



## Smoo-Gaga Ball

**Gaga Ball** is a type of dodgeball and is thought to have started in Israel — gaga means "touch touch" in Hebrew and was played in Jewish summer camps beginning in the 1970s.

Gaga Ball is a fun, easy game to learn and play and is super-inclusive. It's also super-simple. A group of players enter a 'pit' (smoogapit) and a ball is introduced into the mix. The players hit the ball with their hand towards other players. Everyone is playing against each other. If the ball touches a player on the leg/below the knee (the details are up to you), you're out. The last one in the pit wins. Then, everyone gets back in the smoogapit for the next round. Games generally last no more than a few minutes. It's fast and fun. As soon as you're out, you can't wait to get back in. That's why we at Smoooga are excited about it. What a great way to use your Smoooga!

The 'official' game rules of Gaga:

- Players (as many as you like) start with one hand touching a wall of the smoogapit.
- The game begins with a 'referee' throwing the ball into the centre of the pit.
- When the ball enters the pit, the players scream 'GA' for the first two bounces, and 'GO' on the third bounce, after which the ball is in action.
- Once the ball is in play, any player can hit the ball with an open or closed hand.
- If a ball touches a player below the knee (even if the player hits himself or herself) he or she is out and leaves the pit. If a player is hit above the knee, the play continues. (You can adapt the rules according to age, ability ie below the waist or hips etc)
- If a ball leaves the smoooga pit, without hitting another player, the player who hit the ball is out.
- Using the walls of the pit to aid jumping is legal as long as the player does not permanently sit on the edge of the wall – their feet need to be on the ground!
- Players cannot hold or throw the ball.
- A second ball can be thrown in the pit to expedite the end of the game. The last player standing is the winner of that round.
- Then go again.

The Benefits:

- GaGa Ball is great for inclusive play. It gets lots of children involved.
- Develops multiple physical skills and abilities.
- Great for children in Early Years through to Middle School. To be fair, adults would love it too.



- Fast-paced, high-energy game with quick turn-over to keep everyone active and involved.
- Easy to learn and anyone can win!
- Develops strategic thinking.
- Develops agility, jumping, striking and dodging skills.
- Children won't lose interest throughout an entire PE lesson or break time.
- The game develops hand-eye coordination while keeping children active.
- The skills learned in GaGa Ball can translate to other sports and games.
- All that is needed to play is a available open firm surfaced area and a playground ball (once you have a Smooga pit of course).

Why you need a smoogapit.

- You will need a discrete space for playing GaGa Ball and your smooga is perfect. Remember, the same applies to football and hockey for example.
- A robust smooga is essential to keep the ball in play allowing a continuous game. Rebounding the ball off the GaGa Pit walls is an important part of the fun and strategy of playing the game.
- Durability – Our smoogas are designed to be used outside all year round to contain ball games of all kinds including football, hockey, dodgeball, handball and of course GaGa Ball. All our playground barriers forming the smooga arenas (pits) are manufactured in the UK using 75% recycled materials and are all 100% recyclable.