MCC Library Fact Sheet
September 11, 2026

National Football League
Los Angeles Rams v
San Francisco 49ers

Largest NFL Attendances Outside the United States

This morning the National Football League's (NFL) Los Angeles Rams and San Francisco 49ers will meet at the 100,024 capacity Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). It is a part of the NFL's International Series. The inaugural International Series game was played on October 28, 2007, at London's Wembley Stadium in the UK. However, NFL regular season games have also been played in Mexico and Canada outside the International Series. A game dubbed Fútbol Americano between the Arizona Cardinals and San Francisco 49ers was hosted at Mexico City's Estadio Azteca in 2005, and the Bills Toronto Series was held at Toronto's Rogers Centre (formerly the SkyDome) from 2008 to 2013.

Exhibition games between NFL teams have been played beyond America's borders since 1969. In fact, the **largest crowd in NFL history is 112,376** at Estadio Azteca, Mexico, on August 15, 1994, for the "American Bowl" exhibition game between the Dallas Cowboys and the Houston Oilers. The current **NFL regular season record is 105,121**, at the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, for their game against the New York Giants on September 20, 2009.

The **NFL regular season record outside the US is 103,467** at Estadio Azteca for the Fútbol Americano game in 2005. The **NFL International Series' attendance record is 86,651**, who saw the Jacksonville Jaguars defeat the New England Patriots at Wembley Stadium on October 20,2024. All 27 NFL matches played at Wembley have attracted between 76,000+ and 86,000+ spectators. No other stadium outside the United States (besides Azteca and Wembley) has drawn an attendance exceeding 80,000 to a regular season NFL game. Other stadia that have hosted NFL regular season games outside the United States are the Bernabéu (Madrid, Spain), Croke Park (Dublin, Ireland), Twickenham Stadium (London, UK), Olympicstadion (Berlin, Germany), Allianz Arena (Munich, Germany), Tottenham Hotspur Stadium (London, UK), Rogers Centre (Toronto, Canada), Waldstadion (Frankfurt, Germany), and Arena Corinthians (São Paulo, Brazil).

Los Angeles Rams' Honour Board

Cleveland Rams: 1936 – 1945
Los Angeles Rams: 1946 – 1994
St. Louis Rams: 1995 – 2015
Los Angeles Rams: 2016 – present

Founded: 1936 (American Football League)
Joined National Football League (NFL): 1937

NFL Championships: 4
1945, 1951, 1999 (Super Bowl XXXIV), 2021 (Super Bowl LVI)

Conference Championships (since 1970): 5
1979, 1999, 2001, 2018, 2021

Division Championships: 22
1945, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1955, 1967, 1969, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1985, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2017, 2018, 2021, 2024

NFL Most Valuable Players:
Norm Van Brocklin (QB) 1960
Roman Gabriel (QB) 1969
Marshall Faulk (RB) 2000
Kurt Warner (QB) 1999, 2001
Matthew Stafford (QB) 2025

Super Bowl Most Valuable Players:
Kurt Warner (QB) 2000 (XXXIV)
Cooper Kupp (WR) 2022 (LVI)

San Francisco 49ers' Honour Board

San Francisco 49ers: 1946 – present

Founded: 1946 (All-America Football Conference)
Joined National Football League (NFL): 1950

NFL Championships: 5
1981 (Super Bowl XVI), 1984 (Super Bowl XIX), 1988 (Super Bowl XXIII), 1989 (Super Bowl XXIV), 1994 (Super Bowl XXIX)

Conference Championships (since 1970): 8
1981, 1984, 1988, 1989, 1994, 2012, 2019, 2023

Division Championships: 22
1970, 1971, 1972, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 2002, 2011, 2012, 2019, 2022, 2023

NFL Most Valuable Players:
Joe Perry (FB) 1954
John Brodie (QB) 1970
Joe Montana (QB) 1989, 1990
Steve Young (QB) 1992, 1994

Super Bowl Most Valuable Players:
Joe Montana (QB) 1982 (XVI), 1985 (XIX), 1990 (XXIV)
Jerry Rice (WR) 1989 (XXIII)
Steve Young (QB) 1995 (XXIX)

Key:
(QB) = Quarterback
(RB) = Runningback
(WR) = Wide receiver
(FB) = Fullback

Los Angeles Rams v San Francisco 49ers – The Rivalry

Few rivalries in the NFL are as storied as that between NFC West division's Rams and 49ers. Following the absorption of the All-America Football Conference (AAFC) by the National Football League (NFL) in 1950, the two franchises have met twice each regular season. While the NFL's structure means the teams have never played in a Super Bowl, and only twice met in a playoff, the rivalry is deep. This was spawned by their fan bases in northern and southern California, who mutually disparage their rival city's fan culture, reinforced by 75 years of jockeying for a playoff berth. While the 49ers dominated the Rams in the 1980s and 1990s, the preceding decades of Rams dominance meant that it would not be until 1998, that the 49ers overtook the Rams in head-to-head encounters. The head-to-head synopsis is still close, the 49ers have won 79 games, the Rams 72, and three games have been tied. The rivalry persisted even when the Rams were based in St. Louis, Missouri from 1996-2015. The Rams had moved cities but remained in the NFC West. In 2004 Roger Craig, San Francisco's running back from 1983 to 1990, wrote of the rivalry in *Tales from the San Francisco 49ers Sideline*: "The Rams will always be the 49ers' biggest rival. It doesn't matter if they no longer play in Los Angeles. If the Rams played their home games on Mars, it would still be a rivalry." Below are five of the 154 games between the franchises that helped shape that rivalry.

The First Rams v 49ers Match – October 1, 1950

The Rams and 49ers first met at San Franciso's Kezar Stadium for week 3 of the 1950 season on October 1. The 49ers, though they played off for the last AAFC title in 1949, were yet to win an NFL match. Los Angeles, the 1949 NFL Western Division champions, were coming off a 45 to 11 win over the New York Yanks at the LA Coliseum. A crowd of 27,262 watched the Rams build a 14-points to nil lead in the first quarter. The 49ers scored the only touchdown of the second period and then tied the game with another touchdown and extrapoint early in the third quarter. However, the resulting kick-off from the restart was returned 97 yards for a Rams' touchdown by Vitamin Smith. Los Angeles was never headed and scored a further two touchdowns to win this seminal encounter 35 points to 14. The Rams also defeated the 49ers in the return match in November. Los Angeles won the 1950 National Conference title but lost the NFL Championship game to the Cleveland Browns. The 49ers ended their first NFL season with three wins, nine losses, and were placed second last on the National Conference table.

49ers by 1 at Los Angeles – November 5, 1975

The Rams were dominating the NFC West division in 1975. The reigning division champions headed into their November 5 clash with the 49ers having won six of their first seven games. The 49ers were the underdogs. They had not defeated the Rams in 10 meetings – their last win was in November 1970 – and they had only won two matches that year prior to meeting the Rams at the Los Angeles Coliseum. A crowd of 74,064 Angelenos saw the Rams do all the scoring in the first period, but two San Francisco touchdowns in the third quarter meant the sides entered the final period tied 14 points apiece. In the fourth the Rams scored first with a 23-yard field goal, but on the subsequent 49ers drive, San Francisco took the lead for the first time in the game after Gene Washington caught a 69-yard touchdown pass from Steve Spurrier. The Rams regained the lead with a touchdown from a one-yard rush, but the extra point attempt was unsuccessful. The 49ers now trailed by two points but had possession and progressed the ball down the field, until, with 38 seconds remaining, Steve Mike-Mayer kicked a mammoth 54-yard field goal to put the 49ers one point up. This secured an unlikely victory for San Franciso. It was the last regular season game the Rams lost in 1975. They claimed the NFC West Division easily with 12 wins, some seven wins ahead of the second-placed 49ers.

Rams by 1 at San Francisco – January 2, 1983

Entering the 1982 season, the 49ers were the reigning Super Bowl Champions. San Francisco, under head coach Bill Walsh, had revolutionised offensive play utilising the talents of quarterback Joe Montana and wide receiver Jerry Rice. It had dominated the NFC West in 1981 with 13 wins and just three losses. However, San Francisco had lost the first two games of 1982 before a players' strike shortened the NFL season to nine regular season games. Their second game against the Rams that season at Candlestick Park, San Franciso, on January 2, 1983, was to be the last of the abridged regular season before the playoffs. The Rams had won just the one game that year, and although San Francisco fared little better, gaining three victories, the 49ers needed to defeat the Rams to be in the playoffs. San Francisco led by 20 points to seven after the first half. However, the Rams scored the only touchdown in the third period. In the final quarter the Rams' George Farmer caught a 42-yard touchdown pass from Vince Ferragamo, and the resulting extra point put Los Angeles in front for the first time, 21 points to 20. After the restart Montana led a two-minute drive to place the 49ers easily within field goal range. A successful kick would have won the game for San Francisco, but it was blocked, and the 49ers' playoff hopes ended.

1989 NFC Championship Game – January 14, 1990

The 1989 National Football Conference (NFC) Championship Game was the first time the Rams and 49ers had met postseason. In 1989 San Francisco won the NFC West Division title and their 14 wins for just two losses enabled them to head into the NFC playoffs seeded first. One of their losses was against the Rams at Candlestick Park. In their second encounter the 49ers again found the Rams a tough opponent and had to mount a come-from-behind win. Although the Rams finished second in the NFC West, their 11 wins enabled them to qualify for a berth in the wild card playoff game. The Rams, seeded fifth of the five NFC playoff sides, played all their postseason games on the road, yet they defeated Philadelphia and the New York Giants to progress to the NFC Championship Game. Los Angeles would meet San Francisco at Candlestick Park, after the 49ers had despatched Minnesota 41 points to 13 in their playoff. Although the game was highly anticipated, the game itself was a blowout. San Francisco won easily, 30 points to three. Jim Everett, the Rams' quarterback, was hit and sacked so often that he went to ground in anticipation of another. It was a "phantom sack" that would haunt him. The 49ers then demolished the Denver Broncos 55 points to 10 in Superbowl XXIV to win the franchises' fourth NFL Championship.

2021 NFC Championship Game – January 30, 2022

On January 30, 2022, the Rams and 49ers met in the National Football Conference (NFC) Championship Game to determine which team would progress to Super Bowl LVI. The Rams won the NFC West division, with a 12 win and five loss record. However, two other teams from the highly competitive NFC West also qualified for the playoffs that season. San Francisco finished third of the division's four teams, yet entered the postseason seeded sixth. The Rams and 49ers won their respective playoff games to set up the encounter between them at Los Angeles' SoFi Stadium for the NFC title. Though the Rams were seeded above the 49ers, they had lost both regular season matchups to them. Their second meeting was the last of the regular season and San Francisco needed to win at the Rams' SoFi Stadium to qualify for the postseason. This they did, but only after the 49ers' Robbie Gould kicked a 24-yard field goal in overtime.

Four weeks later, 73,202 fans, a majority of whom were clad in the Niners' Montana red and gold, saw the Rams come from 10 points down in the final period to win the NFC Championship 20 to 17. The Rams only hit the lead late in the game, through a field goal kicked with 1:46 left. Following the restart San Franciso had possession, but the Rams defence hemmed the 49ers back to their own 22-yard line. There Jimmy Grappolo, their quarterback, was placed under immense pressure and while evading tacklers rushed a pass to his running back that was caught by the Rams' Travin Howard. Possession was turned over and Los Angeles' offence ran down the clock. Two weeks later the Rams defeated Cincinnati in Super Bowl LVI on February 13 to claim the franchises' fourth NFL championship. It was the Rams' first since 1999, when they were based in St. Louis, and it was the first NFL championship for a team based in Los Angeles since the LA Raiders of 1983.

American Football at the MCG

- There have been two recorded American football matches at the MCG.
- The first American football match played on the MCG was in 1908 between sailors of the *USS Minnesota* and the *USS Kentucky*. Both ships had arrived in Melbourne with the United States' Great White Fleet. The game consisted of two 15-minute halves and neither side scored.
- The MCG was commandeered as a military base during World War II from April 7, 1942. The 1st US Marines Division would be stationed here from January 1943 to October 1943. On April 4 an American football game was played at the Punt Road Oval, which is adjacent to the MCG, between a team of Marines based at the MCG and the Marines camped at Mount Martha. The MCG's Marines were dubbed the Redskins as they wore cardinal jerseys with yellow shoulder straps. Their opponents donned the reverse and called themselves the Golden Bears. A crowd of 18,000 attended the game and the result was a scoreless tie.
- On July 2, 1943, the US Marine Corps 1st Division Championship game was held on the MCG arena. The game was between 11th Regiment "Cannoners" and 5th Regiment "Red Raiders". The only touchdown was scored in the fourth quarter.

American Football Matches at the MCG

Date		TD	EP	FG	S	Pts		TD	EP	FG	S	Pts	Att.
01/09/1908	*USS Minnesota*	0	0	0	0	0	*USS Kentucky*	0	0	0	0	0	5,000
02/07/1943	11th USMC	1	0	0	0	6	5th USMC	0	0	0	0	0	*

Key: T D = touchdown. EP = extra point. FG = field goal. S = safety.
* Attendance recorded by the Melbourne *Argus* as "thousands".

Largest American Football Attendances in Australia

American Football was rarely and irregularly played in Australia prior to the early 1980s with the establishment of local amateur leagues by gridiron enthusiasts. Before then matches in Australia were staged by sailors from United States Navy ships visiting Australian ports, as happened in 1908 and 1925, or by United States' servicemen stationed in Australia during World War II. One-off games by visiting Division 1 college football teams were also played in 1985 (Australia Bowl), 1987 (Melbourne Bowl), 2016 (Sydney College Football Cup) and 2017 (Sydney College Football Cup). The only American football match played by professional NFL teams in Australia was a preseason game between the Denver Broncos and the San Diego Chargers at Stadium Australia, Sydney. It drew 73,811 spectators, which is the current attendance record for an American football game in Australia. Below is a list of American football matches in Australia that drew at least 10,000 spectators.

Date	Att.	Venue			Pts		Pts
07/08/1999	**73,811**	Stadium Australia, Sydney	NFL preseason	Denver Broncos	20	San Deigo Chargers	17
27/08/2016	**61,247**	Stadium Australia, Sydney	NCAA Div. 1	Univ. of California	51	Univ. of Hawai'i	31
26/08/2017	**33,101**	Sydney Football Stadium	NCAA Div. 1	Stanford University	62	Rice University	7
04/07/1943	**33,000**	Sydney Sports Ground	US Army v Navy	US Army	14	US Navy	0
04/07/1942	**28,000**	Adelaide Oval	US Army	"Bears" (red)	20	"Packers" (blue)	0
07/12/1985	**19,107**	Waverley Park, Melbourne	NCAA Div. 1	Univ. of Wyoming	23	Univ. of Texas El Paso	21
03/04/1943	**18,000**	Punt Road Oval, Melbourne	US Marines	"Redskins" (MCG)	0	"Golden Bears"	0
12/05/1908	**14,000**	Sydney Sports Stadium	US Navy	*USS Baltimore* (stripes)	10	*USS Baltimore* (brown)	4
23/09/1944	**12,000**	Brisbane Exhibition Grnd.	US Army	Base All-Stars	12	Engineers	6
01/08/1925	**10,000**	Sydney Showgrounds	US Navy	*USS Idaho*	10	*USS Colorado*	0

Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams v San Francisco 49ers Statistics

Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams v San Francisco 49ers Regular Season and Postseason Games by Venue

Venue	Home Team	Won by Rams	Won by 49ers	Ties	Attendance Record	Date	Year
Anaheim Stadium	Los Angeles Rams	2	13	0	66,070	Oct 23	1983
Busch Stadium I, St. Louis	St. Louis Rams	0	1	0	59,915	Oct 22	1995
Candlestick Park, San Francisco	San Francisco 49ers	21	22	1	69,732 [i]	2009 –	2013
Edward Jones Dome, St. Louis	St. Louis Rams	10	10	0	66,128	Dec 9	2002
Kezar Stadium, San Francisco	San Francisco 49ers	10	10	1	60,100	Sep 25	1955
Levi's® Stadium, Santa Clara	San Francisco 49ers	6	6	0	71,624	Jan 7	2024
Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum	Los Angeles Rams	21	12	1	102,368 [ii]	Nov 10	1957
SoFi Stadium, Los Angeles	Los Angeles Rams	2	5	0	74,742	Sep 17	2023
		72	79	3			

i Candlestick Park's 69,732 capacity was the default official attendance for all five 49ers v Rams games at the venue from 2009 to 2013. Before then the attendance record for a 49ers v Rams game at Candlestick Park was 68,386, set on December 27, 1998.

ii An NFL regular season attendance record that stood from 1957 until 2005, when 103,478 attended the Arizona Cardinals v San Francisco 49ers game at Estadio Azteca, Mexico City. The current NFL regular season record is 105,121, set in 2009 at AT&T Stadium, Dallas.

Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams v San Francisco 49ers – NFC Championship Games

Los Angeles Rams	3	at	San Francisco 49ers	30	January 14	1990	Candlestick Park, San Francisco	64,769
San Francisco 49ers	17	at	Los Angeles Rams	20	January 30	2022	SoFi Stadium, Los Angeles	73,202

Highest Scores – Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams v San Francisco 49ers (48 points +)

Los Angeles Rams	**56**	d.	San Francisco 49ers	7	November 9	1958	Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum
Los Angeles Rams	**48**	d.	San Francisco 49ers	26	October 5	1980	Anaheim Stadium
San Francisco 49ers	**48**	d.	Los Angeles Rams	0	December 27	1987	Candlestick Park, San Francisco
Los Angeles Rams	**48**	d.	San Francisco 49ers	32	December 30	2018	Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum

Greatest Winning Margins – Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams v San Francisco 49ers (35 points +)

Los Angeles Rams	**49 points**	d.	San Francisco 49ers	November 9	1958	Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum
San Francisco 49ers	**48 points**	d.	Los Angeles Rams	December 27	1987	Candlestick Park, San Francisco
San Francisco 49ers	**35 points**	d.	Los Angeles Rams	October 8	1961	Kezar Stadium, San Francisco
San Francisco 49ers	**35 points**	d.	St. Louis Rams	October 4	2009	Candlestick Park, San Francisco

Tied Games – Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams v San Francisco 49ers

San Francisco 49ers	24	at	Los Angeles Rams	24	October 3	1954	Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum
Los Angeles Rams	20	at	San Francisco 49ers	20	November 17	1968	Kezar Stadium, San Francisco
St. Louis Rams	24	at	San Francisco 49ers	24	November 11	2012	Candlestick Park, San Francisco

Shutouts (held pointless) - Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams v San Francisco 49ers

Los Angeles Rams	**0**	v	San Francisco 49ers	34	October 4	1959	Kezar Stadium, San Francisco
Los Angeles Rams	**0**	v	San Francisco 49ers	35	October 8	1961	Kezar Stadium, San Francisco
Los Angeles Rams	**0**	v	San Francisco 49ers	16	October 11	1976	Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum
Los Angeles Rams	**0**	v	San Francisco 49ers	33	October 28	1984	Anaheim Stadium
Los Angeles Rams	**0**	v	San Francisco 49ers	48	December 27	1987	Candlestick Park, San Francisco
St. Louis Rams	**0**	v	San Francisco 49ers	34	September 8	1996	Candlestick Park, San Francisco
St. Louis Rams	**0**	v	San Francisco 49ers	35	October 4	2009	Candlestick Park, San Francisco
St. Louis Rams	**0**	v	San Francisco 49ers	26	December 4	2011	Candlestick Park, San Francisco
Los Angeles Rams	**0**	v	San Francisco 49ers	28	December 9	2016	Levi's® Stadium, Santa Clara

San Francisco 49ers' Lowest Scores v Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams

San Francisco 49ers	**3**	v	Los Angeles Rams	34	October 5	1958	Kezar Stadium, San Francisco
San Francisco 49ers	**3**	v	Los Angeles Rams	33	September 30	1966	Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum
San Francisco 49ers	**3**	v	Los Angeles Rams	23	November 21	1976	Candlestick Park, San Francisco

This fact sheet was prepared by MCC Deputy Librarian – Trevor Ruddell