



How to Start A **Club**



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GETTING STARTED

So you would like to start a Floorball club?

Ontario Floorball would like to provide you with as much information to help you get started. From choosing your team to hosting your own tournament, this handbook summarizes basic procedures in starting and operating a club and provides a good base of information so sound decisions can be made. The purpose of this handbook is to provide Floorball enthusiasts with information to establish and manage a Floorball club. So read on, and you'll learn a great deal about starting your very own Floorball club! Refer to the Indoor Competitions Manual in conjunction with this handbook as an additional resource.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FLOORBALL

Floorball is an **awesome** indoor version of Hockey played across 80 countries' including 58 countries that are recognised by the International Floorball Association. Floorball has been played in Canada since the early 20th Century as a **thrilling** recreational sport.

Developed in the 1970s in Sweden, Floorball is most popular where it has developed the longest, such as the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland and gaining popularity in Latvia, Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, and the United States.

The sport is relatively new and therefore evolving. The basic rules were established in 1979, when the first floorball club in the world, Sala IBK, was founded in Sweden.

The game was played since the early 20th Century in Canada as a recreational sport, especially in high school gymnasiums.

Floorball is played 5 on 5 plus a Goalie indoors on a wooden or rubber mat floor, which is surrounded by 50 cm high enclosed boards with rounded corners.

Typical equipment for a Floorball player consists of a stick, a pair of shorts, a shirt, socks, and indoor sport shoes. A Floorball stick is short compared with one for ice hockey; the maximum size for a stick is 114 cm. As a stick cannot weigh any more than 350 grams, a floor ball weighs 23 grams and its diameter is 72 mm. It has 26 holes in it. A Floorball game is officially played over three **exciting** periods. Checking is prohibited in Floorball making it a safe and **fun** skill game.

Floorball offers many international Competitions Such as Asia Pacific Floorball Championship, Canada Cup, USA Cup, NAFC - North American Floorball Championship, Czech Open, Champions Cup, EuroFloorball Cup, and the **2020 Olympics**

ONTARIO FLOORBALL (OFA)

Ontario Floorball Association has been recognized as the administrative governing body of all levels (youth, junior and senior) of Floorball in the province. Over time, the OFA has introduced and delivered programs and services to assist in the promotion and development of the sport provincially.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the OFA is to act as the vehicle, including, but not limited to: overseeing provincial competition, developing and disseminating educational programs and serving as a medium for the exchange of information. We are the umbrella organization for all Floorball organizations in the province and direct the development of technical programs, supervision of competitions and provincial championships.

CHOOSING YOUR TYPE OF CLUB

To determine what type of Floorball club you wish to have, you must first consider your goals. Once you have established this, the job then is to choose the club that will enable you to reach those goals successfully. The following quiz may help you decide on what kind of club you desire. Each answer has a set number of points that will help you determine what type of club you would like. Circle only one Answer and be objective. Remember there are no wrong answers.

What kind of club do you want?

- 1-Recreational
- 2-Recreational and Competitive
- 3-Competitive

How many players do you want per team?

- 1-Minimum Ten Players
- 2-More than Ten Players but no more than 15

What age group are you looking for?

- 1-35+
- 2-20+
- 3-16 to 29
- 4-8 to 15

How many times do do you want to practice per week?

- 1-Once
- 2-Twice
- 3-Three or more

How long do you want each practice to last?

- 1-One hour
- 2-More than one hour

Now that you are finished, add up your score and refer to the categories below.

5–10 points RECREATIONAL - More socially oriented. Fun, friendly competition.

16–20 points COMPETITIVE- Serious inter-club play that Involves challenging competition And good interest in developing the sport

11-15 points CHALLENGING RECREATIONAL A more serious style of competition, yet Enjoys the social aspect of the game as Well.

21–25 points VERY COMPETITIVE Involved in many challenging inter-club competitions. A serious attitude with a strong Commitment to develop the Sport. Requires a larger, yet Well-organized club

Just a reminder, when referring to a club, it can be any number of teams. Another point to consider when choosing a club is to keep your numbers manageable with a core group of dedicated volunteers following a definite objective. Here is a more detailed description of different types of clubs. This will help you narrow down just how competitive, or recreational, you would like to be and at which level you would prefer to play.

Recreational

This type of club is the least competitive route to take. It still requires dedication and commitment. However, it is more socially oriented and is fun, friendly competition. Everybody plays equally, there is one game per week and games are played within the community. There is usually a one -hour practice once a week that is generally a scrimmage with minimal training and a meeting with refreshments after the practice! The coach is quite often a player or a friend.

Challenging Recreational

This is a step up from recreational and is a more serious style of competition. Practices are usually one hour, once a week, with fewer scrimmages and more training. Games are once a week with minimum travel within the region and court time is more or less equal. Challenging recreational still maintains the social aspect of the game.

Competitive

Competitive is a more serious inter-club of play that involves challenging competition and good interest in developing the sport. Practices are once a week or twice a week for one or two hours. Competitions occur once a month throughout the province and the best players are on the court. The social aspect of the game is a medium to low priority.

Very Competitive

This is the most challenging level of play where the club is involved in many inter-club competitions. A serious attitude is required as well as a strong commitment to develop the sport. The social aspect of the game is low and court time must be earned. A team would practice two to three times a week for two or three hours. Competitions are held both inside and outside the province with international travel being a possibility.

Team Classification

For definition of team classifications and divisions of play refer to the Provincial Indoor Competitions Manual . Youth Division teams are categorized from Juvenile, Midget, Midget Jr, Minor Midget, Bantam, Minor Bantam, Pee wee, Atom, and Minor Atom

THE MAIN INGREDIENTS OF A FLOORBALL CLUB

There are many ingredients that go into creating a Floorball club. On the next several pages, you will find the most essential items that should be acknowledged before starting a new club. After reading about these particular topics, you will have a better understanding of what a Floorball club consists of and what is required for success.

FUNDRAISING

This may not be a serious problem for your club. Clubs usually organize their own fundraising activities -dances, raffles, bingo's, Nevada tickets,-to raise extra funds to subsidize travel costs and entry fees. These activities can become annual events where club members put their time in to raise money through the community. Hosting a tournament can also be a fundraising event for your club. There are particular guidelines and responsibilities that are required in hosting a tournament.

FACILITIES / EQUIPMENT

The best place to look for a facility for your club is in a local school. Some areas have a "community use of schools" policy which provides a facility at a not for profit rate charge during the week. On weekends, there is usually an additional fee for a custodian. If this is not possible, see your local Parks and Recreation Permit Department. The Board of Education Permit Department should also be contacted.

When approaching these departments, arm yourself with a written statement briefly explaining your objectives and why you require the facility, the basic equipment needed and the time frame requested. Remember, you are trying to get facilities for the lowest cost, to provide service to people in the community. Hockey Rinks sand community centres are also a great resource to Host OFA practises and events.

Uniforms can be purchased at most specialty sport stores in your area. See the Provincial Indoor Competitions Manual for uniform regulations prior to purchase. Call OFA for any clarification.

COMPETITIONS

The OFA offers a range of competitions, from Cups to Ontario Opens to Ontario Championships. Youth division teams must participate in a minimum of two Cup events to qualify to play in Ontario Champions hips.

Teams can contact other clubs for exhibition or inter-club games. A full list of the tournaments appears in the Provincial Indoor Competitions Manual.

All divisions lead to a National Canadian Championships. For the Provincial Youth Division Championships, you must qualify through OFA Ontario Championships. To determine which Region you are located in, see the Provincial Indoor Competitions Manual or OFA website.

COACHING

It is important that a coach is both dedicated and enthusiastic towards the players and their development in the sport. Read books on coaching techniques, training programs, practice drills, systems, and most importantly, be familiar with the rules of the game. If interested, they should continue on in the Coaching Certification Program. Check the OFA website for dates and locations and to register, or contact your Regional Coaching Chair for information about the next clinic in your Region. It is also recommended that coaches attain their First Aid Certification in case of accident or injury.

OFFICIALS

You can have club members become certified officials and thereby cut costs of hosting your own invitational tournament. Various types of clinics are offered to certify and recognize individuals as qualified officials. Five levels of certification exist. For more information, visit the OFA website for dates, locations and to register, or contact your Region Officials Chair.

PLAYERS

Let's not forget the most important ingredient! Without players, there is no club. You must have a minimum of eight players on a team and a maximum of fifteen. A club may have any number of teams, however, if you're going to have several teams, be sure that you're well prepared. There must be a sufficient amount of volunteers, equipment, facilities, and funds for the number of teams that you plan to have as part of your club.

ATTRACTING/RECRUITING PLAYERS

To attract athletes several things can be done.

1. Use the media. Put notices and information in the paper or distribute them through local schools, and on local T.V. or cable channel bulletin board.
2. Hold coach or player clinics.
3. Hold a development clinic.
4. Word of mouth! It's a very easy way to let people know what's going on.
5. Attend local school tournaments and pass out business cards, flyers, pamphlets, etc.
6. Hold a tryout camp.

INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS

Parents can be involved in many aspects of a club. They can be administrators, managers, drivers and even coaches. Fund raising is also an area where parents can help out. Maybe the parent works in a company or business that has money or products they would like to donate to the club.

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VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the backbone of every club organization. Forming a small committee will enable coverage of various aspects including facilities, registration, coaching, transportation and fundraising. Most club committees are composed of:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

As you can see, having a good group of volunteers working together for your new club can be a great help and can take some of the load off of your shoulders!

OTHER RESOURCES

OFA website and the Provincial Indoor Competitions Manual. These are very important for quick reference when the need arises in your club. The rulebook can be purchased through the OFA. Each club can download a copy of the Provincial Indoor Competitions Manual from the OFA website. This handbook doubles as a competition manual and includes details about registration deadlines for championships as well as other pertinent information. It is VERY important that each club knows these deadlines.

MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS

This is an extremely important area. Media can be used to promote the club, attract sponsors and promote the sport of Floorball. Fortunately Floorball fortunately has some media coverage in the rural communities. The popularity of this sport is increasing tremendously, which helps boost media coverage throughout the province.

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- 1) Have a club letterhead for all correspondence (letters to parents, press releases, etc.)
- 2) The first formal contact should be a typewritten press release on letterhead. It must be short (one page) and correct with no errors at all. It should include all pertinent information, names, location, tournament date, contact name, etc.
- 3) Your best bet is to contact the amateur sports, college/university or high school sports writers. Find out the sports editor/director's name. He/she should get a copy of your correspondence since they are the ones who assign reporters to cover stories.
- 4) Know the newspaper deadlines in major markets. The deadline for a morning paper is usually 11 p.m. the night of a game and the deadline for an afternoon paper is 7:30 a.m. the morning after a game. For weekly publications, the deadline is usually two days before the paper hits the streets (i.e. Monday deadline for a paper sold Wednesday).
- 5) Most radio and television deadlines are between 6 and 8 a.m. and 5 and 6 p.m. Check with your local stations for their own deadline times, as these may vary from station to station.
- 6) Send updated information two or three weeks before the event occurs and follow it up with a phone call. Inquire if the data was received and whether a reporter will be available to cover the event. If no one is attending the event, arrange to have someone call in the scores and award winners. Again, a few details should be known about the teams involved in the finals.
- 7) **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Once you get into the swing of phoning in results, the desk will get to know you and it will become easier to have things printed. However, it's essential that you phone in, whether you win or lose, to build consistency and respect.

SUMMARY

By now, you should be well on your way to starting a new Floorball club. Participation, enthusiasm, and dedication from all involved will result in guaranteed satisfaction and success. Good Luck! If you require any further information regarding starting a Floorball club, please refer to the Provincial Indoor Competition Manual, the OFA website.