Sept. 30, 1969 J. A. SINDELAR 3,469,844

APPARATUS FOR WATER BASKETBALL GAME

Filed Oct. 14, 1966

Fig. 1.

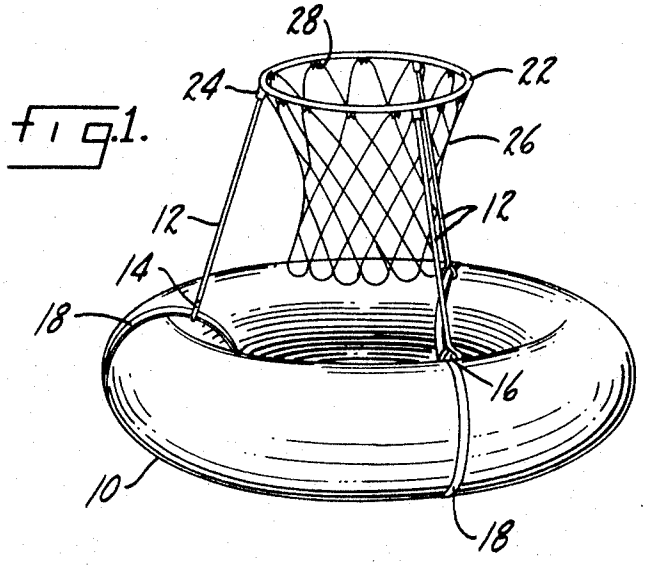


Fig. 2.

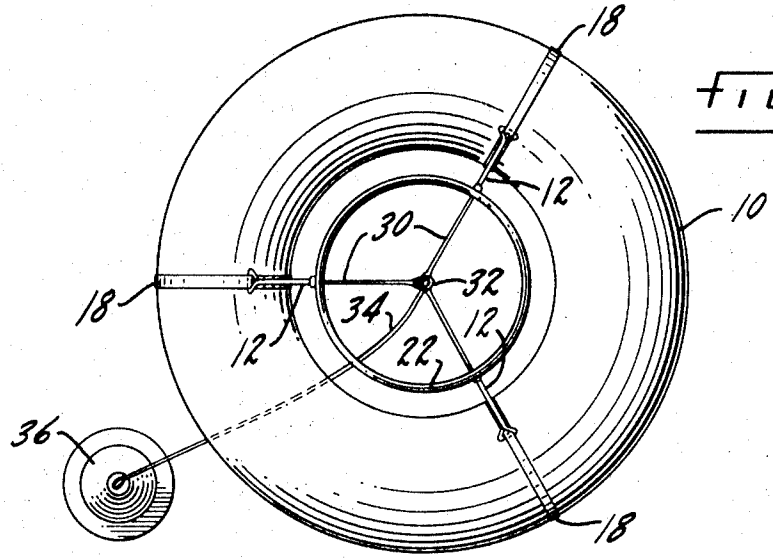
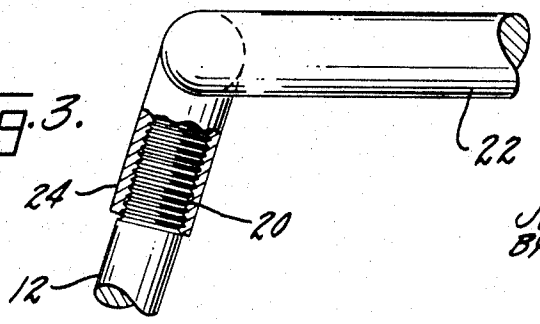


Fig. 3.



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APPARATUS FOR WATER BASKETBALL GAME

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U.S. Cl. 273—105 8 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A water basketball apparatus comprising an annular flotation ring, preferably formed by an inflatable tube, and a basketball hoop supported on the flotation ring. There are a plurality of generally equally spaced support members extending upwardly from the flotation ring which are secured to and support the basketball hoop at their upper ends. The generally equally spaced support members have lower ends which cooperate with straps to secure the support members to the flotation ring.

This invention relates to an apparatus for playing a water sport, for example water basketball or the like.

A primary purpose of the invention is an apparatus of the type described which is simple in construction, rugged and easily assembled.

Another purpose is a water sport apparatus including a flotation ring, and a hoop, supported above and in spaced relation to the flotation ring for use in playing water basketball or the like.

Another purpose is a water sport apparatus in which a hoop is supported by a plurality of generally equally spaced support members secured to and resting upon an inner support surface of a flotation ring.

Other purposes will appear in the ensuing specification, drawings and claims.

The invention is illustrated diagrammatically in the following drawings wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective of the apparatus disclosed herein,

FIGURE 2 is a top plan view of the apparatus illustrated in FIGURE 1, with the net removed, and

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged section illustrating the connection between the hoop and the support members.

In FIGURE 1, a flotation ring is indicated at **10** and, for example, may be an inflatable rubber tube or the like. The invention should not be limited to any particular type of flotation ring as there are many plastics, for example foam polyurethane or foam polystyrene, which may provide a satisfactory flotation ring. The ring **10** may be inflatable or solid, rubber or a rubber substitute, for example vinyl. What is important is to have a large annulus, for example of the order of four feet in outside diameter, which will float high upon the water so as to provide a firm base for the apparatus described herein.

Extending upwardly from the flotation ring **10** are a plurality of support members **12**, which as shown herein, may be metal rods or the like. There may be three such rods, or there may be more or less, and it is preferred that they be generally equally spaced about the circumference of the ring **10**. Each of the supports **12** may have a lower end **14**, which has a generally closed loop or closed opening **16**. There may be a plurality of straps **18**, one for each support member, which extend about the ring **10** and pass through the opening **16** to secure the support members to the ring **10**. It is important that the lower ends of the support members be inside of or at least on the downwardly extending inner curved surface of the ring **10** so that there is support for the members **12** both in an upward direction and also in an outward direction.

For example, if the lower ends of the support members **12** were right at the top of the ring **10**, there might be a tendency for the entire apparatus mounted on the ring **10** to shift. Also, if the support members were outside of the top center of the ring **10**, there might be a tendency for the entire apparatus mounted on the ring **10** to shift. Also, if the support members were outside of the top center of the ring **10**, there might be a tendency for the entire apparatus to shift. In any event, it is preferred to have the support members **12** positioned and seated on the ring **10** in a manner to provide both horizontal and vertical support.

The upper ends of each of the support member **12** may be threaded, as at **20**. There may be a hoop **22**, which may be a basketball hoop, and which has a plurality, in this case three, downwardly and outwardly extending sockets **24**, welded or otherwise connected to the lower edge of the hoop **22**. The internal surface of the sockets **24** are threaded for mating engagement with the threaded ends **20** of the rods **12**. In this way, there may be a secure connection between the rods and the hoop which they support. The threaded connection between the hoop and its support also provide adjustment of the supports **12** until the proper angle relationship between the ring, supports and hoop have been obtained. There may be a net **26**, as is conventional in basketball, which net is fastened to the lower edge of the hoop by brackets or the like **28**.

There may be a plurality, in this case three, cords **30** which have loops through which the straps **18** pass for use in securing the outer ends of the cords **30** to the ring **10**. The inner ends of the cords **30** are all fastened together, as at **32**, and there may be an anchor rope **34** connected at the point **32**. An anchor **36** may be on the opposite end of the anchor cord **34**. The anchor is not necessary in every application but is desirable to keep the entire apparatus in a particular location in either a pool, a section of a lake, pond, river or the like.

The invention should not be limited to any particular materials for forming any of the members. Although an inflatable rubber tube has been found to be satisfactory and practical, other types of flotation rings may be used. In like manner, the material forming the straps may vary, although plastic coated straps have been found to be satisfactory as they prevent stretching once the strap becomes wet. A polyethylene net is also advantageous in that it will not deteriorate as rapidly as would a cotton or cord net. The hoop, naturally, is of metal, although it may be otherwise, and the support members **12** are preferably metal rods so that their ends may be threaded and so that they may help to support in a rugged and wearable manner the hoop **22**. The invention should not be limited to a basketball hoop nor use of the apparatus in a basketball game. The structure obviously has other water sport uses.

Whereas the preferred form of the invention has been shown and described herein, it should be realized that there are many modifications, substitutions and alterations thereto within the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. In an apparatus for playing a water sport, an annular flotation ring, a plurality of generally equally spaced support members extending upwardly and inwardly from said ring, means individually securing the lower end of each of said support members to said flotation ring, including a plurality of straps, with each support member having a generally closed opening at its lower end which cooperates with a strap for securing the support members to the flotation ring, and a hoop fixed to the upper ends of said support members, said hoop being of a size and shape to pass a ball for use in a water sport.

2. The structure of claim 1 further characterized in that said annular flotation ring is an inflatable tube.

3. The structure of claim 1 further characterized by and including a plurality of cords, one attached to each strap, with said cords extending generally toward the center of said flotation ring, and an anchor attached to said cords for use in holding said flotation ring in a particular location.

4. The structure of claim 1 further characterized in that said hoop is a basketball hoop, and a net attached to and hanging downwardly from said hoop.

5. The structure of claim 1 further characterized by and including a plurality of downwardly and outwardly extending sockets fixed to said hoop, there being a socket for each of said support members, with a support member being fastened to and extending within each of said sockets.

6. The structure of claim 5 further characterized in that the upper ends of each of said support members are threaded, with the interior of each of said sockets having mating threads for use in attaching the support members to the sockets.

7. The structure of claim 1 further characterized in that said flotation ring has a generally circular cross section, the lower ends of said support members being seated upon and being supported by an inner generally downwardly extending curved surface of said flotation ring.

8. The structure of claim 1 further characterized in that the inner diameter of said flotation ring is greater than the diameter of said hoop.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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