

NOODLE GAMES

The book *50 Ways to Use your Noodle* by Chris Cavert and Sam Sikes has many games to have great fun with pool noodles. [Learning Unlimited Corp. © 1997, 200 pages, \$16.00 (ISBN 1964654113).]

Supplies: You will need to cut pool noodles in various sizes. Noodles vary in length and in diameter and can be cut with a steak or butter knife. Most games use midaronis (half the length of a regular noodle) for play, so one noodle will provide fun for two people. You will also need some smaller sizes called meatballs and minironis.

Noodle Terminology (from *50 Ways to Use your Noodle*)

1. Maxaroni Rex—a noodle approximately 58" long and 4" in diameter
2. Maxaroni—a long noodle (regular pool size noodle) approximately 64" long and 3" in diameter
3. Midaroni—half of a maxaroni
4. Minironi—a maxaroni piece 3" long
5. Meatball—a 1¼"-long maxaroni rex (If you cannot locate a maxaroni rex, you may wish to substitute a maxaroni understanding these will be smaller, lighter, and harder to use.)

Warning! Explain all pertinent game information *before* you give out the noodles. When teens have noodles, they automatically begin to play.

HOW TO PLAY

Last Man Standing: Everybody is it. The last one alive wins the round. This is a fun way to start an activity with noodles and raise the excitement level quickly.

Team Survival: Divide into teams; last team alive wins. You may consider buying different colors of noodles to make an obvious delineation of teams. (We used two colors with many noodles and two other colors to break it down farther.)

Ninja: Mark out a circle and place a person in the center of it. Blindfold the center person and give him a mini noodle. Have the other players put clothespins on the person's clothes. When many—twenty-five or more—clothespins have been put on, set a time limit and have the others players start from outside the circle. The object is to take the clothespins from the person without being hit. If a person is hit with a clothespin, the clothespin must be dropped at the spot. Play for three minutes. You can play ninja verses crowd—the ninja wins if more clothespins are caught than lost; you can also play individual—the teen with the most pins wins.

Flippin' Burgers: Each teen is given a midaroni and a meatball; each should place his meatball on his back. The object is to not let it fall off. Teens cannot hold on to the meatball by pinching it with their fingers or with their other hand. A person is eliminated when his meatball is dropped or knocked off by another teen's midaroni.

Pool noodles provide a safe way to tag or hit another without injuring them. You can add noodles to almost any game that involves tagging and find the addition really fun. For example, play capture the flag using noodles to tag.

BRAIN VITALS	
Group Size	10-50
Props	Lots of noodles
Cost	\$1.00-1.50 per person
One-time investment	\$50-75 for noodles
Type	Tag
Time	20-90 minutes
Referees	1-3