



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Woggabaliri

'wog-gab-a-lir-i'



SCHOOL
YEARS
7-9

SCHOOL
YEARS
10-12

Post-school age

Background

Aboriginal people in places such as the Bogan and Lachlan River areas of New South Wales played ball games with a ball made of possum fur. This was usually spun by the women and made into a ball about 5 centimetres or more in diameter. The various types of games required great agility and suppleness of limbs to play with any degree of skill.

Language

The name for this game was taken from the Wiradyuri language for 'play' (*woggabaliri*). This language was spoken or understood by many Aboriginal groups in central and southern New South Wales.

Short description

This is a cooperative kicking volley game to see how many times the ball can be kept in the air before contacting the ground.

Players

- Any number of players suitable for the area. Groups of four to eight players are recommended.

Playing area

- A designated indoor or outdoor area

Equipment

- A size 3 or 4 soccer ball, volleyball or a soft-filled ball of a similar size

Game play and basic rules

- The players do not take sides — it is a cooperative skill game. Players organise into a circle or other arrangement to play the game. One player kicks the ball up in the air and players attempt to see who can kick it again before it touches the ground.

- The main object is to work together to keep the ball from hitting the ground. Players may not kick the ball more than once in succession, although for younger or less-skilled players a couple of contacts (juggles) to control the ball is allowed. All players should be involved in the game and take turns where possible.
- If the ball touches the ground the game is started again. For safety reasons a player who is in position and calls for the ball first ('My ball') is allowed to attempt to kick it. As a general rule players attempt to kick the ball above head height for it to count as a volley.

Variations

- The player who kicks the ball the most number of times during the game is considered the best player.
- Players are numbered and take it in turns to volley the ball.
- Players in a small circle attempt to volley the ball in the air as many times as they can. No player may kick the ball more than once in succession.
- Players may head or otherwise volley the ball to each other.
- Team *woggabaliri*. Arrange two teams of four players on a volleyball court, or teams of two on a badminton court. Players attempt to volley the ball to each other across the halfway line or net. Players may use any part of their body other than their hands and arms and have up to three contacts before passing to the other team. Less-experienced players may be allowed two contacts/touches each (one to control and one to pass). A competition to 11 points could be played.
- Players in a small circle attempt to volley the ball in the air as many times as they can. No player may kick the ball more than once in succession.
- For younger or less-experienced players a beach ball may be used.
- Players individually attempt to volley the ball in the air as many times as possible. More-skilled players can include various 'tricks'.

Safety

Players are not allowed to push each other out of the way to reach the ball, and 'dangerous' kicking of the ball is not allowed.

Suggestion

This could be used as a skills practice activity for football (soccer) or as a physical education class activity.

Teaching points

- Form the circle. Ready. Go.
- Call, 'My ball!' Kick and move out of the way.
- Kick and follow-through.
- Chase the ball.
- Call out the number of volleys.