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- The history of the IKF and the IKF World Korfball Championship
- The history of the IKF and the U23 World and U21 European Korfball Championships
- The history of the IKF European Korfball Championship
- The history of the IKF Europa Cup Tournament for Club Teams
- The history of the IKF and its Referees



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The history of the IKF and the world games



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1. The origins of the WORLD GAMES

SportAccord (formerly the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF)) exists since 1967. In order to become a member of SportAccord, an international federation must have within its membership a stipulated number of affiliated national organizations spread over the various continents in addition to a well-structured and comprehensive international match calendar. SportAccord has hundred and nine (109) members in 2013. All members have been able to satisfy the criteria and have thereby earned their official affiliation.

On 21st May 1980, twelve members of SportAccord founded the International World Games Association (IWGA) in Seoul, in the Republic of Korea. Membership of the IWGA is open to those members of SportAccord promoting a sport or sports discipline not included in the programme of the Olympic Games. One of the main aims of the IWGA is to organize an international top class multi-sport event under the name of the World Games, once every four years. The IWGA has also set itself the task of widening public and media interest in the World Games and in seeking out sources of financial support in order to enable the participating sports federations to widen their horizons still further. In October 2000 the Presidents of the IOC and of the IWGA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which governs the relations between the two organizations. The IWGA succeeded as early as 1981 in organizing World Games I in Santa Clara, USA. The number of participants was not very great, public and media interest limited, and financial results disappointing.

The first World Games went ahead without korfball. In fact, it was not until 1982 that the International Korfball Federation (IKF) applied for SportAccord and IWGA membership. One might well ask why the IKF did not take steps much earlier to become a SportAccord and IWGA member so that korfball could have been included in the programme of World Games I. To find the answer to this, we have to look at the history of international korfball and its growth across the continents.

The IWGA website is: www.theworldgames.org



The IWGA Korfball logo

2. International KORFBALL expansion: breakthrough after 70 years

Inspired by a game he had seen during a summer course in Sweden, Dutch teacher Nico Broekhuysen set about developing korfball as an outdoor sport for mixed groups of boys and girls in Amsterdam as far back as 1902. This led to the establishment in 1903 of a Netherlands Korfball Association which later took korfball to all corners of The Netherlands and beyond to the then Dutch colonial territories of Indonesia, Surinam and the Dutch Antilles. The Belgian Korfball Association was set up in 1921 and the sport was demonstrated at the Olympic Games of 1920 in Antwerp and 1928 in Amsterdam. An International Korfball Bureau came into existence in 1924, which in 1933 became the International Korfball Federation. The reason why international korfball expansion could only be actively tackled after 1945, lies in the lack of financial sources available before that time. Even then it was only possible to approach the problem sporadically – activities could only be undertaken by first of all collecting voluntary contributions from korfball clubs and players in The Netherlands and Belgium. Korfball centres were formed in several countries, but because there was no guaranteed annual income of any significance, it was not possible to ensure that the necessary attention was paid to maintaining regular contact with them. Of all these groups, only the British Korfball Association (BKA), established in 1946, was still operating in 1960.

It was not until the 1960s and 1970s that the Netherlands and Belgian associations were able to channel ever-increasing sums towards international promotion and to broaden their activities in this area. Despite enormous efforts, however, the only lasting achievement was in the Federal Republic of Germany where the Deutscher Turnerbund (DTB) affiliated in 1964. The long-awaited breakthrough finally came in the early 1970s: in 1971 the Surinam Korfball Association, set up as early as 1935, became an affiliated member, followed in 1973 by Papua New Guinea, where in 1965 English teacher and korfball player Roy Kirkby saw his work rewarded by the establishment of a korfball association there. Spain also joined the Federation in 1973, thanks to introductory ground-work carried out by Kees Terol from The Netherlands. Activities initiated by the Belgian Association brought Luxemburg into the flock in 1976. And the work went on. At the request of the American PE professor, Niek Moolenijzer, Dutch korfball teams made demonstration tours throughout the USA and out of this, the United States Korfball Federation was born, followed by IKF membership in 1978. This was also the year of Australia's entry into the federation, made possible once again by Roy Kirkby's activities.

This upward trend had the added effect of stimulating 'older' korfball countries to look anew at ways of stimulating and developing the sport. There was more money available, the number of active volunteers rose sharply and korfball clubs increasingly sought contact with other clubs beyond their national borders. A Development and Promotion Committee (DPC) was formed in 1979, comprising working committees to attend to the specific interests of the separate continents and groups of countries. Coaches and demonstration teams made visits to many countries. The first issue of an IKF newsletter appeared in 1980 and has been published quarterly under the name of 'Korfball International' ever since. The first-ever Summer Course for Coaches was organized in The Netherlands toward the end of the 1970s. More summer courses for both coaches and referees followed, and were held at the National Sports Centre Papendal (NED), providing a meeting place for korfball enthusiasts from all over the world, year after year. A high point in this whole process of development was Adri Zwaanswijk's ("Swan") six month world tour in 1979/1980, during which as head of the training department, he gave workshops in numerous countries and opened up and strengthened new avenues of contact with people interested in the sport wherever he went.

All these activities resulted in new countries affiliating to the federation: India in 1980, Aruba and France in 1982, and Indonesia in 1984. The IKF also set up official korfball committees in several other countries.

3. International match calendar: after 75 years the first IKF World Korfball Championship

Right from the beginning, friendly matches have been played between national teams and between clubs of the affiliated countries. The IKF began organizing matches in the early 1960s.

The first IKF tournament between the national senior teams of The Netherlands, Belgium and Great Britain was held in 1963. It became an annual event until in 1974 the Federal Republic of Germany also took part. The tournament was then transformed into an IKF European Korfball Championship for national youth teams. This tournament is still held as an indoor event once every four years. (See: The History of the IKF and the IKF World U23 and IKF U21 European Korfball Championships.)

The first European Cup tournament for club teams was held in 1967, bringing the two top teams from The Netherlands, Belgium and Great Britain together for the first time. This tournament has since become an annual event despite many changes in its set-up, and is now staged as an indoor tournament for the national champions of the affiliated European countries. (See: The History of the IKF Europa Cup Tournament for Club Teams).

The IKF's steady growth encouraged her in 1978, together with the Royal Dutch Korfball Association (KNKV), to organize the first IKF World Korfball Championship in honour of the KNKV's 75th anniversary. Eight countries entered the contest and produced the following result:

1. The Netherlands
2. Belgium
3. Federal Republic of Germany
4. Great Britain
5. United States of America
6. Spain
7. Papua New Guinea
8. Luxemburg

(For further details see the booklet: The history of the IKF and the IKF World Korfball Championship)

4. Inclusion of KORFBALL in the World Games; 1982

By 1982 international korfball expansion had progressed so satisfactorily, that the IKF felt she could satisfy the requirements of SportAccord membership. The necessary application was submitted and in October 1982 the IKF became an official member of SportAccord and of the International World Games Association (IWGA). The IKF succeeded in having korfball included in the programme of the World Games II to be held in London in 1985. Unfortunately, the IWGA was forced for financial reasons, to limit the number of teams for team sports to six. There were, however, a number of advantages to compensate for this disappointment: the IKF acquired a top international tournament for which the IWGA carried financial responsibility, and it benefitted from the general publicity machine surrounding the World Games as a whole. It is, of course, exactly those high costs which make large-scale tournaments so difficult to organise.

5. World Games II in London (GBR) IN 1985

The World Games in London were much more satisfactory than the 1981 Games, with 2,000 contestants taking part in 23 non-Olympic sports and sports disciplines. A distinct disadvantage, however, was the distance between the match venues for the various sports, as also the long distances between the match venues and the athletes' accommodation. The IKF invited The Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain, USA and India to represent her in the korfball tournament. The Federal Republic of Germany and France competed for sixth place and the German team won.

The tournament was held in the sports hall of the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre and proved to be very exciting indeed. The Netherlands and Belgium had to fight it out for first place, with the final honours going to the Dutch with a 12–8 score. There was great interest in what the Indian players would achieve, totally new as they were to international korfball. They rose to the occasion well and although they lost all their matches, they did make a very promising impression indeed. The battle for third place was extremely tense and the USA achieved a surprise 10–5 win against Great Britain. The tide turned the following day, however, when the USA players were forced to succumb 10–7 to the might of the German team. These results strengthened the expectation that the German team would beat Great Britain and take third place again. But no, all forecasts were wrong. In a truly excellent match, Great Britain's star shone brightly and she thoroughly deserved her 11–6 win against the Federal Republic of Germany. But the battle was not over yet – the results showed three teams on equal points and a penalty shoot-out finally gave the USA third place, with Great Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany sharing fourth and fifth places.

The IKF decided, following the success of this first World Games korfball tournament, to continue its participation in future World Games. In order to spread the number of top events evenly, it was felt desirable to hold the IKF World Korfball Championship every four years, just as the World Games, but with a two year period between each event, i.e. IKF World Korfball Championship in 1987, World Games in 1989, IKF World Korfball Championship in 1991, World Games in 1993 etc.

The results of the IKF World Korfball Championship matches could then be used in helping to determine which countries would compete in the subsequent World Games.

6. Continued IKF expansion and World Games III in Karlsruhe (GER) in 1989

IKF growth continued. In 1985, Chinese Taipei was admitted to membership, and by sending coaches and teams to Europe and organizing large-scale activities on their home ground, they were soon committed to reaching as high a level of play in as short a time as possible. The Caribbean islands of Curaçao and Bonaire, where korfball had been played for a long time, became IKF members in 1986 and 1987 respectively. Portugal was admitted in 1987 and the number of international contacts between clubs in the various countries continued its upward trend.

The following two years were especially favourable for the IKF. Korfball had developed in New Zealand to such an extent that IKF affiliation was possible in 1988. Chinese Taipei's noble pioneering efforts in her region led to Hong Kong's entry into the federation in 1988, followed by Singapore in 1989. Membership was also granted to Poland and Denmark in 1988 and to Czechoslovakia in 1989, to strengthen the ranks in Europe.

In the meantime, IKF student korfball made forceful strides in its bid to reach more universities and more korfball-playing students. The campaign began in 1974 in The Netherlands, with the Federal Republic of Germany and Belgium following in its footsteps, plus a very strong organization in Great Britain, followed in due course by several other countries. A number of international student tournaments were held annually, whereupon the IKF formed a European Student Korfball Committee, in addition to setting up the necessary structures for European University Championships. The first of these tournaments was held in Nottingham (GBR) in 1988, the second in The Hague (NED) in 1989 with 24 teams from 8 countries, including Finland. Thereafter the tournament has been held every year.

World Games III saw the following countries competing: Federal Republic of Germany (host country), The Netherlands and Belgium (1st and 2nd in IKF World Korfball Championship 1987), the USA (highest ranking American-zone team at the IKF World Korfball Championship in 1987), Chinese Taipei (highest ranking Asian/Oceanian-zone team at the IKF World Korfball Championship), and finally Great Britain (not yet placed highest ranking European-zone team at the IKF World Korfball Championship). These teams came together in the Federal Republic of Germany where for ten days the whole town of Karlsruhe became totally involved in the World Games.

Something like 200,000 visitors were treated to the spectacle of more than 4,000 athletes from 60 countries participating in 46 non-Olympic sports disciplines, of which 19 were included in the official programme, 2 were demonstration and 25 exhibition sports.

The korfball tournament matches were all played to a "full house" of 1,200 spectators in the Schwarzwaldhalle in Karlsruhe, where 80 young korfball enthusiasts from 5 countries taking part in an international korfball camp, provided extra atmosphere with banners and cheering.

Doping controls were introduced for the first time and the tournament went off well. The Netherlands and Belgium produced the strongest teams with the Dutch taking the decisive match with a 11–9 score. This time, it was the Federal Republic of Germany players who got the bronze medals, having first of all beaten USA 11–10, followed by a very spectacular 9–8 win against Great Britain, and finally another one goal victory over the Chinese Taipei team which in turn conquered the USA (13–12) and Great Britain (9–8) to take fourth place. Great Britain and the USA drew their game, but lost their other matches to share 5th and 6th positions.

7. The IKF between World Games III and IV

The IKF continued to show concrete signs of its expansion in the wake of World Games III, when in 1990 Japan and Armenia made their official entry into the international korfball community. Another milestone along the way was the first IKF Asia/Oceania Korfball Championship held in Jakarta (INA) from 28 February – 2 March 1990. Chinese Taipei sent a strong team and became the championship's first winners, after beating Australia 11–7 into second place, followed by Hong Kong in third and Indonesia in fourth place. In the meantime the number of contacts at match level between the different continents continued to grow. European teams took part in the annual Open American Korfball Championship where Canada also made its debut in 1991. European club teams and national selections crossed half the world to the Asian countries and Australia in the interest of korfball, whilst teams from India, Chinese Taipei and Australia flew in the other direction for matches in Western Europe. Korfball wheels continued to turn and in 1991 Hungary joined the fold of affiliated members, followed by Canada and Finland in 1992.

The second IKF Asia/Oceania Korfball Championships were held in New Delhi (India) in 1992; Chinese Taipei prolonged the title with Australia in second place.

This tournament had a sequel in the Continental Champions Trophy Tournament, whereby the two matches played in New Delhi between Australia and Chinese Taipei were completed by two matches by the Netherlands against each Chinese Taipei in Taipei and Australia in Australia. In the final ranking the Netherlands came first with Chinese Taipei and Australia sharing 2nd and 3rd place.

The IKF's steady growth through the years called for a restructuring of the IKF as a whole. In addition to the already existing Finance, Disciplinary, Playing Rules, Referees and Medical Committees, new committees and subcommittees were formed for Promotion, Development and Education. A Support Group Means and Resources was put at the disposal of all those committees. All these changes entailed that appropriate amendments to the Statutes had to be made plus the introduction of new Match Regulations and Disciplinary Regulations. During the course of a two-day IKF Congress held in Antwerp (BEL) in 1991, plans for the road ahead were set out, and it was noted with considerable satisfaction that in spite of a continuous lack of funds the IKF could apparently still call on a large group of enthusiastic volunteers to help her shoulder the burdens of continued expansion and development.

The order in the IKF World Korfball Championship in 1991 also determined which six countries would compete in World Games IV to be held in The Hague (NED) in 1993. It was announced well in advance that the teams taking the first six places in the IKF World Korfball Championship would compete in the World Games, with the proviso that the two highest ranking non-European teams would at any rate take part. Consequently the following teams qualified: Belgium, Chinese Taipei, Germany, Great Britain, The Netherlands, and the USA.

8. World Games IV in The Hague (NED) in 1993

The 4th World Games organised by the International World Games Association (IWGA) took place in The Hague (NED) from 22 July – 1 August 1993. Some 2,750 athletes representing 74 nationalities competed in 25 official disciplines of 22 IWGA member federations. Demonstrations in a large number of other disciplines were also held.

Although generally speaking there was less public interest in these games than was the case in Karlsruhe (GER), the korfbal tournament in the "Houtrusthallen" drew once again large numbers of spectators who became deeply involved in the often extremely exciting games. As in Karlsruhe the competition was played out between the national selections of Belgium, Germany, The Netherlands, Chinese Taipei, Great Britain and the United States of America.

As more often in the past Belgium and The Netherlands fielded the strongest sides. Both teams won their first four matches so that the game between the old rivals, scheduled as the last match on the tournament programme, had to decide the issue. The Dutch took a 3–0 lead and were leading 12–8 at half-time. Belgium then fought back but the Dutch managed to stay in front. Belgium came very close, 15–13 and then 15–14 but so it remained, making The Netherlands tournament winners once again.

Disappointing was the result of the British team. Although the scores were not bad at all the team did not win a single match. It lost narrowly (12–13) to Germany and drew with Chinese Taipei after having been down 6–12. In extra time the Chinese won by 21–18. The match against the USA also ended in a draw but after extra time victory went again to the opposing side (13–14).

The German players met their equals in their match against the USA and lost 9–10. In their final game against Chinese Taipei the Germans were leading 8–5 at half-time. In the second half Chinese Taipei managed to equalise but the Germans regained the lead and finally won by 14–13. As the Chinese Taipei had beaten the USA 15–9 on the first day of the tournament three teams finished in third place on 4 points, viz. Germany, Chinese Taipei and the USA. The tournament rules stipulate that in such a case the results before extra time shall decide. Germany thus took the bronze medals (as they also did four years earlier), while Chinese Taipei finished fourth, the USA fifth and Great Britain sixth.

The World Games also set the scene for a large number of other international korfbal activities. As usual the participating teams had come to Belgium and Holland several weeks earlier to prepare themselves for the games. On this occasion teams from Australia, Portugal, Armenia, the Czech Republic and Poland had also arrived and a large number of friendly international matches and tournaments could thus be arranged.

Some of the teams made their first acquaintance with beach korfbal on 24 July 1993 when a tournament was organised on Scheveningen beach. During this same period a number of other important IKF events took place. On the occasion of its 90th anniversary the Dutch association offered the international korfbal community a very instructive symposium on the "Organisation and Management of Korfball Associations". The IKF held a stylish reception to mark its 60th anniversary and the General Assembly welcomed South Africa as its 30th member association.

During this meeting IKF President Bob de Die also announced the gratifying news that the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee had agreed to recommend the IKF for official recognition.

9. The IKF between World Games IV and V; IKF WKC in INDIA

The first important event for the IKF after the World Games was the granting of official recognition to the IKF by the 101st Session of the IOC in Monte Carlo from 21–24 September 1993. The IKF had now finally achieved the goal it had been striving for since the early eighties. It was well aware, however, that a larger membership and a steady expansion of the match calendar would remain necessary.

So far as membership is concerned Slovakia was affiliated in 1994 and Cyprus in 1995.

Following the division of Czechoslovakia into two independent states IKF membership fell to the new Czech Republic. By 1993 korfball had developed so well in Slovakia that it was possible for the country to establish its own korfball association which was then successfully able to seek IKF affiliation. The membership of Cyprus was the result of contacts in the student korfball world.

The constant growth in the number of affiliated European countries led the IKF to form an European Championships Committee.

As far as the match calendar is concerned expansion was achieved by the organisation of the first U23 World Korfball Championship in Taipei from 4–7 April 1994. Eight under-23 teams participated in this event, including one from South Africa, its first time ever in an official IKF tournament. In view of its limited experience it was not surprising that this team had to be satisfied with the last position behind Great Britain (7), Hungary (6), Czech Republic (5), Australia (4), Chinese Taipei (3), Belgium (2) and U23 world champions the Netherlands.

The 3rd Asia/Oceania Korfball Championships were held in Adelaide (AUS) from 10–14 October 1994. Regretfully India had to cancel its participation at the last moment because of the outbreak of a serious epidemic in their country. Fortunately the South African national team happened to be touring in Australia and they were prepared to take India's place in the tournament, resulting in two separate final rankings: one with and one without South Africa. For the third time running the tournament was won by the team of Chinese Taipei with the host team in second place.

And so we came to 1995, the year of the 5th IKF World Korfball Championship in New Delhi, India, the first of its kind to be held outside Europe. Twelve countries were admitted to the final phase of the World Korfball Championship.

Final ranking IKF World Korfball Championship 1995:

1. The Netherlands	7. Czech Republic
2. Belgium	8. Great Britain
3. Portugal	9. Arménka
4. Australia	10. Slovakia
5. Chinese Taipei	11. South Africa
6. Germany	12. India

The Netherlands confirmed their superiority by winning the 2nd Continental Champions Trophy Tournament which was held in Tulsa (USA) nine months later. Chinese Taipei finished second ahead of the USA and South Africa.

10. World Games V in Lahti (FIN) in 1997

The fifth edition of the World Games was held from 7–17 August 1997 in the friendly city of Lahti in Finland. Beautiful weather and short distances between the competition venues made this a memorable event for the 2,500 odd athletes and officials from 78 different countries. The first six teams of the 5th World Korfball Championship had been admitted to the korfball tournament which was held in the Urheilutalo hall in the heart of Lahti. This means that Great Britain and the USA who had been present at all three previous World Games tournaments had lost their places to Portugal and Australia. The final ranking in the tournament was to a large extent decided on the first day when Belgium beat Chinese Taipei and Australia won the match between the two newcomers. Although the standard of play was higher than ever before the matches brought less excitement than in previous World Games. None of the other teams ever looked like threatening the supremacy of The Netherlands and the way the world champions retained their World Games title in the deciding match against arch-rivals Belgium was first class. Chinese Taipei very deservedly went home with the bronze medals. Germany came fourth, Australia fifth and Portugal sixth.

11. The IKF between World Games V and VI; 6TH IKF World Korfball Championship in AUSTRALIA

Since the IKF membership had repeatedly decided to put the emphasis on quality rather than on quantity the growth in terms of affiliated countries remained limited: Russia and Turkey joined in 1997 and Macau in 2000, thus bringing the number of member countries to 35. However, with the foundation of the Asian Oceanian Korfball Federation in April 1999 a further step was set on the road toward a restructuring of the IKF organisation, a process which should be finalized by the year 2003 when the centenary of the korfball sport would be celebrated.

The tournament calendar was further expanded by the creation of an IKF European Korfball Championship for national teams, the first edition of which was held in Estoril (POR) in April 1998 with The Netherlands as winners with Belgium and Portugal in places two and three.

In November of the same year the 2nd IKF U23 World Korfball Championship was held in various towns in The Netherlands. The final ranking of the first three teams was the same as four years earlier in Taipei:

1. Netherlands; 2. Belgium; 3. Chinese Taipei.

The 6th IKF World Korfball Championship were held in yet another continent: Australia. From 10–17 July 1999 the best korfballers in the world were assembled in the Clipsal Powerhouse in Adelaide. Based on the results in the 1995 IKF World Korfball Championship and the 1997 World Games the Exco had admitted twelve teams to this championship, one of which (the Czech Republic) was forced to withdraw for financial reasons and replaced by Catalonia.

The bronze medals were won by a more experienced British side which beat their much younger German rivals by a two goal margin. The way the Dutch triumphed over Belgium in the final (23–11!) made the IKF President write in the IKF magazine that "such proficiency in korfball has never before been shown by any team anywhere". The IOC President's trophy for the most spectacular team went to newcomers Poland.

Final ranking IKF World Korfball Championship 1999:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. The Netherlands | 7. Australia |
| 2. Belgium | 8. Catalonia |
| 3. Great Britain | 9. Poland |
| 4. Germany | 10. South Africa |
| 5. Portugal | 11. India |
| 6. Chinese Taipei | 12. Japan |

Following the success of an IKF Asian–African Korfball Championship in Durban in 1998 the South African Korfball Federation was awarded the organisation of the 3rd IKF U23 World Korfball Championship which was held on the premises of the University of Pretoria in July 2001. The Netherlands and Belgium retained their first and second place in the final ranking but this time the team of the Czech Republic managed to beat their Chinese Taipei rivals to win their first trophy in a major world event.

During the General Assembly the IKF welcomed the Korfball Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as its 36th member.

12. World Games VI in Akita (JPN) in 2001

The first six teams of the 6th IKF World Korfball Championship were invited to take part in the korfball tournament of the 6th World Games in the town of Rokugo in the Akita prefecture of Japan in August 2001, the first World Games on Asian soil. However, since Germany declined the invitation for financial reasons, its place was given to Australia. Contrary to previous World Games the teams did not play a round robin, but were divided into two groups. Thus every day two of the teams had a night off and on that day one of them played a friendly game against the national team of Japan, thus giving much needed international experience to the host country and something extra for the Japanese spectators. Players and officials will remember the Akita games for the excellent organisation and the very friendly and helpful attitude of the citizens of Rokugo, for the initiation into Japanese culture, for the extremely hot weather and for the typhoon that caused the removal of the airco on the final day of the tournament so that balls had to be changed and dried every few minutes!

A 16–9 pool win by Belgium against Chinese Taipei made it clear that the final would once again be contested by the Netherlands and Belgium. In the first 30 minutes of that final the Dutch played such superior korfball that already at half-time the Belgians faced an unbridgeable 15-4 gap. In the second half the Dutch scoring machine slowed down considerably so that the final whistle gave the world champions a 22–10 victory and their fifth set of World Games gold medals. The other two matches on the final day were very close, Great Britain beating Australia 13–12 and Chinese Taipei winning 17–16 against Portugal to give them again third place in the final ranking.

13. The IKF between World Games VI and VII; IKF Centennial World Korfball Championship in the Netherlands

Highlight of the following four year period was, of course, the centenary of korfball in 2003, celebrated with a congress (“The spirit of korfball”), various other events and the 7th IKF World Korfball Championship (the Centennial Championship) in the cradle of our sport: the Netherlands. After a first preliminary round in the province of Zeeland the remaining 16 teams assembled in Rotterdam for an exciting finish to the celebrations, whereby the eight best teams played in Group A for the world title and the remaining eight countries in Group B for the places 9–16. The big question was, of course, whether the supremacy of the low countries would be seriously challenged. Hadn’t the Belgians lost to the Czech Republic the year before during the 2nd IKF European Korfball Championship and didn’t Australia challenge Chinese Taipei for the Asia–Oceania crown, a title the Aussies would for the first time win during the 6th IKF Asia Oceania Korfball Championship in Christchurch (NZL) in 2004. As it turned out, however, the Dutch and the Belgians won all their matches quite comfortably and in the final the Netherlands once again showed their superiority by beating their rivals by 22 goals to 9.

Final ranking IKF World Korfball Championship 2003:

1. The Netherlands	9. Catalonia (Spain)
2. Belgium	10. Hungary
3. Czech Republic	11. South Africa
4. Chinese Taipei	12. Poland
5. Great Britain	13. Slovakia
6. Portugal	14. India
7. Australia	15. Armenia
8. Germany	16. Japan

The 13th IKF U21 European Korfball Championship in October 2002 and the 2nd IKF U23 Asia Oceania Korfball Championship in January 2003 provided the participants in the 4th IKF U23 World Korfball Championship in Duisburg (GER) in November 2004, which also served as a test event for the 7th World Games which would be held in the same town and the same hall the following year. Further details on these events may be found in the booklet on “The history of the IKF and the IKF U23 World and IKF U21 European Korfball Championships”.

With the affiliation of Sweden, Greece, Italy, Romania and Brazil the membership of the IKF grew to 41 countries.

14. World Games VII in Duisburg (GER) in 2005

The seventh World Games, superbly organised in Duisburg, Germany, have been hailed as the most successful yet with over 600,000 people attending over the ten days of sport and concurrent cultural events. Crowds at the different venues soared way beyond expectations and the korfball tournament was no exception. In addition to the host country the first five teams of the IKF Centennial World Korfball Championship were invited to take part in the competition which was held over five days in the well equipped Sporthalle Krefelder Strasse. Since Germany was allowed to participate the IKF had decided to go back to the traditional round robin so that all the teams would meet each other.

The first day left the numerous spectators wondering whether the match between the Netherlands and Belgium, programmed as the very last in the competition, would again decide the World Games title. Reason: the unexpected difficulties Belgium faced in their opening match against Great Britain in which it only scraped home by 14 goals to 12. This was the first of many tight and tense matches during the Games. Chinese Taipei lost twice by the odd goal (against Belgium and Germany) and won against the Czech Republic by a golden goal. Beside their opening game the Belgians had a further two close matches against Chinese Taipei (15–14) and against the Czech Republic after a golden goal (12–11). However, the extra time earned the Czechs just that extra point that was enough to secure them third place and bronze medals. The Netherlands cruised fairly comfortably through the tournament so the final match between the Dutch and their eternal rivals Belgium would once again decide the title.

Not an inch was given in the first half which ended with the Netherlands leading 6–3 and with passions boiling on a hot Duisburg afternoon. However, after the break the Dutch gradually started to dominate and with 17 minutes left the game was effectively over. While the Belgian task was too great by this stage, they refused to capitulate entirely, but the Netherlands were preparing to celebrate by ending the tournament in style. The gap was widened to 10 goals with six minutes left and there was still time for two more as the match ended 18–6. Gold again for the world champions from the Netherlands.

15. The IKF in the period 2005 - 2009

The IKF grew substantially in this four year period. At high pace new countries were affiliated to the IKF; Serbia, Zimbabwe, Bulgaria, China, Korea, Georgia, Malawi, Scotland, Wales. Wales was in 2006 member number 50! In 2007 and 2008 the growth continued; Ireland, Dominican Republic, Malaysia, Argentina, Pakistan, Botswana and Croatia. At the end of 2008 the IKF had 57 members.

This growth was very instrumental in the reconfirmation of the IKF as IOC recognised federation. The IKF is recognised by the IOC since 1993. The extension was granted in 2007 for another 4-year term.

The IKF World Korfball Championship 2007 were played in Brno, Czech Republic. Sixteen countries participated in this well organised event. The results can be find in the booklet *The History of the IKF* and the *IKF World Korfball Championship*.

In 2008 the 5th IKF U23 World Korfball Championship in Kaohsiung (TPE), which also served as a test event for the 8th World Games, took place in the same venue as the 2009 World Games. The results can be found in the booklet *The History of the IKF* and the *IKF U23 World and IKF U21 European Korfball Championships*.

16. World Games VIII in Kaohsiung (TPE) in 2009

The eighth World Games, superbly organised in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei, were most successful. Many hundred thousands of people attending over the ten days of sport and concurrent cultural events. The different venues were very well prepared and the korfball tournament was no exception. In addition to the host country the seven highest ranked teams of the IKF World Korfball Championship 2007 were invited to take part in the competition which was held over five days. For the first time 8 korfball teams in the World Games. Further the korfball event did for the first time ever use the shot clock – touch the korf within 25 seconds after the start of the attack - in an IKF event. It was a great success with a faster game and generally more goals being the result. Players no longer have the opportunity to slow down the game.

The IKF had decided to go again to 2 pools of 4 teams each. In the first round the teams played 3 matches. Followed by semi finals and finals on the last event day.

The first match with shotclock, i.e. the first World Games match was Czech Republic versus Australia. In the first half the Czech Republic took their lead up to 9-4. But Australia fought back and scored 5 times with the Czech Republic scoring only once. Half time 10-9.

After the break the Czech Republic dominated the game bringing the score up to 15-10. Although Australia continued to play quite well they could not threaten the Czechs anymore. Final score 21-16. The shotclock was a success.

The Netherlands retained the World Games korfball title in Kaohsiung (TPE) after a heavily-fought victory in the final against Belgium (25-20). This was the highest World Games score ever in a championship final so far.

In a similar contest, Chinese Taipei delivered a bronze medal to a loud and cheerful crowd after beating Russia. Remarkable was the extreme attention of the media for this important game for Chinese Taipei. More than 10 cameras around the sports hall. Chinese Taipei opened the game with 2 long shots. Russia scored three times in a row and took the lead, keeping it until the 16'. Chinese Taipei scored the equalising goal (8-8) and shortly after took a 2 goal lead. Russia kept fighting but Chinese Taipei managed to increase the advantage. Fatigue began to weigh heavily for the Russian team and in the last 15' of second half Chinese Taipei kept on scoring easily to win the match (25-18).

The Czech Republic achieved 5th place after a Golden Goal win (19-18) over Portugal. In most of the game Portugal was leading with 1 or 2 goals. At half time the score was 8-10. Portugal stayed in 2 goals front till 55'. In the last 5 minutes the Czech Republic equalised at 18-18. Golden Goal had to decide this match. The second for the Czechs in this event and the second win for the Czech team.

The match for 7th and 8th place between England and Australia showed greater scoring abilities in the English team. They were more effective in developing opportunities to goals. At half time the score was 11-8. The end result was 31-18 for England.

Event topscorers were

male: Jos Roseboom (NED) 33 goals

female: Ines Bioscas (POR) 26 goals

17. World Games IX in Cali, Colombia in 2013

The next World Games will take place from 25 July – 4 August 2013.

The korfball event will be played from 31 July – 4 August in Cali.

Again eight teams will participate.

Belgium, Chinese Taipei, Czech Republic, Germany, Great Britain, The Netherlands, Portugal, Russia.

Appendix I

Results and final rankings in World Games II 1985

London, Great Britain, Crystal Palace National Sports Centre

29 July:	The Netherlands – USA	18–6
	Belgium – Fed. Rep. of Germany	19–5
	Great Britain – India	14–6

30 July:	India – Belgium	11–31
	Fed. Rep. of Germany – The Netherlands	4–11
	USA – Great Britain	10–5

31 July:	The Netherlands – India	27–20
	Fed. Rep. of Germany – USA	10–7
	Belgium – Great Britain	13–7

1 August:	India – Fed. Rep. of Germany	8–21
	USA – Belgium	9–19
	Great Britain – The Netherlands	7–21
	USA – India	16–8
	Fed. Rep. of Germany – Great Britain	6–11
	Belgium – The Netherlands	8–12

Penalty shoot-out for 3rd, 4th and 5th position USA 6, Great Britain 4, Federal Republic of Germany 4.

Final rankings 1985

1.	The Netherlands	5	5	–	–	89–45	10
2.	Belgium	5	4	–	1	90–44	8
3.	USA	5	2	–	3	48–60	4
4/5.	Great Britain	5	2	–	3	44–56	4
4/5.	Fed. Rep. of Germany	5	2	–	3	46–56	4
6.	India	5	–	–	5	53–109	–
		30	15	–	15	370–370	30

Referees:

Great Britain: Michael Redman, Graham Crafter

Belgium: Annie Vanbosch (Mrs)

Federal Republic of Germany: Otto Halberstadt

The Netherlands: Henk Siebenlist

Referee Belgium – The Netherlands: Graham Crafter

Qualification match for participation in the World Games:

3 February 1985: Reims (France): France – Fed. Rep. of Germany 9–19

Appendix II

Results and final rankings in World Games III 1989

Karlsruhe, Fed. Republic of Germany, Schwarzwaldhalle

21 July:	Great Britain – The Netherlands	6–15
	Chinese Taipei – Belgium	8–18
	Fed. Rep. of Germany – USA	11–10

22 July:	The Netherlands – Fed. Rep. of Germany	23–9
	USA – Chinese Taipei	12–13
	Belgium – Great Britain	16–5
	USA – Belgium	6–16
	Chinese Taipei – The Netherlands	11–17
	Fed. Rep. of Germany – Great Britain	9–8

23 July:	The Netherlands – USA	34–8
	Belgium – Fed. Rep. of Germany	22–6
	Great Britain – Chinese Taipei	8–9

24 July:	Great Britain – USA	11–11
	Fed. Rep. of Germany – Chinese Taipei	4–3
	The Netherlands – Belgium	11–9

Final rankings 1989

1.	The Netherlands	5	5	–	–	100–43	10
2.	Belgium	5	4	–	1	81–36	8
3.	Fed. Rep. of Germany	5	3	–	2	39–66	6
4.	Chinese Taipei	5	2	–	3	44–59	4
5/6.	Great Britain	5	–	1	4	38–60	1
5/6.	USA	5	–	1	4	47–85	1
		30	14	2	14	349–349	30

Referees:

Fed. Rep. of Germany:	Norbert Mörchen
Great Britain:	Peter Allan
Chinese Taipei:	Lee, Chih-wen
Belgium:	Lucien Dequinnemaere
The Netherlands:	Ton van der Laaken
Referee Belgium – The Netherlands:	Norbert Mörchen

Appendix III

Results and final rankings in World Games IV 1993

The Hague, The Netherlands, Houtrushallen

23 July:	Great Britain – Belgium	6–20
	Chinese Taipei – USA	15–9
	Germany – The Netherlands	4–16

24 July:	Germany – USA	9–10
	The Netherlands – Great Britain	30–7
	Belgium – Chinese Taipei	24–12

25 July:	USA – Belgium	11–20
	Great Britain – Germany	12–13
	The Netherlands – Chinese Taipei	25–9

26 July:	Belgium – Germany	18–9
	USA – The Netherlands	8–22
	Chinese Taipei – Great Britain	21–18

27 July:	Great Britain – USA	13–14
	Germany – Chinese Taipei	14–13
	The Netherlands – Belgium	15–14

Final rankings 1993

1.	The Netherlands	5	5	–	108–42	10
2.	Belgium	5	4	1	96–53	8
3.	Germany	5	2	3	49–69	4
4.	Chinese Taipei	5	2	3	70–90	4
5.	USA	5	2	3	52–79	4
6.	Great Britain	5	–	5	56–98	–
		30	15	15	431–431	30

Referees:

Germany:	Norbert Mörchen
Great Britain:	Peter Allan
Chinese Taipei:	Lee, Chih-wen
Australia:	Bruce Bungey
Belgium:	Walter Peskens
The Netherlands:	Luit Kannegieter
Referee Belgium – The Netherlands:	Norbert Mörchen

Appendix IV

Results and final rankings in World Games V 1997

Lahti, Finland, Urheilutalo Hall

13 August:	Belgium – Chinese Taipei	18–14
	The Netherlands – Germany	20–8
	Portugal – Australia	14–16

14 August:	Australia – The Netherlands	4–32
	Portugal – Belgium	12–21
	Chinese Taipei – Germany	14–9

15 August:	Australia – Belgium	9–25
	The Netherlands – Chinese Taipei	25–9
	Germany – Portugal	15–10

16 August:	The Netherlands – Portugal	32–8
	Belgium – Germany	28–15
	Chinese Taipei – Australia	20–13

17 August:	Germany – Australia	18–7
	Chinese Taipei – Portugal	24–22 (after extra time; score at full time 20–20)
	Belgium – The Netherlands	16–22

Final Rankings 1997

1.	The Netherlands	5	5	–	131–45	15
2.	Belgium	5	4	1	108–72	12
3.	Chinese Taipei	5	3	2	81–87	8
4.	Germany	5	2	3	65–79	6
5.	Australia	5	1	4	49–109	3
6.	Portugal	5	–	5	66–108	1
		30	15	15	500–500	45

Referees:

Australia:	Nicole Cobb (Mrs)
Belgium:	Eddy Steels
Germany:	Norbert Mörchen
Great Britain:	Robert Allen
The Netherlands:	Walter Eijsink
Portugal:	Jorge Alves
Referee Belgium – The Netherlands:	Jorge Alves

Appendix V

Results and final rankings in World Games VI 2001

Rokugo, Akita Prefecture, Japan, Aspal Gymnasium

18 August:	The Netherlands – Portugal	29–12
	Belgium – Chinese Taipei	16–9

19 August:	Great Britain – Belgium	15–25
	Australia – The Netherlands	8–31

20 August:	Portugal – Australia	22–14
	Chinese Taipei – Great Britain	17–8

Final ranking:	Pool A:		Pool B:	
	1. The Netherlands	2–6	1. Belgium	2–6
	2. Portugal	2–3	2. Chinese Taipei	2–3
	3. Australia	2–0	3. Great Britain	2–0

21 August:	Portugal – Great Britain	15–12
	Chinese Taipei – Australia	18–12

22 August:	Great Britain – Australia	13–12 (5 th /6 th place)
	Portugal – Chinese Taipei	16–17 (3 rd /4 th place)
	The Netherlands – Belgium	22–10

Referees:

Belgium:	Dirk van Heertum
Chinese Taipei:	Chih-Sheng (Taco) Chang
The Netherlands:	Wim Dirksen
Portugal:	Francisco Ponciano
Referee The Netherlands - Belgium:	Francisco Ponciano

Appendix VI

Results and final rankings in World Games VII 2005

Duisburg, Germany, Sporthalle Krefelder Strasse

20 July:	The Netherlands – Czech Republic	23–7
	Great Britain – Belgium	12–14
	Germany – Chinese Taipei	18–17

21 July:	Chinese Taipei – Belgium	14–15
	Germany – Czech Republic	14–22
	The Netherlands – Great Britain	21–5

22 July:	Czech Republic – Great Britain	15–9
	The Netherlands – Chinese Taipei	18–12
	Belgium – Germany	22–8

23 July:	The Netherlands – Germany	20–6
	Chinese Taipei – Great Britain	11–5
	Belgium – Czech Republic	12–11 (Golden goal)

24 July:	Great Britain – Germany	13–14
	Czech Republic – Chinese Taipei	10–11 (Golden goal)
	The Netherlands – Belgium	18–6

Final Rankings 2005

1.	The Netherlands	5	5	–	100–36	15
2.	Belgium	5	4	1	69–63	11
3.	Czech Republic	5	2	3	65–69	8
4.	Germany	5	2	3	60–94	6
5.	Chinese Taipei	5	2	3	65–66	5
6.	Great Britain	5	–	5	44–75	–
		30	15	15	403–403	45

Referees:

Germany:	Georg Berkel
Great Britain:	Paul Jeanes
Belgium:	Bjorn Elewaut
Poland:	Majiec Golawski
Portugal:	Jorge Alves
The Netherlands:	Dick Hoegen
Referee The Netherlands – Belgium:	Jorge Alves

Appendix VII

Results and final rankings in World Games VIII 2009

Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei

17 July:	Czech Republic - Australia	21-16
	Belgium - Great Britain	25-13
	The Netherlands - Russia	35-8
	Chinese Taipei - Portugal	26-19
18 July:	Russia - Australia	18-12
	Great Britain - Portugal	11-15
	Czech Republic - The Netherlands	10-34
	Chinese Taipei - Belgium	16-30
19 July:	The Netherlands - Australia	37-10
	Belgium - Portugal	26-18
	Czech Republic - Russia	15-19
	Chinese Taipei - Great Britain	17-14
20 July:	Portugal - Australia	22-10
	Great Britain - Czech Republic	12-13
	Belgium - Russia	24-8
	Chinese Taipei - The Netherlands	13-29
21 July:	Australia - Great Britain	18-31
	Portugal - Czech Republic	18-19
	Russia - Chinese Taipei	18-25
	Belgium - The Netherlands	20-25

Final Rankings 2009		Games	Points in Games	Goals +	Goals -	Diff.
1.	The Netherlands	5	15	160	61	99
2.	Belgium	5	12	125	80	45
3.	Chinese Taipei	5	9	97	110	-13
4.	Russia	5	3	71	111	-40
5.	Czech Republic	5	7	78	99	-21
6.	Portugal	5	7	92	92	0
7.	Great Britain	5	4	81	88	-7
8.	Australia	5	0	66	129	-63

Referees:

Belgium: Dirk van Heertum

Portugal: Jorge Alves

The Netherlands: Kees Pieters

Czech Republic: Tomas Voda

Chinese Taipei: Chi Wei Chen

Hong-Kong: Chi-Hon Tsang

Referee for the final match : The Netherlands – Belgium: Jorge Alves

Appendix VIII

Review of participating countries and their final rankings

	TWG II	TWG III	TWG IV	TWG V	TWG VI	TWG VII	TWG VIII
	London	Karlsruhe	The Hague	Lahti	Akita	Duisburg	Kaohsiung
	ENG	GER	NED	FIN	JPN	GER	TPE
	1985	1989	1993	1997	2001	2005	2009
The Netherlands	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Belgium	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Chinese Taipei	–	4	4	3	3	5	3
Russia	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Czech Republic	–	–	–	–	–	3	5
Portugal	–	–	–	6	4	–	6
Great Britain	4/5	5/6	6	–	5	6	7
Australia	–	–	–	5	6	–	8
Germany	4/5	3	3	4	–	4	-
USA	3	5/6	5	–	–	–	-
India	6	–	–	–	–	–	-

Appendix IX

Review of match results of all participating countries

Number of participations in all World Games

	Matches played	Wins	Draws	Loss	Goals
The Netherlands	33	33	–	–	770–302
Belgium	33	26	–	7	620–394
Chinese Taipei	29	15	–	14	418–464
Great Britain	29	4	1	24	311–446
Germany	25	11	–	14	259–364
USA	15	4	1	10	147–224
Portugal	14	4	–	10	223–272
Australia	14	1	–	13	161–322
Czech Republic	10	5	–	5	143–168
Russia	5	2	–	3	71–111
India	5	–	–	5	53–109
	212	105	2	105	3176–3176