



# The big debate

## Should we always root for the same team?

Some sports fans say loyalty means everything, but others disagree.

### What you need to know

- Since as far back as 1885, the word “fan” has been used to describe people who follow sports.
- Watching sports as a hobby took off in the US in the 1920s.
- A 2025 survey found that about three quarters of American adults watch sports.
- The National Football League brought in \$23 billion in 2024, while Major League Baseball made \$12.1 billion and the National Basketball Association made \$11.3 billion.



**WOW!**  
Spanish soccer club Real Madrid has more than 181 million Instagram followers, the most of any sports team in the world.

Sports may be fun and games, but they can also generate strong emotions among fans, especially when it comes to team loyalty. Many supporters like to think of themselves as lifelong, diehard fans of a specific team. They'll root for that team through thick and thin, no matter how well or poorly they play. These are the fans who are proudly decked out in jerseys and hats with the team's logo, whether they're attending a game or living their everyday lives. Yet plenty of people change who they root for over the years, and sports teams that have been winning a lot often see a surge in popularity. What do you think? Should we always root for the same team?

### Yes—fandom means loyalty

If you change who you root for, you're not a true fan. That's especially true if you stop rooting for a team when they're losing and switch your loyalty to a team that's on a winning streak. It's also more meaningful to follow a team over several years, through their highs and lows. You get to see players grow and improve over time, and sticking by your team when they're losing makes it even more rewarding when they win. Plus, sports teams are more than just uniforms and mascots and scores—they represent cities and communities. Picking a sports team means being part of something, and that's not so easily changed.

### No—people are free to choose

Ultimately, following sports is about having fun. If someone thinks rooting for a different team will bring them more joy, they should do it. And sometimes people can have good reasons for changing teams. Maybe they move to a new city and want to start rooting for local teams, or they grew up rooting for one college sports team but end up attending a rival school. Also, athletes are constantly moving from team to team for a better situation or a bigger paycheck, and entire teams in the US will uproot and move to new cities. If players and teams can change their loyalties, fans certainly can as well.

### YES Three reasons we should always root for the same team

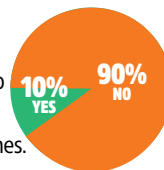
- 1 Being a true fan means picking a team and sticking with it.
- 2 It's more rewarding when you support a team and its players through their ups and downs.
- 3 When you cheer for a team, you're joining a community, and that's worth much more than winning.

### NO Three reasons we should not always root for the same team

- 1 People should root for whichever team makes the sport the most fun.
- 2 People's lives change, and they should be free to change their team loyalty when they want to.
- 3 If players change teams and teams themselves move around, it's not fair to say fans can't change their allegiance.

### LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if the use of AI actors is a good idea. Your views were clear: Almost all of you prefer real human performers to computer-generated ones.



### What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit [kids.theweekjunior.com/polls](https://kids.theweekjunior.com/polls) so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think we should always root for the same team or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.