

Bandy hockey *("Bendy" in Czech)*

The history

The first mention about the bandy is from the second half of the 18th century (in England). It was called "winter football". To the Czech area the bandy became in the beginning of the 20th century. Its popularity falled down with a coming of an ice hockey (called "canadian" hockey) in the 30's of the last century. In that time players started to play bandy on a different surface (not ice). Nowadays bandy is played only as an unofficial, popular variety of an original game and has close to official game called „ hockeyball“ (or street and ball hockey).



The definition

The bandy hockey is a sport game. Two teams play hockey with sticks and a ball. It is an outside game, but we can play it also inside.

The original version of bandy hockey is played on an ice surface (rink) the size of a football field (110 x 65 m). There are two teams, each has eleven players on ice - ten in the field and one goal-keeper. The field, rules and strategy of bandy are very similar to those of football, but the players use sticks and skates.

We want to introduce you a special version of bandy hockey, which is played in the Czech Republic wherever you can imagine (especially by boys and young men).

The playground

Bandy hockey can be played outside or inside. The field (rink) shall be in a shape of a oblong and must be marked with lines. It is divided into two halves (by a centre-line). There are no other strictly done parametres of a field. It depends on conditions. The goalcages stand in the middle of the end-lines.

The equipment

You need a ball, sticks, two goalcages, gloves and some uniforms for distinguishing players.

- The ball shall be made of approved material in an easily visible color. The diameter shall be 63mm +/- 2mm.



- The stick shall be of wood or similar approved material. The length shall be till 125cm.



- The cages can be of different size, it depends on conditions (a goalkeeper or not, ...). Usually an ice-hockey cage is used (183 cm width and 122 cm height) or a small one 90 x 60 cm).



- Players have to wear gloves to protect their hands.



- It is also recommended to wear a helmet to protect a head.

The basic rules

A bandy match is played between two teams, each has from 4 to 6 players (can be more). Players can substitute during the game. A match is played in two halves (from 25 to 45 minutes). After the first half of the game, the team change sides. The intention of the game is to make goals, and the team who scores the greater number of goals in the match, is the winner!! (No goal or the same number of goals = a draw.)