

## Pesapallo

### Modifying Finland's National Past time for American PE Classes

Lauri Pihkala created Pesapallo (Pesis) in the 1920's. Pesis is Finland's national game and closely resembles baseball. Pesapallo is a fast-paced highly developed game that is focused on offense. It incorporates fundamentals similar to baseball; throwing, catching, fielding, batting and base running. It has 9 positions on defense and up to 12 on offense (3 designated hitters) and is played in 2 periods of 4 innings. The game is easily adapted to American Physical Education classes from elementary schools to high school. The rules can also be modified to play indoor (whiffle-ball) and outdoor (softball). Pesapallo has enough quirks for those familiar with baseball and softball that it is entertaining for all ages to watch and play.

#### Quirks

Vertical pitch

1<sup>st</sup> base is to the Left

Each base path is longer

3<sup>rd</sup> strike foul is an out

No homeruns (foul ball/strike)

Field of play is a rectangle

#### Similarities to Baseball/Softball

strikes (3)/balls (2)

3 outs/half inning

9 players on defense

Bunting is legal

runners cannot advance on a foul ball

Base runners cannot steal or leadoff

Other Rules that make the game fun.

2 periods of 4 innings

- Teams can win or tie the 1<sup>st</sup> period
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> period begins 0 – 0
- A tie score at the end of two periods results in 1 extra inning

Vertical pitch – pitches must be at least 1 meter above the pitcher; 3 strikes for an out, 2 balls for a walk

- Pitch must land on home plate to be called a strike. The pitch may be higher than a meter.

Batting – the batter is not required to run when a ball is put in play on the first 2 hits/contacts (strikes).

- Batter must stay in batter box if they choose not to run on 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> contact
- The batter is required to advance on a 3<sup>rd</sup> hit
- A third strike foul ball is an out
- A triple scores a run, the runner can advance home off a different batters hit for another run
  - o Scoring 2 runs in one trip around the bases.
- Up to 3 Designated Hitters (Jokers) are allowed in the offensive line-up, 12 players total.
- A fair ball is in play if it lands in play and then rolls out of bounds.

Field & Base Running – the field is a rectangle and the base pattern is a zigzag shape

- Maximum field size: 96 meters (315') x 42 meters (137').
- Each base path is incrementally longer to increase baserunners jeopardy.
  - o Home to 1<sup>st</sup> = 20 meters (~65'), 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> = 36 m (~118'), 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> = 42m (~137') and 3<sup>rd</sup> to home = 48m (~157')
- Base runners touch a safe-zone while defensive players touch a plate/base (force out) to avoid collisions.