

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

IFF organize competitions on both the national club level and the international level.

The club teams each year plays for the European Championship for Club teams in the European Cup. The national teams meet each other in the World Floorball Championships every second year, the men during even years and the women during odd years.

During 2004 it is time for the men's competition. Then the World Championships will be played in Spain (C-Division) and Switzerland (A- and B-Division), with a total number of 28 participating nations from four continents, which makes this one of the largest single championships in sports. After Spain and Switzerland, the Women U19 will play in Finland 2004, the women in Singapore 2005 and the Men will play in Sweden 2006.

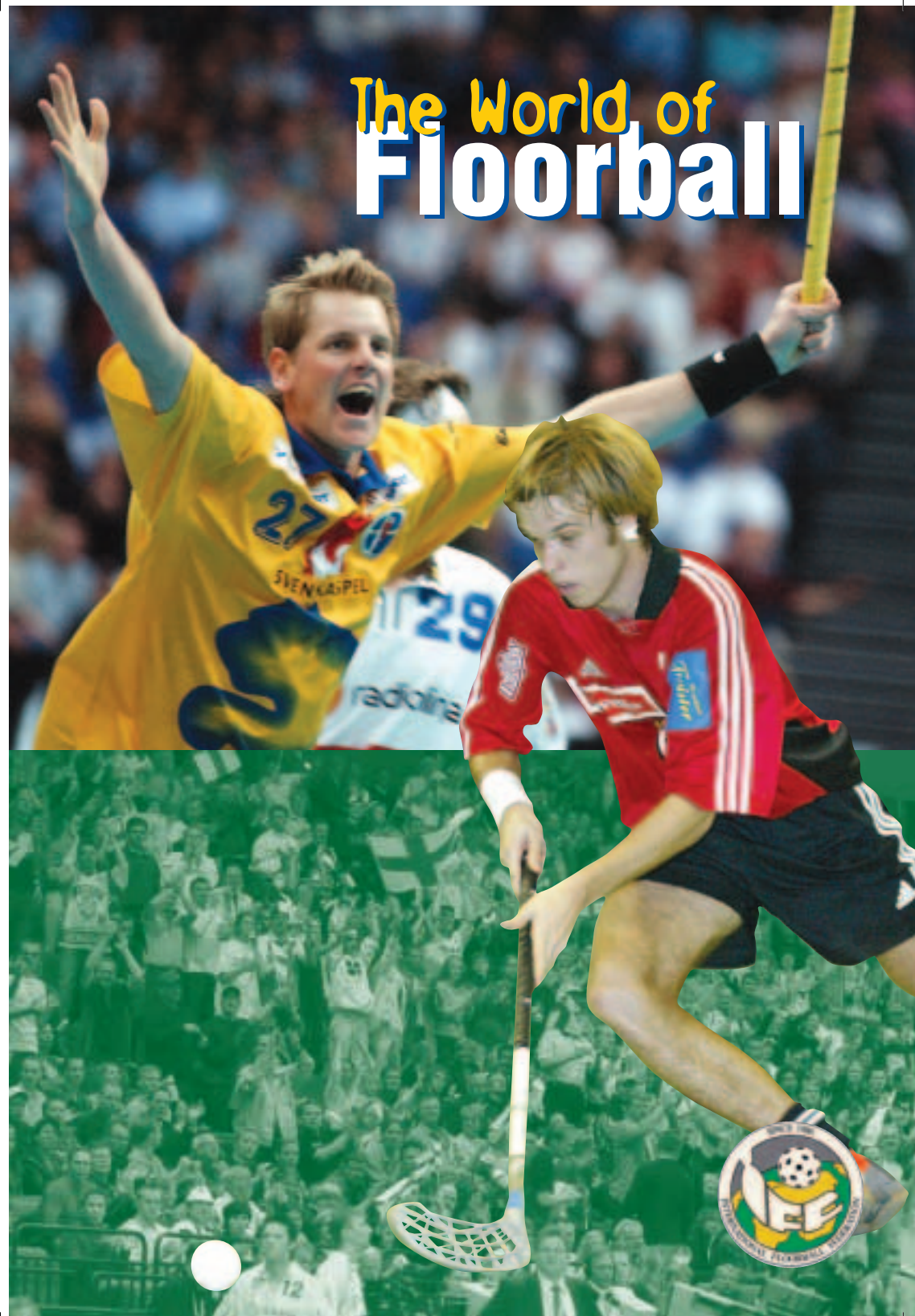
In addition to the European Cup and the World Championships, the IFF's international competition calendar contains a number of different competitions, such as the Asia-Pacific championships, the Founder's Cup in Europe and a number of four to six nations tournaments on top of the traditional international games. The biggest club team tournament, the Czech Open, is played yearly in Prague (Czech Republic). All in total there are some 25 to 35 international events during each year, where IFF takes part.



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The World of Floorball



Floorball

Floorball has proven to be the sport of today, but even more the sport of tomorrow.

Despite the fact that the international competitions are receiving more and more attention from the media and the market, this is only the top of the ice berg. The really expansive development happens among the ordinary players of floorball, which have increased drastically during the last five to ten years. Floorball has found its way into schools, youth recreation, adult recreation and corporate sports as an interesting and still actively growing sport. There are no real signs that the positive development would slow down.

One of the absolute advantages of Floorball is the very easiness to start playing. Almost anyone regardless of age, physical condition or gender can grab a floorball stick and join in into a fun and exciting sport.

The fun with floorball can especially be found in the social level of life. Floorball gives a possibility to get to know new people, have a common hobby with other or act as a mean to deal with personal stress. Everyone chooses their own level of engagement and the reason for playing. There are a number of different levels of series and ways of playing floorball, so that everyone can find a place to play according to their own level and interest.



FLOORBALL ALL OVER THE WORLD

The International Floorball Federation – IFF is the organisation promoting Floorball internationally. IFF has presently got 32 member Associations and a number of federations coming in to the activity in the very near future. Floorball has spread quite quickly in all directions. The largest number of players can be found in Northern Europe, but the sport is played in four continents and in countries far away from Europe, for example in Australia, Canada, India, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore and the United States. The strongest development can be found in the central and southern parts of Europe, in Asia-Pacific and North America. There is altogether over 220.000 licensed players inside the IFF, of which over 45.000 are women. This figure only consists of the competition players. All over the World there are over 1,5 million players playing Floorball. Since October 2000 the IFF is a provisional member of AGFIS/GAISF.



PARTNERS

As the number of players increases the interest of different media has also grown. As a result of this the interest of potential sponsors and partners has waken to the explosive development inside Floorball. The sport is an excellent path to reach different types of Youth all over the world. Floorball is a "new" sport on the market and therefore also attract youth from 12-25 years, which is a generation that is difficult to reach by normal means.

Foto: Markku Huoponen, Minikin Photography, Kevan Lyons and Henning Rugsveen