

GORODKI



**GORODKI TOGETHER WE'RE
STRONGER AND TOGETHER WE'RE
JOYFUL!**

GORODKI
*is a universal sport
for everyone on the planet.*

Sports concentrate the expression of peoples' cultures around the world. The first national sports are transformations of rituals, exercises for hunters or peasants who do hard physical labor, self defense, training for warriors and tournaments for choosing a leader of a tribe.

1. THE PHILOSOPHY OF GORODKI

GORODKI is meditation while you build figures out of wooden cylinders, concentration when you aim with a long wooden bat, speed of throws and enormous force which a bat hits the figure with. All the cylinders should be beaten out of the game field.

By playing GORODKI ancient hunters developed their accuracy, and farmers exercised their concentration and force.

In 19th century Christian Gottfried Heinrich Geisler, a German traveler and painter, wrote about GORODKI:

"... This game is known, to be honest, only in Russia, because it requires a significant amount of force. That is why it is played only by strong people, who, by their fate, live in such a harsh country like this..."

Russian lands were frequently attacked, endless wars were fought both on the Eastern and Western borders, the pioneers built the fortresses. At these times GORODKI became training for the warriors. A great Russian commander Alexander Suvorov, who had never lost in a single battle, practiced accuracy and speed with his officers and soldiers and worked out the attacks on the enemies' armies using GORODKI.

2. WHAT IS GORODKI?

GORODKI is a Russian ethnic sport. Its name comes from a name of a game field, which is called GOROD, which means a fortress, and a wooden cylinder GORODOK, which is a name for a part of a fortress. Nowadays there are three types of GORODKI, which form six sport disciplines. There are tournaments on classical GORODKI, european GORODKI and Finnish KUKKA. There are both individual and team contests. On each of the types of GORODKI Europe and World championships take place.

3. WHEN WERE THE GORODKI INVENTED?

The game GORODKI is now more than 400 years old. It appeared at the North-west of Russia and then spread through the country till the Far-East.

In 1923 GORODKI were officially recognized as a sport in Russia. A year later the game rules were standardized. In 2023 GORODKI is to celebrate its 100'th anniversary. It was popular in the USSR, especially among Russians, Ukrainians and Belorussians.

Since the end of 1990's there have been GORODKI sport federations in Germany, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. 12 countries are members of an International GORODKI sport federation. Nowadays GORODKI are raising their popularity in the Near East, Africa and South-Eastern Asia. GORODKI has been interesting especially for people in China. For a lot of people it is a unique and yet new kind of sport.

4. WHAT IS NEEDED TO PLAY GORODKI?

To play GORODKI you should either draw the GOROD on a plain surface, or have a stationary or portable marked field, which is called GORODOSHNAYA PLOSHCHADKA.

Finnish KUKKA can be played on any marked plain piece of land or on the snow. The game field is of a little size. The game can be played both in summer or in winter, indoors and outdoors.

A figure called GORODOSHNAYA FIGURA is built out of five wooden GORODOKs placed one-by-one. Historically more than 220 GORODOSHNAYA FIGURAs have been known. They are associated with mythical beasts, plants, animals, instruments, sport inventory, but most of the figures represent military objects and weapons. Today there are official game rules which include 15 GORODOSHNAYA FIGURAs.

In European GORODKI they use wooden prisms instead of cylinders and build 16 GORODOSHNAYA FIGURAs. Finnish KUKKA players use thicker cylinders, which are 5 cm in diameter. One of them is placed on another and rows of 20 or 40 columns are formed.

A player has two long bats called BITAs, which have a weight of more than 5 GORODOKs. For classical GORODKI a BITA is made either a piece of wood or metal of any weight depending on the strength of a player. The heaviest bat for classical GORODKI weighs over 4 kilograms, roughly the same as a two-handed sword.

A bat for European GORODKI is made of a polymer filled with sand or metal shot, which weighs at least 2 kilograms. For Finnish KUKKA they use wooden bats of any weight for contestants of different physical abilities. The number of bats varies from four for individual players and two for the teams.

5. HOW TO PLAY GORODKI?

The aim is to beat the GORODOSHAYAYA FIGURA outside the GORODs line after no more than two attempts. The first bat is thrown from a KON, a distance 13 meters away. Afterwards if at least a single GORODOK is still inside the GOROD, a second bat is thrown from a POLUKON - a distance twice shorter than a KON. A desirable result is to empty the GOROD from the first attempt.

The tournament includes striking the GORODOSHAYAYA FIGURAs in an order that is described in the game rules. The vertical figures alternate with the horizontal ones. The aim is to strike the most GORODOSHAYAYA FIGURAs with the least number of bats. The best result in classical GORODKI in the world is 15 figures struck with 16 bats.

In European GORODKI the aim is to beat the most separate wooden blocks GORODOK out of the game field.

In Finnish KUKKA the overall positive score represents the result.

6. WHO PLAYS GORODKI?

GORODKI is played during the whole life. The last Russian emperor Nicolas the II, a famous Russian writer Lev Tolstoy, officers of the Russian army, the nobles and "bohemians" played this game. Ivan Pavlov, the winner of the first Nobel prize in medicine played GORODKI till the end of his life and considered it a way to long living and reflection.

People play this game from a very young age. The sons inherit the art of GORODKI from their fathers. In Russia there are whole families of masters of this game.

GORODKI is an inclusive sport. With the rules for the people with disabilities, it is played by paralympians.

GORODKI does not have any restrictions in terms of age. The most honorable Russian champion in this sport is 83 years old.

GORODKI is a sport for the whole family, an active means of recreation and a national custom.

7. WHY YOU SHOULD PLAY GORODKI?

GORODKI is an exchange of culture and sports tradition between the peoples of the World.

In GORODKI you can find the dedication and strategic thinking of an Indian game of chess, the concentration of the Chinese qigong, the skill of using a bat of Japanese kendo, the calmness of the French petanque, the passion of the English lawn tennis in individual tournaments, the team spirit and solidarity of football and hockey, the accuracy of archery and rifle shooting, the strength of Japanese martial art masters and a throw of an ancient olympians spear.



**THE RUSSIAN GORODKI
SPORT FEDERATION**

mail box #76

office 430K,
Luzhnetskaya Embankment 8,
Moscow, Russia, 119270

+7 495 637-03-73

+7 495 725-98-12

hello@gorodki-russia.ru

www.gorodki-russia.ru