



ISBHF South American AA Tournament

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Introduction

Falklands Xtreme Sports is a registered member of the International Street and Ball Hockey Federation (ISBHF) and represents the sport of ball hockey in the Falkland Islands, South Atlantic Ocean.

Ball hockey has been played in the Falkland Islands since 2016 and is now into its third season with 48+ juniors playing from the ages of 7-13 years and 40+ seniors playing from the age of 16-40 years. Three tournaments are held for the senior players and one tournament is held for the junior players with the season running from September – December.

The Falkland Islands also have representation on the ISBHF Marketing Committee and are working hard to promote and develop the sport of ball hockey, not just in the Falkland Islands but worldwide. This report introduces the concept of an ISBHF led AA tournament for all of the South American nations of which the Falkland Islands would be a participant as well as providing the lead role in developing the sport of ball hockey to South America.

The report discusses the following areas:

1. *Tournament Guidelines and Rules*
2. *Tournament Membership*
3. *Date and duration of Tournament*
4. *Development Progress and Plans*

Tournament Guidelines and Rules

AA Tournaments are under the jurisdiction of ISBHF and are organised by an organiser (a national association), which is appointed by the ISBHF Board during the Conference 15 months in advance.

ISBHF enters an agreement with the organiser about the Tournament organisation and the organiser may entitle the third person to arrange the tournament, but the responsibility is not transferred.

A Continental Championship Tournament as well as a Junior World Championship Tournament is an event in which national teams from one continent take part. A Continental Cup for Clubs is an event in which the best Clubs of one continent take part.

All other guidelines in relation to the tournament are provided in the ISBHF document *ISBHF Tournament and Championship guidelines* and the *ISBHF National Teams Player Eligibility regulations*.

The *Official ISBHF rule book* will be followed for the AA tournament.

Tournament Membership

Any South American nations expecting to compete in the ISBHF South American AA Tournament must be registered members of the International Street and Ball Hockey Federation (ISBHF).

Currently the Falkland Islands are the only nation in the South American region to be a registered member of the ISBHF. Plans are currently in place and underway to introduce ball hockey to the South American nations with Chile, Uruguay and Brazil being targeted in the first instance.

Members would require to remain members of the ISBHF to be able to compete in the AA Tournament and would be under the jurisdiction of the ISBHF and expected to pay the annual membership fees below:

Level	Membership Fee (EUR)	Remarks
IV	2 800	Full membership
III	800	ISBHF Member
II	400	Developing member
I	100	New members (max. three years from entering)

The membership fee MUST be paid by due date on invoice in the given year.

- Membership fee for each Association is confirmed by the ISBHF BOD.
- ISBHF will issue an invoice to the National Association with a due date at the end of a particular year at the latest.

Tournament Duration and Date

The ISBHF South American AA Tournament would be held in the month of January in even years with the tournament lasting the duration of 5 days.

Due to the summer months in the Southern Hemisphere running from December – February, January is the ideal time to hold such a tournament. This would also tie in with school holidays for the Southern Hemisphere and would enable junior players to attend a Junior AA Tournament without conflicting with educational duties.

The AA Tournament structure would follow the guidelines as set out by the ISBHF Board of Directors.

Development Progress and Future Plans

The Falkland Islands have been in dialogue with the ISBHF President, George Gortsos and Marketing Director Colin Gennoe as to the development of the ISBHF South American AA Tournament.

During a recent visit to Punta Arenas, Chile discussions in relation to the introduction and development of the sport of ball hockey was held with The British School, indoor hockey coach, Miss Loreto Jara.



Indoor hockey which is very similar to field hockey has a large following in Chile and is predominately played by female players from school age and adults. There is also an ice hockey following with a few local ice hockey teams who compete in various leagues and international tournaments.

Short Term Plans (3-6 months):

- Plans moving forward will be for Loreto and her team to liaise with the ice hockey clubs and inform indoor hockey players of the sport of ball hockey and how the Falkland Islands are willing to help to develop the sport in Punta Arenas.
- Continue liaison with Cecilia Borges, Falkland Islands Attaché based in Uruguay to arrange visit and discussions with hockey coaches in relation to the introduction of ball hockey

Medium to Long Term Plans (6 months-1 year):

- The Falkland Islands will continue to liaise with Loreto to strengthen bonds and will provide as much assistance as possible.
- Arrange for the Falkland Islands to send a small development team to Punta Arenas, Chile to provide training sessions to both junior and senior hockey players. The team would consist of 1 goaltender and 5 outfield players as well as ball hockey equipment and training material
- Falkland Islands to arrange for ISBHF coaches, Dave Weloy and Gary Slavin to undertake a *"Ball Hockey Training Camp"* to build on the training and development provided by the Falkland Islands team. If possible the President, George Gortsos and Marketing Director, Colin Gennoe to attend during this visit.
- Undertake visit to Uruguay to meet with Cecilia Borges, Falkland Islands Attaché and field hockey coaches in relation to introducing and developing the sport of ball hockey to Uruguay

Long Term Plans (1-5 years)

- The main target would be for Chile to become a registered member with the ISBHF and have a developing ball hockey league established for juniors and seniors.
- Chile to be included into the ISBHF South American AA Tournament
- Continuation of friendly matches between Chile and the Falkland Islands
- Send a Falkland Islands ball hockey development team to Uruguay to provide training sessions to both junior and senior hockey players. Team would consist of 1 goaltender and 5 outfield players as well as ball hockey equipment and training material
- Falkland Islands to arrange for ISBHF coaches, Dave Weloy and Gary Slavin to undertake a *"Ball Hockey Training Camp"* to build on the training and development provided by the Falkland Islands team. If possible the President, George Gortsos and Marketing Director, Colin Gennoe to attend during this visit
- Make necessary contact with Brazil and other South American Nations via Cecilia Borges, Falkland Islands Attaché in relation to ball hockey development
- Hold first ISBHF South American AA Tournament in 5 years-time, once all South American nations have obtained full training and development

Conclusion

The Falkland Islands have made steady progress in realizing their aspirations of introducing the first ISBHF South American AA Tournament.

The visit to Punta Arenas, Chile was the perfect start and with the enthusiasm shown by Miss Loreto Jara, The British School Indoor Hockey Coach then there is great potential for ball hockey to develop into a thriving sport. The Falkland Islands will ensure Chile continue to develop the sport by sending a team to Punta Arenas to help train their players and will keep in constant dialogue with Loreto.

It is still very early days and will take a number of years before the first AA Tournament for the South American nations can be played out. It is anticipated that it could take anything up to 5 years to introduce the sport to introduce ball hockey to the 3 target nations of Brazil, Uruguay and Chile, but with the right approach and support of the ISBHF Board of Directors this should all be possible.

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