

# Roundtable Safety Moment

## Gaga Ball

Gaga ball has become very popular in the US. It is a game played in an octagonal pit and is considered a gentler version of dodgeball. The pit can be made of various materials (wood, plastic, netting) and can be played on grass, mulch, or other playground safe materials. While the game is a fast-paced activity, it is important for Scout leaders to understand the risks and follow the rules to make the environment safe for everyone.

Game play:

1. Players put one hand on the wall of the pit.
2. Referee throws a ball into the pit. Players yell “GA” on the first two bounces and “GO” on the third bounce.
3. Once the ball is in play, the players let go of the wall and swat the ball with an open hand.
4. Players are eliminated if the ball touches them anywhere below the knees and must leave the pit.
5. The last player in the pit wins.

Safety rules:

1. Players must play others of a similar age. A two-year age span is a good rule.
2. Players cannot hold the ball or pick it up and throw it.
3. Consider the safety of the playing surface: no hard surfaces like concrete, no mud pits, and pits should be in good condition with no safety hazards.
4. Always have adult supervision.
5. Soft balls should be used such as playground balls.

If executed correctly, Gaga Ball can be a fun and safe activity!

Additional Resources:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/>

<https://icebreakerideas.com/gaga-ball>

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/gaga-ball/>

