



IPCH BEVER DUTCH NATIONS CUP 2022

IPCH Sanctioned Event

28-29 MAY 2022 - Eindhoven - The Netherlands

IPCH Bever Dutch Nations Cup

28 - 29 May

Indoor Sportcentrum,
Theo Koomenlaan 1
Eindhoven The Netherlands

More info: www.dutchnationscup.nl

Team NL Stichting Orange & Wheels

Introduction

The IWAS Powerchair Hockey Bever Dutch Cup is an IPCH Official Competition valid for the World Ranking List.

This sanctioned IPCH event was organized under the aegis of the IWAS and the IPCH by the foundation **Orange & Wheels and TeamNL Powerchairhockey**

After the long stop caused by COVID-19, there was a pressing need to resume training for the Dutch team, particularly in preparation for the upcoming World Championships in Switzerland in 2022. The initial plan was to arrange a training weekend for the team. However, considering the importance of competitive pressure and quality opposition, the idea evolved to invite additional countries to participate in the training weekend, therefore Orange and Wheels Foundation started a collaboration with IPCH to analyze the chance to transform the training weekend into an IPCH Official Sanctioned Event. As discussions progressed, factors such as suitable locations, associated costs, and logistics were carefully considered and resulted in the choice of Eindhoven as the host city. In Eindhoven, a large international tournament for clubs has previously been organized and therefore it was possible to count on good facilities and a large volunteer organization. IPCH highlighted the potential value of an international tournament, not only for preparation but also for classification purposes ahead of the upcoming World Championships, providing clarity for players, teams, and coaches well in advance of the competition.



Participating Team Delegations

IPCH, recognizing the significance of the tournament for the World Ranking and the need for international competition following the prolonged hiatus caused by COVID-19, collaborated with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) to extend invitations to all active Powerchair Hockey (PCH) nations. This decision aimed to enhance the tournament's global reach and provide participating nations with valuable training opportunities ahead of the 2022 World Championship in a competitive setting.

The tournament welcomed five teams, selected in the order of their application submissions based on the "first come, first served" principle. The participating teams included:

1. **The Netherlands**
2. **Germany,**
3. **Switzerland,**
4. **Italy,**
5. **Czech Republic**

While Denmark and Finland expressed interest, their applications arrived too late, precluding their participation in the event.

IPCH Officials

This tournament served as a pivotal moment for IPCH officials as well, marking their return to the field following the COVID-induced hiatus and their preparation for the upcoming World Championship in 2022. Not only was it an opportunity for them to regain their footing after the pause, but it also served as a training ground for officials amidst changes in leading roles within IPCH officials and procedural adjustments. Particularly noteworthy was the chance to train new Jury Members, further enhancing the competence and efficiency of officiating within the Powerchair Hockey community.

During the tournament, the following number of officials were appointed by IPCH;

1 Technical Delegate and 1 Trainee

- Anna Rossi (ITA)
- Aina Budde (DEN)



9 IPCH Referees

- Mika Laakso (FIN)
- Marco Kach (SUI)
- Pieter Borges (NED)
- Fabrizio Imparato (ITA)
- Matthias Vanhove (BEL)
- Kristoffer Stormark (DEN)
- Davor Matjasevic (SLO)
- Gerhard Menz (GER)
- Kimmo Virtanen (FIN)



3 IPCH Referee observers

- Lauri Oksanen (FIN)
- Inge de Zwart (NED)
- Anna Rossi (ITA) *



5 IPCH Jury Members

- Dorte Berenth (DEN)
- Celine Pernechele (ITA)
- Jeroen Kemp Pals (NED)
- Wiebe van Kempen (NED)
- Peter Jessen (NED)

5 IPCH Classifiers

- Petra Sesnik (SUI)
- Marjanka Wajer (NED)
- Hannu Kapanen (FIN)
- Gerda Nelles (BEL)
- Kees van Beukelen (NED)



*A special exception was granted for Anna Rossi to act as a Senior Technical Delegate and licensed IPCH Referee Observer. This provision agreed upon with IPCH, allowed for a unique setting within the competition. It permitted the trainee Technical Delegate Aina Budde to autonomously oversee segments of the tournament, providing valuable training opportunities. Additionally, this arrangement facilitated proper feedback mechanisms for referees, ensuring continuous improvement and adherence to officiating standards throughout the event.

Tournament

Both officials and teams were afforded adequate preparation time to ensure a smooth return to the field. A day was dedicated to classification assessments, equipment checks, and the establishment of speed controls and tournament procedures. Additionally, a technical meeting was convened with all team managers to address critical logistical and rules-related matters, ensuring clarity and understanding among all stakeholders before the commencement of the tournament. This comprehensive preparation phase aimed to enhance the overall organization and execution of the event.

During the tournament, the Speed Control system from Powerchair Football was used as the official speed measurement tool, alongside a newly developed roll set by the Dutch team, which was also tested. Initially, there were some minor issues, with a few players running off the rollers. However, this was quickly addressed by providing clearer instructions emphasizing a gradual acceleration process. Players and staff from the teams expressed positive feedback, particularly appreciating the ability to see speed readings on a screen, enhancing the transparency of the speed testing experience.

While the Dutch system conceptually resembles the one in use, it was found to be less ideal for IPCH competitions due to certain drawbacks. Firstly, the setup process involving fixing the powerchair in four points with adjustable safety belts was time-consuming and affected engine temperature, thereby impacting results. Additionally, calculating speed using the Dutch system was laborious, requiring manual calculations from a schedule without the option to connect a computer, further adding to the time required for testing. These limitations highlighted the need for a more efficient and streamlined approach to speed testing in IPCH competitions.



The tournament was played over two days, in a set-up with two fields. This arrangement allowed matches to proceed in quick succession, with ample intervals for seat charging and data processing.



Before the tournament, the IPCH Technical Delegate defined the schedule, ensuring all teams were informed well in advance. The opening ceremony took place on Saturday, May 28th at 10:30 am, featuring a flag parade and a brief welcome address paying tribute to those who had passed away recently, including victims of COVID-19.

The first day saw six intense matches, culminating in the final whistle at 6:15 PM. Teams then made their way to the nearby hotel, located just 500 meters away.

Sunday commenced with four group matches starting from 9:15 AM. The Czech Republic finished in fifth place, while Switzerland and Germany vied for third and fourth place in a "small final" at 2:30 PM. The highlight of the day was the grand final between Italy and the Netherlands at 4:30 PM.

During the closing ceremony, all teams gathered on the main field in a semicircle to honor the champions among them. Extensive gratitude was expressed to sponsors, organizers, volunteers, the venue, IPCH, and IWAS for their contributions to the success of the tournament. Well-wishes were extended to all countries for the upcoming World Championship in Switzerland.

Results & Ranking

#1	NED	7	2	GER
#2	SUI	3	4	ITA
#3	CZE	1	43	NED
#4	GER	7	5	SUI
#5	ITA	18	0	CZE
#6	NED	15	3	SUI
#7	GER	5	6	ITA
#8	SUI	27	1	CZE
#9	ITA	0	1	NED
#10	CZE	4	11	GER
#11 ¾ place	GER	2	4	SUI
#12 ½ place	NED	6	4	ITA



Final Ranking:	
#1	The Netherlands
#2	Italy
#3	Switzerland
#4	Germany
#5	Czech Republic

Communication

IPCH announced to member nations that registration for the five-nation tournament was open, and participation would be determined on a first-come, first-served basis.

Throughout the tournament, live streaming was available on both days, although there was an initial startup issue. This was swiftly resolved during the first match, allowing approximately 150 online viewers to witness the matches alongside the attendees at the Eindhoven Indoor Sports Hall.

IPCH's social media platforms were consistently updated with tournament results and stories, providing real-time updates and insights for enthusiasts and supporters.

Logistics

TRANSPORTATION

Eindhoven benefits from its airport and a nearby train station, offering various transportation options for participants. Groups and individuals had the flexibility to choose between private transport, public transportation, or air travel. Notably, only the Czech team opted for flying, while the other teams and officials utilized alternative means. For the Czech team, a bus with ample wheelchair spaces was arranged to transport them between the airport and the hotel, ensuring comfortable and accessible travel. Meanwhile, other teams and officials made their arrangements to reach the hotel and/or the sports hall independently. This diverse range of transportation options catered to the varied needs and preferences of participants, facilitating smooth travel logistics for all involved.

SPORT VENUE

The competitions took place in the Eindhoven Indoor Sports Centre, a spacious event hall featuring a sports floor. The venue provided ample room to accommodate two fields of official dimensions, along with additional space for competition tables, central management, roller benches, spectators, and more. While the location had stands surrounding the fields, these were primarily utilized for capturing overhead footage and live streaming.



Each participating team was allocated a spacious area to gather, and store equipment, and belongings comfortably. Sufficient changing rooms were available for officials, and dedicated spaces were designated for classification activities, ensuring proper execution.

Various rooms equipped with projectors, coffee facilities, and other amenities were provided for officials' instructions and meetings, promoting efficient communication and coordination.

Throughout the tournament, Wi-Fi connectivity was available, meeting the high demand and facilitating seamless communication and access to online resources for all involved.

ACCOMMODATION VENUE

The Hotel Van der Valk, located approximately 500 meters from the sports hall, is renowned for its quality accommodations and strategic locations throughout the Netherlands. Situated directly on a highway or major approach road to cities, including Eindhoven, it offers convenient accessibility. This proximity between the hotel and sports hall, even manageable for wheelchair users, added to the convenience of the event.

Van der Valk is celebrated for its well-kept buffets, and once again, it lived up to its reputation. The hotel isn't specifically designed to accommodate a large number of powerchair users, and some challenges were foreseen like the waiting times for the 2 relatively small elevators and the need to adjust a quite steep ramp to the congress area where the restaurant/ buffet was set up.

The hotel provides only few adapted rooms which were divided among team delegations and Officials who needed them. Participants' basic needs were met satisfactorily but doubts remain about the possibility of hosting here a longer and more relevant competition where the need to have more accessible accommodation for athletes is higher. Overall, despite some minor issues, the Hotel Van der Valk offered a comfortable and accommodating stay for attendees of the tournament.

