

Chavgonbozi – Polo

Chavgonbozi or polo is one of the ancient types of the sports practiced among Tajiks. On this type of sport there are abundant literary and historical sources, for example “Shahnameh” of Firdawsi provides plenty of examples and narrative report about polo as central sport event. According to the “History of Sistan” in Registan Square, in Samarkand once a polo game was organized in which 12,000 horse riders have participated. Among Tajik people two type of polo is known: polo played on horseback and on foot. The polo mallet is 120 cm long and the ball made from wood, wool or fabric but wrapped and coated with leather.

Polo players on a horseback will form a team of four players and line up facing each

other in the square and each team would attempt with a mallet to score a goal by heating the ball into the opposite team’s gate. In recent history it has been recorded that polo game was organized for major traditional festivals and significant cultural events such as Navruz, Mehrgan including weddings where the game would have taken place between team from different villages or towns.

Polo on foot is played by teams of six players and follows the same rules as polo played on the horseback.

In our days polo game played on horseback is played professionally in Sughd province and foot-polo, too is developing and being played in various regions of the country.



