

Chinlone (with variations known as caneball, circle kick or tapandaing) is the traditional sport of Burma (Myanmar). Both men and women play chinlone, often on the same team. Adults and children can play on the same team, and it is not unusual to see elders in their 80s playing. To play chinlone well, the whole team must be absolutely in the moment – their minds cannot wander or the ball will drop. All serious players experience an intensely focused state of mind, similar to that achieved in Zen meditation, which they refer to as *jhana*.

Chinlone is one of a family of football games played throughout the world but centering in Southeast Asia. A competitive variation of the game played between two teams over a net, called cane ball or *sepak takraw*, was developed in Malaysia in the 1940s. This competitive form of caneball is coming to Huron. The game is typically played with three people on a team on a court similar but smaller than a volleyball court with a net that is five feet high. Similar to volleyball, the objective is to get the ball over the net with three hits or less. Different than volleyball, while in play the ball is not touched by the player's hands. The ball is hit over the net with the head or feet.

One variation of Chinlone is a combination of sport and dance called "circle kick," which is a team sport with no opposing team. This variation of chinlone played by six person teams is non-competitive and the focus is not on winning or losing, but how beautifully the game is played. The objective of this game is to keep the ball in the air with varying, repetitive and athletic actions.

In addition to the team styles of cane ball and circle kick, there is also a solo performance style called "tapandaing". This solo style is only performed by women.