



## Finnish baseball

Finnish baseball is a fast-moving bat-and-ball sport that is referred to as the national sport of Finland and people play it in other countries including Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, and Canada's northern Ontario. The game is similar to brännboll, rounders, and lapta, as well as baseball. Pesäpallo is a combination of traditional ball-batting team games and North American baseball. Pesäpallo was invented by [Lauri "Tahko" Pihkala](#) in the 1920s. Pesäpallo has changed with the times and grown in popularity.

the basic idea of Pesäpallo is similar to that of baseball: the offense tries to score by hitting the ball successfully and running through the bases, while the defense tries to put the batter and runners out. One of the most important differences between pesäpallo and baseball is that the ball is pitched vertically, which makes hitting the ball, as well as controlling the power and direction of the hit, much easier. This gives the offensive game more variety, speed, and tactical aspects compared to baseball. The fielding team is forced to counter the batter's choices with defensive schemes and anticipation; Pesäpallo becomes a mental exercise.

## Lauri Pihkala the inventor of Finnish baseball



Lauri was the inventor of pesäpallo, the Finnish variant of baseball. In 1969 he became one of the first persons to receive an honorary doctorate in Sport Sciences from the University of Jyväskylä, together with president Urho Kekkonen and Professor Kaarina Kari.