Aug. 19, 1924. 1,505,802

G. L. PIERCE

FOOTBALL

Filed May 18, 1923

Fig. 1.

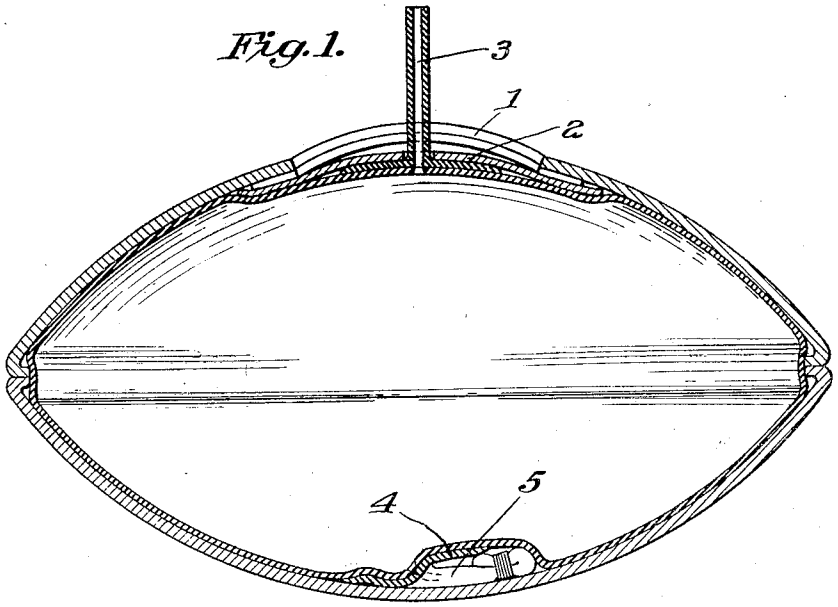


Fig. 2.

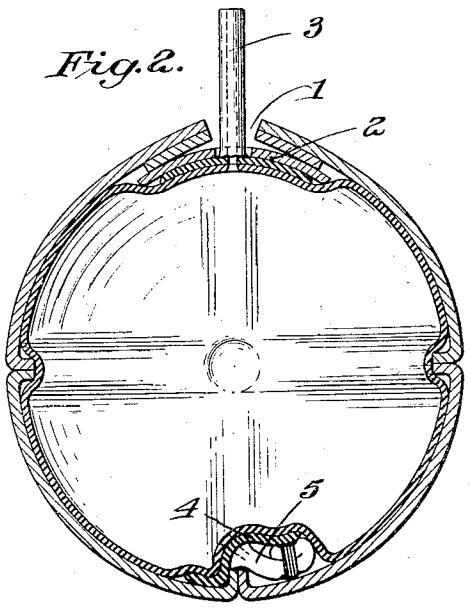
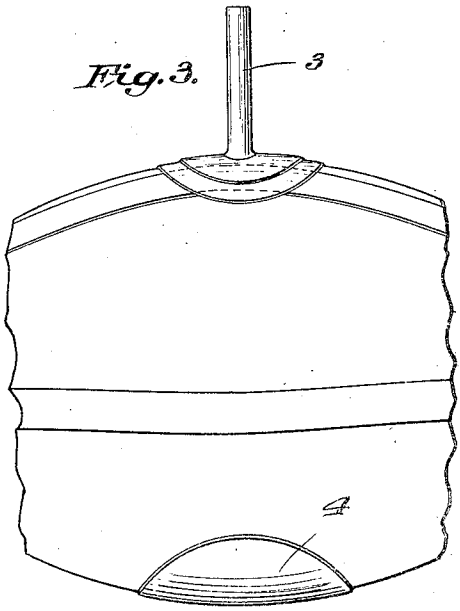


Fig. 3.



Inventor:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE L. PIERCE, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO A. G. SPALDING & BROS., OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF NEW JERSEY.

FOOTBALL.

Application filed May 18, 1923. Serial No. 639,842.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE L. PIERCE, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York State, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Footballs, of which the following is a specification.

One object of the present invention is to provide a football which will be of a balanced character, being substantially no heavier on one side than on the other.

The invention consists in the features and combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal section through a football embodying the invention.

Fig. 2 is a transverse section.

Figure 3 is a part side elevation of the bladder alone showing a modification of the invention.

The outer leather casing under usual practice is provided with an opening 1 at one side thereof which is closed by a flap 2 having an opening through which the valve tube 3 passes. This structure is at one side of the ball and hence additional weight occurs here due to the weight of the tube and flap, and ordinarily this throws the ball out of balance. In order to counteract this extra weight and to balance the ball, I place on the interior inflatable member or bladder a patch 4, this being located at the point opposite that at which the tube is located thereon, and this patch may be of sufficient size and thickness to substantially balance the weight of the filling tube and of the flap above mentioned.

The ball may be made without the flap 2.

I may also employ a second filling tube 5 on the bladder with the patch surrounding the same, and this will provide the balancing means. Furthermore, when this second tube is employed, it will be obvious that the life of the inflatable member is increased. It is the usual practice to inflate the interior member by blowing through the tube and then this tube is bent over and fastened down so as to prevent the outlet of any of the contained air. This subjects the rubber tube to wear, and after a certain period of use it is liable to break down and render the inflatable member useless. The second tube which I provide for balancing the weight of the first tube and the flap may be used after the first tube becomes broken or unfit for use, in which case the broken tube would simply be plugged and permanently closed.

A balancing patch may be used alone or combined with the second tube.

I claim as my invention:

1. In combination with the outer casing of a football having an opening for the insertion of the inflatable member, and a flap to close said opening, an inflatable member having a filling tube to pass through an opening in the flap, and means carried by the opposite side of the ball, and within the same, to balance the weight of said filling tube, substantially as described.

2. In combination with the outer casing of a football having an opening for the insertion of the inflatable member, and a flap to close said opening, an inflatable member having a filling tube to pass through an opening in the flap, and means carried by the opposite side of the ball, and within the same, to balance the weight of said filling tube, said balancing means being attached to the inflatable member.

3. In combination with the outer casing of a football having an opening for the insertion of the inflatable member, and a flap to close said opening, an inflatable member having a filling tube to pass through an opening in the flap, and means carried by the opposite side of the ball, and within the same, to balance the weight of said filling tube, said balancing means consisting of a second filling tube and a thickened portion surrounding the same and at a point on said inflatable member, opposite that at which the first filling tube is located, substantially as described.

4. An inflatable bladder for footballs having a filling tube and a patch carried by the outer side of the wall of the said inflatable bladder on the opposite side of the ball from where the filling tube is located to

counterbalance the weight of the said tube, substantially as described.

5. In combination with the outer casing of a football having an opening for the insertion of the inflatable bladder, a bladder having a filling tube to pass through the opening of the cover, and means carried by the bladder on the opposite side of the bladder from the location of the filling tube to balance the weight of the same, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

GEORGE L. PIERCE.