

IL TAMBURELLO

- WHAT IS TAMBURELLO ? -

It's a ball game that takes its name from the sort of bat you use to hit the ball, a kind of tambourine.

Ballgames have an ancient tradition. It is well known that the Greeks and Romans played such games, while many believe that ballgames were also common in the Maya and Aztec civilisations that grew up around the Gulf of Mexico.

From the Middle Ages to the Renaissance and through to modern times the instrument used to hit the ball was perfected and, developing along the lines of the main group of ballgames (tennis, balle au taunis, ballou au poing, pallone, etc.), Tamburello distinguished itself by using a sort of tambourine (tamburello) instead of a bat or racket. Played in various forms the world over, the game originated in Italy and the inhabitants of the peninsula had already been playing it for centuries before the country was unified as one nation. Its history is one of its attractions and likewise the fact that it is very exciting and great fun to play.

But tamburello is also a genuine sport, and can be both physically demanding and spectacular. The sports version developed around the simplicity of the physical gesture involved and finds its full expression and *raison d'être*, as does every sport, in the strain and excitement of the game.

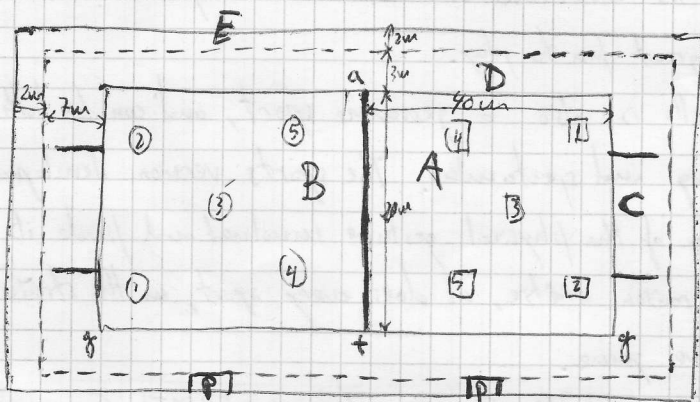
To get an idea of Taururello, just imagine five tennis players forming a team and playing another five tennis players, on a court 80 metres by 20. There is no net on the court, just a line dividing the two halves, and instead of a racket the players use - Taururello. The ball moves fast - up to 250 km/h! - racing back and forth across a court whose dimensions demand athletic qualities.

Suitably adapted, Taururello can also be played indoors. Playing well requires agility, a sharp eye, intelligence and confidence; the players also have to have a good team spirit and work together, since Taururello is definitely a team sport.

It's a game that can be played either right-handed or left-handed and is suitable for children of primary school age. Taururello - a game that offers a new experience to the world of sport.

If you are interested in Taururello write to:

FIPT (Federazione Italiana Palla Taururello) Via Caltagirone, 6,
00182 Rome (ITALY).



The diagram shows the regulation size field.

- A team serving
- B team returning
- C service area
- D Baseline area
- E Safety area.

Team A: ① server - ② returner.
③ mid-court player ④ right backliner
⑤ left backliner.

Referee a umpire g. linesman,
p. trainer's bench, t. scoreboard

- IL TAMBURELLO -

12
DRA

How to PLAY

Court: the regulation-size court (shown in the diagram) measures 80 x 20 metres; the indoor version of the game can be played on a basketball court. Smaller courts are used for young players and for the youth games.

Players: two backcourt players, one mid-court player, one mid-court player, one returner and one server.

Ball: the ball is made of rubber, weighs 78 grams and has a diameter of 61 mm; for the indoor game a softer ball can be used; a lighter ball is used for beginners and for female categories.

Tamburello: There are two types: the oval kind, used for serving, and the round kind; the round tamburello has a diameter of 28 cm (for young players, smaller versions with diameters of 24 or 26 cm can be used).

score: matches are played to the best of 13 games for major leagues. Each game consists of a series of "points" called "fifteen" and their sequence is 15, 30, 40, 50-game. The game is awarded to the team that first reaches the score of 50. Should both teams reach the score of 40, the game will be awarded to the team that first gains a two-point lead.

David Risera Neset, 1989, Course on Teaching Sports, Grant
(AUSTRIA)

RULES:

- The lines that mark out the court are considered a part of the field of play, the dividing line across the centre is common ground.
- The teams change ends every three games (each group of three games is known as a "trampoline").
- The ball can be hit back while still in the air or after bouncing off the ground just once.

A point, or "fifteen", is lost when:

- the server, in the act of serving, touches the backline, thus entering the field of play;
- the ball, served or returned, does not pass the centre line before bouncing, or goes outside the court before bouncing;
- the ball is returned with a part of the body, (excluding the forearm of the arm holding the tamburello, which is legitimate);
- the ball is touched by two players in the same team consecutively;
- the ball is hit back with the oval tamburello.
- a player invades the other team's side of the field.

David Riesen-Nelot, Course on Teaching Sports
1989
Graz, Austria