

IRISH HURLING

“The Fastest Sport on Grass”



Hurling is the national sport of Ireland. It is about 2500 years old. It is the most popular all-amateur sport in the world. Championship matches draw over 90,000 fans to Dublin. Hurling has been called the Fastest Sport on Grass.

Hurling fields are slightly larger than soccer fields. Each team has fifteen players. Each player has an axe-shaped wooden club called a hurley.



The object is to strike a baseball-sized ball into an “H” shaped goal. Balls struck over the cross bar earn one point. The bottom part of the goal is guarded by a goalie; a shot past the goalie earns three points. Points can be scored from as far as midfield. Hurling is a high scoring game like basketball.

The ball is advanced by hitting it in the air, like baseball, or on the ground, like hockey, or carrying, hand-passing, or (rarely) kicking it. Players can catch the ball in the air, but cannot pick it up from the ground; it must be lifted using the hurley, usually while running. A player may not hold the ball for longer than the time it takes to run four steps. Speed of play is very fast, like hockey.

Possession of the ball may be contested until a player has the ball in his hand. After the player has possession of the ball a player’s progress up the field may be blocked by shoulder to shoulder checking.

Check out Hurling on YouTube - search “Hurling - the fastest game on grass”. In Seattle you can see or play Hurling with the Seattle Gaels. Info below.