**Hurling: Ireland’s National Sport**

**by**

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Hurling is Europe's oldest field game. It is played with a stick or "hurley" (called camán in Irish) which is curved outwards at the end, to provide the striking surface. The hurley is made from **Ash**. The ball or "sliothar" is made from leather.

A **sliotar** or sliothar is a hard solid sphere slightly larger than a tennis ball, consisting of a cork core covered by two pieces of leather stitched together. Sometimes called a "dust" or "hurling ball", it resembles a baseball with more pronounced stitching.

**Key points of hurling**



It is a stick and ball game, played by teams of 15 on a rectangular grass pitch with H-shaped goals at each end. The primary object is to score by driving the ball through the goals or putting the ball over the bar and thereby scoring a point. Three points is the equivalent of a goal.

**Fun Facts**

* Every year, over 82,000 people attend the All-Ireland Hurling Final (the Super Bowl of hurling) in Croke Park in Dublin.
* Hurling is considered to be the world’s oldest and fastest field sport with the ball being hit at speeds up to 100 mph.
* The word “puck” used in ice hockey is derived from the Irish word “poc” which refers to striking the ball with a hurl.

**History of Limerick Hurlers**

* They have won 93 championships.
* The title has been won by 13 different teams, 10 of whom have won the title more than once.
* The all-time record-holders are Kilkenny, who have won the championship on **36** occasions.
* Limerick are the current champions and after 45 years they won the all-Ireland last August.

