



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

kwatye
'k-wat-ye'



SCHOOL
YEARS
4–6

SCHOOL
YEARS
7–9

SCHOOL
YEARS
10–12

Post-school age

Background

Water games and contests were played in all areas of Australia. In some parts of central Australia a frequent expression of 'opposition' between the generation groupings in a camp takes the form of light-hearted abuse and spectacular water-throwing battles.

The aim of the activity was to saturate certain kin in the opposite group.

Language

Kwatye means 'water' in the Eastern Arrernte language of central Australia.

Short description

This is a water-fighting game.

Players

- Two teams of four to ten players

Playing area

- A suitable outdoor area such as a beach

Equipment

- A supply of water and a number of buckets or bins and small paper cups or paper bags

Game play and basic rules

- Players are organised into two teams. A large bin or bucket is placed in the centre of a 3-metre circle. One team is armed with small buckets or cups (or water bombs — balloons filled with water) and attempt to put as much water in the bin as they can without going inside the marked area.
- The defending team stands inside the 3-metre circle and attempts to stop them. The defenders must be outside a 1-metre circle around the centre bin/bucket. The attacking players obtain water from a couple of large bins of water placed outside the playing area or from any nearby sea or lake.

Variations

- An empty bucket is placed inside a 2-metre circle. The attackers have a small paper cup each. They take water from a large water container located 10 metres away and attempt to put as much water as they can in the bucket in a set time (three minutes).
- The defenders are only allowed to knock the water out of the hands of the attacking players. (This game could be conducted with the two teams attacking opposing buckets.)
- The players of both groups attempt to throw water on the players of the other group.
Modifications: 1. One group throws water and the other attempts to avoid being hit. 2. Players are allocated an opponent on whom to throw water.

Safety

Safety aspects must be considered at all times. Players should under no circumstances be forced or pressured to participate, and the activity must be stopped immediately if the intention of the game is not adhered to.

Teaching points

- Teams ready. Go.
- Fill the bin. Underarm throws only.
- No contact please.
- Keep going. Fill the bin with water.
- Good. Stop there. Good work. Change over.