



**2nd European FORUM** of Traditional Games and Sports

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ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DE JEUX ET SPORTS TRADITIONNELS

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Institut Nacional d'Educació Física de Catalunya

Generalitat de Catalunya

**GIAM**

**May 14-15, 2021**



# *Unie hráčů stolního hokeje* *Czech Table Hockey Players' Union*

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# TABLE HOCKEY



- There are many different table hockey games all around the world
- Our union/association (Unie hráčů stolního hokeje) integrates three of them - in separate member associations with independent competitions and leadership
- Our table hockey games: AIR-HOCKEY, BILLIARD-HOCKEY, ROD-HOCKEY CHEMOPLAST
- Of the above mentioned: BILLIARD-HOCKEY (in Czech also called ŠPRTEC) is a traditional game, the others are relatively new mechanical games





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# BILLIARD-HOCKEY



- Billiard-hockey (so called ŠPRTEC in Czech Republic) is a game for two players
- It imitates ice hockey on the table
- It looks like ice hockey rink, 122 x 60 centimetres
- Each player has a small hockey stick and six draughts (goalkeeper, two defenders, three forwards)
- It uses billiard principles. The players play the draughts by the hockey stick. They try to shoot the puck by the draught and score a goal.
- The rules are available on [www.billiardhockey.com/our-games](http://www.billiardhockey.com/our-games) (English, Czech, German, French, Japanese, Polish, Russian, Swedish and Ukrainian)
- How to play - <https://youtu.be/Kxxe4E03GVE> or <https://youtu.be/ilipKmi1BLU>
- Equipment is available in a few shops / e-shops in the Czech Republic; selling abroad on request (World Table Hockey Association) - [wtha@billiardhockey.cz](mailto:wtha@billiardhockey.cz)



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# HISTORY



- Similar games with buttons and/or coins are known since ancient times
- In Moravia (part of the Czech Republic) - and similar games in some other parts of Austro-Hungarian Empire - game "Šprtec" (also "Šmrnc", "Knoflíkanda" etc.) is documented with certainty in the 19th century
- In the first half of the 20th century with many local variants and rules; personification of buttons (button = ice hockey player, somewhere soccer player)
- The oldest still played competition founded in 1960 (Stolní hokejová liga Brno - Table Hockey League Brno)
- In the 70's, 80's decline of interest (competition of modern toys), anyhow since 1980 National championships are played
- In the 90's the UHSH is founded, separate players/groups are connected together, promotion on TV and in papers, new clubs are founded, development of competitions
- First international tournaments, in 1992 European championship organised in Brno
- The biggest boom around 2000-2010 (2004 the first world championship), then stagnation/decline and stabilisation of activities up to now - before the pandemic 2020-2021



# PRESENT



## BEFORE PANDEMIC

- Around 500 - 600 players compete in many open tournaments all around the country each year; National championship for the best of them in November/December each year (U12, U15, U18, men, women); unknown number of non-competitive players; game played as a free time activity at schools but only at a few of them
- Team competitions as well: the 1st league (top level - one group), the 2nd league (two regional groups), the national cup, regional cups, the U15 cup
- International events (directed by WTHA) - championships - once in two years (European or world), several other tournaments - CZE, RUS, ESP, SVK, POL, GER, SWE,...

## PANDEMIC

- About half of the planned events cancelled, including the World Championship (Modřice/Brno) and the National championship (Prague)
- Last tournament played in the half of December; all organised free time activities being cancelled
- In few clubs “mail league” is organised, home matches are counted (family members usually, now two persons max. may meet)



# PLANS



## AFTER PANDEMIC

- The country is closed for organised activities, we wait for opening :)
- During last months the board of UHSH changed the rules in order to play in uncertain conditions: e.g. reduced the minimum number of players = now 4, the tournament can be announced shortly before the date of the event, reduced fees, etc.

## Challenges:

- To analyze the situation and the “damages”
- To find the way how to play in new conditions
- To reactivate the players after lockdown, to promote the game = “to make” new players interested in this game
- To find persons who want to take care of the clubs and union activities (= it is one of the biggest problems of all leisure time activities in our country)

Thank you for your attention

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