Toh-Chub / Hammer, Scissors and Paper

Site of Documentation
Tai Yuan in Oui Sorn Larn Group, Mae Wang district, Chiangmai Province, Thailand

Description
Toh-Chub is a game that is used by Tai Yuan children, from Northern Thailand to eliminate or select a player (or team of players) before starting an actual game. For example, if children want to play a game of “Catch” they would play Toh-Chub to pick which of them would be the ‘Chaser’. The game has exactly the same structure and rules as Rock, Paper and Scissors but in this game “Rock” is known as “Hammer”.

Who Plays
Toh-Chub requires at least two children to play. Played by both and girls, the maximum number of players and their ages will depend on what the next game to be played is. Each game can have as many players as is needed and they can be of any age group.

Time and Place
Each round of Toh-Chub takes as little as a minute to play and can be played anywhere, at anytime.
Skill, Strategies and Qualities of a Good Player

Toh-Chub is a simple game that only requires players to make shapes with their hands. As players become more familiar with the game, they often try to predict the shapes others players will make, or bluff by selecting the same symbol repeatedly to make their opponent think that they will choose that one again, but then swapping to a different one to win the game.

Popularity

Children often play Toh-Chub to quickly find a game starter. To-Chub game has the same rules as the Lanna children’s game called To-Pong, the Thai children’s Pao-Ying-Chub or Rock, or Western children’s Rock, Paper and Scissors. Occasionally children create new hand signs such as Nail (one finger) which wins over Paper and Scissors, however, these new hand signs are not so popular and are usually only shown as a joke between players.

History of the game

This game was played by members of older generations when they were young, but back then the game was known as To Pong.

How is the Game Played?

Step 1. Two players stand facing each other and at the same time say, “Toh-Chub”. Usually “Toh” is said slowly (“Tooh”), followed by a short “Chub”.

Step 2. As they say, “Chub”, both players have to form a Scissors, Paper or Hammer shape with one hand.
Step 3: The outcome is determined by:

Hammer beats Scissors.

Paper beats Hammer.
Scissors beats Paper.

**Step 4.** If both players form the same sign, they repeat the process until one of them wins.