

Eric Zweig

**THE BIG BOOK OF
HOCKEY
FOR KIDS** 2nd
Edition

**New and
updated**

Eric Zweig

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For my family and friends who made sports so much fun when I was growing up.

—E.Z.

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INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

THE INTERNATIONAL ICE HOCKEY FEDERATION

Outside of Canada and the United States, hockey in the 1890s was most popular in Great Britain. By 1903, there was a small hockey league there.

On May 15, 1908, Great Britain was one of the first five founding members when the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) was formed in Paris. France was also a founding member. The others were Switzerland, Belgium and Bohemia (which later became Czechoslovakia, and is now the Czech Republic). Until 1954, the IIHF was

known by the French name, *Ligue Internationale de Hockey sur Glace*.

In 1909, Germany became the sixth member. The first games organized by this new hockey group were played in Berlin that November. The first European Championship was held in 1910. It was won by Great Britain — though their team boasted many Canadian players. During the 1920s and 1930s, the European Championship became part of the Olympics and World Championship.

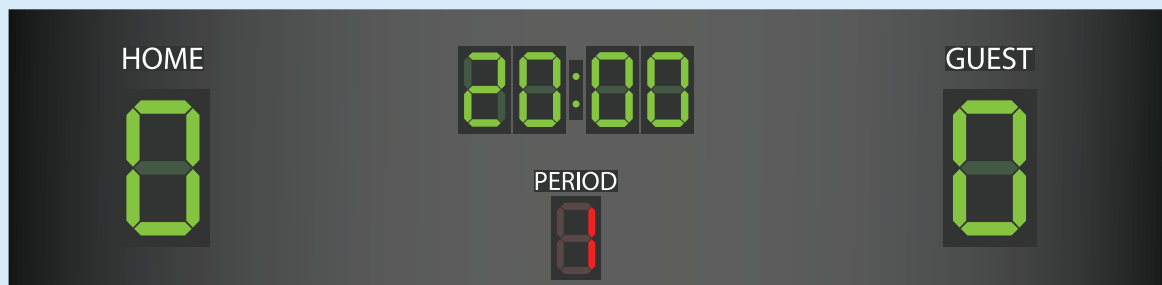
Today, the objectives of the IIHF are to govern, develop and promote hockey throughout the world, to control international hockey and to promote



Tsewang Chuskit on a breakaway in the India vs. Philippines game during the 2017 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Challenge Cup of Asia on March 9, 2017.

friendly relations between hockey playing countries. As of 2016, the IIHF has 77 members in Europe, North America, South American, Asia, Australia and Africa. There are four different levels of Men's World Championships. The IIHF is also

responsible for organizing the Women's World Championship and the World Under-20 Championship (more commonly known as the World Junior Hockey Championship) as well as the World Under-18 Championships for men and for women.



THEY PLAY HOCKEY THERE?

Here are some IIHF members that might surprise you:

Country	Member Since	Hockey Rinks
Argentina	1998	6
Australia	1938	19
Brazil	1984	4
Greece	1987	3
Hong Kong	1983	5
India	1989	18
Israel	1991	4
Jamaica	2012	1
Kuwait	2009*	3
Mexico	1985	19
Mongolia	1999	21
Morocco	2010	2
New Zealand	1977	11
Qatar	2012	3
Portugal	1999	1
South Africa	1937	8
Spain	1923	17
Thailand	1989	13
Turkey	1991	29
United Arab Emirates	2001	9

*Kuwait was previously a member from 1985 to 1992

OLYMPIC HOCKEY

Hockey was first played at the Olympics in 1920. There were no separate Winter Olympic Games, so hockey was part of a spring sports festival before the 1920 Summer Games in Antwerp, Belgium. Canada was represented by the Winnipeg Falcons, who had won the Allan Cup as the top amateur team in the country. The Falcons brought home Canada's first Olympic hockey gold medal! The first

Winter Olympics were held in Chamonix, France, in 1924, and hockey has been played at the Winter Olympics ever since.

For years, hockey at the Olympics was only for amateur players. A few professionals were allowed to play for the first time at the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary. Full participation by NHL players began in 1998 at the Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. Women's hockey also made its Olympic debut in 1998.



The Winnipeg Falcons' gold-medal Olympic Team in 1920. At that time hockey and figure skating were part of the Summer Olympic Games.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The hockey tournament played at the Olympics in 1920 is often considered to be the first World Championship, too. In fact, all the Olympic tournaments played through 1972 also doubled as World Championship events. But the first true World Championship was held in 1930.

Ten European countries participated in Championship games, along with a team from Japan and one from Canada. Canada's team was a Toronto-based amateur club representing the CCM sporting goods company. They were already touring Europe when the tournament was scheduled. Since Canada was already known as a hockey powerhouse, the Toronto team was given a free pass directly into the finals! Germany proved to be the best of the rest, but Canada beat the Germans 6–1 in the championship game. Between 1930 and 1961, Canada won the World Championship 16 times in 25 tournaments . . . but things got a lot tougher after that.

RISE OF THE RUSSIANS

Hockey was first introduced to Russia in 1932. However, the game was not nearly as popular at first as the Russian winter sport of bandy.

Russia didn't have its own hockey league until 1946. Then, a big boost to the game came in 1948, when the LTC Prague team from Czechoslovakia visited Moscow. Many players on that Czech team had won silver medals in

hockey at the 1948 Olympics. People thought they'd beat the Russians easily, but the Moscow Selects managed a win and a tie during the three-game series. The Russians worked hard at hockey after that. In 1954, Russia made its first appearance at the World Championship. They stunned Canada's team with a 7–2 victory in the final game, winning the gold medal. Two years later, Russia won the gold medal at the Olympics.

During this era, Russia was part of the Soviet Union (officially, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or USSR) where nobody was paid to play hockey. Most players on the Soviet national team were soldiers, but instead of training for military service, they trained to play hockey all year long.

From 1954 until the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, the USSR dominated international hockey. The Soviets won seven golds, a silver and a bronze at nine Olympic tournaments. They won the World Championships every year from 1963 to 1971. They added eleven more golds, three silvers and three bronze at World events through 1991.

International hockey has been much more even since 1992. Russia has still produced many great players, and they have won their share of medals, but the competition with Canada, the United States, Sweden, Finland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia has been more balanced — although Canada has begun to dominate again in recent years!

HOME

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00:00

GUEST

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PERIOD

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OLYMPIC RESULTS

MEN'S

Year	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Host Country
1920	Canada	USA	Czechoslovakia	Belgium
1924	Canada	USA	Great Britain	France
1928	Canada	Sweden	Switzerland	Switzerland
1932	Canada	USA	Germany	USA
1936	Great Britain	Canada	USA	Germany
1948	Canada	Czechoslovakia	Switzerland	Switzerland
1952	Canada	USA	Sweden	Norway
1956	USSR	USA	Canada	Italy
1960	USA	Canada	USSR	USA
1964	USSR	Sweden	Czechoslovakia	Austria
1968	USSR	Czechoslovakia	Canada	France
1972	USSR	USA	Czechoslovakia	Japan
1976	USSR	Czechoslovakia	West Germany	Austria
1980	USA	USSR	Sweden	USA
1984	USSR	Czechoslovakia	Sweden	Yugoslavia
1988	USSR	Finland	Sweden	Canada
1992	Unified Team	Canada	Czechoslovakia	France
1994	Sweden	Canada	Finland	Norway
1998	Czech Republic	Russia	Finland	Japan
2002	Canada	USA	Russia	USA
2006	Sweden	Finland	Czech Republic	Italy
2010	Canada	USA	Finland	Canada
2014	Canada	Sweden	Finland	Russia

WOMEN'S

Year	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Host Country
1998	USA	Canada	Finland	Japan
2002	Canada	USA	Sweden	USA
2006	Canada	Sweden	USA	Italy
2010	Canada	USA	Finland	Canada
2014	Canada	USA	Switzerland	Russia