

# HOCKEY

Get ready for the Summer Olympic Games with our series and learn about different Olympic and Paralympic sports.

Do you know which language 'hockey' comes from? Find out here.

**Questions and answers**

**Why is it called hockey?**

Ah, you see the name comes from the French 'hoquet' or a hooked stick.

**But it can't be French? I thought, like most games, the British wrote the rules, the French created an international association and the headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland?**

Almost correct! Yes, the rules were written by England, Ireland and Wales in 1900, and, yes, the Fédération Internationale de Hockey was formed by Frenchman Paul Léauteis in 1924. The headquarters is actually in Lausanne, Switzerland.

**Lesson No. 19**

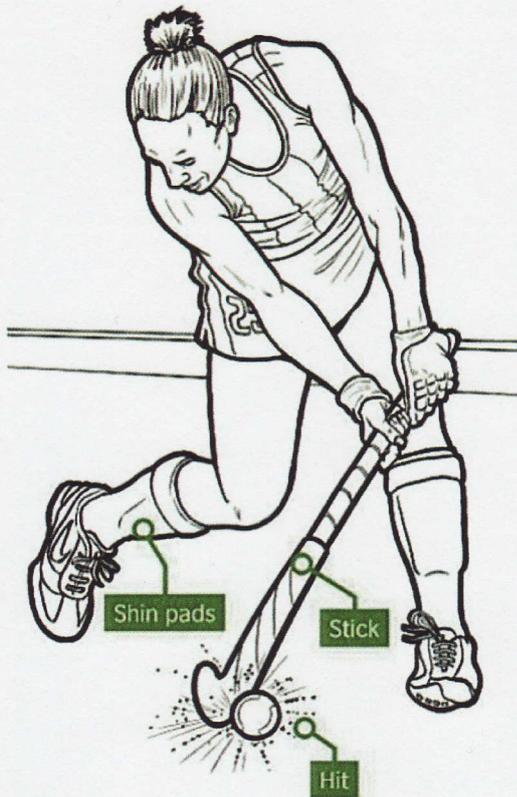


**So it is quite a recent sport then?**

Not at all! Ball games played with sticks have a long history – records show similar games played by the Egyptians, Greeks, Persians and Aztecs, as well as lacrosse or baggataway in North America. But this one came from the British Isles. Ireland has hurling, Scotland has shinty, Wales has banty and England has hockey.

**That ball looks very hard. Do people get hurt?**

The goalkeeper has to wear special protection called padding. Also the ball shouldn't go above shoulder-height.



**Activity**

Decide if the following statements about the text are true or false.

- 1. Hockey is a French game.
- 2. The Aztecs played hockey.
- 3. The British Isles have four different stick-and-ball games.
- 4. The shoulder is where your arms join your body.

- 5. A bully is the player who restarts the game.
- 6. The traditional sticks were bigger than the Indian sticks.
- 7. 'Dribbling' means running and keeping the ball close to you.
- 8. The Indians lost the 1960 final.

**I'm still scared. I've heard there are bullies in hockey.**

There are but it's not what you think. It doesn't mean some players frighten or scare others. In hockey 'a bully' is when a player from each side touch sticks before they restart the game.

**Those sticks still look scary to me. Don't the people with the biggest sticks always win?**

No! In fact, in the 1920s the Indians created much better sticks where the heads were smaller and rounder. This allowed them to dribble –

to run with the ball.

**And that was better because...?**

Well, India won Olympic gold in 1928, and then won every Olympics after until Pakistan beat them in 1960.

**Hey, how does a hockey player say 'Yes'?**

That's an old joke: 'Ho-kay!'

**Answers**

- 1. False; 2. False; 3. True; 4. True; 5. False; 6. True; 7. True; 8. True

**Rules for Hockey**

Hockey is like football with sticks. Two teams of 11 players play on a pitch with a goal at each end.

- The aim is to score more goals than the other team. Players can only score 'field goals' from inside the circle.
- Every player has a hooked stick. One side of the head is flat. You can only touch the ball with the flat side.
- Using the stick, players can 'push' the ball along the ground, 'hit' it like golf, or 'flick' or 'scoop' the ball up in the air.
- Only the goalkeeper can

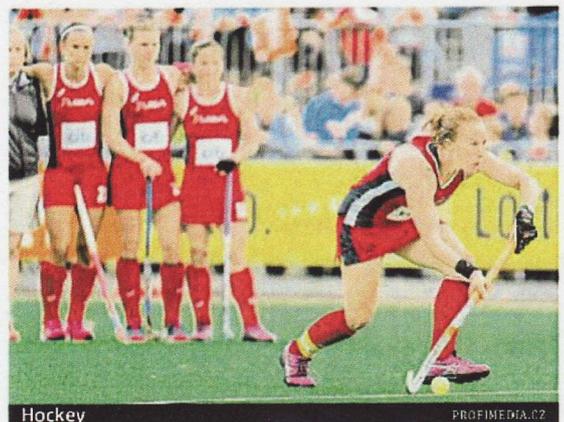
touch the ball with their hands or feet, and no one can use their stick to touch other players or their sticks. If any player does these, it is a foul, and the other team gets a free hit or a penalty corner.

- At penalty corners, some defenders stand behind the goal line, and the attackers wait outside the circle to hit the ball.
- If there is a foul in the circle, the attackers get a penalty stroke. The penalty taker must use a flick or a push.
- Hockey uses cards: a green is a warning; a yellow – you miss five minutes; a red – you are off!

**Wordsearch**

X	F	N	F	L	I	C	K	Z	G
N	V	V	G	C	J	B	B	O	O
F	X	X	Y	N	L	T	M	D	A
W	O	Y	T	L	P	S	C	R	L
F	S	U	V	Z	U	T	D	G	K
J	O	N	L	J	S	I	X	O	E
J	M	S	V	V	H	C	O	A	E
X	S	C	O	O	P	K	V	L	P
P	E	N	A	L	T	Y	I	S	E
K	B	U	L	L	Y	R	O	X	R

Find these words in the grid: stick, bully, goalkeeper, goal, push, flick, scoop, penalty, foul



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