

BASKETBALL

Basketball is a team sport. There are five players in each team. It's played by men and women. It's played outdoor and indoor. Outdoor basketball is also called streetball, because it is played in streets, while indoor basketball is played in big halls. You need a ball and a basket to play it. You must throw the ball into the basket to get a point. There are different positions, from where you get more points; for example threethrow.

There are two main leagues on the world. One is in Europe and it's called FIBA, second is in America and it is called NBA. Most rules are the same, but there are some differences. In NBA league the basket is higher and the threethrow line is further than in Europe. In FIBA league there is more time to play single action.

As I said there are five players in a team. Each player has a special position and assignment. Positions are called playmaker, fast forward, back forward and center. Playmaker leads the ball over the court and organises the play. Two back forwards are good in fast counter strikes. The fast forward shoots from hard positions and assists to the center. A center must be big and strong. He plays under the basket. Every team has a coach. He is the head of the team. He explains tactics to the players. He also decides who will play and who will not.

The rules in basketball are not difficult to learn. Player must lead the ball with one hand. If he stops he must pass the ball to another player. Every player can do five personal fouls, but then he is disqualified. The game takes one hour and is separated in two halves. A freethrow is worth one point, a throw in the rocket is worth two points and a threethrow is worth three points. The team that gets more scores wins.

Basketball is very popular sport in Slovenia. Many young people play it, because it's exciting and fast. Ljubljana's basketball club Union Olimpija is one of the best clubs in Europe. On thursday it will play against Olimpiakos in Tivoli hall.