NATIONAL FOLK GAMES FESTIVALS IN ALBANIA (1971–1985)



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Summary

This publication presents, for the first time to the public, a complete and documented history of the National Folk Games Festivals in Albania during the years 1971–1985—one of the most significant efforts to institutionalize intangible cultural heritage through sport and folklore. Based on archival documents preserved for decades and prepared by a group of researchers from the Albanian Sports Science Association (ASSA), this book includes detailed descriptions of each festival, games by region, cultural and educational analyses, and contemporary evaluations of their role in preserving national identity.

The book's structure divides the material into thematic and historical chapters, enriched with reference tables and a glossary of folk games. The document represents not only a step towards reviving tradition but also a new interdisciplinary research model for studies on physical culture and Albanian popular heritage.







About Albanian Sports Science Association (ASSA)

"Connect community through physical activity and sports" Our strategy is to connect, cooperate and collaborate with many partners that play a key role in the community that promote health, physical activity and sports.

www.assa.al

ASSA evolved from innovative ideas of dedicated sports science students. The organization was established in 2012 and registered as an NGO in the Republic of Albania located in Tirana. ASSA believes that human relationships are powerful, and interaction with each other are the foundation for change in creating a viable community that can bring positive and significant outcomes nationwide through physical activity and sports. Our goal is to establish relationships based on trust, understanding and shared values regardless of racial, ethnic, or socio-economic status.

The ASSA provides opportunities through scientific information that will improve the quality of sport training and a healthy active lifestyle in all age groups. We encourage the incentives of youth to be a driving force of ideas who can further contribute to our activities and projects.

ASSA is always open to partnerships with major research funding bodies, academies, universities, regulators, NGO's, healthcare, sports participants and others willing to participate and promote sports, physical education, physical activity and health.



Introduction

This material aims to document and objectively analyze one of the most significant initiatives of our cultural heritage: the national festivals of folk games in Albania during the years 1971-1985. Through a review of official sources and direct evidence, it addresses the way in which these festivals were developed, what impact they had on social life and how they contributed to the preservation of traditional games. Folk games are not simply forms of entertainment. They carry important educational, social and cultural values. In the absence of systematic documentation, there is a risk that these forms of oral and physical heritage will disappear. This book is dedicated to preserving the collective memory of a specific period, where traditional games were treated with institutional attention. The work is based on the analysis of written sources: newspapers of the time (mainly "Sporti Popullor"), institutional reports, Testimonies of participants and first-hand reports have also been used. The text has been edited to avoid any references with ideological or propagandistic overtones.

This material is an invitation to understand the process of discovery and re-evaluation of a heritage left silent for decades. Folk games festivals are not simply a series of cultural activities; they represent a living archive of Albanian society in the 1970s and 1980s – a reflection of the way communities expressed themselves through play, coexistence and competition. For more than three decades, these activities remained closed in the reports of institutions, in the pages of the newspaper "Sporti Popullor", in the albums of the participating groups and in the

memory of the individuals who experienced them. No one had previously undertaken a systematic effort to bring them to light, to collect them and to analyze them as a whole that has value for the national cultural heritage.

This research enterprise, carried out by the Albanian Association of Sports Sciences (ASSA), is the fruit of hundreds of hours of work in archives, interviews with participants of that time, review of original documents and comparison with other ethnographic sources. It has been proven that behind every game, every photograph and every group of participants, a story is hidden – of a community, a region, an entire generation that believed that even the game is a form of nation-building.

For the reader, this information is a reminder: many cultural treasures are not hidden far away – they are in dusty files, in the memory of silent people, in the pages of newspapers that are rarely opened. Our task is to listen to the archives that speak. This book is a testament to how archives, when read with dedication, can become inspiration for today.

CHAPTER I

Historical and Institutional Framework

Initiative for folk festivals in the early 1970s After a long period during which folk games had been largely forgotten, the early 1970s marked a revival of interest in them, within a broader policy aimed at increasing the physical and cultural engagement of youth. In 1971, the First National Festival was organized with the aim of reviving traditional games across the country. The institutions responsible for organizing and supporting the festivals were the Central Committee of the BRPSH, the General Council of the BFSSH, and local committees for physical culture. They mobilized human and material resources to organize activities on both national and local levels. The festivals served as a platform to showcase the diversity of games from different districts, to encourage mass participation, and to promote values such as cooperation, resilience, courage, and creativity. They were held in a competitive spirit, but also carried an educational and communal character, strengthening the sense of belonging and preserving heritage.

Reference: "Sporti Popullor", 14.09.1971, p. 2. Bellova, I. (1986). Folk Games of the Party Era. Second National Symposium on Folk Games, pp. 16–26.

CHAPTER II The First National Festival (1971)



- 📆 September 11–19, 1971 The birth of a national tradition
- 🕈 Cities: Lushnjë, Peshkopi, Përmet
- 🏆 Winners: Lushnja, Tirana, Durrës
- 🖾 Most popular game: "Rrëmbimi i flamurit"

The First National Folk Games Festival marked the institutional birth of a new cultural movement in Albania. Organized across three representative areas—Lushnjë (central), Peshkopi (north), and Përmet (south)—the festival showcased the vitality of traditional games as a living expression of community identity and youth participation.

◇ In Lushnjë (September 11–12, 1971):

- Participating districts: Lushnjë, Gramsh, Elbasan, Librazhd, Vlorë, Fier, Durrës, Tiranë, Pogradec

- Over 200 young players in traditional costumes competed.

Notable games: "Tërheqja e litarit", "Rrëmbimi i flamurit",
"Ndërrim vendi", "Hovas me të shtuar", "Bat-bat", "Strofka e skiles",
"Shirja në lëmë", "Bleta", "Breshka", "Hodha një letër në postë"
Winners: 1st place – Lushnja, 2nd – Tirana, 3rd – Durrës
Diplomas awarded to: "Kikizash" (Lushnja),

"Strofka e skiles" (Durrës), "Bat-bat" (Lushnja)



◇ In Peshkopi:

- Representing northeastern and northern regions (Kukës, Dibër, Shkodër, Tropojë, Mat)

- Games by the elderly: "Përkulja e llërës së krahut", "Tërheqja e gishtërinjve"

Notable games: "Kala dibrance", "Shpatulla", "Cila është më e fortë?", "Rrasash", "Kush ia heq qeleshen shokut?", "Ruajtja e kësules", "Kali kalorësi", "Bajrak-flamuri", "Shtiza e litari i gjatë", "Orle", "Ruajtja e çardakut", "Bajrakas"

- Educational value: Emphasis on courage, optimism, physical endurance



◇ In Përmet (September 18–19, 1971):

Participating districts: Përmet, Kolonjë,
Gjirokastër, Tepelenë, Sarandë, Berat, Skrapar, Korçë
Celebratory atmosphere with songs,
dances, and traditional performances
Notable games: "Kikizash", "Kala dibrance", "Rrëzimi i krrabës",
"Rrëzimi i pllakave", "Zinon", "Doke", "Kucedra"

- Winners: 1st – Përmet, 2nd – Kolonjë, 3rd – Berat

Conclusion:

The festival demonstrated that folk games serve not only as entertainment but as powerful tools of education, cultural affirmation, and generational cohesion. The multi-regional structure created a foundation for future national events.

References:

- Sporti Popullor. (1971, September 14). In Lushnjë and Peshkopi – The First National Folk Games Festival, p. 2.

- Sporti Popullor. (1971, September 21). Et'hem

Bejo: Chief Inspector of Physical Education, p. 1.

- Bellova, I. (1986). Folk Games of the Party Era. Second National Symposium on Folk Games, pp. 16–26.

CHAPTER III The Second National Festival (1973)

The Second National Folk Games Festival took place in two phases: regional qualifiers and a national final.

🕈 Regional centers: Lezhë, Librazhd, Çorovodë

🗩 National Final: Krujë, November 24–25, 1973



◇ Lezhë (July 21–22, 1973):

- Participating districts: Lezhë, Krujë, Dibër, Peshkopi, Pukë, Shkodër, Mirditë, Kukës, Sarandë

Highlight games: "Erthi minorthi" (Krujë), "Kala dibrance"
(Dibër), "Çobani" (Pukë), "Pat pat" (Mirditë), "Breshka"
(Shkodër), "Cinglat" (Sarandë), "Pellembethi" (Burrel),

"Deshët" (Kukës), "Top kaluar", "Ban usta si ban baba", "Marrja e flamurëve" (Lezhë)

- Cultural value: Strong community participation, traditional costumes, educational through entertainment

- Winner: Dibër (trophy of the regional festival)

◇ Librazhd – Central Zone Festival:

- Participating districts were not all listed but represented central regions

- Public interest was high, especially for traditional games from rural areas

- Winner: Librazhd (first place)



◇ Çorovodë (Skrapar) – Southern Zone:

- Participating districts: Skrapar, Vlorë, Berat, Lushnje, Fier

- Games were held over three days in city sports fields

- Winner: Gore Cooperative (Lushnje)

◇ Krujë – National Final (November 24–25, 1973):

- Finalist districts: Myzeqe, Dibër, Librazhd, Pogradec, Gramsh, Sarandë, Berat, Lezhë, Lushnjë, Krujë

- Highlight games:

* "Dhelpra e çalë", "Dhite e egra" (Berat)

- * "Bufi, klloçka e zogjtë", "Kala dibrance" (Lushnja)
- * Laraska games (Fier)
- * "Doçe" (Librazhd girls' choreography)
- * "Symbyllurazi" (Pogradec inherited from elder Kamber Hoxha)
- * Games with horses, arrows, fortresses (Krujë)
- * "Kala dibrance" (Dibër symbolic human pyramid)
- Closing ceremony: Dancing, awards ceremony
- Final winners: 1st Lushnja, 2nd Librazhd, 3rd Krujë

💣 Festival Evaluation:

The second festival represented a significant step forward. It broadened regional representation, increased game variety, and featured stronger ceremonial organization. Folk games were now recognized not just as folklore but as national sporting and educational tools.

References:

- Sporti Popullor. (1973, July 24). Andon Vane. Preserving Beautiful Traditions

– National Folk Games Festivals, p.3.

- Sporti Popullor. (1973, November 27). Baku Gjoni. Folk Sports Celebration in Krujë, p.1.



CHAPTER IV

The Third National Festival (1979)

Organized in the framework of the National Spartakiad commemorating the 35th Anniversary of Liberation

🕈 Main locations: Berat, Peshkopi, Libohovë

Participants: Thousands of youth, elders, children, students, cooperativists, soldiers

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◇ Berat (June 10, 1979):

- Districts: Berat, Librazhd, Skrapar, Durrës, Elbasan, Gramsh, Pogradec, Lushnje



- Notable games:

* "Hedhja e qeleshes" – performed by elders from Kutalli (Berat)
* "Goditja e postiqes", "Punë mbi vegjë" (Durrës – Manzë)
* "Tërheqja e kërrabës" (Elbasan) – test of courage and strength
* "Maçoku dhe gardalinat", "Këmbora në shenjë" (Lushnje – Gorë)
* "Suta", "Kumbullo", "Horthi-kalorthi",
"Symbyllazi" (Gramsh – Sotiraj & Shënmëri)

* "Breshka" (Pogradec)

- Winners: 1st - Gramsh, 2nd - Elbasan & Berat, 3rd - Lushnje

Peshkopi (June 17, 1979):

- Districts: Krujë, Pukë, Lezhë, Kukës, Shkodër, Tropojë, Mat, Mirditë, Dibër

- Special features:

* Symbolic relay from an elder to youth

* Full generational involvement

- Highlight games:

* "Kali kalorës" (Krujë)

* "Bën usta si bën babai" (Lezhë) – jury favorite

* "Kala dibrance" (Dibër – Zerqan)

* "Delet dhe ujku" (Kukës – Shishtavec

- Winners: 1st – Lezhë, 2nd – Dibër, 3rd – Krujë



◇ Libohovë - National Final (July 8, 1979):

- Districts: Përmet, Kolonjë, Korçë, Fier,

Tiranë, Sarandë, Vlorë, Tepelenë, Gjirokastër

- Festive atmosphere with symbolic torch relay from Berat to Libohovë

- Notable games:

- * "Çikthi" (Korçë)
- * "Bleta", "Vallja e gunave" (Vlora Gjorm & Kocul)

* "Shilarthi në breza", "Çap-çap",

"Qendisja e flamurit" (Fier – Libofshë)

* "Hutini", "Furka", "Bën usta si bën babai" (Tiranë)

* "Kërraba" (Përmet)

* "Loja me top" (girls), "Ruajtja e kalasë" (boys) – Gjirokastër

- Winners: 1st – Tirana, 2nd – Gjirokastër, 3rd – Fier, 4th – Vlorë

& Key Features:

- Over 3000 participants in zonal finals
- Generational inclusion, from kindergarten children to elders
- Games reflected unity, courage, vigilance
- Criticism: Some districts failed to present new games

Recommendations:

- Scientific classification of games
- Inclusion in school curricula
- Scholarly publications and sessions



References:

- Sporti Popullor. (1979, April 10). Toward the National Folk Games Festival, p.1

- Sporti Popullor. (1979, June 12). Baku

Gjoni. Sports fest in Berat's ancient castle, p.1

- Sporti Popullor. (1979, June 19). A rich tradition with strong content, p.1

- Sporti Popullor. (1979, July 10). Sali Hamzaj. Tradition fest in Libohovë, pp.1 & 4

- Sporti Popullor. (1979, July 24). Folk games – a crucial tool for youth education and development, p.1

CHAPTER V The Fourth National Festival (1981)





- 📆 Dates: October 9–11, 1981
- Host city: Shkodra Rozafa Castle
- ✿ Participants: 438 players from all 26 districts
- ${\ensuremath{\mathfrak{G}}}$ Held in the framework of the 40th anniversary of
- the Party a national political-cultural-sporting event

Yenue and Atmosphere:

The festival took place at one of the most symbolic heritage sites in Albania: the courtyard of Rozafa Castle. The ceremony opened with the game "Ruajtja e flamurit" by the Shkodra team. The event was accompanied by horsemen, drums, folk songs, and traditional costumes, transforming the city into a cultural mosaic. 1,000 games were preliminarily collected across districts, of which 78 were selected to be performed at the festival.

🖾 Most notable games:

- Shkodra:

* "Kush e puth traun" (500 years old, from Kastrati)

* "Të zotët e shtëpisë" (demonstrative competition)

* Concluding game: human pyramid with the national flag - Tirana:

* "Loja e mullisit" – humor, strength, and choreography

* "Bën usta si bën babai" – critical satire on laziness

* Girls' game: "Vajzat e shkathta"

- Korçë: "Me t'u pjekur lakrori" – choreography and narrative

- Gjirokastër:

* "Stafeta me lule" – lyrical and rhythmic

* "Goditja e kërrabës"

- Mirditë: "Mbushja e ujit në pus" –symbolic of effort and determination

- Elbasan: "40 vjet PPSH" – the most festive and symbolic game

- Kukës: "Çobani dhe ujku" – humor and roleplay

- Kolonjë: "Dale se të zura zog" – pursuit and strategy

- Mat: unnamed girls' game (awarded 1st place)

- Vlorë: "Goditja e kërrabës" – accompanied by Labë songs

- Other participating regions: Dibër ("Hajde të mësosh, mor budalla"), Devoll, Tepelenë, Labëri, Rrafshi i Dukagjinit, Myzeqe, Malësia e Gjakovës – all showcased characteristic regional games

\mathbf{X} Results and winners:

- Overall:
 - * 1st Tirana (Festival Flag)
 - * 2nd Korçë
 - * 3rd Lushnja

- Girls' Category:

- * 1st Mat
- * 2nd Korçë

* 3rd – Tirana - Boys' Category: * 1st – Tirana * 2nd – Lushnja * 3rd – Korçë

Comments on organization and values:

Large-scale event with a wide variety of games and broad generational participation
Games had educational, entertaining, and patriotic functions

- Games had educational, entertaining, and patriotic functions
- Praised for dynamism, skill, lyricism, and epic qualities
- Criticism toward poorly prepared districts (e.g., Durrës)
- High evaluation for the technical-artistic preparation

of Tirana, Korçë, Elbasan, Mirditë, and Gjirokastër

Summary and significance:

The Fourth Festival in Shkodra marked the peak of the ritualization and nationalization of folk games in Albania. With refined organization, full district representation, and institutional recognition, it was the most complete cultural-sporting manifestation of the 1980s.



Reference:

- Bellova, I. (1986). Folk Games of the Party Era – A Great Treasure of Heritage and National Culture. Second National Symposium on Folk Games, pp. 16–26.

CHAPTER VI

The Fifth National Festival (1985)

📆 Dates: September 9–15, 1985

♀ Hosting centers: Rrëshen, Lezhë, Pukë, Librazhd, Pogradec, Ersekë, Përmet

- 👥 Participants: Youth from all over Albania
- 💣 Part of the national calendar of youth sports and cultural events

Format and hosting cities:

The Fifth Festival broke from the tradition of a single central event and was instead organized across multiple regional cities. This decentralized format allowed greater local participation and involvement.



Regional competitions were held in:

- Rrëshen
- Lezhë
- Pukë
- Librazhd
- Pogradec
- Ersekë
- Përmet

$\overline{\ensuremath{\mathfrak{B}}}$ Key features of the festival:

- The beauty of traditional costumes and the diversity of regional games made each host city a vibrant cultural hub.

- New games introduced at the festival had educational and dynamic qualities, well received by audiences.

- Many towns turned into spontaneous folkloric performance arenas, using public squares, stadiums, and sports facilities to reflect regional identity.

$\textcircled{\sc im}$ Highlighted districts and performances:

- Mirdita: Powerful and expressive games praised for preserving tradition

- Librazhd: Stood out for its dynamic and original presentations

- Lezhë: Brought games that strongly emphasized intergenerational bonding and patriotic education

Evaluation and impact:

- The festival marked a new step toward democratizing cultural participation, allowing each region to showcase its heritage equally.

- It increased awareness of the richness of folk heritage through broader geographic dissemination.

- It highlighted the importance of continuing such events as a form of youth education and organization.



Reference:

- Sporti Popullor. (1985, September 9–15). Reports from the Fifth National Folk Games Festival.

CHAPTER VII

Folk Games as Cultural Heritage

Folk games in Albania represent a wide spectrum of activities, ranging from physically competitive games such as "Rrëmbimi i flamurit" to symbolic games with initiatory functions or rites of passage, such as "Dasma" or "Shporta e nuses". These games were not just forms of entertainment but carried clear socializing, educational, and ritual roles.

An inseparable element of the games was traditional clothing, which not only reflected regional identity but also served as a cultural symbol. Gender roles were clearly reflected in the division of games: boys often participated in more physical and dynamic games, while girls took part in gentler ones, often with an aesthetic nature or related to household life.

Folk games were accompanied by popular songs, rhythmic chants, and dances that gave them a performative dimension. These elements were part of oral culture, passed down through generations, often containing educational or humorous content. The songs that accompanied the games also helped structure the rhythm and rules of play.

Through these features, folk games emerge as a rich and multidimensional form of cultural heritage, one that deserves careful preservation and documentation at all levels.

CHAPTER VIII

Games as a Tool for Education and Entertainment

During the festival years, folk games were integrated into the institutional life of the country. They were practiced in an organized manner in primary and secondary schools as part of physical education, but also in agricultural cooperatives and workplaces.

The games served to develop physical skills, strengthen the sense of belonging, and preserve elements of traditional culture. Folk games went beyond the physical aspect. They conveyed values such as honesty, courage, cooperation, and respect for group rules.

In many cases, the game was a form of spiritual and emotional education, fostering empathy, patience, and community spirit. Various participants recall the emotions and engagement that these activities created:

A former teacher from Lushnja recalls: "We used to gather the children in the field and teach them the game 'Qorrin'. It was more than a game—it was a way to teach listening and cooperation."

Another testimony from Peshkopia states: "In our village, preparations for the festival were like a celebration. For a month, we forgot our worries and united through the game 'Kalaja dibrance', which we inherited from our elders."

These accounts confirm that folk games were a powerful educational tool, deeply impacting the social and cultural development of communities.

CHAPTER IX

Contemporary Reflections and Evaluations

For many of those who participated in the national folk games festivals, the memories remain vivid and associated with positive emotions. Many former participants describe them as rare events that brought communities together, fueled local pride, and created opportunities for cultural affirmation.

In rural areas, the games once part of the festivals are still occasionally remembered and revived spontaneously during family celebrations or community events. However, in the face of changing life rhythms and migration, there is a risk of diminishing regular practice.

Various efforts in several municipalities have started to bring attention back to folk games through cultural festivals, school activities, and civil society initiatives. These efforts reveal the potential of folk games to build bridges across generations and revive values that are often forgotten.

A modern approach would require integrating these games into cultural education, local tourism, and intangible heritage programs—adapting them to contemporary times and technologies while preserving their authenticity.
Recommendations for preserving this heritage:

- Creation of digital archives with descriptions and videos of folk games

- Integration of games into school curricula on civic and cultural education

- Periodic organization of local and national festivals focusing on folk games

- Promotion of cooperation with heritage institutions to include folk games in national and international protection lists

The heritage of folk games is not merely a relic of the past. It represents a real opportunity to build a stronger connection with cultural roots and to nourish a sense of community for the future.

Annexes

The annexes contain summaries, statistical tables, representative games by region, educational recommendations, and methods for integrating folk games into contemporary life and education. These annexes support the main chapters and provide additional data, practical applications, and regional insights crucial for further research and implementation.

Annex I SUMMARY TABLE OF NATIONAL FOLK GAMES FESTIVALS (1971–1985)

The following table summarizes key information about each of the five National Folk Games Festivals held in Albania between 1971 and 1985, including host cities, participant representation, primary winners, and source references.

Year	Host Cities	Participation	Main Winners	Reference
1971	Lushnjë, Peshkopi, Përmet	Regional districts	Lushnjë, Tiranë, Durrës	Sporti Popullor, 14.9.1971
1973	Lezhë, Skrapar, Librazhd, Krujë	Mass participation	Dibër, Librazhd, Lushnjë	Sporti Popullor, 24.7.1973, 27.11.1973
1979	Berat, Peshkopi, Libohovë	Wide involvement	Gramsh, Lezhë, Tiranë	Sporti Popullor, April–July 1979
1981	Shkodër	26 districts		Bellova, 1986
1985	Nationwide	Over 3000 participants	Tiranë, Fier, Tropojë	Sporti Popullor, 9–15.9.1985

Annex II REPRESENTATIVE GAMES BY DISTRICTS

This table outlines the most frequently represented folk games from various Albanian districts during the National Folk Games Festivals (1971–1985), along with their typological characteristics.

Game	District(s)	Typology
"Rrëmbimi i flamurit"	Tiranë, Lushnjë, Krujë	Symbolic, competitive
"Breshka"	Durrës, Pogradec	Strategic, calming
"Kala dibrance"	Dibër, Përmet	Symbolic, group- based
"Krraba"	Skrapar, Berat	Physical strength
"Symbyllazi"	Tiranë, Tropojë	Strategic, stealth- based

Annex III Summary Table by Festival

This annex provides a structured overview of the five National Folk Games Festivals, highlighting locations, number of districts, standout games, and key winners by region.

Festival	Location	No. of Districts	Standout Games	Main Winners
First (1971)	Lushnjë, Peshkopi, Përmet	26	"Bat-bat", "Kikizash", "Kala dibrance", "Rrëmbimi i flamurit", "Zinon", "Kucedra"	Peshkopi (North), Përmet (South), Lushnjë (Central)
Second (1973)	Lezhë, Skrapar, Librazhd, Krujë	30	"Erthi minorthi", "Çobani", "Pat pat", "Gabërra", "Symbyllurazi"	Dibër, Librazhd, Lushnjë
Third (1979)	Berat, Peshkopi, Libohovë	30+	"Tërheqja e kërrabës", "Maçoku e gardalinat", "Goditje në shenjë", "Ruajtja e kalasë"	Dibër, Vlorë, Lezhë
Fourth (1981)	Shkodër	26	"Pishpiriku", "Lodra e gunës", "Rrëshqitja e trungut"	Dibër, Pukë, Elbasan
Fifth (1985)	All districts (nationwide)	~3000 participants	"Kalaja dibrance", "Qorrin", "Krraba", "Dhelpra e çalë"	Dibër, Lushnjë, Tepelenë, Kolonjë

Annex IV

Participation, Winners, and Games Table

This table presents a concise comparison of participation levels, representative games, and key winners for each National Folk Games Festival held between 1971 and 1985.

Year	Location	Participating Districts	Standout Games	Main Winners
1971	Lushnjë, Peshkopi, Përmet	26	"Bat-bat", "Kikizash", "Kala dibrance", "Rrëmbimi i flamurit", "Zinon", "Kucedra"	Peshkopi, Përmet, Lushnjë
1973	Lezhë, Skrapar, Librazhd, Krujë	30	"Erthi minorthi", "Çobani", "Pat pat", "Gabërra", "Symbyllurazi"	Dibër, Librazhd, Lushnjë
1979	Berat, Peshkopi, Libohovë	30+	"Tërheqja e kërrabës", "Maçoku e gardalinat", "Goditje në shenjë", "Ruajtja e kalasë"	Dibër, Vlorë, Lezhë
1981	Shkodër	26	"Pishpiriku", "Lodra e gunës", "Rrëshqitja e trungut"	Dibër, Pukë, Elbasan
1985	Nationwide	~3000 participants	"Kalaja dibrance", "Qorrin", "Krraba", "Dhelpra e çalë"	Dibër, Lushnjë, Tepelenë, Kolonjë

Annex V Representative Districts and Games by Festival

This table lists key districts along with the representative games they presented across multiple National Folk Games Festivals, providing an overview of recurring traditions by region.

District	Representative Game	Festivals
Dibër	"Kala dibrance"	1971, 1973, 1979,
		1985
Lushnjë	"Rrëmbimi i	1971, 1973
	flamurit"	
Kolonjë	"Kucedra"	1971
Peshkopi	"Shpatulla", "Orle"	1971, 1979
Përmet	"Rrëzimi i krrabës"	1971
Kukës	"Deshët", "Çobani"	1973
Krujë	"Erthi minorthi"	1973
Librazhd	Various regional	1973
	games	
Shkodër	"Pishpiriku"	1981
Elbasan	"Lodra e gunës"	1981
Pukë	"Rrëshqitja e	1981
	trungut"	
Tepelenë	Local inherited	1985
	games	
Sarandë	Sarandë Symbolic community	
	games	

Annex VI

Games Mentioned in the National Festivals (1971-1985)

"Tërheqja e litarit" (Tug of War), "Rrëmbimi i flamurit" (Capture the Flag), "Ndërrimi i vendit" (Switching Places), "Hovas me të shtuar" (Jump with Added Steps), "Hodha një letër në postë" (I Mailed a Letter), "Bat-bat", "Shaluarthi", "Laraskash", "Strofka e skiles" (The Fox's Den), "Shirja në lëmë" (Threshing in the Field), "Bleta" (The Bee), "Breshka" (The Turtle), "Kikizash", "Kala dibrance" (Dibra Fortress), "Shpatulla" (Shoulder Game), "Cila është më e fortë?" (Which One is Stronger?), "Rrasash", "Kush i merr geleshën me dhëmbë" (Who Takes the Cap with Teeth), "Ruajtja e kësules" (Keeping the Cap), "Kali kalorësi" (Horse and Rider), "Bajrak-flamuri" (Banner–Flag), "Shtiza e litari i gjatë" (Long Rope Spear), "Orle (gjuajtje në shenjë)" (Orle - Target Throw), "Ruajtja e çardakut" (Defending the Porch), "Bajrakas", "Rrëzimi i krrabës" (Knocking Down the Cane), "Rrëzimi i pllakave" (Tile Knockdown), "Zinon", "Doke", "Kucedra" (The Dragon), "Erthi minorthi", "Çobani" (The Shepherd), "Pat pat", "Cinglat", "Pellembethi", "Deshët" (The Rams), "Top kaluar" (Ball Over), "Ban usta si ban baba" (Craft Like Father), "Symbyllurazi" (Blindfolded), "Gabrrën", "Bufi, klloçka e zogjtë" (The Owl, Hen, and Chicks), "Dhelpra e çalë" (The Lame Fox), "Dhite e egra" (Wild Goats), "Krraba" (The Cane), "Doce", "Marrja e geleshes" (Taking the Cap), "Suta", "Kumbullo" (The Plum), "Horthi-kalorthi", "Punë mbi vegjë" (Work on the Loom), "Maçoku dhe gardalinat" (The Cat and the Finches), "Këmbora në shenjë" (Bell to the Mark), "Goditja e postiqes" (Hitting the Postiqe), "Goditja në shenjë" (Hitting the Target), "Ndeshje me shpata" (Sword Fight), "Hutini", "Shilarthi në breza", "Çap-çap", "Qendisja e flamurit" (Embroidering the Flag), "Vallja e gunave" (Dance of the Cloaks), "Furka" (The Spindle), "Stafeta me lule" (Flower Relay), "Me t'u

pjekur lakrori" (When the Pie is Baked), "Loja e mullisit" (The Miller's Game), "Dale se të zura zog" (Wait, I Caught You Little Bird), "Mbushja e ujit në pus" (Filling Water from the Well), "40 vjet PPSH" (40 Years of the Party), "Hajde të mësosh, mor budalla" (Come Learn, You Fool).

Annex VII Games mentioned in national festivals (1971–1985)

No.	Game Name	Main Feature	Representing Region
1	"40 vjet PPSH"	Patriotic, festive	Elbasan
2	"Bajrak-flamuri"	National traditions and symbols	Shkodër
3	"Bajrakas"	Symbolic competitions	Tropojë
4	"Ban usta si ban baba"	Humorous, educational	Lezhë, Tiranë
5	"Bat-bat"	Reactive, children	Lushnje
6	"Bleta"	Agility, symbolism	Tiranë, Vlorë
7	"Breshka"	Strength, endurance	Shkodër, Pogradec
8	"Bufi, klloçka e zogjtë"	Imaginative, educational	Lushnje
9	"Çap-çap"	Game with jumps and profession themes	Fier
10	"Çobani"	Shepherding theme	Pukë
11	"Cila është më e fortë?"	Comparative, for girls	Peshkopi
12	"Cinglat"	Rhythmic and fast	Sarandë
13	"Dale se të zura zog"	Group competition	Kolonjë
14	"Deshët"	Strength competition	Kukës
15	"Dhelpra e çalë"	Humorous, girls group	Berat

16	"Doke"	Choreographed game	Berat
17	"Doçe"	Choreography for girls	Librazhd
18	"Erthi minorthi"	Traditional	Krujë
19	"Furka"	Related to rural life	Gjirokastër
20	"Gabrrën"	Reflex-based, competitive	Pogradec
21	"Goditja e postiqes"	With ball	Durrës
22	"Goditja në shenjë"	With stick or stone	Libohovë
23	"Hajde të mësosh, mor budalla"	Satirical, educational	Dibër
24	"Hodh një letër në postë"	Rhythmic and musical	Lushnje
25	"Horthi-kalorthi"	Group competition	Gramsh
26	"Hovas me të shtuar"	Athletic, for boys	Elbasan
27	"Hutini"	Reflex-based, educational purpose	Tiranë
28	"Kala dibrance"	Symbolic, human pyramid formation	Dibër, Kolonjë
29	"Kali kalorësi"	Children's competition	Kukës
30	"Këmbora në shenjë"	Precision competition	Lushnje
31	"Kikizash"	Running competition	Gramsh, Përmet
32	"Krraba"	Target hitting competition	Skrapar, Berat, Gramsh

33	"Kucedra"	Mythological, dramatic	Kolonjë
34	"Kumbullo"	Choreographic, for girls	Gramsh
35	"Kush i merr qeleshën me dhëmbë"	Reflex-based, humorous	Peshkopi
36	"Laraskash"	Choreographic	Fier
37	"Loja e mullisit"	Humorous, agile	Tiranë
38	"Maçoku dhe gardalinat"	Parental affection, for children	Lushnje
39	"Marrja e qeleshes"	Reflex-based, fast	Tropojë
40	"Mbushja e ujit në pus"	Symbol of women's power	Mirditë
41	"Me t'u pjekur lakrori"	Folk choreographic	Korçë
42	"Ndërrimi i vendit"	None	Elbasan
43	"Ndeshje me shpata"	Combat simulation	Libohovë
44	"Orle (gjuajtje në shenjë)"	Accuracy contest	Tropojë
45	"Pat pat"	Rhythmic and humorous	Mirditë
46	"Pellembethi"	Traditional	Burrel
47	"Punë mbi vegjë"	Symbolic of rural life	Durrës
48	"Qendisja e flamurit"	Patriotic symbolism for children	Fier
49	"Rrasash"	Endurance competition	Peshkopi

50	"Ruajtja e çardakut"	Strategic game	Tropojë
51	"Ruajtja e kalasë"	Symbolic defense	Gjirokastër
52	"Ruajtja e kësules"	Defensive game	Kukës
53	"Rrëmbimi i flamurit"	Competition between two teams	Gramsh
54	"Rrëzimi i krrabës"	Stick competition	Përmet
55	"Rrëzimi i pllakave"	Hitting contest	Përmet
56	"Shaluarthi"	Choreographic	Fier
57	"Shilarthi në breza"	Generation-to- generation	Fier
58	"Shirja në lëmë"	Agricultural labor simulation	Durrës
59	"Shpatulla"	Physical contest	Peshkopi
60	"Stafeta me lule"	Collective choreography	Gjirokastër
61	"Strofka e skiles"	Humorous game	Durrës
62	"Suta"	Game for youth	Gramsh
63	"Symbyllurazi"	Blindfolded game	Pogradec
64	"Top kaluar"	Ball game	Lezhë
65	"Tërheqja e litarit"	Classic competition	Gramsh
66	"Vallja e gunave"	Symbolism and choreography	Fier
67	"Zinon"	Choreography with structure	Korçë

Annex VIII Most frequent games by zone

Zone	Representative Games	Evaluation of Local Heritage
North	"Kala dibrance", "Çobani", "Deshët", "Ruajtja e kësules"	Rites of resistance and symbolic construction
Center	"Bat-bat", "Rrëmbimi i flamurit", "Kikizash"	The game as a form of physical and group education
South	"Krraba", "Doke", "Qendisja e flamurit", "Vallja e gunave"	The game as a reflection of ritual, celebration, and work

Annex IX

Most mentioned games at more than one festival

Game Name	Key Feature	Current Use	Appropriate Age Levels
"Kala dibrance"	Symbolic con- struction	Group physical competition	Ages 10–18
"Krraba"	Target hitting	Camp or team competition	Ages 9+
"Bat-bat"	Reflex-based, humorous	Outdoor or schoolyard activity	Ages 7–12

Annex X Educational games for schools

Game	What It Educates	Suitable For	Suggestion for Integration
"Ban usta si ban baba"	Imitation, ethical reflection	Grades 5–9	Thematic debate or scenic interpretation
"Hodh një letër në postë"	Rhythm, group coordination	Grades 1–4	Sung rule- based game
"Bufi, klloçka e zogjtë"	Role-play, care for others	Summer camp – children	Animation using toys or masks

Annex XI

The most spectacular games for public events

Game	Visual Attractiveness	Where It Can Be Performed	Added Scenic Element
"Stafeta me lule"	Choreographed flower-passing and collective emotion	Parades, spring festivals	Dresses with floral motifs and instrumental music
"Vallja e gunave"	Heavy cloak swirling, symbolism of community power	Stage, cultural evening	Thematic lighting and strong vocal expression
"Me t'u pjekur lakrori"	Ritual elements, ceremonial movement	Village festivities or national commemorations	Symbolic table set- up with traditional food and song

Annex XII How to Use Traditional Games in Contemporary Life

Implementation Setting	Practical Examples of Use	Objective
School	Game days, activities for motor development and collaboration	Education through play
Community Center	Local festival, game tournament, revival of old days	Intergenerational coexistence
Digital Platforms	Demonstration videos, TikTok challenges, animated games	Expansion of cultural access
Museum / Exhibition	Interactive corner, traditional tools, documented performances	Connection with heritage

Annex XIII Historical Summary of Folk Games Festivals

Year	Main Location(s)	Involved Regions	Number of Districts	Distinct Historical Value
1971	Lushnjë, Peshkopi, Përmet	Central, Northern, Southern	27	First national folk games festival
1973	Lezhë, Skrapar, Librazhd, Krujë	All regions	30+	Widest participation and regional division
1979	Berat, Peshkopi, Libohovë	Part of the Spartakiad	40+	Linked with patriotic education and physical culture (Spartakiad)
1981	Shkodër	All 26 districts	26	Most ceremonial and structured edition
1985	Nationwide (with multiple finals)	All regions	All	Peak of nationwide participation – involved every city and village

Annex XIV Participation and Organizational Formats

Year	Total Participants	Participation Format	Main Organizers
1971	Approximately 1,000 participants	Parade demonstrations and representative teams by region	BRPSH (Pioneers), BFSSH (Physical Culture), and Sporti Popullor newspaper
1973	Approximately 1,500 participants	Zonal qualifiers followed by national-level finals	District-level physical culture committees with local institutions
1979	More than 2,000 participants	Each zone organized a stage (e.g., Berat–Libohovë circuit)	Organized as part of the National Spartakiad with mass community structures
1981	438 selected representatives (from over 10,000 candidates)	Best 438 selected from 10,000 festival contestants	National jury supported by artistic and scientific commissions
1985	More than 3,000 participants in the final events	Inclusive of every school, village, and urban community	Municipal and educational networks coordinated by physical education units

Annex XV Educational and cultural characteristics by year

Year	Connection to Education	Gender Inclusion	Highlighted Cultural Elements
1971	Yes – integrated into physical and moral education programs	Participation from both girls and boys in equal measure	Games seen as a reflection of Albanian virtues and heritage
1973	Yes – actively included in school activities	Equal representation of boys and girls	Games symbolize regional uniqueness and foster national unity
1979	Yes – promoted with patriotic emphasis during Spartakiad	Inclusivity of both genders in games and parades	Included traditional songs, rituals, and physical folklore
1981	Yes – featured in lessons with emphasized educational value	First official separation between male and female teams	Focused on beauty, meaning, and mass performance
1985	Yes – fully embedded in curricula and extracurricular programs	Highest recorded gender balance and female leadership roles	Games used as community tools for education and civic pride

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