

PILOTA VALENCIANA

WHAT IS PILOTA?

Pilota is a traditional handball sport, which dates back to the times of the Greeks and the Romans. It holds a special place in the history and culture of the city. So much so, that by the middle of the fifteenth century, there were already up to thirteen trinquets (the closed court where matches are played) documented across the city. It's not to be confused with Basque pelota. While the other is played against a wall, in this case two teams face each other, hitting the ball back and forth with their bare hands.

Though the sport is known to have been played in the middle of the street, the trinquet is considered to be of great social value, with many of them scattered across the region. One of the most emblematic is the Pelayo trinquet, situated on the street of the same name in the center of València.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Valencian pilota is played with two teams. Each team has between one and three players. The two teams do not need to have the same number of players, as two people can play against three, but in terms of skill, the teams must always be as equal as possible.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

- Clothing: In Valencian pilota the players do not wear a uniform, just a red or blue shirt/sash, according to their team.



- Ball: The most commonly used ball is the cowhide one, which is 42 mm in diameter, 138 mm in circumference, and between 42 and 48 grams in weight.

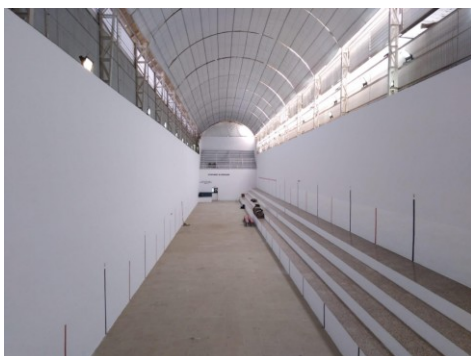


- Protections: The players protect their hands with plates and gloves.



FIELD / COURT / TO PLAY THE GAME

- Street: Traditionally, matches are played in the street. The street has to be between 50 and 70 metres long, and between 10 and 20 metres wide.
- Trinquet (playing area): This is a closed, rectangular court between 50 and 65 m long and between 9 and 11 m wide. In one part it contains an unusual element - l'escala; four steps where the public sit.



PURPOSE OF THE GAME

Each team stands at one end of the game area. The teams face each other and the aim is to hit the ball with their hand towards the rival team (in some versions, the ball has to pass over a rope) so that the opponent cannot return it.

RULES OF THE GAME:

Basic information

Various versions of Valencian pilota exist, and each one has its own rules. Each team stands at a different end of the street or *trinquete*, with the two teams facing each other. The aim is to hit the ball to the rival team (in some versions, over a rope) with enough strength and accuracy that none of the players on the rival team can hit the ball back to the rival team. The sequence of hits continues until one of the two teams is unable to hit the ball and return it to its rival, and the team that has not missed a hit scores a “*quinze*” (one score worth fifteen points).

The sequences of ball hits continue until one of the two teams manages to reach a certain number of points.