

**BIZARRE**

**SPORTS**

**(SHORT PREVIEW)**

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## 1) Pushball:

**Pushball involves rolling a large inflatable sphere around a set area.**

- It is a game played by two sides on a field usually 140 yards (128m) long and 50 yd (45.7m) wide, with a ball 6 feet (1.83m) in diameter and 50 lb (22.7kg) in weight.
- The sides usually number eleven each, there being five forwards, two left-wings, two right wings and two goal-keepers.
- The goals consist of two upright posts 18 ft(5.5m) high and 20 ft (6.1m) apart with a crossbar 7 feet from the ground.
- The game lasts for two periods with an intermission. Pushing the ball under the bar counts 5 points; lifting or throwing it over the bar counts 8.
- A touchdown behind goal for safety counts 2 to the attacking side.
- The game was invented by M.G. Crane of Newton,Massachusetts, in 1891, and was taken up at Harvard University the next year, but never attained any considerable vogue.
- Emory University students played pushball from 1923 to 1955 before the game was retired due to its increasingly rough nature.

## 2) Goanna Pulling – Tug Of War

**Goanna pulling involves the two players to have a very strong neck to pull**

- Goanna pulling is basically tug of war with a bizarre twist – instead of their hands, competitors must use their heads to pull each other over the line and win the game.
- The rules are pretty simple: two people go (literally) head to head on the goanna pulling pad.
- They get down on all four, with their bellies touching the board and their heads held high.
- This position makes participants look a lot like goanna lizards, hence the name of the game, in case you were wondering.
- The two opponents each place their palms behind a white line traced on the board, and a referee puts a large leather belt around their heads.
- As soon as he give the signal, the two contestants must use their upper body strength-their neck muscles especially – to pull the other guy past the line and win the game.
- Matches can be over in a matter of seconds, or last several minutes.
- Apparently, proper technique is very important, and while a strong neck is essential, it's not always the biggest and strongest contestant who wins, which makes it even more exciting to watch.
- The origins of this offbeat competition can be traced back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the world's first Australian National Goanna Pulling Championships were held in 1984, in the town of Woolli, New South wales,Australia.

- Wooli has been hosting the event every year since, drawing in visitors from all over Australia.
- Winners get cash prizes as well as bragging rights for a whole year.

### **3) Three-Sided Football :**

- It is an unusual sport invented by Danish artist Asger Jorn.
- The sport is three-sided football, a variation of the sport of soccer, though with three teams instead of the usual two.
- The game is played on a hexagonal pitch.
- The winning team is not the one who scores the most goals, but the team which concedes the least number of goals.
- The first known game was organized by the London Psycho-geographical Association at the Glasgow Anarchist Summer School in 1993, and a few other games have been played since.
- It has been promoted in England, Scotland, Italy, Serbia, Poland and Austria by the Luther Blissett Three-sided Football League.

### **4) Man Versus Horse:**

- In Wales, there's a famous race called the Man Versus Horse Marathon.
- A cross country course is laid out, and human competitors pit their stamina against that of a posse of chosen horses.
- The course is 22 miles long with many natural obstacles to overcome.
- The steep slopes are a great test of the endurance of both man and beast, and the tricky forestry, which a man may dart through but which a horse can only travel around, is equally difficult terrain.
- The ultimate aim is to run the course and beat the first horse.
- This was done for the first time by a marine who had been training especially for the event.
- He won a large cash prize – a prize that's been getting bigger every year.
- This sport is enjoyed by the spectators as the people test their stamina with that of a horses stamina.