

DETROIT
ROOTS

SOMOS



PRESENTED BY



VITILLA (STICKBALL)

Vitilla is a popular variation of stickball played primarily in the Dominican Republic and areas in the United States with large Dominican populations.



The overall rules and baserunning are roughly similar to basic forms of baseball, but there are only two bases in addition to home plate and only two or three fielders. A broomstick is used as a bat and a large plastic water bottle cap, called la vitilla, is used instead of a ball.

- **Field Configuration:** Vitilla has a home plate and two bases, primera (first base) and tercera (third base); there is no second base. The base path is a triangle, 50 feet on a side. There is no mound, but the pitcher's mark is 45 feet from home plate, centered in the field. There is a circular strike target behind home plate, about 18 inches diameter, about 18 inches above ground. The 15 feet in front of home plate is a foul area, in addition to the standard foul lines connecting home plate with primera and tercera. There is a home run line, 100 feet from home plate.

- **General Play:** The number of innings is agreed upon before the game begins, as is the number of fielders. Scoring and innings are similar to baseball: each team gets to bat once an inning, and three outs ends a team's turn at bat. A player scores when they advance around all bases and return to home plate. The team with the most runs at the end of the game wins.

- **Batting:** Like baseball, the lanzador (pitcher) throws the vitilla towards the strike target and the bateador (batter) stands in front of (but does not block) the target and attempts to hit the vitilla. A strike is called if the vitilla hits the strike target, or the bateador swings and misses the vitilla, or the vitilla is hit foul with less than two strikes. Unlike baseball, there are no walks, hit-by-pitches count as strikes if the bateador blocks the target, and pitches that are not swung at or miss the strike target can be re-thrown. Hits and base running are similar to baseball, but there is no base leading or stealing.

- **Fielding:** Fielders include the lanzador (pitcher) and two or three jardineros (fielders). There is no catcher, as the lanzador typically keeps a large supply of vitillas nearby. Gloves are not typically worn in Vitilla. Similar to baseball, the lanzador must keep a foot on the pitcher's mark, but in Vitilla, it is legal to skip or bounce pitches to the bateador. As in baseball, field outs are made by catching a hit ball before it hits the ground, or by tagging a runner with vitilla in hand, or by tagging a base and forcing an out.