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# international korfball federation



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# THE HISTORY OF THE IKF AND THE WORLD GAMES

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# 1. THE ORIGINS OF THE WORLD GAMES

The General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) exists since 1967. In order to become a member of GAISF, 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. Nearly one hundred international sports federations have so far been able to satisfy these criteria and have thereby earned their official affiliation to GAISF.

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 1980, twelve members of GAISF founded the International World Games Association (IWGA) in Seoul, in the Republic of Korea. Membership of the IWGA is open to those members of GAISF 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 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 GAISF and IWGA membership. One might well ask why the IKF did not take steps much earlier to become a GAISF 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.



## 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 korfbal 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 Korfbal Association which later took korfbal to all corners of The Netherlands and beyond to the then Dutch colonial territories of Indonesia, Surinam and the Dutch Antilles. The Belgian Korfbal 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 Korfbal Bureau came into existence in 1924, which in 1933 became the International Korfbal Federation. The reason why international korfbal 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 korfbal clubs and players in The Netherlands and Belgium. Korfbal 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 Korfbal 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 Korfbal Association, set up as early as 1935, became an affiliated member, followed in 1973 by Papua New Guinea, where in 1965 English teacher and korfbal player Roy Kirkby saw his work rewarded by the establishment of a korfbal 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 korfbal teams made demonstration tours throughout the USA and out of this, the United States Korfbal 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' korfbal 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 korfbal 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 'Korfbal 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 korfbal 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 korfbal committees in several other countries.



### 3. INTERNATIONAL MATCH CALENDAR: AFTER 75 YEARS THE FIRST WORLD 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 a European 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 World and European Youth 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 European 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 World Korfball Championship in honour of the KNKV's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Eight countries entered the contest and produced the following **result**:

1. The Netherlands
2. Belgium
3. Fed. Rep. of Germany
4. Great Britain
5. USA
6. Spain
7. Papua New Guinea
8. Luxemburg

(For further details see: The history of the IKF and the World Championships)



## 4. INCLUSION OF KORFBALL IN THE WORLD GAMES; 2<sup>ND</sup> WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1984

By 1982 international korfball expansion had progressed so satisfactorily, that the IKF felt she could satisfy the requirements of GAISF membership. The necessary application was submitted and in October 1982 the IKF became an official member of GAISF 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. These same financial considerations also explain why the IKF had to wait until 1984 before she felt strong enough to take on the responsibility of organizing a second World Championship, this time in Belgium. Once again eight countries were admitted to the tournament, with Australia replacing Papua New Guinea and France replacing Luxemburg.

### The final result was:

1. The Netherlands
2. Belgium
3. Fed. Rep. of Germany
4. Great Britain
5. Spain
6. USA
7. Australia
8. France

## 5. WORLD GAMES II IN LONDON (GBR) IN 1985

The World Games in London were much more satisfactory than the 1981 Games, with 2000 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. It was again The Netherlands and Belgium, just as in the World Championships I and II, who 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 as she did in the World Championships I and II. 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 World Championships every four years, just as the World Games, but with a two year period between each event, i.e. World Championships in 1987, World Games in 1989, World Championships in 1991 etc. The results of the World Championship matches could then be used in helping to determine which countries would compete in the subsequent World Games.



## 6. CONTINUED IKF EXPANSION: 3<sup>RD</sup> WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1987

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 korfbal 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.

In the face of the continuing increase in membership, the IKF decided to allow 12 countries to participate in the third World Championships in 1987, including four newcomers: Indonesia, Chinese Taipei, Aruba and Portugal. Seven thousand spectators watched The Netherlands again snatch victory from Belgium in the final match in the Ahoy Sports Palace in Rotterdam. Chinese Taipei, however, produced the biggest surprise of the tournament, by unexpectedly pushing through to meet Great Britain, and finally losing after extra time, in the struggle for third place.

**The final positions were :**

1. The Netherlands
2. Belgium
3. Great Britain
4. Chinese Taipei
5. FR of Germany
6. Australia
7. USA
8. Aruba
9. Portugal
10. Indonesia
11. Spain
12. France

The following two years were especially favourable for the IKF. Korfbal 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 korfbal made forceful strides in its bid to reach more universities and more korfbal-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 Korfbal 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.





## 7. WORLD GAMES III IN KARLSRUHE (GER) IN 1989

World Games III saw the following countries competing : Federal Republic of Germany (host country), The Netherlands and Belgium (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in World Championships III), the USA (highest ranking American-zone team at the World Championships III), Chinese Taipei (highest ranking Asian/Australian-zone team at the World Championships III), and finally Great Britain (not yet placed highest ranking European-zone team at the World Championships III). 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 1200 spectators in the Schwarzwaldhalle, 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 again 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 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> positions.



## 8. THE IKF BETWEEN WORLD GAMES III AND IV; 4<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1991

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 Asia/Oceania 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 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 Asia/Oceania 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

IKF expansion meant that no less than twenty countries registered for the 4<sup>th</sup> World Championships in Belgium, a number that was brought back to twelve through a number of eliminating matches.

On the day of the finals the last two matches were played to a packed Arena Hall in Deurne (Antwerp). In a very spectacular match Germany took a 3–0 lead but in the end the 10–8 victory went to the team of Chinese Taipei. This was an important moment: for the first time ever during a World Championship/World Games tournament the bronze medals had been won by a non-European team.

The final between Belgium and The Netherlands was, if anything, even more exciting. With the end of the match in sight the score was level at 10–10. In the last minute Belgium went ahead to score 11–10 but just a few seconds before the final whistle The Netherlands was awarded a penalty throw.....which was missed! Belgium were World Champions for the first time.

### The final result was thus:

1. Belgium	7. USA
2. The Netherlands	8. Armenia
3. Chinese Taipei	9. Australia
4. Germany	10. Aruba
5. Great Britain	11. India
6. Portugal	12. Indonesia

This order 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 World 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, The Netherlands, Chinese Taipei, Germany, Great Britain and the USA.



## 9. WORLD GAMES IV IN THE HAGUE (NED) IN 1993

The 4<sup>th</sup> World Games organised by the International World Games Association (IWGA) took place in The Hague (NED) from 22 July – 1 August 1993. Some 2750 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 so 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 Taiwan managed to equalise but the Germans regained the lead and finally won by 14–13. As the Chinese 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 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 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary the Dutch association offered the international korfbal community a very instructive symposium on the "Organisation and Management of Korfbal Associations". The IKF held a stylish reception to mark its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the General Assembly welcomed South Africa as its 30<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 10. THE IKF BETWEEN WORLD GAMES IV AND V; FIRST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OUTSIDE EUROPE

The first important event for the IKF after the World Games was the granting of official recognition to the IKF by the 101<sup>st</sup> 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 korfbal had developed so well in Slovakia that it was possible for the country to establish its own korfbal association which was then successfully able to seek IKF affiliation. The membership of Cyprus was the result of contacts in the student korfbal world.

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

As far as the match calendar is concerned expansion was achieved by the organisation of the first World Championship for National Youth teams 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 world champions the Netherlands.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia/Oceania Championships were held in Adelaide (AUS) from 10–14 October 1994. Regrettably 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 5<sup>th</sup> World Championships in New Delhi, India, the first of its kind to be held outside Europe. First, however, two qualification tournaments were held to decide which four teams would join The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany in representing Europe. Portugal, Great Britain, Armenia and the Czech Republic were victorious and together with Chinese Taipei, Australia, the USA, South Africa and the host country they made up the dozen countries who were admitted to the final phase of the championship.

Unfortunately the USA had to cancel its participation and its place was taken by Slovakia. The quarter finals gave The Netherlands and Belgium fairly easy victories over the Czech Republic and Germany. The other two quarter finals were much closer, Australia scoring a 15–11 win against Great Britain and Portugal beating Chinese Taipei by 16–11. The semi-finals were of no great interest as both Portugal and Australia spared themselves for their mutual battle. On the final day, however, the nrs 6 and 9 of the previous world championship played an exciting match which eventually gave the Portuguese a 13–11 victory and thus the bronze medals and with it the title "best of the rest". The final was not half as exciting as the battle which the two arch-rivals had fought four years earlier. The Dutch team showed some superb korfbal and although the final 21–13 score was perhaps a little flattered their victory was thoroughly deserved. After a four year absence the Nico Broekhuysen World Cup went back to the cradle of the korfbal sport.

### Final ranking:

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Champions Trophy Tournament which was held in Tulsa (USA) nine months later. Chinese Taipei finished second ahead of the USA and South Africa.



## 11. 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 2500 odd athletes and officials from 78 different countries. The first six teams of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Championship had been admitted to the korfbal 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.

## 12. THE IKF BETWEEN WORLD GAMES V AND VI; 6<sup>TH</sup> WORLD 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 korfbal sport would be celebrated.

The tournament calendar was further expanded by the creation of a European 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 2<sup>nd</sup> World Championship for national youth teams 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 6<sup>th</sup> World Championships 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 World Championships 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 (Spain).

The quarter finals produced some surprising results. Whilst the 1995 finalists Netherlands and Belgium had no problems with Catalonia (Spain) and Australia, very few people had predicted that Germany would beat Chinese Taipei and that Great Britain would defeat Portugal. It was a pity that Germany and Great Britain did not field their strongest teams in the semi-finals so that The Netherlands and Belgium scored easy victories. The bronze medals were won by a more experienced British side which beat their much younger 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 korfbal 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:

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

Following the success of an Asian–African Championship in Durban in 1998 the South African Korfball Federation was awarded the organisation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Championships for National Youth (U23) teams 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 36<sup>th</sup> member.



## 13. WORLD GAMES VI IN AKITA (JPN) IN 2001

The first six teams of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Championship were invited to take part in the korfball tournament of the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 4–15 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.

## 14. The IKF between World Games VI and VII; Centennial World 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 7<sup>th</sup> World 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 8–16. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> European 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 6<sup>th</sup> Asia–Oceania 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:

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 13<sup>th</sup> European Youth Championship in October 2002 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia–Oceania Youth Championship in January 2003 provided the participants in the 4<sup>th</sup> World Championship for National Youth (U23) teams in Duisburg (GER) in November 2004, which also served as a test event for the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 World and European Youth Championships”.

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



## 15. 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 Centennial World 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.



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> position:

USA 6, Great Britain 4, Fed. Rep. of Germany 4.

#### Final rankings

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)

Fed. Rep. 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

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

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

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:	
	The Netherlands	2 – 6	1. Belgium	2–6
	Portugal	2 – 3	2. Chinese Taipei	2–3
	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 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> place)
	Portugal – Chinese Taipei	16–17 (3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> place)
	The Netherlands – Belgium	22–10 (NED winner)

#### 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 VI 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

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

### Review of participating countries and their final rankings

	TWG II	TWG III	TWG IV	TWG V	TWG VI	TWG VII
	1985	1989	1993	1997	2001	2005
The Netherlands	1	1	1	1	1	1
Belgium	2	2	2	2	2	2
Germany	4/5	3	3	4	–	4
Chinese Taipei	–	4	4	3	3	5
USA	3	5/6	5	–	–	–
Great Britain	4/5	5/6	6	–	5	6
India	6	–	–	–	–	–
Australia	–	–	–	5	6	–
Portugal	–	–	–	6	4	–
Czech Republic	–	–	–	–	–	3

## Appendix VIII

### Review of match results of all participating countries

The Netherlands	28	28	–	–	610–241
Belgium	28	22	–	6	495–314
Germany	25	11	–	14	259–364
Chinese Taipei	24	12	–	12	321–354
Great Britain	24	3	1	20	230–358
USA	15	4	1	10	147–224
Portugal	9	2	–	7	131–180
Australia	9	1	–	8	95–193
Czech Republic	5	2	–	3	65–69
India	5	–	–	5	53–109
	172	85	2	85	2406–2406