

# Sports in Switzerland

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A large modern railway station allows for the rapid transportation of the goods to their respective destinations, oftentimes by direct goods trains. In view of favouring the above, the Federal Railways grant an important tariff reduction.

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SPORTS IN SWITZERLAND.

Switzerland, long known as "the Playground of Europe," has, by degrees, become the "Playground of the whole world," a fact which is clearly proved by the choice of Lausanne as the permanent seat of the International Olympic Committee. Abundant facilities for sports of every kind are provided by the various hotel-keepers' associations, tourist offices, railway and steamer companies, etc. Bodily exercise, in the shape of games, sports, mountaineering etc. also occupies a prominent position in every scholastic establishment. Gymnastics are compulsory in all classes, both for girls and boys. Football, hockey, tennis, boating, swimming, skating, ski-ing and tobogganing are practised according to the season. Nearly all private schools not situated in alpine regions migrate to the mountains for a certain period in summer and winter, in order to give their pupils the benefit of mountain air and sunshine, and to train them in the arts of mountain-climbing and ski-running.

There is no school, however modest, that has not its clubs, teams and colours and which, following the example of English schools, has not one or two yearly matches with rival establishments.

Baden Powell's Boy Scouts have found a ready emulation in the schools, where a great number of sections, groups and squads were formed. At Kandersteg there is an International Home for Boy Scouts. Schools of every description compete with one another in the arrangement of sports events. There are also riding and fencing-schools subsidised by the authorities, allowing extra reductions to students. Sports are no less practised at the Universities, where powerful organisations are found, such as the University Club at Zurich. The academic Alpine Clubs have built several Club huts in the mountains at their own expense.

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