

BIZARRE

SPORTS

(SHORT PREVIEW)

CONTENTS

- 1) **Pushball**
- 2) **Goanna Pulling – Tug Of War**
- 3) **Three-Sided Football**
- 4) **Man Versus Horse**

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 19th 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.