

# HOW TO PLAY



Rule 1.

## CHUCK IT

Bowling in rounders is really easy – bowl underarm and ensure the ball doesn't touch the ground before it gets to the batter.

## LEG IT

Run as far around the pitch as you can get.

Rule 3.



## WHACK IT

Hit the ball as far and hard as you can to give you the best chance of getting a rounder.

Rule 2.



## SMILE!

The team with the highest number of rounders wins – easy!

Rule 4.



# THE RULES

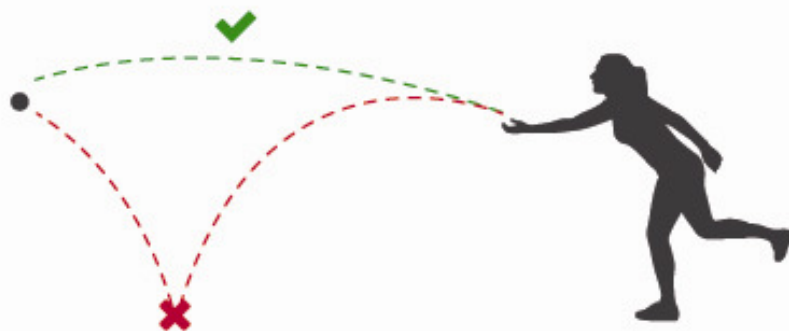


Firstly, all you need to do is get two teams together. Teams can be as small as six players and as big as 15, with nine players at the most on the pitch at a time. Games usually last two innings. An innings starts with the first bowl and ends when all the batters are out.

## 1. CHUCK IT

Bowling in rounders is really easy – bowl underarm and ensure the ball doesn't touch the ground before it gets to the batter. Don't go too low, too high or too wide with your bowl – also try not to hit the batter! When the ball does get to the batter it should be higher than their knees but lower than the top of their head. If not, it's a 'no ball'.

You must try to avoid no balls! If you bowl two of these in a row to the same batter, they score a penalty half rounder.



## 2. WHACK IT

Hit the ball as far and hard as you can to give you the best chance of getting a rounder. Or you can strategically place the ball in large gaps left by the fielding team. You can bat one or two handed - it's up to you! You score one rounder if you hit the ball and make it to the fourth post before the next ball is bowled. You have to run whether you've hit the ball or not, unless you've been bowled a no ball.

You can also decide to run on a no ball – you'll still score a rounder if you get to the fourth post and you can't even be caught out! Be decisive though - there's no going back once you've reached the first post.

You can also score half rounders if you're speedy. You get these when:

- You don't hit the ball but still manage to get to the fourth post
- You hit the ball and get to the second post or third post

## 3. LEG IT

Run as far around the pitch as you can safely get. If you want to stop at a post, just make sure your hand or the bat is touching it so you can't be stumped out. You can start running again as soon as the bowler bowls the next ball. Keep an eye on the fielding team as you move around the pitch - it's their job to try to stop you scoring or getting to the fourth post.

If you're running and someone on the other team catches the ball before it touches the ground, or stumps the post you're running to, it's all over for this ball. Have a seat and get your breath back!



## 4. SMILE!

The team with the highest number of rounders wins – it's that easy!



Once you've mastered these basic rules, you can download the official rules of the game from [www.roundersengland.co.uk](http://www.roundersengland.co.uk).

# THE GAME



To set up a pitch, you'll need a nice big open space - a park, field, beach or even a big garden will do. You ideally want a space which will let you whack the ball as far as you can - 1,500 square metres would be ideal which is just less than half a football pitch, or about the same as a large swimming pool.

## STEP 1

Set out four posts in the shape of a diamond, starting with the batting square at the bottom point.

## STEP 2

The first, second and third posts should then be placed 12 metres (about 9 paces) apart on each of the other points of the diamond.

## STEP 3

The final, fourth post should be placed directly below the third post, 8.5 metres (about 6 paces) away from it and level with the batting square.

## STEP 4

The bowler stands halfway between the batting square and the second post, 7.5 metres (about 5 paces) away from the person who is batting.

If you're planning on playing in a park or public place regularly, why not have a chat to the council or other bodies responsible for the space about getting a permanent pitch marked out? If you want to know more, Rounders England can supply details on how to do this.



You can buy any equipment you might need from your local sports shop or online, but for casual games don't be afraid to improvise. Jumpers work very well as posts - as do bags or soft drinks bottles. You could even use a tennis racket as a bat!

