

**SPORT
ACCORD**
BIRMINGHAM
WEST MIDLANDS 2024



ROLL BALL

WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING GAME

Roll Ball – A Unique & Fastest Growing Sport of the 21st Century

Roll Ball; a game invented in 21st Century in India by a sports teacher in a private school. Some of the key information on the sports:

- One of the fastest growing game played on roller/ inline skates with the Ball
- Team game played between two teams with 12 players each; 6 main and 6 reserve
- The game can be played on indoor as well as outdoor plan surface, Ice surface and Wheelchair.
- The court size is 20 x 40 meter for Senior and Junior Age Group & 15 X 30 meter for Mini & Sub-Junior Age Group.

Key features of Roll Ball:

- An innovative sport invented in the 21st century in India with an established International Roll Ball Federation (IRBF) with headquarters in Pune – India.
- Suitable for skilled players with proper maintained combination of **balance, speed, accuracy and teamwork**
- **Thrilling for spectators** to watch due to unpredictable nature of the sport; game can turn around during any time within a live match
- Most likely to gain attention of the youths due to **speedy nature** of the game



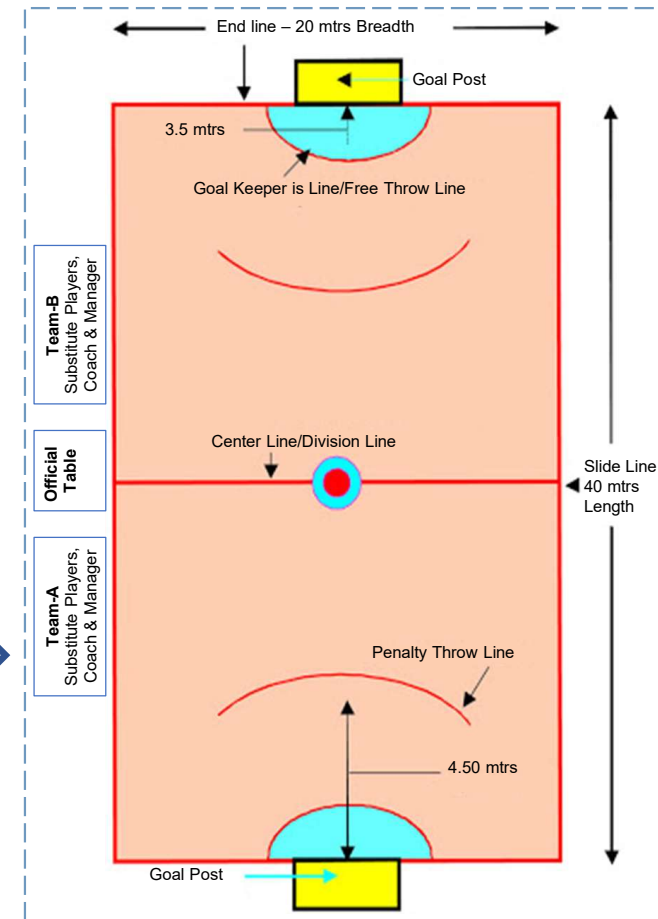
Typical Roll Ball court view and mandatory equipment



Inline Skates with ankle support



Knee guards/ pads and Helmet/ Head guard



International Roll Ball Federation (IRBF)

The International Roll Ball Federation (IRBF) is the governing body responsible for overseeing and promoting the sport of Roll Ball on a global scale. Established to provide structure, regulations, and support for the sport, the IRBF serves as the central authority for Roll Ball internationally.

The main aim of the International Roll Ball Federation (IRBF) is to promote and develop the sport of Roll Ball internationally. Roll Ball is a relatively new sport that stands on pillars Balance – Speed – Accuracy - Teamwork.

Here are some key functions and responsibilities of the International Roll Ball Federation:

- **Regulation and Standardization**
- **Global Promotion and Development**
- **International Competitions**
- **Membership and Governance**
- **Technical Support and Education**
- **Promotion of Values**

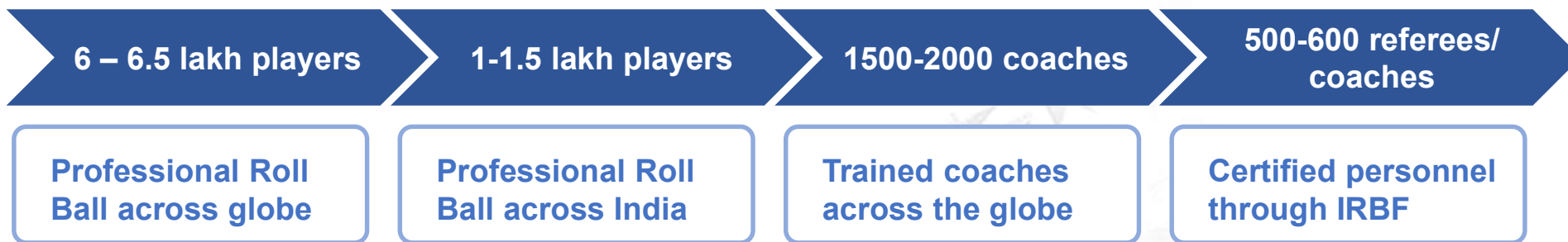
Evolution of Roll Ball world-wide over a span of 21 years

A glimpse of Roll Ball development nationally and internationally over the past 21 years



The game is rapidly spreading and getting formally registered under different country govts

Out of the total 60+ countries playing Roll Ball, 54 countries are officially registered or incorporated under their local government acts and further registered/ affiliated with the international federation. Following are the countries



6 Mega World Cups successfully conducted in a short span of 21 years

WORLD CUP

01

Pune, India

- Men's champion – Denmark

WORLD CUP

02

Nairobi, Kenya

- Men's champion – India
- Women's champion – India

WORLD CUP

03

Pune, India

- Men's champion – India
- Women's champion – Kenya

WORLD CUP

04

Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Men's champion – India
- Women's champion – India

WORLD CUP

05

Chennai, India

- Men's champion – India
- Women's champion – Kenya

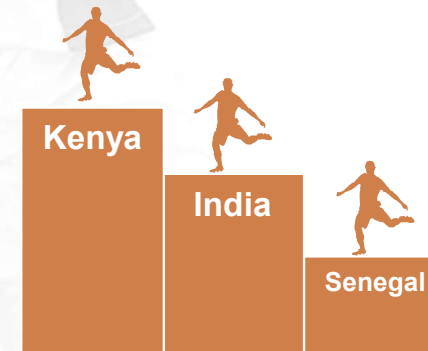
WORLD CUP

06

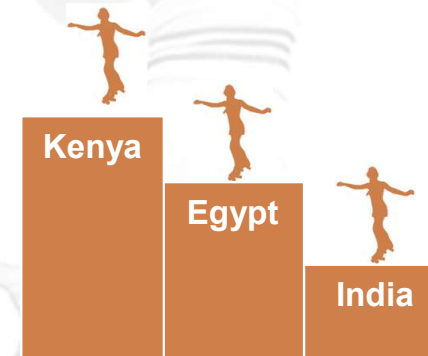
Pune, India

- Men's champion – Kenya
- Women's champion – Kenya

Gradual growth experienced in the number of participating countries over a span of 8 years



Men's World ranking



Women's World ranking

Roll Ball World Cup

- ✓ **1st Roll Ball World Cup 2011** was held at Shri Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi, Pune – India from 16th to 23rd April 2011. In which 16 countries from 3 continents participated. Denmark became the World Champion and India and Belgium became 1st and 2nd runner up respectively.
- ✓ **2nd Roll Ball World Cup 2013** was held at MOI Stadium, Nairobi – Kenya from 3rd to 6th October 2013 in which first time Women's team also participated. 22 Countries fought for the championship title and India lifted the cup in both categories whereas Iran and Denmark came 1st and 2nd Runner Up respectively in Men's Category. In Women Kenya and Nepal respectively stood at 1st and 2nd runner up position.
- ✓ **3rd Roll Ball World Cup 2015** was held at Shri Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi, Pune- India from 15th to 20th December 2015 in which 34 countries across globe fought for the prestigious title of World Champions. In Men's category India defeated for the title against Iran where as Latvia secured 3rd Place. In Women's category Kenya became the World Champion for the first time beating India and Iran stood at 3rd place.
- ✓ **4th Roll Ball World Cup 2017** was held at Sheikh Hassel Roller Skating Stadium in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 17th to 23rd February 2017. 39 countries across 5 continents and approximately 1000 Players, Coaches and Officials participated in this Mega event. India retain the World Championship against Iran and Kenya got the third place. In Women's category India and Iran fought for this cup and India won and identically Kenya stood at Third place.

Roll Ball World Cup

✓ **5th Roll Ball World Cup 2019** was held at ICF Indoor Stadium, Perumbur, Chennai- India from 15th to 20th November 2019 in which 27 countries across 5 continents were participated. In Men's category India retain the title after defeating Kenya and Bangladesh stood at Third place whereas in Women's category Kenya clinched the title from India and Egypt erupted to be at Third place.

✓ **6th Roll Ball World Cup 2023** was held at Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Compelx, Balewadi, Pune - India from 21th to 27th April 2023 in which 24 countries across 5 continents were participated. In the Men's category, Kenya won the title by defeating India, while Senegal finished third. In the Women's category, Kenya retained the title from Egypt, and India rose to finish third.

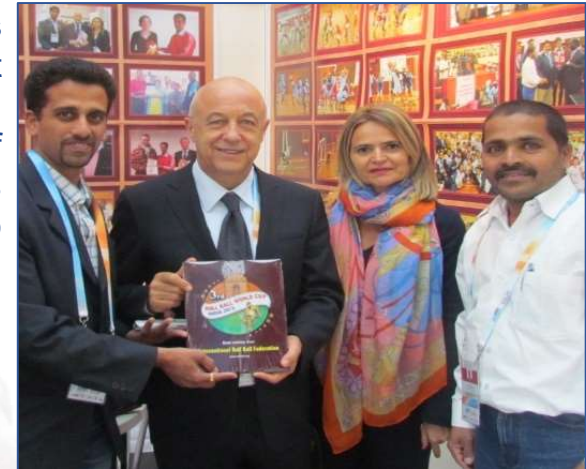
✓ **World Cup is organized after every 2 years**, in 2021 because of global pandemic of COVID-19 everything was at standstill and hence we were not able to organize the World Cup – 2021, but that time we organize social activities such as health checkup camps, blood donation camps and did financial help to the society and needy people.

Efforts taken for global exposure to Roll Ball



The International Roll Ball Federation has done tremendous effort for popularizing the game through the world. It has kept constant participation in the “SportAccord Convention” held every year in different parts of the world. Following is the list of the conventions in which “Roll Ball, IRBF” exhibition stall was established, and game was introduced and explained to different personalities within the sports sector:

- Sport Accord Convention, Quebec, 2012
- Sport Accord Convention, Sochi, 2015
- Sport Accord Convention, Lausanne, 2016
- Sport Accord Convention, Denmark, 2017
- Sport Accord Convention, Thailand, 2018
- Sport Accord Convention, Gold Coast, 2019



Also, efforts were taken to reach out the “International Olympic Committee” to introduce the Roll Ball within Olympic Games. A visit was done to the Olympic committee in Switzerland from 3rd to 4th November 2011. IRBF has now received International Olympic Association’s recognition. Efforts are still continuously being taken with constant coordination with the SportAccord, GAISF and IOC for incorporation of the game with Olympic Games.





Future Prospects of Roll Ball

The future prospects of Roll Ball are promising, with several factors contributing to its potential growth and development:

Global Expansion: Roll Ball has been steadily gaining popularity in various countries around the world, particularly in regions where roller skating and team sports are already well-established.

Youth Appeal: Roll Ball appeals to a wide range of age groups, but its dynamic and fast-paced nature makes it particularly attractive to young people.

Adaptability: Roll Ball is a versatile sport that can be played on different surfaces, indoor and outdoor courts (including ice). This adaptability makes it accessible to a wide range of communities, including those with limited access to specialized sports facilities and differently abled through Wheelchair Roll Ball.

Innovation and Evolution: Roll Ball continues to evolve with advancements in technology, equipment, and training methods.

International Recognition: The establishment of the International Roll Ball Federation (IRBF) provides a solid foundation for the global governance and promotion of Roll Ball.

Community Engagement: Roll Ball fosters a sense of community and camaraderie among players, coaches, officials, and fans.

Why IRBF want to be member of SportAccord/ GAISF ?

Global Recognition: Roll Ball seeks SportAccord membership to gain international recognition and validation as a legitimate sport. Membership would provide a platform for Roll Ball to be acknowledged on a global scale, enhancing its credibility among sporting communities worldwide.

Access to Resources: By becoming a member of SportAccord, Roll Ball would gain access to a wide range of resources including expertise, funding opportunities, and developmental programs. These resources can be instrumental in fostering the growth and development of the sport at both grassroots and elite levels.

Networking Opportunities: Membership in SportAccord would facilitate networking opportunities for Roll Ball officials, players, and stakeholders. This networking can lead to collaborations, partnerships, and exchanges with other sports organizations, fostering mutual growth and development.

Standardization and Governance: SportAccord provides guidelines, standards, and governance frameworks for various sports. Roll Ball's membership would ensure adherence to internationally recognized standards in areas such as rules, regulations, and ethics, thereby promoting fair play and integrity within the sport.

International Competitions: SportAccord membership opens doors for Roll Ball to participate in international competitions sanctioned by the organization. This exposure not only provides a platform for Roll Ball athletes to showcase their talents but also helps in popularizing the sport on a global scale.

Promotion and Visibility: As a member of SportAccord, Roll Ball would benefit from increased promotion and visibility through the organization's channels and platforms. This exposure can attract new participants, fans, sponsors, and media interest, further fueling the growth and popularity of the sport.



CERTIFICATE

The largest roll ball lesson is 309 participants, achieved by Roll Ball Federation of India and IRBF (both India) in Karnataka, India, on 18 May 2018.

OFFICIALLY AMAZING



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On a roll

MICHAEL GONSALVES

FROM a newspaper delivery boy to inventing a recognised international game and organising a world cup in Kerala, Raju Dabhadre's saga has been a journey of sweat and triumph. Not the one to give up, Dabhadre has set his eyes for recognition from the highest sporting body in the world: Olympics. And why not?

The villager from a nondescript Marathi village in Mohali, near Pune, who successfully invented the roll ball, is geared up to host the six-day third Roll Ball World Cup in December 14-20 in Pune.

The recognition has not come without a price. Dabhadre, 50, currently a physical education and sports teacher at MES, Balakrishnan Mandir English Medium School, Kolhapur, Pune, was forced to sell part of his agricultural land to raise money for his travels abroad to popularise the game.

"We are expecting teams from 50 countries to participate," Dabhadre, a dropout from school, due to abject poverty, told *Financial Chronicle* with pride. "This is 100 per cent made in India game, which should make our prime minister Narendra Modi proud, but till now I have been struggling to raise funds. My appeals to the central government and the state government have not borne fruit yet," says Dabhadre.

Before he made it as a physical education teacher, Dabhadre says did a lot of odd jobs, including newspaper deliveries and plugging a rented autorickshaw on Pune streets. Life turned around for him after he completed Certificate of Physical Education (CPE) in 1985. Later, he went on to complete his BA and BEd degrees.

The idea for roll ball, says Dabhadre, came to him one afternoon in 2001 when an errand basketball interrupted his skating instruction. Roller-skating on old school quads is still popular in India and most sports are always well-liked. Therefore, he decided to combine the two. "The game is a combination of roller-skating, handball, basketball and hockey. It is the only sport in the world that has reached the world cup stage in a span of eight years," says Dabhadre.

The sports teacher spent more than two years to research, formulate rules and regulations of the game before putting up the game in his own school for review from his peers. The game stands on four main pillars: balance, endurance, speed and teamwork.

"The game is played on a basketball court measuring 15x28 metres, with either synthetic cement, tar or shabhadle tile flooring. The ball used is same as for basketball, but the players move on skates," explains Dabhadre. The goal posts on either side of the court are designed in such a way that they can be adjusted according to the levels being played – juniors and seniors. A team consists of 10 players with six on the field and four reserves.

Roll ball is a free flowing game and it requires great set of skills and expertise. Equipment such as roller skates without stoppers, safety helmet, knee pads, good quality shoes and good quality attire are required to facilitate free movement.

According to Dabhadre, along with the support of his colleagues and friends, he set up a Roll Ball Federation of India and the International Roll Ball Federation in Pune to promote the new game across the country and overseas.

The popularity of the game is obvious. "So far 35 countries, including Belgium, Italy, France, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana and Uganda have confirmed their participation in the third roll ball world cup scheduled for December 14-20 in Pune," says Dabhadre. While there has been no word from the government yet, a couple of industrial houses like Sudharshan Chemicals and Jain IR-



Will made-in-India roll ball make it to the Olympics? It's inventor Raju Dabhadre certainly thinks so

igation as well as some individuals will be chipping in for the event, he adds.

While the first roll ball world cup was held in Pune in April 2011 with 16 countries participating, the second, with 25 countries participating was hosted by the Keran government at Nainital in June 2013. In the first world cup, Denmark team lifted the trophy and India had to be content with the runners-up prize, while Belarus secured the third position. But in the second world cup, Indian men's and women's team emerged winners. Iran and Kenya were the runners-up while Denmark and Nepal secured came third in men's and women's categories.

The game was first introduced on February 2, 2003, in Pune in the presence of a team of officials from Sports Authority of India (SAI), Delhi, with the help of the then Pune BJP MP Pradeep Barwat. "Our team, comprising six boys and six girls played the 35 minutes game separately and at the end of the inspection, the SAI officials approved it. They also said it had the potential to become a world sport," recalls Dabhadre. The six member team comprised one goal keeper, two defenders, one central player and two forward players.

The game received a fillip after it was also recognised by ministry of youth affairs and sports in 2007.

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There was no looking back after that. "I organised events at district and state levels in Maharashtra and conducted roll ball tournaments," says Dabhadre, adding that he had trained and groomed coaches for the game through seminars and workshops in many schools and junior colleges.

The game was also introduced for the first time outside Maharashtra back in 2003 through his contacts. "I enrolled three schools in Goa who now have popularised the sport there," says Dabhadre. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Orissa, Assam, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry were also covered in the course.

"I spent my 15-day Diwali vacation and 45-day summer vacation in organising seminars, workshops and training coaches for the

game throughout India," says Dabhadre. In 2005, he contacted Pakistan. And the first five-day international roll ball championship was held between Pakistan versus India at Mahesh Vaidyars in Pune in January 2005. "Parents association of my school donated a couple of lakh and Sudharshan Chemicals and Lila Poonawalla, a sportswoman herself, sponsored the event," says Dabhadre.

In 2004, he had also gone on a Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Nepal and Bangladesh tour to popularise the game. "I went to many schools in these countries with CDs and brochures to train the teams and groom coaches, too," he says.

While the second international roll ball championship was held in Pune in June 2009 between India and South Africa, the third championship was held in Pune and Jaipur in May 2007 between India and Pakistan. With the game gaining acceptance and recognition, the first Asian roll ball championship was held in July 2010 in Hong Kong. The six-day Africa roll ball development programme was scheduled in August 2010 and the first African roll ball championship was organised at Nairobi Kenya in January 25-27, 2013. The first Afro-Asian roll ball championship was held at Kampala, Uganda, in November 26-30, 2014.

"We are confident that in 2024, roll ball will be the only game invented in India that will be played in Olympics," Vinod Kadeer, director at International Roll Ball Federation told FC. "This thrilling game has a huge potential to develop and qualify into the Olympics," says Vasant Rathi, chairman at Roll Ball Federation of Maharashtra told FC.



ROLL IN PLAY: (clockwise) a roll ball game in Trivandrum and Indian teams

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Thank You



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