



While most sports struggled to survive the pandemic, golf **thrived**, becoming more popular than it had been in decades.

As the pandemic began in 2020, people needed some way to get out of the house. In 2020, the world shut down, and golf associations were concerned about **solvency** and if people would play golf again.

However, there has been a **resurgence**. Last year, there were 24.8 million golfers in the US, an increase of about 500,000 or 2% over 2019, which was the largest increase in 17 years.

The pandemic may be a part of it; however, companies and technologies are also playing a role. There are changes to the game itself. Everybody is welcome to play, the sport is becoming cooler, and there are technologies both on and off the course that make the game more accessible.

Difficult words: **thrive** (to live or do very well), **solvency** (the ability of a company to pay its bills or debts), **resurgence** (a new start or increase after a period of little activity or popularity).



Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *thrive*, *solvency* and *resurgence*
2. Why did most sports struggle to survive in 2020?
3. What were golf associations concerned about when the world shut down in 2020?
4. What caused the large increase in the number of golfers in the US in 2020?
5. What role do companies and technologies play in the resurgence of golf?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Are you into golf? *If yes*, how long have you been playing golf?
If no, would you like to give it a try?
2. How popular is golf in your country? What sort of people play this sport?
3. Has there been an increase in the number of people who play golf in your country since the pandemic started? What other sports thrive as the pandemic began?
4. In your country, what sports struggled to survive the pandemic?