

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA INVENTORY ON THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Name of the Element: Pin Gal: Gal (literally translated to 'small ball game'): Snow Golf

Brief Description: A day prior to the match, the team from the host village invites the visitor team to stay the night in their village. The visitors are treated as guests and food, drinks etc. are arranged by the hosts. Next morning, after breakfast, the two teams move towards the playing ground as the crowd cheers them on. Rules are set in advance by a committee which covers issues such as

- 1) the penalty for losing a match (normally a goat/sheep is given by the losing team to the winning team),
- 2) whether one is allowed to hold the ball using their hands or not,
- 3) whether the ball shall be replaced if broken or not in the middle of an uncompleted goal etc.

The objective of the game is to club an oak carved ball (Pin) around 2.5 kilometers away, and then club it back to the starting point which counts as one goal. This cycle has to be completed before the opposing team does the same. The Pin is clubbed with a club (Galutsun) made from oak, willow or cedar wood. The Galutsun is like a hybrid between an ice hockey and a golf club and the hitting end of the club is rubbed with melted animal fat to stop it from getting wet in the snow. The 25 members in each team contribute in different ways to score goals e.g. some members are strong hitters who mainly club the ball- other who are agile chase the ball around and set it up for the clubbers to hit. The game is normally played as a part of a best of 3 and the event may last up to a week.