

Fivebox

How to turn a sidewalk into a playfield

About Fivebox

This is a relaxing game that can be played by a couple of people to pass away some time. It doesn't require speed or power, but does need some finesse. It also shows, as do most street games, how necessity is the mother of invention.

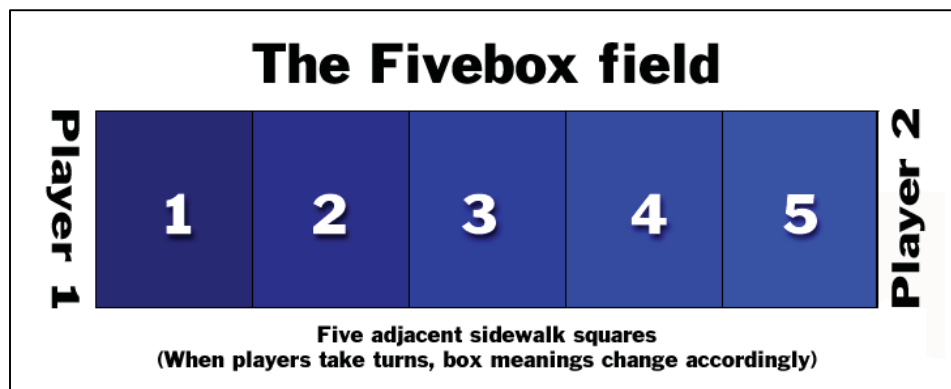
Game Essentials

Players: 2

Materials needed:

- Bouncing rubber ball (spaldeen is ideal)
- Level sidewalk with 5 adjacent, consistently sized large squares (or a similar setup drawn in chalk)

Time to play: 30-60 minutes (depends on skill)



The Fivebox field

A sidewalk or a courtyard with 5 evenly sized boxes marked off (or a similar setup drawn in chalk).

How to play

Players take turns. Player 1 takes his/her first turn by trying throw the ball into the box closest to the player 2 (the "fifth box"), without the

opponent catching it on the fly. The first bounce the ball takes must be in this box before it is caught, and the ball can bounce only once in this box. If the opponent catches the ball "on the fly", or the ball bounces in the box more than once, or player 1 misses the box completely, it becomes the opponent's turn. Player 2 must keep his/her feet behind the line of the box closest to him/her when catching the ball.

If player 1 is successful in bouncing the ball as just described, s/he throws again. This time player 1 tries to bounce it in fourth box (only once), then in the fifth box (one or more times). If the opponent catches it before it bounces in the last box, then player 1 doesn't advance, but will continue trying for the "fourth box" the next time it becomes his/her turn (players don't have to start "from scratch" every turn). Each successful throw lets a player continue, and on each successive turn, the thrower starts the bounces in the next closer box.

When a player finally makes the ball bounce once in each of the five boxes on a single toss, s/he then continues by trying for four bounces in the closest four boxes (one in each box), then three bounces in the closest three, etc., until finally just throwing it into her closest box on a bounce and catching it. The first person to complete this cycle is the winner.

The last word

Fivebox is one of those games ideally suited for summer afternoons and evenings where a bunch of kids are hanging out and want a bit of diversion. Its methodical nature can sometimes seem like torture, but it's a good way to pass the time when it gets really hot. It is a relaxed game, well suited for boys and girls.

This Streetplay Rule Sheet is available at: <http://www.streetplay.com/rulesheets/fivebox/>