**Polo**

Polo is a minority sport for princes and millionaires. It is a team sport played on horseback in which the objective is to score goals against an opposing team. Players score by driving a small white plastic or wooden ball into the opposing team’s goal using a long-handled mallet while riding at speeds of up to 40mph. It is played on a large grass field up to 300 yards in length, and each polo team consists of four riders and their mounts. It’s played indoors and outdoors.

The game was first played in Persia (Iran) between the 5th century BC, or much earlier, to the 1st century AD. It was at first a training game for cavalry units. Later on polo was passed from Persia to other parts of Asia including the Indian subcontinent and China. The modern game of polo was formalized and popularized by the British. In 1862 the first polo club, Calcutta Polo Club, was established by two British soldiers, Captain Robert Stewart and Major General Joe Shearer. Later they spread the game to their peers in England. The British are also credited with spreading polo worldwide in the late 19th century and the early 20th century. Military officers imported the game to Britain in the 1860s.

The basic dress of a player is a protective helmet (usually of a distinctive color, to be distinguished at the considerable distance from which onlookers are watching the game), riding boots to just below the knees, white trousers (often ordinary denim jeans), and a colored shirt bearing the number of the player's position.

Optional equipment includes one or two gloves, wristbands, kneepads, spurs, face mask, and a whip.

A modern variation for commoners is bicycle polo – the sport of princes from the seat of a pushbike.