

Cricket Is Not a Sport, Russia Says

July 18, 2019



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Russia has officially refused to recognize cricket — which is considered the second most popular sport in the world after football — as a sport, according to a Russian Sports Ministry memo.

Russia's "registry of sports" [lists](#) recognized disciplines that include ice stock sport — similar to curling — and korfbal — a Dutch unisex sport. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) [recognized](#) cricket, which has not been featured in the Summer Games since 1900, a decade ago.

"Refuse recognition of cricket as a sport," [reads](#) the memo authored by Sports Minister Pavel Kolobkov dated Monday, July 15.

The directive also lists Thai boxing known as Muay Thai as a non-sport in Russia.

The Russian Sports Ministry decision came a day after host nation England won the cricket World Cup.

Original url: <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/07/18/cricket-is-not-sport-russia-says-a66468>