

Italian traditional games

Italy is a country rich in games and sports. A lot of them are linked to historical events (such as Calcio storico fiorentino) or to the rural society of the past centuries (such as a lot of card games).



RUZZOLA



The old game of "ruzzola" is a loved game in a lot of regions of Italy, like Campania or Abruzzo. It consists in making a small wooden wheel roll, called "ruzzola" along a set path. This path can be on flat ground, country roads, or basically anything you can roll a wheel on. While the "ruzzole" can be a bit different in size, they usually have a flat bottom to help them roll in the smoothest way possible. Some wheels can also be decorated with pretty designs. To do "ruzzola" well, you need skill and grace. You have to do just the right moves to throw the wheel and know how hard to throw it so it goes as far as you want on the path. The person who can throw the wheel the farthest wins. More than just a test of skill, ruzzola is a chance to hang out with friends and family. It's often played at town fairs or in the outdoors, and it brings some cheer and fun to the village life.

TUG OF WAR

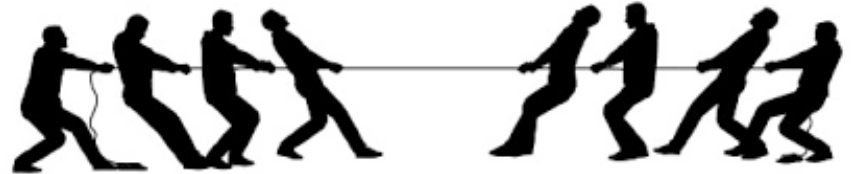
tiro alla fune



The tug of war is a traditional game of the rural society very popular in several regions of Italy.

This game, that has a really ancient story and that has been an olympic sport between 1900 and 1920, is played by two teams of 5/8 people that have to show their strength by pulling a rope. The main goal is to bring the rope a certain distance in one direction.

This game, that in italian is called “tiro alla fune”, is played each year during the Medieval games of our city Roccadaspide and it’s always an amazing show.



SPINNING TOP



The spinning top was a really common game among Italian children;

It has a really ancient origin, also considering that it was already used by the Sumerians.

In Italy it is usually made of wood with a metallic tip and, thanks to a string, it starts spinning. It has really simple rules, to be honest, it has just one rule: the spinning top that lasts the longer without stopping wins the game.



MARBLE'S GAME



It is an ancient game, created by the romans who used to play with nuts.

During the centuries nuts were replaced by small glass balls or by small balls made of rock.

By the 20's of the 20th century this game spread all over italy and it was really popular also in the 80s when our fathers met all together in order to organise big tournaments.

The game consists in throwing the marbles to push the 13 other ones placed by the referee.

Each marble that is pushed out is a point.

The first one to gain 50 points wins.