

Definition

- Calva is a traditional sport played in certain parts of Spain. It has roots going back to pre-Roman times, being developed by the Celtiberian who lived in the modern-day provinces of Toledo, Avila, Salamanca and Zamora.
- It was a game for shepherds, who threw stones at bull's horns to entertain themselves. With the passing of time, the game was modified: a piece of wood (the calva) came to be substituted for the horn, and the stone was replaced with a cylinder of iron or steel (the marro).



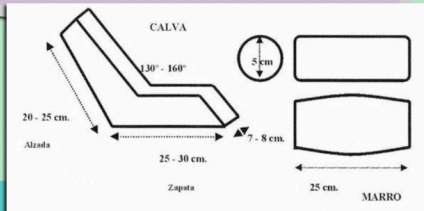
The name of calva was derived from the field in which the game came to be played, which was free of obstacles and rocks.

Today the sport is practiced mainly in Toledo, Salamanca, Zamora and Vizcaya although also in Madrid, Barcelona and Plasencia.



The game.

The object of this game is to knock down a piece of wood which is supported on one of its sides. The player, from 14.5 metres, must hit this calva with his marro, a metal cylinder. The player has 25 throws to achieve this, with two practice throws. The calva is generally made of oak and has the form of an obtuse angle. The lower part is called the zapata and the upper part is the alzada. The marro was originally often a rock taken from a creekbed, where it had been worn smooth.



Today it is usually an iron cylinder or oval with the name of its owner, weight, length, etc. often inscribed on it. The field of play is usually about 25 metres in length and about 5 metres in width. The distance of the throw is standardized at 14.5 metres, leaving about 3-5 metres for an approach area and 6-8 metres to stop the throw.

