

Ring Toss



History of the Game

Ring Toss is one of the earliest forms of leisure sport and can be dated back to ancient Greece, where a young stable hand is believed to have invented it. Adonis worked at a horse stable from a very young age to help his family pay the bills. Not unlike children today, Adonis dreamt of one day becoming an Olympic athlete and competing in his favorite event – the discus. Since he didn't have enough money to buy his own discus, he made his own by bending a horseshoe into a circular ring (he had some blacksmith connections). As he and his friends began to toss the rings, they soon made it into a game of accuracy rather than distance by tossing the rings at a wooden stake in the ground. Young Adonis's ring toss game later became popular with soldiers in the Roman Army.

Object of Game

In this challenging game, each player or team takes turns tossing rings at the pronged target. Points are awarded for each washer that is tossed into the box, and extra points are awarded for landing a washer into the center cup. Play continues until a player or team scores the game point.

1. Get Ready!

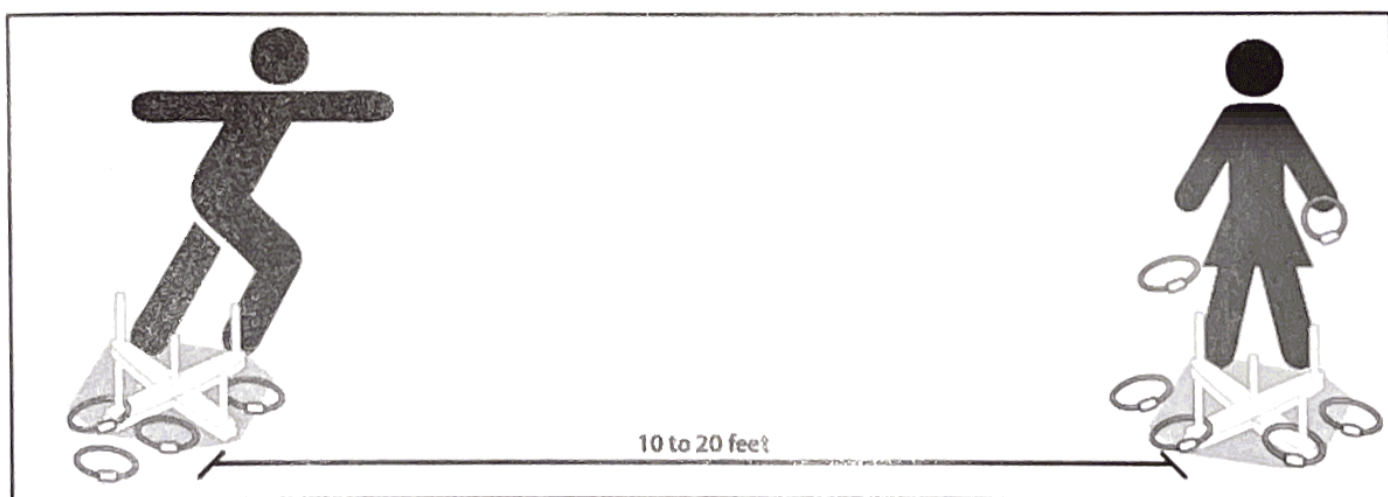
- Before you begin, recruit one person (i.e., singles) or three people (i.e., teams) to play with you.
- Select a level playing area to set up the Ring Toss targets where your play will not impact other nearby tailgaters or cars. Consider safety first for all throwing games!
- Stretch to wake up your muscles!

2. Get Set!

- Setup the Ring Toss targets so that they face one another about 10 to 20 feet apart. (See Figure V)
- Pick teams, if playing with four people.
- Flip a coin to determine which team or player throws first.
- Similar to the game of horseshoes, rings land best when tossed underhand. Place a small amount of spin on the ring to help it stay flat and open, or try throwing like a flying disc.
- Practice your toss.

Figure V:

Ring Toss Setup



3. Go! Play

- Basic scoring rules:
 - Keep scores verbally during play for everyone to hear.
 - Rings missing the target entirely are awarded no score.
 - Rings landing on the outer prongs are worth one point.
 - Rings landing on the inner prongs are worth three points.
 - The first player or team to reach 21 points wins the game!
- Game play:
 - Similar to horseshoes, team members split up, with one member at each target.
 - When playing singles, opponents toss from the same side.
 - Each round consists of players taking turns throwing three rings into the target box.
 - Switch sides after the first player or team reaches 11 points.
 - Play continues until one player or team reaches 21 points and wins!

Game Variations

Flip Down & Step Up

To make the game harder, flip the two rear legs down and angle the target towards the tossing team. While this variation angles the target towards the tosser, it reduces the number of prongs from five to three, making accuracy much more important.

Easier Game

Shorten the distance between the two boxes to 5 to 10 feet. This makes playing with inexperienced, special needs, or young players easier. Everyone can enjoy this fun game!

Quicker Game Play

Play shorter games to either 7 or 11 points for quicker game play.

Game Trivia

Ring Toss also popped up as a popular party game in the 1800's. Players would gather in a circle around a bottle of their favorite beverage, and take turns tossing rope rings. Whoever landed a ring around the bottle first, won the bottle... and its contents.