Moon Yang Rod / Spinning Motorbike Tires

Site of Documentation
Akha group, Tambon Mae Yao, Mueang District, Chiang Rai Province

Description

Moon Yang Rod is a game played by Akha children living in the Chiang Rai province of Northern Thailand. In the game children compete to see how long they can spin an old motorcycle tire, with just one push.

Who Plays?

This game requires between 2 and 10 players. Both boys and girls can play aged between 7 to 12 years old.

Accessories/Equipment

To play the game participants need to locate one discarded motorcycle tire. This can be found in the home, at local garages or from rubbish tips.

Time and Place

On average this game takes between 1-3 minutes to play. This game can be played all year round, as long as the weather is cool and dry. It is usually played in the evenings, on weekends or during holidays.
in quiet streets or around the village square. It requires a large, open space with a flat ground, free from obstructions.

Skill, Strategies and Qualities of a Good Player

This game is a test of a player’s strength. The best players are those with strong arms who can push them in such a way that they spin quickly around, while staying on the same spot. Children often learn this game by watching their friends play and perfect their skill through frequent practice.

Popularity

Children like to play this game after playing other games such as Rod Yang, Yon Yang Rod or Dod Yang Rod. This game is found only in Akha areas and has no formal name (Moon Yang Rod was a name created by the team of Children’s Games researchers). Akha children do not tend to have many mass produced toys, so use their creativity and simple objects to make their own amusement; an old motorcycle tire for example, has become a key piece of equipment for multiple games.

How is the Game Played?

Step 1. All of the players need to stand in a large circle and should be positioned at least 1-2 meters away from each other.
Step 2. Each player holds their tire upright on the ground, ready for the ‘start’ signal to be given.

Step 3. When the ‘start’ signal is given all players have to spin their tire. They pull the tire back, pushing it down as they do so, making it spin quickly while still remaining in one position. The player whose tire spins the longest wins the game.

Rules

1. The player that can keep their tire spinning the longest wins the game.

2. If a player’s tire accidentally collides with another tire, it’s considered a mistake and the player can play again in the next round.