**Kubb**

Kubb is an outdoor game where the object is to knock down all the opponent’s Kubbs (wooden blocks) by throwing wooden sticks at them and then knocking down the opponent’s King.

**ORIGINS**

There is a lot of speculation about the origins of Kubb, most of which are unverifiable. Some say it is a thousand years old, others say the game shows some similarity to other types of bowling games and may share a common medieval source. It is a popular belief that the game dates back to the Viking Age and survived on Gotland (Sweden’s largest island). It has been suggested that Kubb means “wooden block” in the Gotland dialect of Sweden. However, some people believe Kubb is a 20th century invention because teams on a two-sided field play the game.

**KUBB COMPETITION**

- The competition will be a series of elimination rounds. The draws will be made on Friday night.
- Teams must consist of 2 or 3 players. All team members must participate in the round and must throw an equal number of batons.
- If a team consists of children aged 10 or under, children may throw batons from any point further than half way between their teams’ base line and the King.
- The winners in each round will progress to the next round.
- Two playing fields will be set up.
- Rounds one and two will be played on Saturday morning.
- The final round will be played on Saturday afternoon during the market.

**EQUIPMENT AND SET UP**

Kubb has the following game pieces:

- **1 King**, a larger wooden piece (approx 25 - 30 cm tall, 10cm sq.) adorned with a crown top
- **10 Kubbs**, rectangular wooden blocks (approx 15cm tall & 8 cm sq.)
- **6 Throwing Sticks**, wooden batons (approx 30cm long, 3-5 cm thick)
Kubb is played on a flat area (5 x 8 m or 8 x 10 m). The King is placed at the centre of the play area and an imaginary line drawn through the King divides the field into two halves. Five Kubbs are placed across each side’s base line.

**How to Throw the Wooden Sticks**

The Throwing Sticks must be held at either end (not in the middle) and thrown underarm and end over end.

**PLAYING THE GAME**

There are many variations to the rules by which Kubb is played. These rules are a popular version used by Miklagard garrison. Up to six people can play on each team.

Team 1 starts by standing behind their Kubbs along the baseline and throwing six wooden sticks at the Kubbs lined up on Team 2’s baseline, with the aim of knocking over the opponents’ Kubbs.

Once Team 1 has thrown all its sticks, it’s Team 2’s turn. Firstly, Team 2 picks up all their Kubbs knocked over by Team 1, stands behind their base line and throws them into Team 1’s side of the playing field. Any Kubbs that lands outside the playing area can be placed anywhere on their side of the field by team 1. This is usually along the baseline. Any Kubbs that land on the playing field will be stood up wherever they come to rest (these are sometimes referred to as field Kubbs). Kubbs that aren’t thrown past the halfway should be thrown again.

It is common practice to play the “Tower” rule. This rule states that should the Kubbs strike each other when they have been thrown onto the opposing side of the pitch, they should be stacked on top of each other, in the form of a tower. There is no limit to the number of Kubbs that can be stacked in a tower.

Team 2 then proceeds to throw all its sticks. Team 2 must first attempt to knock over all of the field Kubbs before attempting to knock over Team 1’s baseline Kubbs.

If Team 2 falls to knock over all of the field Kubbs on Team 1’s side of the field, Team 1 may stand in line with the Field Kubb closest to the King when throwing their sticks.

(This does not apply when throwing back the Kubbs as these must always be thrown underarm from behind the team’s baseline.)

The game continues in this way until one team knocks over all the opponents’ field and base Kubbs. They then can attempt to knock over the King from the baseline. The team that knocks over the King wins the game.

**Note:** If a team knocks over the King before knocking over all the opposing Kubbs, they lose the game.

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PO Box 3003 Marrickville NSW 2204

Written by Yolanda Beatson.