

# EARTHBALL

## Games, Ideas, and Safety Notes

Earthballs are a real fun item, with lots of opportunities for exciting games and challenges. Please feel free to use your imagination and come up with new ways of using the earthball, the games etc. listed here are only suggestions to start you off.

### END ZONE

Works best in a hall. Two opposing teams are each trying to defend the back wall of their half of the court. Every time the opposition allow the ball to touch the back wall, they gain a point.

Restart play each time from a centre line.

### ROLL OVER

Works well indoors or out. Find an old tyre, or at a push a hula-hoop. One team is attacking, the other defending. To score a point, the attacking team have to roll the ball fully onto the tyre. The defending team have to stop them.

This game can also be played with a tyre at either end of the court, or two earthballs, one for each team, which are both aiming for the one tyre.

### KEEP IT UP

This game works best with a small hall or a strictly defined court space. One team has to try and keep the ball airborne, the other has to try and get it down. Award points for either the most consecutive passes, or the longest time aloft, before swapping the teams.

### DODGE BALL

Works either indoors or out. Extra fun with the giant sized ball! The earthball can be dodged more easily than a standard football, so make sure the playing area is well defined.

You can also restrict the "dodgers" movement, either making them stick to a smaller court area, or require them to keep one foot on a line of a badminton court at all times, for instance. Take care to ensure that play does not get too rough.

### VOLLEYBALL

Yes, it can be made to work! Usually best with a solid barrier, rather than a net, and simplified rules.

## I M P O R T A N T ! !

While earthball is big and fun, there are some risks associated with its use. These can be minimised if you take some sensible precautions.

### Indoors

Beware of sharp objects and edges, for example corners of tables, radiator valves. Earthballs are capable of knocking over things like stacks of chairs, loudspeakers etc.

Have a good look round your hall beforehand, and try to eliminate these dangers. Either move a potential hazard away, or have someone responsible "guard" it, keeping the earthball away.

### Outdoors

It pays to have a good look over the ground you will be using the earthball on. Beware of broken glass and dog poo, as much for the player's sake as the ball. Sharp twigs, thorn bushes, and barbed wire are all worth avoiding. Tent pegs are a particular hazard on campsites.

It is possible for the earthball to blow away in windy conditions. Be especially careful on beaches, we have already had an earthball blown out to sea!

### Also...

Earthball can have a surprising force behind it. Make sure that play does not get too rough, so that players or bystanders are not getting sent flying, or buried under a pile of competitors.

## OBS TACLE COURSES

These can be as simple or complicated, easy or hard as you want to make them. For younger children, mark out a line that they have to roll the earthball along, or a "roadway" that the ball must not move outside.

There are many challenges that can be tackled by older children and teenagers, for example getting the earthball over an assault course, with every member of a team remaining in contact with the earthball at all times!

## HI GH J U M P

If you have a parachute, you can use it to caterpault the earthball into the air. Sit the ball in the centre of the parachute, then have everyone pull the cloth back sharply.

Award points (or prizes) to what you judge to be the highest jump.