

FINNISH BASEBALL - PESÄPALLO



Introduction to the game

Pesäpallo is the national game of Finland. It is a combination of traditional ball-batting team games and American baseball. The game was first developed by Lauri “Tahko” Pihkala in the 1920’s, and in the summer of 2002 pesäpallo celebrated its 80th anniversary. Pesäpallo has changed with the times and grown in popularity. Its success as spectator sport is based on the unique combination of skills, smarts, athleticism and teamwork required in the modern game. The game is nowadays also known by the name of pesis. Rooted deeply in the history of Finland as a nation and in the everyday life in the country regions, pesis is also enjoyed by all Finns in schools, parks and fields as a hobby, which can be played by everybody for great fun.

The rules of pesis are quite complicated, but the idea of the game is simple. One team tries to score by hitting the ball and running through the bases, the other team tries to defend by catching the ball and putting the runners out. The key to the game and the most important difference between pesis and baseball is the vertical pitching. Hitting the ball, as well as controlling the power and direction of the hit, is much easier. This

gives the offensive game much more variety, speed and tactical dimensions than in baseball. The fielding team is forced to counter the batter's choices with defensive schemes and anticipation, and the game becomes a mental challenge.

The manager has an important role in pesis. The offensive and defensive strategies include several prepared plays for every situation. The manager leads his team's offense by giving signals to the players with a multicolored fan. The defensive team play is directed by the manager's orders and hand signals by the fielders. Thanks to the continuous communication, decision making and seamless co-operation on the field pesis is a demanding and interesting team sport, suitable for the modern information era.

To an experienced fan the elite league games of Superpesis offer endless variations and innovations of the tactical battle, while a newcomer to the game can be fascinated by the rapidly developing play action and the physical skills, speed and finesse of the players.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=38&v=H_navSFGj0l

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/europe/100000004664487/watching-finlands-pes-apollo.html?action=click>ype=vhs&version=vhs-heading&module=vhs®ion=title-area&cview=true&t=40>



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Pesäpallo World Cup

10th Pesäpallo World Cup tournament will be played in Pune, India 2019. It's the first time the tournament is played in Asia. Pesäpallo is Finnish national sport but now it's experiencing a big expansion internationally. So far Pesäpallo World Cup tournaments have been hosted by Helsinki (Finland) 1992, Hyvinkää (Finland) 1997, Melbourne (Australia) 2000, Södertälje (Sweden) 2003, Munich (Germany) 2006, Pori (Finland) 2009, Gold Coast (Australia) 2012, Lucerne (Switzerland) 2015 and Turku (Finland) 2017.

Pesäpallo was founded 1922 by Mr. Lauri Pihkala. In the honour of 100 years of pesäpallo, World Cup tournament will be played in Hyvinkää (Finland) 2022.

