



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

**jagera**  
'jag-er-a'



SCHOOL  
YEARS  
4-6

SCHOOL  
YEARS  
7-9

### Background

A diving and underwater-swimming activity was played by the Jagera (or Jagara) people in the Brisbane area. The people would dive for white stones or bones that were thrown into the water.

Children who played this game would also have contests of staying underwater and underwater swimming races.

### Language

There was no name identified for this game so it is named after the Jagera people who were observed playing it.

### Short description

A game of diving and retrieving objects that are thrown into the water, such as into a swimming pool.

### Players

- Up to 30 players in two even teams

### Playing area

- A swimming pool

### Equipment

- A number of golf balls and/or weighted balls
- Two coloured plastic buckets in which to place balls

### Game play and basic rules

- Golf balls or other objects are thrown into the water. The players start in the water with one hand on the edge of the pool. On a signal to start they dive after the balls or objects.
- Players who find the balls or objects bring them to the surface and place them in a team goal (coloured bucket) on the edge of the pool. Team goals are 5 metres apart.
- No interference is allowed by players of the opposing team when a player collects balls and places them in the team goal. A player may collect more than one ball or object at a time.

- At the end of the time the players leave the water and the number of balls for each team is counted. Selected players then throw the balls into the water for the next turn.

### Scoring

The winner of the game is the team who can collect the most golf balls and place them in the team goal (bucket) in the time allowed (three minutes). Have a number of contests to decide on the winner.

### Variations

- Cooperative *jagera*: Throw a large number of golf balls (50 or more) into the pool. On a signal to start, all players retrieve the balls as quickly as possible — time the attempt. As the balls are placed into a team goal (bucket), players acting as 'counters' call out the number and when the last one is placed in the bucket the time is recorded. Have several attempts to set a class or 'world' record.

### Safety

For safety reasons players should be competent swimmers quite capable of undertaking the activity.

### Comment

In the Walmatjari language spoken in north-western Australia, *pulukwanti* means 'to dive into water'.

### Teaching points

- Take some balls. Lob them in the water. Spread them out.
- Hang onto the edge of the pool.
- Slide in and start when told.
- Remember, surface dives, or feet first.
- Ready. Go.
- No interference. Watch out for other players.
- Breaststroke action. Balls in the bucket.
- Stop. Let's count them.
- Ready to go again.