following channels will be broadcasting Wimbledon in the US:

- TV: ABC, ESPN, ESPN2, Tennis Channel (the Tennis Channel also shows complementary coverage throughout the tournament—including daily highlights, studio programming, and player interviews.)
- Streaming: ESPN will stream every single match of the tournament, including the qualifying matches on ESPN+

TAILGATE TREAT



PIMM'S CUP

Ingredients

- 1 3/4 oz. Pimm's No.1
- 5 oz. lemonade
- Mint
- 1 orange
- 3 strawberries
- 1 cucumber

Instructions

1. Pimm's says to "pile all the ingredients in a tall glass, mix and sip."
2. The ingredient amounts aren't specific, but a few slices of each fruit and a couple of mint springs should suffice.
3. Pimm's does give one additional tip, advising hosts to scale up the recipe: "Best make a jugful, you never know who'll turn up at the sound of the ice tray leaving your freezer."

ABOUT LAST NIGHT'S GAME

When brother-sister duo Amy and Scott searched for a source that breaks down sports in an easy-to-understand way with a dose of pop culture, they couldn't find anything. So they created it.

In addition to the Sports Curious podcast, which has surpassed its 250th episode, Last Night's Game publishes a tri-weekly podcast, a weekly email newsletter and daily conversation starters across social media.



Make sure to follow along with us on social media. Want more pop culture and sports in less than 5 minutes a week? Check out our podcast.



ABOUT SEBYPodcast™ MEDIA

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