

Finnish baseball: Introduction to the game

Pesäpallo is the national game of Finland. It is a combination of traditional ball-batting team games and American baseball. The game was first developed by Lauri "Tahko" Pihkala in the 1920's, and in the summer of 2002 pesäpallo celebrated its 80th anniversary. Pesäpallo has changed with the times and grown in popularity. Its success as spectator sport is based on the unique combination of skills, smarts, athleticism and teamwork required in the modern game. The game is nowadays also known by the name of pesis. Rooted deeply in the history of Finland as a nation and in the everyday life in the country regions, pesis is also enjoyed by all Finns in schools, parks and fields as a hobby, which can be played by everybody for great fun
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yom1_q8WRck&vl=fi

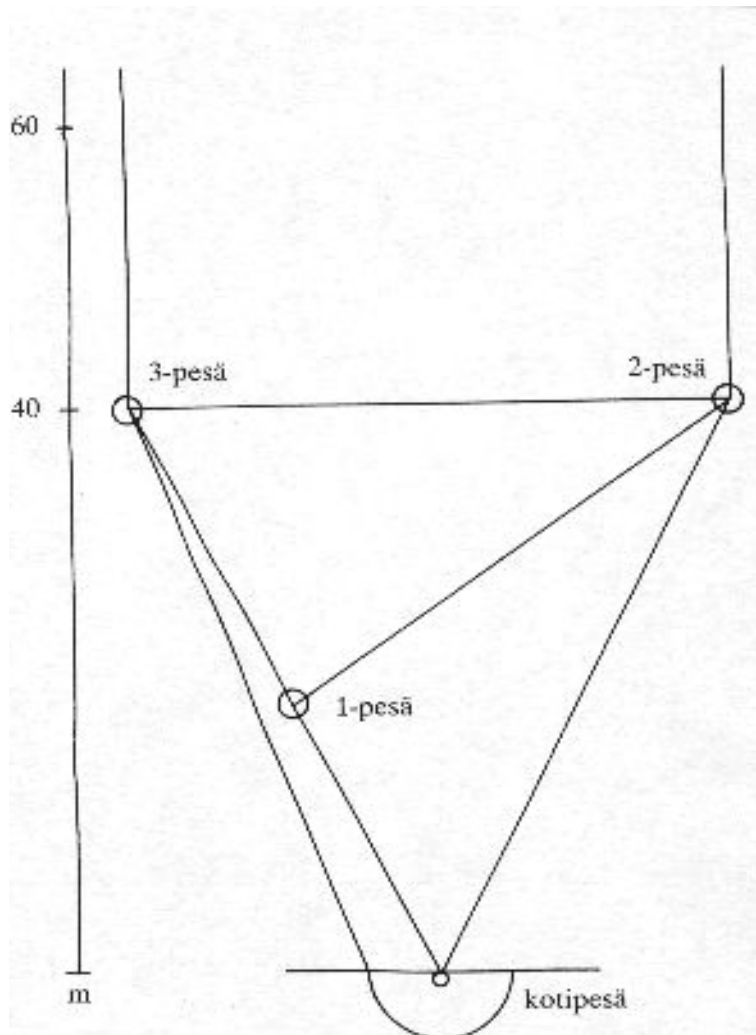
The Year 1918 Emphasised Education and Martial Spirit

It is a longstanding myth that pesäpallo was created for the training of military skills. Batting equals a pot shot, ball tossing the throwing of grenades, batting and advancing firing and moving, and charging is the method of the infantry. True, but only partly. Tahko did market the sport to civil guards and the army, but he was speaking as a salesman as much as a soldier. These thoughts derived from the game, not the other way around.



The first modern pesäpallo test match was played on Kaisaniemen kenttä on November 14, 1920. However, the largest support for Tahko and ideas for development came from Jyväskylä. Longball was exchanged for pesäpallo in 1922.

The name pesäpallo derives from baseball. It was the idea of Anni Collan, a pioneer of women's fitness in Finland. The name referred to baseball at first, but Tahko soon adopted it for his game.



The tests led to a “three base game”, pesäpallo, in November 1920. It was a success. “One thriller after another,” Tahko rejoiced. The field had no backline. Longball was exchanged for pesäpallo in 1922.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muz3qlraYSw>



In Muurolan Peruskoulu we have a tradition to play Pesis= Finnish baseball against teachers and 9.grade pupils every spring term last school days before summer holiday.

This is the way teams compete which team can start in-/out-field game.



Mölkky trad.outdoor summer game from Finland



https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=71&v=3fwtBomGp7Q&feature=emb_logo

Mölkky (Finnish: [ˈmølkːy]) is a Finnish throwing game that was created by the company [Lahden Paikka](#)^{open_in_new} – formerly known as *Tuoterengas* – in 1996. Given the exotic name of the game, Mölkky is commonly misspelled as *molky*, *mollky*, *molkki* or *molki*. The word *mölkky* was coined by its creators and has no actual meaning. It was probably inspired by the Finnish word *pölkky*, which means *block of wood*. Mölkky is a game that requires both skill and precision, but also a strategical mindset!

Lahden Paikka has been manufacturing Mölkky since the 90's. The production of the game is eco-friendly because the company uses excess wood from other projects. There are no nasty chemicals involved. Plus, the natural timber is sourced from 100% sustainable Finnish forests. In 2015, Mölkky actually won the Green Toy of the Year Award!

A Brief History



source: [Finnish Literature Societyopen_in_new](#)

Mölkky is based on a game that has been played for centuries, called Kyykkä – also known as Finnish or Karelian Skittles. It was originally played in Karelia, a region that covers parts of Russia and Finland. In the 20th century, a great number of Karelians migrated to Finland to escape civil war. And luckily, they brought Kyykkä with them!

The rules of Kyykkä can vary quite a bit, but it basically goes like this: the players throw a *karttus* (a club resembling a baseball bat) at *kyykkäs* (small cylindrical skittles) to knock them out of their own game square. The team who needs the fewest throws wins. Traditionally, the winners would get to ride on the backs of the losing team!