

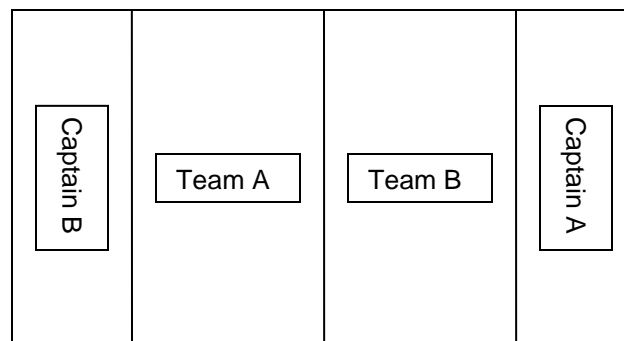
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## Machanayim

**Culture:** Machanayim means camps in Hebrew and is played in Israel.

**Meaning:** Camps refer to the areas the teams play in. While the game is can become very intense when played by children, adults rarely play. The name probably comes from the idea of opposing camps fighting.

**Setting:** This is a game played by two teams of four or more people in a large open flat space. The space is divided into four sections as shown in the diagram.



**Arrangement:** The captains are positioned in the area opposite their team and behind the opposing team's camp as shown in the diagram.

**Equipment:** dodge ball

### **Definitions:**

Captain: the team member who starts out in the captain's box

Captains' box: the area players go to when they are out. The captain of the team starts out in the captains' box.

Camp: the center area where most of the team resides.

Alive: the ball is alive when it has been caught by a player without another player touching it first

Dead: the ball is dead when it has dropped or touched by another player before a player catches it

In: players who are in play from their team's area

Out: players who are out join the captain in the captain's box

**Rules:**

1. players arrange themselves in their team's camp with their captain in the captain's box.
2. team toss the ball between themselves and their captain trying to get a ball that is alive
3. once a ball is alive, a player of the opposing team that is touched by the ball is out and must join his/her captain in the captain's box.
4. once all the players on a team are out, the captain of that team moves to the team's center camp
5. a team wins when all the players of the opposing team and their captain are out
6. a player who is touched by a live ball which is then caught by another player without touching a floor or wall is not out, but the ball becomes dead
7. players can intercept the ball when it is thrown by the opposing team, if they catch it before it touches anything or anyone else, the ball becomes/remains alive

8. if a player is hit in the head or face by a live ball, he/she is not out and the ball becomes dead
9. if a player catches a live ball thrown by the opposing team, the ball remains alive
10. if a player catches a live ball thrown by his/her teammate in the area (captain's box or camp) he/she is in, the ball becomes dead
11. if a player catches a live ball thrown by his/her teammate in the opposite area, the ball becomes/remains alive
12. players who are out can participate in the game from the captain's box, but cannot rejoin their team in the camp

**Discussion/critique:**

*Strategies:* 1. When there are fewer players, there is more room to move around and less likelihood of being hit by a live ball. 1. If you throw the ball hard and fast near the opponents' feet, they are less likely to evade or catch it. 3. If a live ball is thrown at you it is better to dodge it than try to catch it unless you are certain that you can. 4. Be good at running, throwing and catching. 5. Choose a captain who is good at running, throwing and catching 6. Choose teammates who are good at running, throwing and catching

The game involves a lot of movement and throwing skill so it is probably not a good choice for children who are not very athletic. Despite its name, Machanayim is hard to view as a war game because there are few strategies for the game and you can't really plan the outcome except by choosing the most athletic players for your team. The game seems like a variant of dodge ball.

**Source:** Some Israeli kids.