



REPORT



IPCH OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT

19th - 23rd February 2020

Lignano Sabbiadoro - Italy

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OVERVIEW

The IPCH Euro Stars 2020 Tournament was held in Lignano Sabbiadoro (UD), Italy, from 19th to 23rd February 2020.

The event was organized under the aegis of the IWAS and the IPCH by the local organizing committee (LOC) appointed by the Federazione Italiana Wheelchair Hockey (FIWH).

The organization of the event stems from the will of the Italian National team to have a Test Match before the European Championship and to be able to complete the classifications of the athletes started during the 2019 National Playoffs.

This event was sanctioned by IPCH as IPCH Official Competition and was therefore valid for the World Ranking list. The possibility to organize IPCH Officials Educational Courses for Classifiers, Referees, Referee Observers and Jury Members was a key factor for IPCH to approve the tournament as official.

More than one hundred people were involved in the event, considering Team delegations members, IPCH Officials (instructors and course participants included), suppliers and sponsors, volunteers. All participants were hosted in the same facility.

As stated by the rules a transportation service was organized for all national teams and officials.

In the IPCH Euro Stars 2020 Tournament, about 15 volunteers have been involved, during the whole event they had different functions as drivers, hospitality/hosting services for teams and officials.

Live Streaming has been taken care of with particular attention. The streaming sessions were organized by the Italian Federation Service with the support of an external video operator, Stefano Bin, and under the supervision of IPCH Communication Officer that was also present during the event. Matches were streamed and are available on the IPCH Powerchair Hockey YouTube channel.

INTRODUCTION

LOC CONCEPT & AIMS

The main aim of the LOC for the Euro Stars 2020 Tournament was to create an event for players. In order to make sure as many nations as possible would have chosen to participate in the tournament the LOC request was to minimise the number of days to stay at the hotel in order to contain the expenses for team delegations.

This meant all ten (10) matches were distributed in 2 days making the competition a little bit stressful but useful as a hard and efficient training opportunity for the national teams involved.

The Educational Courses for Officials were an important part of the organization as well, and LOC took care of everything needed as they share the belief that training and educational activities are very important tools for the promotion of sport and its development.

INVITED NATIONS

Because the tournament was an officially sanctioned IPCH event, the invitations were sent directly to all IWAS Member organizations and to all PCH National Organization IPCH is in contact with worldwide in September 2019.

4 Nations confirmed their participation: Italy, Germany, Finland, Switzerland.

GENERAL ORGANIZATION:

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Luca Alessandrini LOC Chairman
- Stefano Occhialini LOC Vice Chairman
- Ivaldo Minigutti LOC Logistics & Transportation
- Fabio Rodo LOC Finances

ACCOMMODATIONS

Bella Italia Village is a holiday resort in Lignano Sabbiadoro with several leisure and relaxing options plunged into a 60-hectare pine grove a few steps away from a beach of fine sand stretching over 1200 meters. Lots of sport activities, entertainment, games and fun here are guaranteed to adults and kids. Several hotel buildings are located within the pine grove ensuring a very high hosting capability. Most of those buildings also provide wheelchair users facilities and wheelchair friendly bedrooms.

All Team Delegations, Officials, LOC members and volunteers involved in the organization, were housed at *Alle Vele* building. The hotel *Alle Vele*, has been designed to welcome disabled guests and offer several sea-view rooms besides establishing itself as the ideal property for hosting residential conventions or sports events thanks to its proximity to the sports arena and the beach.

Teams were divided into different sections/floors trying to ensure every team could have a hotel section for themselves. Officials were also designated a floor/area for them in order to try not to mix them too much with the rest of the participants and ensure their focus on the competition.

Special equipment, such as high low beds, were available for renting for those who requested them.

3 meals a day were served at *Alle Vele* Restaurant which was also open only for accredited people as well as the cafeteria. Because of the peculiar and very busy schedule of the tournament meals were organized as a buffet in order to avoid as much as possible the serving time that the à la carte menu would have required. In addition, take away and packed lunch options were offered.

WI-FI internet connection and a laundry were available for the guests in the hotel.

MEETING ROOMS

On the first floor 3 meeting rooms were available, those rooms were used for the Theoretical Educational courses for IPCH Officials and later on one of those became available for the teams in case they wanted to organize some tactical meetings.

Each room was equipped with a beamer, internet Wi-Fi connection and flip chart.

COMPETITION SPORT HALL

The *Bella Italia* sport hall located 50 m away from *Alle Vele* building hosted the competition field. The sport hall is actually a multi-purpose sports arena with a maximum capacity of 2.500 seats and two 300 and 400-seat side rooms.

Inside there is a parquet regulation-size field to play handball, basketball, volleyball, an equipped gym, a stage for music and theatre shows, a video-projection system, a production room as well as fiber-optic internal and external connections to make videos and audios during events.

Two dressing rooms were available for referees and four for the teams.

A First Aid Room and accessible toilets (two around the field and one near the entrance of the Sport hall) were available for athletes and supporters.

During Control Days the Equipment checkpoint was arranged in a gazebo near the field in order to allow controls on the very same floor as the competition playing field, at the checkpoint speed control equipment and all tools were present as well as requested by IPCH Regulation.

IPCH also organized the possibility to test a new speed control system developed by Germany during the tournament.

The Match Secretariat and LOC office were also located in the sport hall as well.

On the first floor classification sessions were performed in the "Orange Room" (for Technical Assessment).

The Official's room was set on the ground floor arranged with tea, coffee and refreshments for the Officials. The room was also used as space to give Feedbacks to Referees course participants on their practical performances and exam.

TRANSPORTATION

A transportation service and support was organized starting from 18th until 24th February. Transportation was arranged from airports of Venice, Treviso and Trieste or from the train stations of Venice.

The minivan used was provided by the Italian Paralympic Committee.

Also GT buses (three different private companies were partners) were used to bring people at their arrivals and for their departures.

VOLUNTEERS

From the beginning one of the priorities of LOC was to find enough volunteers for managing everything in the best way.

For this event the LOC started a new partnership with the Lignano Sabbiadoro high school.

A new project involving the students during the international powerchair hockey events.

The Italian school has a specific program for this kind of projects and the LOC cooperate successfully with a small group. The experience was great and offers a new way to find volunteers during events.

Students were involved specifically as drivers, as field assistants, as match secretariat staff, as marketing and media staff, at the competition info point, as hospitality and logistic assistance.

All volunteers were easily recognizable because of their white t-shirt with the logo of the competition and the word "volunteer" on their shoulders.

All volunteers were very satisfied with the experience and gave very enthusiastic feedback.



A volunteers group pic in the sport hall.

IPCH OFFICIALS AND EDUCATIONAL COURSES:

- TECHNICAL DELEGATES**

IPCH Technical Delegate	Kenny Verbraekel (BEL)
IPCH Assistant Technical Delegate	Anna Rossi (ITA)

- REFEREES**

IPCH Referee Instructor	Davor Matijašević (SLO)
IPCH Referee trainee Instructor	Kimmo Virtanen (FIN)

REFEREE COURSE PARTICIPANTS

Simone Scalici (ITA)	Marek Pohunec (CZE)
Julian Delgado (SPA)	Marco Kach (SWI)
Marc Valle (SPA)	Robert Visser (BEL)
Mika Laakso (FIN)	Matthew Newcombe (AUS)

- REFEREE OBSERVERS**

IPCH Referee Observer Instructor	Lauri Oksanen (FIN)
IPCH Referee Observer <i>renewing licence</i>	Anna Rossi (ITA)

REFEREE OBSERVER COURSE PARTICIPANTS

Eugenio Trevisan (ITA)	
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- JURY MEMBERS**

IPCH Jury Member Instructor	Dorte Berenth (GER)
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JURY MEMBER COURSE PARTICIPANTS

Celine Pernechele (ITA)	
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- **CLASSIFIERS**

IPCH Chief Classifier and Instructor	Kees van Breukelen (NED)
IPCH Classifier trainee Instructor	Luca Tomasi (ITA)

CLASSIFIERS COURSE PARTICIPANTS

Denis Jaeken (BEL)	Rita Waldner (SWI)
Gerda Nelles (BEL)	Simo Syrjäläinen (FIN)
Kamal Tahtahi (NED)	

- **DELEGATES**

IWAS Representative	Fabio Rodo (ITA)
IPCH Representative	Rasmus Dissing Nielsen (DEN)

IPCH REFEREE COURSE:

Course was led by Davor Matijašević and Kimmo Virtanen, who took part of the course as the Referee Instructor Trainee.

Since there were more applicants than available places (8), an interview process was performed and candidates that were deemed most likely to pass selected.

The goal of the course was to train the candidates during the course days and observe them during competition days. The teaching part of the course started on 19.2.2020 in the evening and lasted until the first match of the tournament on 21.2.

Candidates took part in the theoretical exam on the 21st of February in the afternoon and were observed by referee instructors during all three days of matches as part of the practical exam. The course was focused on two main areas: movement & positioning and game management.

Each of the areas was divided in sections that were designed to teach the candidates how to best lead the games, provide a positive atmosphere and give players and coaches as much freedom to express themselves on the field while promoting the brand of Powerchair hockey.

Instructors prepared presentations with multiple videos that were targeted to teach candidates specific techniques and approaches leading the game, as well as movement and positioning, which is the foundation for successful game management.

Part of the course took place on the main playing field in the hall where special exercises were performed in order to teach the candidates the best way to move and position themselves on the field. In addition, a specially prepared table-top playing field with wooden wheelchair and referee figures was used to demonstrate positioning in various tactical situations on the field.

Among 8 participants only 2 referees successfully passed the course and obtained the IPCH C Referee Licence.

Course assessment

After having performed a review of the course, instructors agreed that some areas need more attention in the future. For example, the course didn't address rules too much, which might have caused issues with referees when setting the line. IPCH agreed that in future courses, Referee Instructors will combine sections talking about the line with references and videos related to the rules to describe in more detail to the candidates what is expected of them.

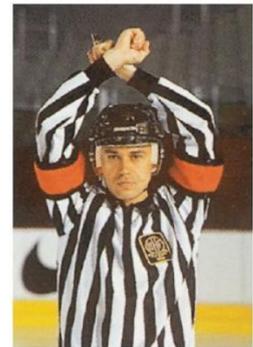
Another section that will be introduced is the referee image, techniques of showing cards and additional focus on whistling. While these topics were covered as part of the course, IPCH believe that Referee Instructors should stress them more, as they might've been lost in the large amount of information that instructors tried to pass onto the candidates.

Naturally, in order to be able to fit in all the above mentioned topics into the course, additional time will be needed. A proposal how to obtain that time without extending the course can be found in Tournament assessment

As it was expected from a tournament featuring some of the world's best teams, matches were played on the highest level. It was very good to see that teams adapted more offensive roles for T-stick players, which IPCH attribute to the new 2-point rule for goals scored by them. There have been a couple of them in this tournament, just as in QT in Prague.

Since less experienced players (and teams) have sometimes been confused by the current penalty shot sign (raised fist with other arm pointing at the centre spot), it was decided to test usage of ice hockey/floorball sign for penalty shot (see picture).

This course also showed how important knowledge of English is on the international level. National Associations should be informed that any candidates with a not good enough level of English will encounter difficulties in obtaining their licence.



IPCH REFEREE OBSERVERS COURSE:

The course only counted on 2 participants, one of which was there to renew the licence.

Lauri Oksanen was appointed as Observers Instructor and Senior Observer conducted all the preparatory work.

During the theoretical part of the course several topics were addressed and discussed; personal background, possibilities to listen and learn to know the person behind the role; rules, regulations, code of conduct, information on how to use the observational forms.

Observers were involved in following up referee trainees' physical session in the arena; and in the session of game leadership.

Observers also worked together with Referees during controls and check-in at the arena.

During the matches observation of referees were performed and feedbacks have been given both to referees and observers.

Course assessment

Referee observer trainees should attend the referee candidates' sessions to get a common idea what is expected from trainees in the rink.

Still a little modulation for the evaluation sheet is needed; general impression of referees described

only with few sentences, not part of numeric grading.

Double work away from evaluating the process, more delegation needed from chief referee – trust is the key word.

The way of thinking of how to handle people especially in coaching situations should be in line with our code of conduct agreement.

IPCH JURY MEMBERS COURSE:

The Jury team counted on only 2 people. The Jury IPCH Instructor Dorte Berenth and 1 new Jury trainee. The Trainee was educated in the days before matches about the following topics:

- How to behave as an official
- Jury Members Tasks
- Preparation for the control day and the match days
- Procedure for Control of documents
- How to support referees during equipment
- What is a classification and how support the classifiers and the Teams.
- IPCH Class Calculator tool
- IPCH Match table procedures and app (still in development)

Jury Members also participated in the education of 5 volunteers appointed for the Match Table tasks (time keeping and score keeping)

For Jury members it was hard on the match days – only two Jury members is not enough for all matches – no time for breaks or lunch/dinner – they were at duties from 09:00 to 22:00.

Course assessment

The trainee successfully completed the training and will be now listed in the IPCH Jury Members list. The Jury also reported a very good collaboration with the students. After a thorough instruction in the duties as time- and scorekeeper, they were ready for the duties on the match table. They were engaged and focused on the duties as time- and scorekeeper.

IPCH CLASSIFIERS COURSE:

5 Classifiers have been instructed on the IPCH Classification Manual, 2 of them were refreshing their knowledge after a period of international inactivity.

The course was leaded by Kees van Breukelen.

The course contents was presented by a PowerPoint (215 slides) which was also given on paper to the course participants covered:

- Definition of classification and why classification is necessary
- Basics of Classification and IPC classification standards and guidelines
- Detailed explanation of PCH classification both theoretical and practical.

Trainee also participated in the classification 16 players from 4 countries

Course assessment

The course went really well, and all the candidates have successfully passed the evaluation. One critical point was the division of workload among the IPCH Instructor and the Senior IPCH Classifier who was not always working for the best. This will be a learning point for the future to better divide the

tasks among instruction and supervision of practical aspects regarding classification.



Officials during the awarding ceremony

THE COMPETITION:

PROGRAM AND RESULTS

FRIDAY 21

H 20:30 ITA 2 - 2 FIN

GROUP RANK

Pts	W	L	D
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SATURDAY 22

3° ITA 2 0 1 2

H 09:30 GER 10 - 6 SWI

1° GER 5 2 0 1

H 12:00 GER 3 - 3 ITA

H 14:30 ITA 3 - 4 SWI

4° FIN 1 0 2 1

H 17:00 SWI 8 - 5 FIN

H 20:30 FIN 5 - 6 GER

2° SWI 4 2 1 0

SUNDAY 23

H 9:45 1ST - 4TH

GER 3

FIN 5

H 12:15 2ND - 3RD

SWI 2

ITA 4

H 17:00 1ST - 2ND PLACE

FIN 5

ITA 6

ITA

H 15:45 3RD - 4TH PLACE

GER 4

SWI 3

FINAL RANK

ITA

FIN

GER

SWI

1°

2°

3°

4°

The final ranking of the Euro Stars 2020 IPCH Official Tournament:

1. Italy
2. Finland
3. Germany
4. Switzerland



Rasmus Dissing Nielsen speech during the Awarding Ceremony

CEREMONIES:

OPENING MATCH



CLOSING CEREMONY AND AWARDS



Two important moments of the Awards: on the left the TD's with the Officials of the tournament; on the right the Winner of Euro Stars 2020.

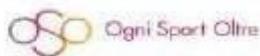
PATRONAGES SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

PATRONAGES

The event was organized under the aegis of the IWAS and the IPCH by the local organizing committee (LOC) appointed by the *Federazione Italiana Wheelchair Hockey* (FIWH). The National Paralympic Committee - *Comitato Italiano Paralimpico* - also sponsored the competition ensuring consultancy and organizational support for the whole organizing period before during and after the competition.

SPONSORS

THANKS TO



In addition to this categories LOC had the support from public authorities.

COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

LOGO, FLYERS, PROGRAM BOOK AND HEADER.



IPCH OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT

Euro Stars 2020 logo, designed by Benedetta De Cecco.

LOC printed flyers:

A3 - The print was affixed as a poster around the village and in the sport hall.

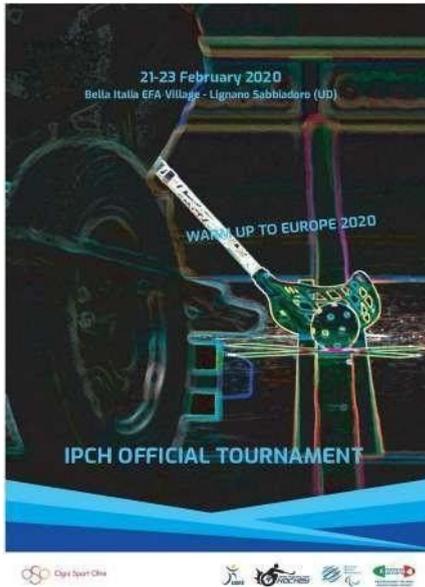


The poster front and Header for livestreaming.

Program Book

According to the rule C.3.14 of the IPCH Organizers Regulation Competition book the LOC provided the program book containing all the requested elements. With the TD's approval the Book was printed only in English and its design was fitting the event's style. A Total of 8 pages.

Examples from Program Book's pages



PROGRAM AND RESULTS

FRIDAY 21		GROUP RANK	
H	Match	Pts	W L D
H 20:30	ITA - FIN		
SATURDAY 22		ITA	
H 09:30	GER - SWI	GER	
H 12:00	GER - ITA	FIN	
H 14:30	ITA - SWI	FIN	
H 17:00	SWI - FIN	SWI	
H 20:30	FIN - GER		
SUNDAY 23			
H 9:45 1ST - 4TH		H 12:15 2ND - 3RD	
H 17:00 1ST - 2ND PLACE			
H 15:45 3RD - 4TH PLACE			
FINAL RANK			
1°	2°	3°	4°



PARTICIPATING TEAMS

ITALY

PLAYERS: Comino, Ferrazza, Fierravanti, Franzo, Granzotto, Graziano, Jigneo, Masoli, Ramina, Ranzato, Scilava, Tognin
STAFF: Vittadello, Scricco, Carducci, De Cecco

SWITZERLAND

PLAYERS: Bachmann, Brailard, Conceicao, Inhelder, Melder, Schaublin, Spirig, Zenhausern
STAFF: Mathis, Pulver, Emmering, Habersatter

FINLAND

PLAYERS: Ahonen, Isometsa, Jansson, Kyrolainen, Mannetin, Matikainen, Mursu, Ojala, Palonen, Vuorinen
STAFF: Borg, Linkoheimo, Ojala

GERMANY

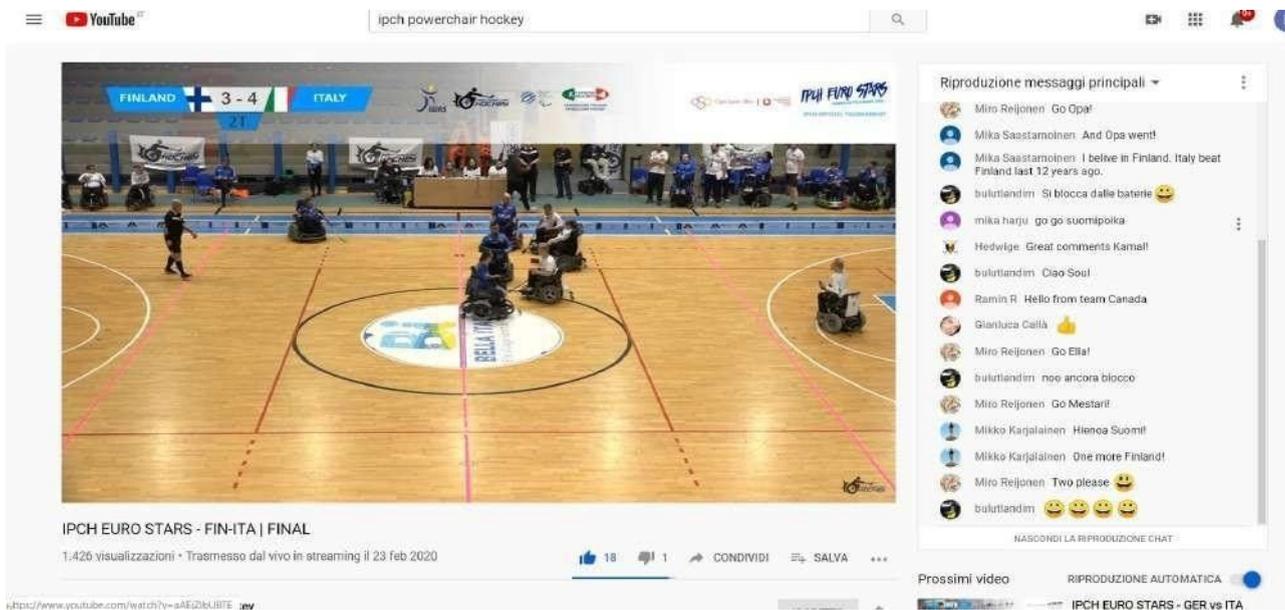
PLAYERS: Afrah, Bauer, Busek, Diehl, Hill, Huber, Kankanam-Pathirage, Magele, Plaffenrot, Sisik, Treidy, Trommer
STAFF: Kainz, Vogt

GRAPHICS

The LOC decided to work with Benedetta De Cecco who was a great coordinator of marketing during the IPCH World Championship and she was enthusiastic to collaborate for this new project.

LIVESTREAMING

Officially the entire event was livestreamed online. LOC provided a professional service with 1 camera on the field and a speaker service during the opening match and the Final.



The screenshot shows a YouTube live stream interface. At the top, the search bar contains "ipch powerchair hockey". The main video player displays a wide-angle shot of an indoor ice rink during a match. A scoreboard at the top of the rink shows "FINLAND 3 - 4 ITALY". The rink is marked with red and blue lines, and a large "IPCH EURO STARS" logo is visible in the center. Several players in power chairs are on the ice. To the right of the video player is a chat window titled "Riproduzione messaggi principali". It contains a list of user comments, including "Go Opa!", "And Opa went!", "I believe in Finland. Italy beat Finland last 12 years ago.", "Si blocca dalle batterie 😊", "go go suomipoika", "Great comments Kamall", "Clao Soul", "Hello from team Canada", "Go Elia!", "noe ancora bloccò", "Go Mestari!", "Hiemoa Suomit", "One more Finland!", and "Two please 😊". Below the chat, there are icons for "Prossimi video" and "RIPRODUZIONE AUTOMATICA".

YouTube Streaming on IPCH Channel