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Naadam: What Modern Sport Has to Do With Wrestling, Horse Racing, and Archery?

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Naadam continues to be Mongolia's main national holiday, combining traditional games and sports competitions. During the summer, people compete in three different disciplines – wrestling, horse riding, and archery, which are passed from generation to generation. Let's find out how the ancient competitions entertain people all over the world.

Wrestling: Main Event of Naadam Festivals

The game of wrestling is considered to be the main event among all other disciplines that can be found in Naadam celebrations. Thousands of athletes take part in single-elimination matches, which are organized on open fields. Traditional clothes, special ceremonies, and ancient rules make every wrestling match meaningful. Wrestlers receive such honorable titles as falcon or elephant, depending on their performance in previous tournaments.

During Naadam wrestling matches, many spectators gather to watch the competition and carefully observe every move made by the wrestlers. People who love predicting the outcome of the matches often use the [1xBet](#) platform for wrestling odds and live betting. Such platforms offer detailed statistical information about the best wrestlers, their victories, and current performance.

Horse Racing and Thrill of Speed

Horse racing combines the skill of children from five to thirteen years old and their horses' endurance and horsemanship. The participants have to cover great distances on their horses. Local communities celebrate not only the success of the riders but also that of the horses, too. Many people are interested in horse racing results and the ranking of riders.

For those who want to bet on the results of horse racing, an application where you will be able to track the odds for every tournament will be very useful. You can easily get such an application with the [1xBet download Mongolia](#) for betting options and live match stats. This feature makes life easier for fans because they need an application to access betting while traveling to remote places in Mongolia, where horse races take place every year. Some applications also offer streaming of races in real time.

To compare these Naadam disciplines and find what makes them special, let's take a look at the table below. It shows the main difference between wrestling, horse racing, and archery.

Discipline	Typical Participants	Signature Feature
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Wrestling	Adult men, various weight classes	Traditional costume and ceremonial dance
Horse Racing	Children aged five to thirteen	Long-distance races across open terrain
Archery	Men and women of all ages	Precision shooting at small distant targets

Every discipline has its own traditions, rules, and significance.

Archery: Precision and Elegance

Archery is one of the most advanced forms of the three Naadam sports. The participants of the event use traditional bows, which are made of horns, wood, and sinews. Unlike wrestling, archery is also open for women to join. Accuracy and calmness play an important role here rather than strength.

The shooters aim at distant small targets that are laid out in a row in precise order. Judging in this sport is carried out according to the accuracy and precision of shooting in several rounds. This kind of sport requires patience and concentration. These qualities are especially valued by Mongols.

Significance of Naadam in the Modern Mongolian Identity

Naadam is not just a local celebration but a whole nation's tradition. Government officials, tourists, and diasporas now come to take part in these celebrations all over the country. Media coverage of the event is getting bigger and bigger and makes it widely-known all over the world.

This fact helps to save the nomadic heritage and introduce it to other cultures. Young people are also participating in these traditional games now. Wrestling, archery, and horse racing schools and clubs are opened in many schools and cities.

The Role of Naadam in the Contemporary Identity of Mongolians

From the time being just a local holiday, Naadam has become an important part of the national culture. Representatives from the government, tourists, and the Mongolian diaspora join the celebration throughout the country. The coverage of the event has increased greatly, making the world pay attention to such traditional sports. This way, not only can the nomadic heritage be preserved, but also introduced to new people.

Younger generations get involved in these traditional games, passing on the traditions to future generations. Training camps at schools and local clubs teach the skills of wrestling, archery, and horseback riding. This makes it possible to pass on all of Naadam's traditions long into the future. The sense of national pride is one of the main reasons for that.

Why Are Such Ancient Traditional Sports Still Important?

Naadam's three main sports do not serve just as a sport. Instead, they help keep the history and promote the nomadic heritage of the country. Each sport of Naadam represents its own unique cultural heritage.

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