

# Laptuuk – Alutiiq Baseball

*Laptuuk* is the Alutiiq version of *lapta*—a Russian baseball game. It is like American baseball with some interesting differences. Alutiiq people often play this game on the beach, using a soft rubber ball, two bases, and any number of people. Just divide your group in half and get ready for lots of laughter.

## Supplies:

- Soft rubber ball
- Baseball bat
- Two bases spaced about 200 feet apart

○ Batter

■ Home Plate

● Pitcher

Base ■

Fielders ●

## Play:

- Form two teams
- One team takes the field, while the other bats.
- The pitcher tosses the ball gently, allowing the batter to hit.
- When the ball is hit, everyone on the batter's team runs to the opposite base, and if they can, back to home plate to score a run.
- Each batter has three chances to hit, before it is a teammate's turn to hit. There are no strike outs.
- A player is out if a fielder catches the ball they hit, or if they are tagged out by a fielder holding the ball. Hit a runner with the ball and they are out!
- Just one out retires the side, and the opposing team is up to bat.

## Score:

- Each time a player reaches home plate, their team scores a point.
- With many people running the bases at once, *laptuuk* is full of confusion and excitement. Often people are having too much fun to keep score.



The rules and instructions shared here were passed down through generations by numerous Alutiiq community members. Other communities may have different variations of these games.

# Laptuuk – Alutiiq Baseball (Ouzinkie Style)

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## Supplies:

- Soft rubber ball
- Baseball bat
- Two bases spaced about 200 feet apart

○ Batter

■ Home Plate

● Pitcher

Base ■

Fielders ●

## Play:

- Divide into two teams.
- The batter uses the baseball bat and taps the top of the ball.
- Then the pitcher tosses the ball, and the batter swings.
- The batter gets one chance to hit the ball. If they miss, the bat goes to the next person.
- You don't have to run if you hit the ball. If you hit the ball, you can run as well as anyone else who has hit the ball or been up to bat.
- If you run, you have to try to make it behind the marker on the other side.
- If you step over the line you will have to keep running to the other side.
- Once you reach the marker you can run back or stay. You can also inch your way forward without being hit by the ball.
- The last person in line has 3 chances to hit the ball. The second to last person has 2 chances to hit the ball.
- If you don't run and get back. You can't bat again in the inning.
- If no one runs, or the last person misses all three, then the next team is up.
- If the runner is hit or the fly ball is caught the field team is up.
- If the field team hits a runner, the field team must run behind the safety lines.
- The runner that was hit and/or the team can try and throw the ball at the opposite team until the field team is behind the safety line.
- If the field team doesn't hit anyone. The field team is up to bat.
- The pitcher throws the ball in the air and runners must make it to the marker on the other end of the field. If they make it the pitcher throws the ball up again and tries to hit runners coming back.

## Score:

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