

The history of cricket in Portugal goes back to the days of the Peninsular War when Wellington's British troops were encamped in Lisbon.

The fact that there has been an annual fixture between sides from Oporto and Lisbon played virtually every year since 1861 gives testimony to the credentials of the cricketing establishment. Tradition is a very important aspect of the game of cricket and the cricket administrators in Portugal aim not to ever lose sight of the traditions which make the game what it is.

Tradition has, however, been partially responsible for the failure to develop cricket in Portugal. Erstwhile seen as a sport with strong English ties it was the almost exclusive domain of a relatively small group of ex-pats and sons of British families of long standing residence in Portugal and although it attracted a few notable locals, cricket was never given the impetus required to make it develop.

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History

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