

A close-up, low-angle shot of a rugby ball, showing its characteristic oval shape and the intricate lacing pattern. The ball is the central focus, with the background being a blurred, light-colored wall or fence. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the ball's surface.

rugball

PRESS RELEASE

RAQBALL

THE NEW COLLECTIVE "RAQUETS" SPORT
MADE IN FRANCE, GROUND-BREAKING,
FUN AND INCLUSIVE





Like eating habits and professional activities, sport activities are changing. Today, the trend is towards health-related sports, but also to flexibility: new sportsmen/sportswomen are looking for sport activities that are compatible with their pace of life (time schedule, framework, and format). Furthermore, they are increasingly attracted by fun sports that can be played outdoors.

RAQBALL, a *100% French* sport created by Chris OVEN, contributes significantly to this development, thanks to its DNA and philosophy. It acts as a catalyst in the emergence of a new, more pleasant and more informal way of practising sports by offering a portable and ready-to-play equipment.



RAQBALL: A *CONTACTLESS* SPORT, ENJOYABLE AND TECHNICAL

RAQBALL is played between two teams of six players (3 in play and 3 replacements), each player passing the ball using their rackets. It is played on any surface 20 m x 10 m in size. The official duration of a match is 20 minutes, divided into 4 periods of 5 minutes each.

The aim is simple and strategic: The players should hit the ball into the target with their rackets by passing the ball between teammates and moving individually.

RAQBALL is a contactless sport: inclusiveness, agility, concentration and cardiovascular performance are more important than physical power. It helps to develop agility, team game, movements and strategy, while being fun and accessible.

This new discipline thus combines the values of team sport and can be played by players of all ages and skill levels.





THE EQUIPMENT: A *REAL PLUS TO RAQBALL*

RAQBALL is played with a Portable Court Equipment that is easy to install anywhere. This ‘*ready-to-play*’ **RAQBALL** equipment comes in two cases comprising target boards, rackets, balls, bibs, and court marking strips. This equipment is designed with many innovations: ball catcher, multi-size bibs, etc.

Easy to transport and install, this Portable Court Equipment is a real plus for **RAQBALL**. [Local authorities](#) can offer this sport to their inhabitants without investing in land or commit significant funds as is the case with a fixed installation. It thus meets their needs in terms of technological innovations and social and environmental responsibility.

RAQBALL: A *SPORT SUITED TO SCHOOL SETTINGS*

RAQBALL is well-suited to school practice as the rules of the game are simple for easy understanding from the very first session.

This sport allows pupils to work on their core abilities and keeps a class of 24 pupils all active at the same time. Pupils can handle the racket and the ball in a variety of situations, while developing their sense of orientation and capacity to concentrate.

Thanks to its portable equipment, **RAQBALL** can be deployed on any school playground; making it possible to provide the “*30 minutes of daily physical activity*” required by the national education programme in France.



A SPORT BASED ON SOLIDARITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

RAQBALL is part of a sustainable development and social responsibility approach. This inclusive sport fosters diversity among the teams, and is relevant to people with disability.

It offers a fun, intense physical activity for those practising it, in just a few minutes, and adheres to a health-related sport approach. Since it does not require specific infrastructures, it is well suited to deprived areas or rural areas.

Furthermore, the Portable Court Equipment is assembled and packed in France using eco-friendly materials, in a factory employing disabled people.

The team **RAQBALL** is also developing an inclusion policy through sport within associations supporting children and humanitarian missions, schools this year.



A 100% FRENCH CREATION SUSTAINED BY THREE STRUCTURES

Most collective sports were invented in Anglo-Saxon countries, but **RAQBALL** is a 100% French creation. The team **RAQBALL** is made up of former elite athletes, business leaders, PE teachers, and engineers.

Three structures were created by the team to develop this new sport:

- The start-up RZBALL COMPANY which develops the **RAQBALL** portable equipments
- The International **RAQBALL** Federation that is responsible for submitting and protecting the official rules required to play **RAQBALL** worldwide
- The French Federation whose mission is to develop the practice of **RAQBALL** in all its forms (leisure, clubs and competition).

Today, **RAQBALL** is present within many municipalities in France, as well as in the private sector. Several schools and secondary schools already have their own equipment or organise regular, extracurricular activities; both children and teachers are very enthusiastic.

Today, Team **RAQBALL** hope to develop the practice of **RAQBALL** in schools, while at the same time making it a leisure sport. Their objective is to equip all local authorities in France with a **RAQBALL** Portable Court Equipment. Municipalities of over 1,000 inhabitants already have an installation where **RAQBALL** can be played: tennis court, soccer pitch, or basketball court. Villages have outdoor spaces suitable for the practice of **RAQBALL**.

In order to achieve this goal, **RZ BALL COMPANY** offers an attractive price for its equipment that is mobile, adaptable to any existing sport grounds.



CHRIS OVEN
Life is a sport

RAQBALL was invented by Christophe Ouensou, known as Chris Oven. A French sculptor, painter and visual artist, with a passion for sport. In his quest for innovation, he imagined in 2012 a sport in which two teams play, racket in hand, with a ball: a new team racket sport is born.

Chris Oven works long and hard to design the equipment and establish the rules. **RAQBALL** is launched in France in April 2013, in the town of Valbonne Sophia-Antipolis. Two years later **RAQBALL** gets a crucial boost with a beIN SPORTS TV feature in L'expresso.

In 2016, Christophe Lehmann, known as Lem's, joins the Team to add a new dimension to **RAQBALL**. This business leader will create RZ BALL COMPANY to give the start-up a structure. He will create with Cris Oven a solid team comprising fifteen people, each with a special role: commercial management, development strategy, equipment design, and creation of the federations.

With the support from BPI France, Région Sud Provence Alpes Côte-d'Azur and the European Investment Fund, the team's work is paying off: The International RAQBALL Federation (I.R.B.F) is created in Brussels, and the first official rules of RAQBALL are filed at the Federal Court of Justice of Brussels. The French RAQBALL Federation (F.F.R.B), an I.R.B.F. Member, is created the following year.

The hard work will start in 2019 with the development of a full **RAQBALL** court equipment package that is of optimal quality, portable, and easy to install. After developing various prototypes, the new **RAQBALL** equipment is officially launched in 2021, in France, and **RAQBALL** is developing as a leisure sport and in schools.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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