



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

riawena

'ri-a-we-na'



All school-age groups (K–12)

Post-school age

Language

Riawena means 'fun (sport)' in the language used by the Aboriginal people of the Oyster Bay area of Tasmania.

Description of activities

A number of the games and activities can be conducted as athletic events. Examples include:

- 1 **Spear throw for accuracy:** Use a 'ball thrower' and a tennis ball with a large wheelie bin as the target (10–20 metres away). Each player has five to ten attempts. Conduct two rounds and add the scores of both rounds for a total.
- 2 **Spear throw for distance:** Use a 'ball thrower' and a tennis ball. Players get three attempts to throw as far as they can.
- 3 **Tarnambai:** Players line up behind a starting line, with a tennis ball in one hand. On the signal to start players roll their ball past a line 20 metres away and run out to retrieve it. The first player to cross the starting line is the winner.

4 **Boomerang-return contest:** Players stand in a circle with a 1-metre diameter and throw a boomerang at least 20 metres away (mark a circle). They see how close it lands to the centre circle. Players get five attempts each.

5 **Weet weet throwing:** Use a gymnastic club or small skittle as a weet weet. Players attempt to throw as far as possible — they get three attempts. Mark where the weet weet lands.

6 **Koolchee:** Players stand next to each other behind a line. Place five wooden skittles 1 metre apart, along a line about 10 metres away. Players roll five tennis balls to attempt to knock over the skittles. Play three rounds in a competition for a total out of 15.

7 **Possum pushing:** Mark a circle with a 3–5-metre diameter, or use a centre circle on a basketball court. Players start in the centre of the circle and attempt to push/pull their opponent completely outside the circle.

Players must place their arms on the upper arm and shoulder of their opponent and hold on while they push — no hitting, throwing or tripping is allowed. Conduct a round-robin or elimination tournament. The best of three turns is played.

8 **Jillora:** Use upturned discs and billiard balls. The game may be played by several players at once. On the signal to start all players start their balls spinning with their thumb and first two fingers. The last ball left spinning is the winner.

