



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

pucho-pucho tau-i-malle

'poo-cho-poo-cho tu-i-mal-le'



SCHOOL
YEARS
4-6

SCHOOL
YEARS
7-9

Background

This stone rolling and stopping game was originally described as 'stick-and-stone' and was played by men in the Boulia district of Queensland. The Pitta-Pitta people referred to it as *pucho-pucho tau-i-malle*.

Language

Pucho-pucho signifies a 'spin-ball', and *tau-i-malle* 'to hit' or 'to strike'.

Short description

This is a ball rolling and stopping activity involving two groups of players.

Players

- Groups of four to six players on each side

Playing area

- An indoor or outdoor area suitable to the activity

Equipment

- A tennis ball
- A unihoc stick or small Kanga cricket bat for each player

Scoring

- A team scores one point each time a ball rolls through a line of players of the opposing team who are attempting to stop it.

Game play and basic rules

- The two teams stand at a distance of 15–20 metres apart. The players on each team stand one behind the other about 1–1.5 metres apart.

- The game consists of each team alternately rolling a ball towards the other team. Players attempt to stop/block the ball with their 'stick' as it rolls in front of them on the ground.

Variations

- Players attempt to hit a ball rolled towards them by a partner. Safety is important for this and the ball should stay close to the ground.
- Rotate player positions around after each turn.
- Use a hockey stick and ball. Work in pairs.
- Limit the speed of the roll.
- Vary the distance between the groups.
- Players take it in turns to attempt to stop the ball (stone). Rotate to the end of the group.
- The ball is hit from one team to the other rather than being rolled. (Recommended for skilled players.)

Suggestion

This could be used as a hockey skills activity or informal game.

Teaching points

- Line up behind each other. Teams on opposite sides.
- Ready. Go.
- Roll (or hit) the ball.
- Stop the ball. Roll it back.
- Keep going. Faster