United States Patent

Jeffrey et al.

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[54] ARM WRESTLING APPARATUS

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** .....**273/1 E**, 273/1 M, 272/DIG. 5

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63b 71/06**

[58] **Field of Search** .....273/1, 1 E, 1 M, 100, 1 F; 272/67

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Game apparatus for signaling the winner of an arm wrestling match. The game apparatus has cups for receiving the contestants' elbows, wrist bands to be worn by the contestants, scoring members to be placed at either side of the line of centers of the elbow cups against which a contestant, to win, must force his opponent's wrist band, and signaling devices for indicating contact of the contestants' wrist bands with their respective scoring members.

6 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures

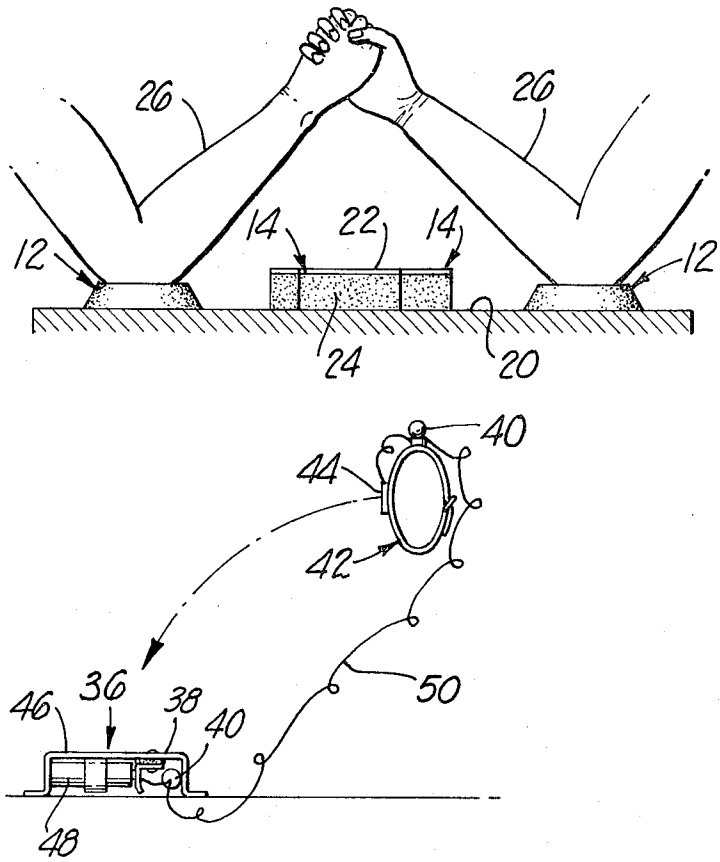


FIG. 1.

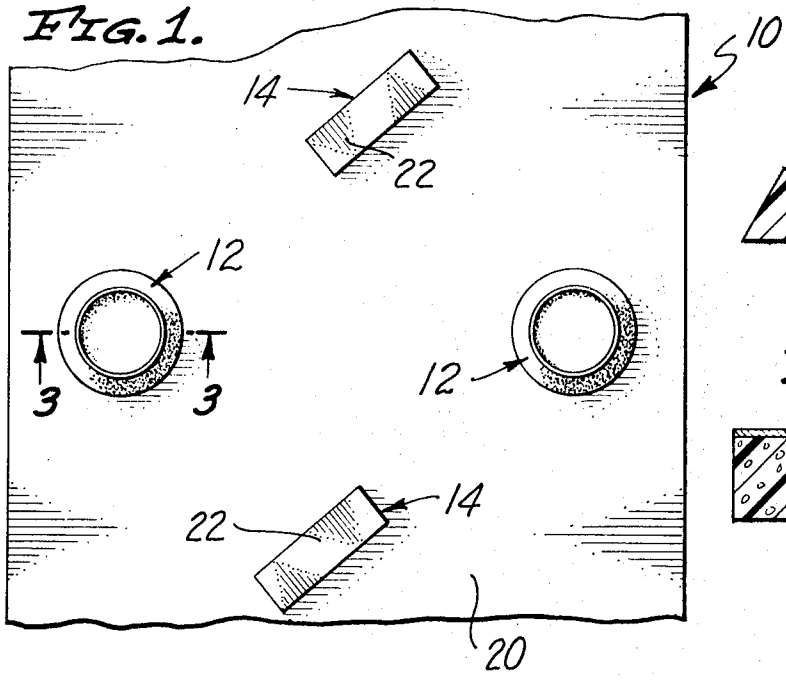


FIG. 3.

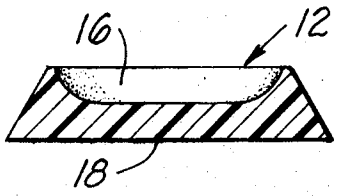


FIG. 4.

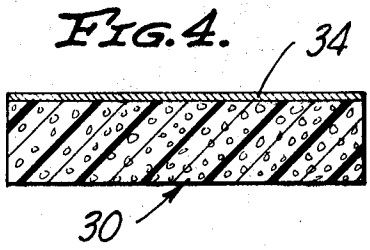


FIG. 5.

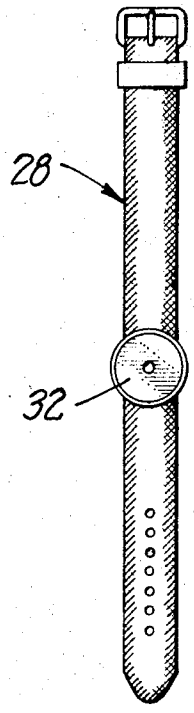


FIG. 2.

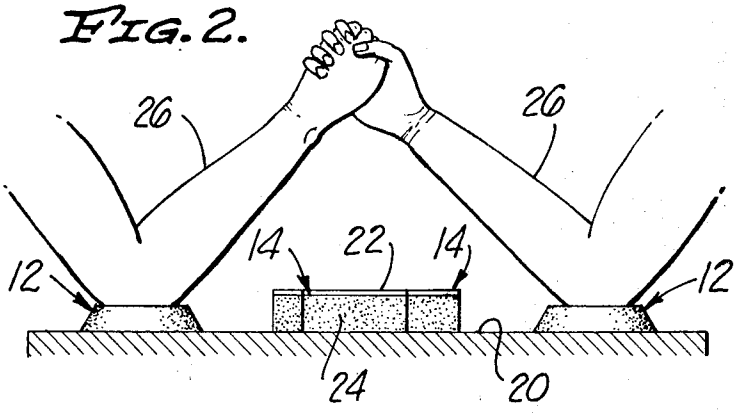
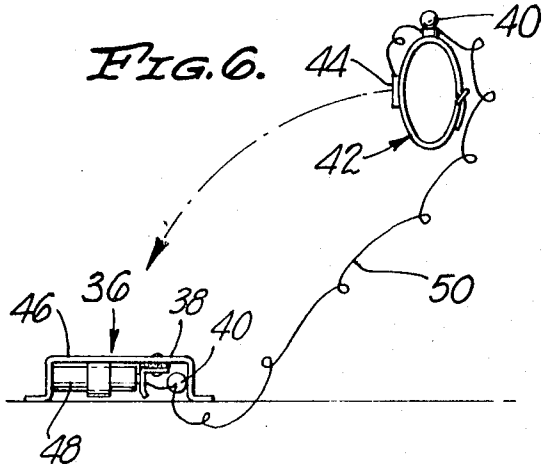


FIG. 6.



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ARM WRESTLING APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to game apparatus and more particularly to game apparatus for aiding the game or sport commonly known as arm wrestling.

2. Prior Art

Arm wrestling is a favorite game or sport which has been practiced throughout recorded history. A major reason for its popularity resides in the fact that overall body size and stature afford no advantage. Winning is dependent solely upon skill and practice. As a consequence, contestants of any relative size and stature may compete without undue advantage to the larger contestant.

The rules of arm wrestling require placement of the contestants' wrestling arms in wrestling positions, wherein their elbows rest on a supporting surface with the elbows, forearms, and upper arms located substantially in a common vertical plane. The contestants' hands are clasped. Each contestant seeks to press his opponent's wrist or hand downwardly against the surface by rotating both his own forearm and that of his opponent about their respective elbows as centers. According to proper wrestling procedure, the contestants' elbows must not be moved in any direction. This latter requirement presents a problem for the reason that each contestant inherently tends to shift his elbow in a direction to improve his leverage. Scoring also presents a problem since it is often difficult to determine with certainty when a contestant's hand or wrist has been forced into scoring contact with the surface.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides arm wrestling apparatus which is designed to alleviate the problems stated above. To this end, the apparatus includes a pair of elbow cups and a pair of scoring members. The elbow cups have upwardly opening recesses which cradle the contestants' elbows to retain the latter in proper wrestling relation. The scoring members are placed at opposite sides of the line of centers of the elbow cups. These scoring members have raised scoring surfaces against which a contestant's wrist or hand must be pressed to score. The raised configuration of these scoring members facilitates determination of scoring contact of a contestant's wrist or hand with a member.

According to another feature of the invention, each scoring member is equipped with means for signaling scoring contact of a contestant's hand or wrist with the member. In one disclosed inventive embodiment, for example, each contestant wears a wrist band to which the scoring members will adhere when the band is pressed against a member. Accordingly, adherence of a scoring member to a contestant's wrist band indicates or signals scoring contact of his wrist with the scoring member. In another disclosed embodiment, each scoring member is equipped with an electrical signal device, such as a light or buzzer, which is energized by scoring contact of a contestant's wrist with the member.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plan view of arm wrestling apparatus according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation of the apparatus showing the contestants' wrestling arms in wrestling position on the apparatus;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged section taken on line 3—3 in FIG. 1;

FIGS. 4 and 5 illustrate modified arm wrestling apparatus according to the invention; and

FIG. 6 illustrates further modified arm wrestling apparatus according to the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The arm wrestling apparatus **10** illustrated in FIGS. 1 through 3 of the drawings includes a pair of elbow cups **12** and a pair of scoring members **14**. Each elbow cup **12** has an upper generally hemispherical recess **16** to cradle a contestant's elbow and means **18** for retaining the cup in fixed position on a supporting surface **20**. In the particular inventive embodiment illustrated, the retaining means **18** is a nonskid base surface on each elbow cup which resists slipping of the cup relative to the supporting surface **20**. According to the preferred practice of the invention, the cups are injection molded from a suitable nonskid plastic.

In the particular embodiment under consideration, the scoring members **14** are simple rectangular scoring bars having raised scoring surfaces **22**. These scoring bars are also provided with means **24** for retaining the bars in fixed position on the supporting surface **20**. Preferably, these retaining means comprise nonskid base surfaces on the bars, like those on the elbow cups **12**. In this case, the bars may be injection molded from plastic in the same manner as the elbow cups.

In use, the game apparatus is arranged in the manner illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **2**. The elbow cups **12** are placed on the supporting surface **20** with the proper spacing between the cups to enable the contestants' wrestling arms **26** to assume their proper wrestling position of FIG. **2** when their elbows are cradled in the cup recesses **16**. The scoring members or bars **14** are placed on the surface **20** at opposite sides of the line of centers of the elbow cups. The bars are located in the proper positions relative to the cups for supplying contact of the contestants' hands or wrists with the raised scoring surfaces **22** of the bars.

The actual arm wrestling game proceeds in the usual fashion, either contestant scoring when he succeeds in pressing his opponent's wrist or hand against the corresponding scoring bar **14**. These bars may be cushioned to prevent injury to the contestants.

As noted earlier, the elbow cups **12** constitute an important feature of the invention. Thus, these cups maintain the contestants' elbows in proper wrestling relation with respect to one another and thereby prevent either contestant from gaining an advantage by shifting his elbow in such a way as to increase his leverage. Another feature is concerned with the raised configuration of the scoring bars **14**. This raised configuration facilitates determination of scoring contact of a contestant's hand or wrist with the scoring bar.

Figs. **4** and **5** illustrate modified arm wrestling apparatus including wrist bands **28** to be worn by the contestants and modified scoring bars **30**. The wrist bands and scoring bars are provided with coacting means which cause the bars to adhere to the bands upon scoring contact of the bands with the bars. Adherence of a scoring bar to a contestant's wrist band, therefore, signals or indicates scoring contact of his wrist with the scoring bar. In the particular embodiment illustrated, the coacting means comprise magnetic means including magnets **32** on the wrist bands and magnetically permeable plates **34** on the scoring bars.

FIG. **6** illustrates further modified arm wrestling apparatus equipped with electrical means **36** for signaling scoring contact of an opponent's wrist with a scoring bar **38**. These electrical means comprise electrical signal devices **40**, such as lights or buzzers, within the scoring bars **38** which are energized by such scoring contact. Obviously, energizing of the signal devices in response to scoring contact may be accomplished in many different ways. In this particular instance, the wrestling apparatus includes wrist bands **42** to be worn by the contestants. The wrist bands include electrical contacts **44**. The scoring bars **38** have hollow electrically conductive housings **46** to contain the signal device **40**. Also mounted within the scoring bars are batteries **48**. Each wrist band contact is connected to a scoring bar **38** through a wire **50**. The corresponding signal device, battery, scoring bar housing, wire, and wrist contact are electrically connected in series in such a way that scoring engagement of an opponent's wrist band contact with a scoring bar completes an electrical circuit through the corresponding signal device to energize the device for signaling a score.

We claim:

1. Arm wrestling apparatus comprising:
a pair of elbow cups having upwardly opening recesses to cradle the elbows of the contestants' wrestling arms, and wrist bands to be worn by the contestants,
a pair of scoring members to be placed at opposite sides of the line of centers of said elbow cups, and
signaling means including coacting means on each wrist band and a scoring member for signaling contact of each wrist band with its respective scoring member.

2. Arm wrestling apparatus according to claim 1 wherein:
said coacting means on said wrist bands and scoring members comprise means for causing said members to adhere to the bands.

3. Arm wrestling apparatus according to claim 2 wherein:
said coacting means comprise magnetic means.

4. Arm wrestling apparatus according to claim 1 wherein:
said signaling means comprise an electrical signal device for each wrist band and its scoring member, and said coacting means comprising means for energizing each signal device in response to scoring contact of the respective wrist band with its scoring member.

5. Arm wrestling apparatus according to claim 4 wherein:
said wrist bands include electrical contacts, said scoring members include electrically conductive housings containing said signal devices and batteries for energizing said devices, and means electrically connecting the signal device, battery, and housing of each scoring member to its wrist band contact in a manner such that engagement of the contact with the housing energizes the corresponding signal device.

6. Arm wrestling apparatus to be used by two contestants in an arm wrestling game wherein the contestants support elbows of corresponding arms on a horizontal surface with their hands clasped, comprising:
a pair of adjustable annular flexible wrist bands to be worn about the contestants' wrists and adjustable in diameter to fit a range of wrist sizes,
a pair of scoring members having bottom sides to be placed on said horizontal surface at opposite sides of the line of centers between the contestants' elbows and opposite top sides, and
signaling means including coacting means on each wrist band and the top side of a scoring member for signaling contact of each wrist band with its respective scoring member.

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