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The History of Disc Golf:

Origins and Early Play (1926–1960s)

The very earliest recorded game akin to disc golf dates back to 1926 in Bladworth, Saskatchewan, where schoolchildren tossed tin lids into circles drawn in the sand—calling it “Tin Lid Golf” [The History of Frisbee and Disc Sports](#). By the early 1960s, informal Frisbee-golf contests sprang up independently across North America: students at Rice University in Houston held tree-target tournaments as early as 1964, and in Augusta, Georgia, players lobbed discs into 50-gallon trash barrels in Pendleton King Park [Wikipedia](#).

Headrick and the Disc Golf Pole Hole (1966–1975)

Edward “Steady Ed” Headrick, later dubbed the “Father of Disc Golf,” revolutionized the activity first by standardizing the modern Frisbee at Wham-O in 1966 (U.S. Patent #3,359,678), then by inventing and patenting the Disc Golf Pole Hole in 1975 (U.S. Patent #4,039,189) [Professional Disc Golf Associationdeltacountymi.gov](http://ProfessionalDiscGolfAssociationdeltacountymi.gov). Headrick also coined and trademarked the term “Disc Golf,” laying the groundwork for an organized sport.

First Formal Courses and Association (1975–1976)

Headrick’s first official disc golf course opened at Oak Grove Park in Pasadena, California, in 1975, featuring standardized pole-hole targets and body-of-water hazards for an immediate hit among players [DGA Disc Golf](#). The Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) formed the next year, in 1976, to codify rules and oversee tournament play [WFDF](#).

Global Expansion and Today (Late 1970s–Present)

With PDGA-sanctioned rules in place, disc golf spread rapidly: the first PDGA World Championship was held in 1982, and today there are over 10,000 courses in more than 40 countries. From its humble tin-lid origins to a thriving global sport, disc golf continues to grow—inviting players of all ages to “tee off” into nature.