ESCALA I CORDA: A TRADITIONAL SPANISH PROFESSIONAL SPORT STRUCTURE
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Pilota valenciana is a very arranged traditional sport in the east coast of Spain. Nowadays the modernisation process of the most practiced modality of this sport Escala i Corda is being developed, so most sciences and investigation works are coming to light.

The play
Escala i Corda is a divided pitch non-implement sport (Méndez, 2003), that is practiced outdoor and indoor courts called Trinquets. There are two teams with their players opposed and separated by a rope with a little 10 cms net. Players have an alternative participation palming the ball, without pressing or physic contact with other players. Each team is composed by three players. Resto is the back player. He plays the ball inside dau and plays the most difficult skill, the rebot (ball that rebounds on the rear wall). Mitger and Punter play similar skills. Both of them play in front of Resto. Play starts when feridor (García et Llopis, 1991) bounces the ball and palms it against the staircase wall in order to touch the wall over the steps, bounce on the steps and bounce inside dau. A player stands inside dau waiting the ball and when it arrives there he hits it over the rope. Then players start the hitting exchange over the rope like tennis players do.

The pitch
Trinquet is an asymmetric court. Along the left side there's a staircase where the spectators can sit at the resto side only. Rope divides the pitch delimiting two zones: dau zone and resto zone. Dau is a square marked on the floor where the ball must bounce inside to start the game. Resto means return side.

Spectators sited inside the pitch of play are considered part of it.

The ball
Escala i corda is played with a handmade ball called pilota de vaqueta. Ball diameter is about 42 mm, and its circumference about 138 mm. Its weight range is from 42 g to 47 g. Vaqueta is 7 mm thick cattle leather made. Is a hard ball that reach 190.02 Km/h (Soler et al. 2001) velocity peaks while playing.

Several investigators are looking for synthetic materials in order to develop a vaqueta industrial make (Martínez et Alcántara 2004).

Palm protections
Due to the high number of hand injuries (Gámez et al. 2004), players hit the ball with their handmade palm protections that make themselves their own way. Protections must fit to hand anatomy and be comfortable and flexible enough to hit the ball without technical disease. In order to achieve their perfect protections, players use impact absorber materials, double side adhesive tape, metal sheet and plaster.


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