FURTHER INFORMATION

Players interested in reading more about pulijudam and related games can find more information in the following books:


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INTRODUCTION & HISTORY

Throughout southeast Asia there are a number of “hunt” games played on triangular boards. A game called pulijudam was played throughout India, still being popular in the latter half of the twentieth century. Often known in English as the tiger game, it has also attracted the names lambs and tigers and the leopard game.

In pulijudam, as in similar games, the sides are different: one side consists of the prey, while the other side has more numerous but less powerful hunters. The hunters must capture the prey, while the prey must see off the hunters.

HOW TO PLAY

The game is played on the points of the board shown in Illustration 1, one side having three tigers and the other having fifteen lambs. On some boards there are arcs instead of the horizontal lines shown here, but this does not affect the way the game is played.

Beginning the Game

1. The game begins with the tigers placed on the board as shown in Illustration 2.
2. The lambs make the first move.

Moving the Pieces

3. In the lambs’ turn, a lamb is placed on any desired point on the board.
4. No lamb may be moved while there are still lambs waiting to be placed.
5. In the tigers’ turn, a tiger may be moved from its current point, along a marked line, to the adjacent point, in any direction.
6. Once all the lambs have been placed, a lamb may instead be moved in the same way as a tiger.

Capturing Lambs

7. A tiger may, instead of moving to an adjacent point, capture a lamb by leaping over it onto the vacant point beyond.
8. The tiger may not change direction during a leap, it must jump over only a single lamb, and it may make only one such leap in its turn.
9. Lambs may not leap over tigers.

Winning the Game

10. The lambs win the game by confining the tigers such that no tiger may move in its turn.
11. The tigers win the game by capturing so many lambs that their task is no longer possible.

Variations

In Sumatra, a game called meurimüeng-rimueng-do uses the same board, but has five tigers facing fifteen sheep.

A larger board shown in Illustration 3 is used with three tigers and fifteen “dogs” in a game called rafaya in India or demala diviya keliya in Sri Lanka. The larger board makes the game last somewhat longer than pulijudam.