

GB KUBB Playing chess like the Vikings

Kubb is an old competitive game, which probably originates from Gotland. The Swedes call a wooden block "Vedkubbar". Kubb is a game for two teams, who play against each other. It is played in the open air and is particularly suitable for small parties and for the beach.

The game of Kubb consists of

- A King (2,5 x 2,5 x 12 cm)
- Ten Kubbs (2 x 2 x 6 cm)
- Six round wooden sticks (1 x 12 cm)
- Four pegs to mark out the field (0,9 x 8 cm)

You will also need an even surface preferably of grass, sand, pebbles or stone. It is also possible to play Kubb on a surface of snow.

Aim of the game

In Kubb, just like in chess, the King is the most important figure, only here the game is much more rustic. After all the opposing Kubbs have been knocked over, the team, that is the first to knock over the King, is the winner.

Preparing the game

Between two and twelve players form two teams, that play against each other in the match. A playing field of 1,5 x 3 meters is marked out on an even surface with the four pegs. Each team places its five Kubbs equidistant apart on the base line; the King is placed in the middle of the playing field. Each team stands behind its own base line. The person, who has thrown his wooden stick closest to the King, begins play.

The Rules

The sticks are only allowed to be held by the end and may only be thrown straight from below (underarm throw). Spinning or slinging throws are not allowed. Team A begins by knocking over the opposing Kubbs with their six sticks. Team B then throws all of the knocked over Kubbs into Team A's half of the playing field, and Team A then stands the Kubbs up on the very spot where they landed. If a thrown Kubb and a Kubb, that has already been positioned, should touch each other, then the two Kubbs are placed on top of each other like a tower. It is good tactics to throw the Kubbs as close as possible to the centre line. The players have two attempts to throw a Kubb successfully into the opponent's half, there after the opposing team can place the Kubb

anywhere they like in their half of the playing field, for example directly behind the king, where it is particularly difficult for the opponents to hit him later, without simultaneously putting the King in danger. The distance of the Kubb from the king must however be at least the length of one stick.

Now team B starts to knock over the opposing Kubbs with their six sticks. First however they must hit the "field Kubbs" that have just been positioned. Only after all of the field Kubbs have been knocked over, can the Kubbs on the base line be knocked over. If one of them is knocked over earlier, then it must be replaced on the base line.

The game repeats itself, until one team has knocked over all of the opposing Kubbs. It is only now that the team, which has knocked over all of the opposing Kubbs, may attack the King, with the remaining sticks. At no earlier point in time can anyone knock the King over with a stick or a Kubb, either intentionally or by chance. Whoever knocks the King down earlier, immediately loses the game.

Variations of the game

Whilst the Kubbs are always thrown from the base line, it can be agreed between the teams, that the sticks can be thrown from your own foremost Kubb that stands closest to the middle line.

We wish you lots of fun and excitement with Kubb – Playing chess like the Vikings!

