

FITB information – January 15th 2004

Concern: A step-by-step guide to introducing tchoukball in your country

A step by step guide to introduce Tchoukball in your country

One of the first questions we face at the FITB is “How can I introduce tchoukball to my country?” The FITB has given a lot of thought about introducing tchoukball into differing countries and cultures, and below are the key steps required to successfully introduce tchoukball. We hope very much that they will help you in your project.

Although it may appear a hopeless task when you first see all the steps required to successfully bring a new sport to a whole country, it **can** be done. It is important that you build a strong team of people who can help and proceed at your own pace, step by step.

1. Effective contact management

- Create a computer database of the addresses of all the people which have been exposed to tchoukball in your country and to every new person you introduce.
- Send information about what you are working on from time to time to these people.

2. Create documentation in your language to help people in your country to discover tchoukball

We have documents in different languages at the FITB that we can provide you with, but it is possible that we do not have any in your language, as tchoukball is not yet played in your country. If this is the case you will need to create the following:

Basic documentation

- An A5 page with general information, which explains the basics of the game.
- An A5 page with the basic rules of the game.

Video presentation

Once you have done the two basic documents in your language, we can work together to make a translation of our FITB videotape. A video of tchoukball is a very powerful tool; to those people who first hear about tchoukball, it seems so different to all other sports that it really needs to be shown to them. (Of course an FITB videotape with audio in another language can still be used to achieve this).

3. Obtain tchoukball frames and balls

Tchoukball frames

If you want to play tchoukball, you will need at least two tchoukball frames. The FITB endorses 2 types of frames; "top quality certified" and "quality certified". Your choice will depend on how much money you have available to you. For the current prices of frames we endorse, please contact us. If you can find a manufacturer of sports equipment who is willing to try and make a tchoukball frame in your country, the FITB can provide the official specifications for the creation of a tchoukball frame. (Note: the FITB will insist that any frame endorsed by us must follow the exact specifications detailed in our official documents). Over the longer term, this will prove the simplest way of obtaining tchoukball frames.

Tchoukball balls

The FITB endorses 2 types of tchoukballs; "top quality certified" and "quality certified". Your choice will depend on how much money you have available to you. For the current prices of tchoukballs we endorse, please contact us.

4. Start playing!

Once you have the two tchoukball frames and some tchoukballs, you can start playing.

1. Find a place where you can practice. Often the best place for this is a sports hall in a school ideally once a week.
2. Invite friends and family to come and try this "new sport".
3. Show your new players the video tape and give them the A5 leaflets to help them learn about how to play tchoukball.

5. Work with sports teachers

We are convinced after years of watching tchoukball grow in many different countries that the key way to spread a new sport in a country is to work as closely as possible with sports teachers. You can contact schools and sport teachers and suggest that they organise a tchoukball course for sport teachers. If you work with enough schools, it is likely that one of them will buy some tchoukball frames and they may offer you the possibility to help coach a team or to practice tchoukball with your new players.

6. Organise competitions and events for players to motivate them

After you have done all this you can also try to organise small competitions between two schools or two groups of players. You can also try to organise a competition with the tchoukball players of countries nearby. If some of your players are really motivated and you can afford it, you can even try to bring a team to a competition in another country with a larger amount of players. One of the major aims of the FITB is to bring countries together using sport, and we will help as much as possible to get people from different cultures playing tchoukball together.

If everything goes really well you can also try to build an official national team for the next world tournament or "friendly tournament" depending on the ability of your players.

It is really important to realise that although there may only be a few players in your country, you will be welcome at any FITB tournament in the world. No country is "too small" to attend!

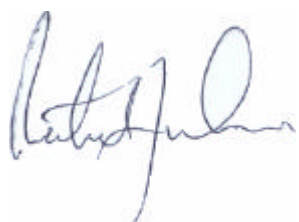
Please contact us for more details about international tournaments.

7. Final thoughts

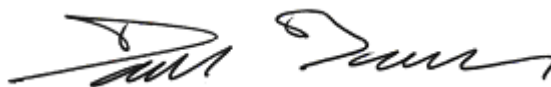
Clearly, starting tchoukball is going to be a really challenging task. Starting any new activity will take a lot of patience and dedication to succeed. What we can promise you is that the FITB will be there to help you every step of the way, and we will do everything in our power to help you in your work. Our experience with dealing with volunteers working for tchoukball is that there is always a lot of work to be done, but the work is always great fun and can introduce you to some wonderful people all over the world. Here are a few final suggestions:

- Don't try to do too much too fast. Just work at your own pace.
- Always remember that the FITB are here to help if you encounter problems. We enjoy helping new countries and people to learn about tchoukball, and would love to hear from you.
- Remember that it is likely to be a difficult job and it is normal for it to take a long time.
- Try and build a good team of people to help you. This is the best way to stay positive and to be successful.

The best of luck! We look greatly forward to working with you in the future.



Richard Jackson
Director of Finance and Communications



Daniel Buschbeck
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