

BALLOON SOCCER

Items Needed: 9" inflated balloons of 2 or 4 different colors (depending on whether there are 2 teams or 4), a large trash bag per team, masking tape to mark team end lines.

Divide the group into 2 or 4 even teams. If 4 teams are playing, assemble them in a large square, one team per side. Each team should select one player to act as goalie, who is given a trash bag.

All the balloons are placed in the center of the square (if 4 teams are playing, put them in the center between 2 rows if two teams are playing). Mix the balloons up so there is an even distribution of colors. (Each team's balloons should be a different color.) Each team has a two-purpose goal: to preserve as many of their color balloons as possible, while trying to pop as many of the other team's (or teams') balloons. To preserve their own balloons, players move their balloons soccer style (no hands or arms) to their team's goalie. The goalie may use his/her hands to pick up the balloons and put them in their trash bag, but she must stay in the center of her team's end line. Popping opposition balloons is done by stomping them.

At the end, each goalie counts how many of their team's balloons are in their bag.

Variation: This game may be played as rounds. At the end of each round, the inflated balloons from the bags are placed back in the center of the square. A team must have at least one balloon still inflated in order to go on to the next round. Rounds continue until only one team remains with an inflated balloon.

